

## NORTHUMBRIA PCC MINUTES

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**Title**

Business Meeting

**Date**

25 February 2021

**Location**

Middle Engine Lane/Teams

**Duration**

2pm-3.20pm

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**Present:**

Kim McGuinness – Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) (Chair)

Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff of the OPCC

Debbie Ford – Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)

Winton Keenen– Chief Constable (CC)

Adrian Pearson – Director of Planning and Delivery

Tanya Reade – Corporate Governance Manager - NP

Mike Tait – Chief Finance Officer (CFO)

Neil Hutchison – ACC (part)

Vicki Wilson – OPCC - Minute Taker

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### **OPEN SESSION**

#### **1. Minutes of the Open Session Business Meeting – 28 January 2021**

The minutes had been **agreed** as a true record subject to one amendment as follows:

Item 4 – The DCC would take over the lead of Op Talla Gold on 25.2.21 (not 31.3.21 as stated).

#### **2. Matters Arising – Action Log**

There had only been one item on the Action Log regarding concerns raised by Detached Youth Workers. This had now been completed and the information had been passed to the DCC.

#### **3. Violence Reduction Unit**

The PCC advised that future funding had now been confirmed and there was also the potential of surge funding. The amount of surge funding was not yet confirmed but would likely be the same as the previous year.

The PCC remained pleased with the ways in which the VRU and the Force had been working together and there were plans for the Force to share their neighbourhood intelligence. There would be more focus on the aspect of ASB and the impact the VRU were showing. Virtual meetings with external partners had been taking place and there had been a general concern over the longer impacts of Covid for young people regarding employment and crime.

Recruitment was currently ongoing for a Communications Officer and a Public Health Specialist.



The DCC requested Steven Hume (Director of VRU) join a meeting with Senior Leaders of the Force to discuss the work of the VRU to broaden the understanding. The PCC **agreed** to this and also offered to join the meeting if needed.

**ACTION 1 – The DCC would invite Steven Hume to a meeting with the Force to discuss the work of the VRU.**

ACC Hutchison joined the meeting.

#### 4. **Op Talla (Covid 19) Response and Recovery Planning**

The DCC advised that the Force were in a strong position regarding response. There was a robust plan in place for the next few months and there were no real concerns other than the lack of certainty over the backlog of cases within the court system.

The PCC passed on positive feedback from Catherine McKinnell MP regarding the way in which the Force had handled the FPNs throughout the pandemic. The DCC thanked ACC Neil Hutchison and Janice Hutton for their excellent work in dealing with the community. The CC advised that the Force had the highest number of FPNs issued and the lowest rate of attrition which was a positive benchmark, and thanked all of the operational officers involved with this.

The Chief of Staff advised that HMCTS had given feedback that the region had the highest defective trial rate ever known. There were discussions ongoing regarding how to use the courts more effectively and a notion of ‘flipping’ had been put forward. This was using the Magistrates Court as a Crown Court.

The Crown Court would be introducing multi handed trials and also lateral flow testing. Due to the progress being made with regards to the backlog of court cases, the region had not been targeted for a Nightingale Court. This had been a national decision.

A discussion took place over the lack of transparency regarding the timeline of the backlog being cleared. The CC expressed concern over the impact this may have on the Police and the likelihood of victim attrition increasing, and would escalate this issue. The DCC would add this to the Joint Risk Register.

Following a query, the Chief of Staff **agreed** to pass the LCJB Recovery Risk Register and the Demand Mapping to the DCC.

Newcastle Magistrates Court would open on 6.4.21. The CPS currently had an R Rate of under one. There were two national inspections imminent.

**ACTION 2 – The Chief of Staff would pass the LCJB Recovery Risk Register and Demand Mapping to the DCC.**

*It had been agreed that the Community Engagement Strategy and National Issues Impacting Policing – following - would be swapped around on the agenda for the purposes of ACC Hutchison’s attendance.*



## 5. Community Engagement Strategy

ACC Hutchison shared the Community Engagement Strategy and outlined each section in detail. The presentation covered how the strategy would be implemented, and how the impact would be measured. The topics covered were as follows:

- Force Priorities and Commitment
- Engagement Work Streams; Protecting the Vulnerable, Effective Justice, Preventing Crime and Disorder, Outstanding Organisation, Intelligent Policing, Engaged Communities
- Governance Structure
- Next Steps
- Impact Measures

The PCC felt this was a robust strategy and would help equalise the outcomes from the various Authority areas allowing a more focused approach on their individual priorities. The PCC also felt the broad reach of this strategy would assist with the diversion and equality agenda.

Following a query from the PCC, ACC Hutchison advised that there would be a fair balance of reporting and active work within the community.

ACC Hutchison was thanked for his presentation and then left the meeting.

## 6. National Issues Impacting Policing

The DCC had gathered answers to the questions put forward by the APCC regarding the EU Exit and agreed to send these to the Chief of Staff.

The DCC highlighted a successful case involving a person being arrested abroad in-conjunction with the Spanish Police.

It was **agreed** going forward that this agenda item would be assigned to all, as opposed to only the DCC.

## 7. Police and Crime Plan

The PCC advised the Police and Crime Plan had now been officially launched and thanked the CC for his involvement with the Facebook launch, which was a success. Positive feedback had been given from the journalist involved due to the event being unscripted. It was hoped further online discussions of this nature would take place as it was felt many of the comments had led to effective discussions.

The OPCC Operating Plan was currently being devised in-conjunction with the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan. The PCC hoped to ensure the scrutiny meetings going forward would be less report heavy and this would be reflected at the Police and Crime Panel meetings.

The DCC advised work was ongoing regarding the Delivery Plan.



## **8. Information Commissioner's Office Data Protection Audit – NP**

The DCC highlighted the report. The purpose of the report was to highlight the outcomes of the ICO Force Audit which was undertaken in October 2020. Northumbria Police were the first to put themselves forward for this audit, and had found this to be very beneficial in order to identify areas for improvement.

The DCC thanked Hayley Young and Richard Sterry for their outstanding work in preparing for this audit.

A comprehensive action plan was now in place and was being worked through. There were no areas of concern in terms of risk.

The CC highlighted that the Force excelled by their desire to improve and although this was the early stages of development, evident progress had been made and a strong governance structure was in place, seeing posts being populated that may have proven difficult to fill in the past.

Following a query from the PCC, the DCC advised there was the expertise in-house to deal with this, however extra resources had been introduced and this would be kept under constant review.

The PCC thanked all of the staff involved in this extensive piece of work.

## **9. Approval of the Council Tax Precept and Revenue Budget 2021/22**

The Joint Chief Finance Officer circulated a report which requested the PCC approve the revenue budget and precept for the financial year 2021/22. The figures and narrative had been discussed in further detail at a previous meeting. The PCC **approved** the recommendations outlined in the report.

## **10. Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan had been noted with the following amendments:

The CC advised that the Covid 19 report may not be readily available for 1.4.21.

Stop and Search would need to added to the Forward Plan for 1.4.21

## **11. Any Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

## **12. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would take place on Thursday 1 April 2021 at 2pm.