

## NORTHUMBRIA PCC MINUTES

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**Title**

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) – Business Meeting

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**Date**

Tuesday 9 March 2021

**Location**

Microsoft Teams

**Duration**

12pm – 12:30pm

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**Present:**

Kim McGuinness – Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff

Adrian Pearson – Director of Planning and Delivery

Mike Tait – Joint Chief Finance Officer

Kevin Laing – Head of Finance

Vicki Wilson – OPCC Minute Taker

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### **OPEN SESSION**

#### **1. Introductions**

The PCC welcomed all members to the meeting.

#### **2. Open Session Minutes from 3 March 2021 and Matters Arising**

The minutes were **agreed** as a true and accurate record, with no matters arising.

#### **3. Capital Strategy 2021/22 to 2024/25 and Key Decision**

The Joint Chief Finance Officer highlighted the main points from the report. The Capital Strategy was currently being reviewed and updated. The Strategy was a key part of the Governance Planning Framework which covered all aspects of the PCC's capital and investment expenditure.

The key areas of the Strategy were highlighted as follows:

- Objectives of the Capital Strategy
- Governance of the Capital Programme
- Capital Expenditure
- Capital Financing
- Treasury Management
- Balanced Portfolio Approach

It was recommended that the PCC:

- Adopted the Capital Strategy 2021/22 to 2024/25
- Approve the Capital Programme as set out at Appendix 2 and authorise the Joint Chief Finance Officer to undertake the appropriate financing
- Approve the Prudential Indicators as set out at Appendix 3

The PCC **approved** the recommendations.

#### 4. Mid Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2024/25 and Key Decision

The Joint Chief Finance Officer highlighted the main points from the report.

The Strategy had been discussed in detail at a previous meeting however particular attention had been drawn to the following areas:

- Delivery of the Strategy
- National Police Settlement 2021/22
- Medium Term Financial Strategy figures of future year estimates

The main reason 2024/25 figures appeared lower was due to the police uplift programme ending, and new recruits joining.

The Joint Chief Finance Officer was currently devising a Reserve Strategy to offer further clarity on the capital receipts and reserve funding.

Following a query from the Director of Planning and Delivery, the Joint Chief Finance Officer advised that there had been no deficit occurred due to Covid. This was due to reimbursements from the Government.

It was recommended that the PCC agreed the principles set out in the MTFs and approved the MTFs for 2021/22 to 2024/25.

The PCC **approved** the recommendations.

#### 5. Treasury Policy and Strategy 2021/22 to 2024/25 and Key Decision

The Head of Finance highlighted the main points from the report.

The Strategy had been considered and scrutinised by the Joint Independent Audit Committee at their meeting on 22.2.21 and recommended this be presented to the PCC.

The Strategy set out the borrowing limits and the ultimate aim of the Strategy was to minimise risk of investments. Investment opportunities would always be discussed with Link Asset Management in advance.

Particular attention had been drawn to the following areas:

- The Code of Practice
- Prospects for Interest Rates
- Borrowing Strategy
- Prudential Indicators
- Specified and Non-Specified Investments
- Maximum Maturity Periods and Amounts
- Approved Countries for Investments

It was recommended that the PCC adopted the Treasury Policy Statement and the Treasury Strategy 2021/22 to 2024/25.

The PCC **approved** the recommendations.

## 6. Approval of the Disbursement of the remaining Police Property Funds – Key Decision

The Chief of Staff explained the recommendation of the report would be for the PCC to agree that the remaining Police Property Funds from the financial year 2020/21 (£200,445) be utilised for the funding of community grants through Operation Payback.

This would therefore mean that there were no further funds remaining for disbursement in 2020/21.

The PCC **approved** the recommendation.

## 7. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.