

## **NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**26 July 2022**

### **PRESENT:**

<b>Gateshead Council</b>	Councillors A Douglas and P Maughan
<b>Newcastle City Council</b>	Councillor J Sathian
<b>North Tyneside Council</b>	Councillor C Burdis
<b>Northumberland County Council</b>	Councillor C Horncastle
<b>South Tyneside Council</b>	Councillor J Welsh
<b>Sunderland City Council</b>	Councillors S Laws and P Stewart
<b>Independent Co-opted Members</b>	Mr J Klajn and Mr A Shepherd

### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

K McGuinness	- Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria (PCC)
R Durham	- Chief of Staff
A Pearson	- Director of Planning and Delivery
K Laing	- Chief Finance Officer

#### **Gateshead Council**

G Morton	- Representing the Clerk to the Panel
B Wilson	- Democratic Services

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors K Robinson (Newcastle City Council), C Johnson (North Tyneside Council), J Foreman (South Tyneside Council) and C Rowntree (Sunderland City Council)

### **1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

RESOLVED - That Councillor Douglas and Councillor Stewart be appointed as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Panel for 2022/23 respectively.

### **2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE PANEL**

The membership of the Panel for 2022/23 is as follows:

Gateshead	Councillors Angela Douglas and Peter Maughan
Newcastle	Councillors Juna Sathian and Karen Robinson
North Tyneside	Councillors Carole Burdis and Carl Johnson
Northumberland	Councillors Colin Horncastle and Gordon Stewart
South Tyneside	Councillors James Foreman and Joyce Welsh
Sunderland	Councillors Claire Rowntree and Paul Stewart
Independent Members	Mr Jonathan Klajn and Mr Andrew Shepherd

RESOLVED - That the membership of the Panel for 2022/23 be noted.

### **3. MINUTES**

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the last meeting held on 7 February 2022 be approved as a correct record.

### **4. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23**

The Panel's draft annual work programme for 2022/23 was submitted.

RESOLVED - That the 2022/23 work programme be approved.

### **5. FEEDBACK FROM NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS**

Councillor Welsh gave an update on the National Association of Police Fire and Crime Panels

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

### **6. COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2021 TO MARCH 2022**

In accordance with the agreed procedure, an update report about the complaints and purported complaints against the PCC and every conduct matter recorded by the Monitoring Officer between April 2021 and March 2022 was submitted.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

### **7. COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – MARCH - MAY 2022**

In accordance with the agreed procedure, an update report about the complaints and purported complaints against the PCC and every conduct matter recorded by the Monitoring Officer for March - May 2022 was submitted.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

### **8. DELIVERY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – FIGHTING CRIME**

The PCC reported that she had been successful with four safer streets fund bids totalling £2m regarding women's safety in public spaces, volunteers and cctv, anti-social behaviour on public transport and rural crime. The PCC also referred to the new community trigger rules, the Anti-Social Behaviour Board, increased costs due to the cost of living inflation and the appointment of 65 new contact handlers.

The PCC submitted a thematic report on fighting crime setting out the aims to support this core theme and updates on the work being undertaken in regard to the two priorities to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the new Police and Crime Plan. Northumbria Police and Crime Plan core performance data was also provided.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

The PCC reported that the average answering times for 999 and 101 calls continued to improve following the introduction of a new system and the recruitment of additional call handlers. The unprecedented demand for police services continued to increase and this was being looked in to.

It was asked if the victims of hate crime received support in their local areas. The PCC replied that there were specialist support services and she monitored how the police dealt with hate crime as part of her scrutiny of the force. The police need to respond and give the best service.

The issue of drugs and incidents caused by people under the influence of drugs was raised. The PCC replied that this was a huge concern. Work was being undertaken through the Violence Reduction Unit to prevent drugs being obtained and children being exploited and the serious and organised crime bringing drugs into the area was being targeted. Knife crime was also being addressed through hard hitting education programmes.

The time taken to address and respond to calls to the 101 service regarding anti-social behaviour was key as this had the potential to lead to something more serious and could annoy residents. There should be more preventative work. The PCC replied that a partnership effort involving all relevant organisations and agencies working together to tackle anti-social behaviour was needed. She had established an Anti-social Behaviour Board comprising the local authorities and relevant agencies to try and address these issues. The anti-social behaviour champions engaged and worked with local residents and helped support victims.

The PCC was thanked for the help given in a hot spot area although there was a misunderstanding about how neighbourhood watch worked. The PCC explained that the police supported neighbourhood watch schemes but did not run them.

Problems caused by motor bikes on estates were dealt with differently by other forces. The PCC stated that this was a national problem because of the availability of cheap, untaxed and uninsured bikes. There were police operations across the force but public information was required to target and focus on problem areas with the Councils.

It was asked if training for stalking and harassment offences had been identified together with the provision of support. The PCC replied that this was an area of the women and girls training given to all new officers. There were issues in identifying these offences particularly online and social media as a lot of people did not realise that they were victims and were not aware of the signs.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

## **9. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2022/23 TO 2025/26**

The Chief Finance Officer gave a presentation on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) including its purpose, key principles, financial year 2022/23, investment, inflationary risk, key assumptions - total funding, budget projections, MTFS forecasts, capital programme and reserves forecasts for 2022/23 to 2025/26, risks and conclusions.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

An explanation of the North East Purchasing Organisation involving local authorities and public organisations was given.

The police vehicle strategy included the provision of low emission and electric vehicles to obtain a sustainable vehicle fleet and include new technologies. The PCC stated that the policing requirements for vehicles was different from other organisations and this presented a challenge to achieve value for money and emissions targets.

It was asked if the current reserve levels were enough considering how the reserves have had to be used in the last ten years. It was replied that the reserves could not go below the current level because of resilience factors and efficiencies may be needed to maintain it at this level. The PCC considered that there had not been enough investment in policing in the last twelve years and this needed to be increased to impact on crime.

The PCC explained that the Government funding provided for the recruitment of new police officers was capped and had to be used for that purpose. Additional funding to recruit more Police Community Support Officers was also required.

It was asked what social, economic and political changes were planned for in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. It was replied that the cost of living crisis and poverty which have a direct relationship with crime, political change, rising demands on the force, management of the estate to ensure fit for purpose and new and emerging crime were examples of what they needed to try and plan for. The annual business planning process was explained.

Reference was made to submitting claims for Government funding for serious crimes. The PCC replied that the regional organised crime unit could challenge for this funding. However, she considered that there were too many short term sources of funding that had to be applied for that should be part of the core grant. This was not the most efficient and sustainable funding process and longer term funding was required for the ability to plan for local and strategic issues.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

## **10. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22**

The PCC's draft annual report 2021-22 was presented. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 specified that a PCC must produce an annual report on the exercise of their functions in each financial year, including the progress made in meeting the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan.

It was the role of the Panel under section 28(4) of the Act to review the annual report and make a report or recommendations to the PCC.

The PCC's 2021-25 Police and Crime Plan was launched in 2021 and refreshed earlier this year and progress towards the Plan was reflected in the annual report.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

It was asked if there would be an updated version. The PCC replied that the annual report covered up to 31 March 2022, the end of the financial year. Any feedback on the report should be sent to the PCC.

RESOLVED - That the PCC be advised that in accordance with Section 28(4) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Panel agreed with the format and content of the draft annual report 2021-22.

## **11. MEMBERS' TRAINING**

RESOLVED - That training on the Panel's statutory responsibilities including the Confirmation Hearing process be provided.

## **12. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2022/23**

Monday, 12 September 2022 at 10.00am

Tuesday, 25 October 2022 at 2.00pm

Tuesday, 13 December 2022 at 2.00pm

Tuesday, 7 February 2023 at 2.00pm

Tuesday, 21 March 2023 at 2.00pm