



## NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

5 FEBRUARY 2018

### PRESENT:

<b>Gateshead Council</b>	Councillors A Douglas (Chair) and J McClurey
<b>Newcastle City Council</b>	Councillor N Kemp
<b>Northumberland County Council</b>	Councillor J Riddle
<b>South Tyneside Council</b>	Councillor G Kilgour
<b>Independent Co-opted Members</b>	J Guy and S Isaacson

### ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

#### Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria

Dame V Baird QC	- Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria
R Durham	- Interim Chief of Staff
M Tait	- Chief Finance Officer
K Laing	- Head of Finance, Northumbria Police

#### Gateshead Council

D Hill	- Legal and Democratic Services
B Wilson	- Democratic Services

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors A Ainsley (Newcastle City Council), C Burdis and T Mulvenna (North Tyneside Council), S Davey (Northumberland County Council), J Welsh (South Tyneside Council) and H Trueman (Sunderland City Council)

### 45. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 January 2018 be approved as a correct record subject to Minute 34 being amended to read: The conference had been very useful and it had highlighted how this Panel and Police and Crime Commissioner have a good working relationship which did not appear to be the same in some other areas.

### 46. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2018/19 TO 2021/22

The medium term financial strategy (MTFS) 2018/19 to 2021/22 was submitted. It described the financial direction of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and outlined financial pressures. It also provided options for delivering a sustainable

budget and capital programme over the medium term including how the PCC can provide the Chief Constable with the resources to deliver the Police and Crime Plan priorities within a challenging financial climate. A presentation on the medium term financial strategy and precept proposal 2018/19 was given by the Chief Finance Officer.

The overall financial strategy seeks to deliver the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan, support 'Proud to Protect', the mission, vision and values of Northumbria Police and meet the requirements of the Strategic Policing Requirement.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

One of the key MTFs principles was to maintain the general reserve at a minimum of 2% of the net revenue budget. Other Police and Crime Commissioners hold varying levels of reserves and they will have agreed their own minimum levels of reserves to maintain. It has been suggested that PCCs should have to publish their reserves strategy. This would highlight the issues in Northumbria with it having the lowest precept in the country and having to use its reserves to balance this. The PCC has regularly raised these issues with the Home Office, etc but nothing has been done about it.

Concern was raised about the identified risks and uncertainties outlined in the MTFs that could affect the PCC's financial position over the medium term that may not be covered by the reserve fund. It was replied that a risk assessment had been undertaken and management controls were in place to ensure that the budget remained balanced.

The PCC's public consultation on the proposed 2018/19 precept, particularly the social media responses was raised. It was replied that whilst 11,000 had been informed of the precept proposals through social media, few responses were received.

It was asked if, because of the cuts in police staff numbers, whether the neighbourhood policing trial in Jesmond with the Police Community Support Officers being given more powers would still be rolled out. It was replied that there had been no reductions in the numbers of Police Community Support Officers in neighbourhood roles in the last four years and the trial results will be included in the future considerations.

It was commented that the police were doing a good job in the rural areas. The 101 system seemed to have improved and the police were working with farmers, gamekeepers, etc to tackle any problems.

There was concern about the effects that the continued cuts in funding were having on the police service. The demands on the Northumbria Police and its officers and the funding issues should continue to be highlighted to the community and the Government.

RESOLVED - That the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/19 to 2021/22 be noted.

#### **47. PROPOSED PRECEPT FOR 2018/19**

In accordance with the Police and Crime Panels (Precepts and Chief Constable Appointments) Regulations 2012, the PCC notified the Panel of the proposed 2018/19 council tax precept.

The proposed 2018/19 revenue budget and capital programme, a review of the 2017/18 budget position and future funding, fully aligned with the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/19 – 2021/22 were submitted.

The precept excessiveness rules for 2018/19 give all Police and Crime Commissioners the flexibility to increase the precept by £12 per Band D Property.

The PCC's preferred option as there are no Council Tax freeze grants available for 2018/19 is therefore to increase the precept by £12 per annum for a band D property, which equates to about 23p per week. This will allow for an additional and recurring £5.2m to resources.

The PCC circulated details of the police precept consultation that had been undertaken and the comments received. Over 70% of the responses received directly by the PCC's office were fully supportive of the increase in the precept of £12 per annum.

RESOLVED - That a report be issued by the Panel to the PCC that it accepts the PCC's proposed increase in the precept by £12 for a band D property.

#### **48. THEMED TOPICS**

The Panel considered the suggested themed topic for the meeting on 24 April 2018.

RESOLVED - That an interim update on Operation Sanctuary and current issues in regard to human trafficking and modern day slavery be agreed as the themed topic for the meeting on 24 April 2018.

#### **49. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 6 March 2018 at 2.00pm