



NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL AGENDA

**Tuesday, 5 March 2019 at 2.30 pm at SafetyWorks, West 15, Whickham View,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 6UN**

From the Clerk, Sheena Ramsey

Item Business

1. Apologies

2. Minutes

The Panel is asked to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 5 February 2019 (attached).

3. Feedback from National and Regional Events

Members are asked to give feedback on issues relevant to the Panel.

4. Themed Report - SafetyWorks

SafetyWorks presentation.

5. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

Tuesday, 23 April 2019 at 2.00pm in Gateshead Civic Centre

Contact: Brian Wilson, Tel: 0191 4332145, E mail: brianwilson@gateshead.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank



NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

5 February 2019

PRESENT:

Gateshead Council	Councillor A Douglas
Newcastle City Council	Councillors H Rahman and K Webster
North Tyneside Council	Councillor T Mulvenna
Northumberland County Council	Councillor J Riddle
South Tyneside Council	Councillors G Kilgour and J Welsh
Sunderland City Council	Councillor H Trueman
Independent Co-opted Member	Mrs J Guy

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria

Dame V Baird QC	- Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria (PCC)
R Durham	- 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 S Hawkins (Gateshead Council), C Burdis (North Tyneside Council), S Davey (Northumberland County Council), G Miller and M Mordey (Sunderland City Council) and Mr S Isaacson

35. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the last meeting held on 15 January 2019 be approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments:-

Minute 30 – Reference was made to the analysis of victim surveys. As the identified actions to improve the victim's experience were mainly in the control of the police they could do something about them.

Minute 30 – It was disappointing that Newcastle and Northumberland local authority areas were ranked 14th out of 15 when compared to the Most Similar Groups and it was asked why the other four local authority areas were doing better. The PCC replied that this would be closely monitored.

36. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 28(i) – The six constituent Councils had been asked to pay the Panel's National Association annual subscription of £500. Gateshead Council and Northumberland County Council had agreed to contribute.

Minute 28(ii) – There were mixed arrangements with the other National Association Members regarding the annual subscription. Some Panels had used additional funding or other budgets.

37. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2019/20 – 2022/23

The medium term financial strategy (MTFS) 2019/20 - 2022/23 was submitted. It described the financial direction of the 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 2019/20 was given by the Chief Finance Officer.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

There was concern about the future increased pension contribution costs. The PCC replied that the Government had provided a one off specific special grant in 2019/20 and said it would be looked at in the Comprehensive Spending Review but future funding of the increased pension contribution costs was unclear.

It was asked how the proposed precept increase would be used for the public to see the benefits rather than to offset the Government's spending cuts and pension contribution increases. The PCC replied that 56 officers would be retained and a possible 24 officers recruited. A sustainable force was needed and this cannot be done by continually having to use the PCC's reducing reserves.

Reference was made to the further £2m underspend in 2018/19 and whether this would continue in future years. This was a rebate for the Ponteland site sale and it was not anticipated there would be a significant difference.

The police were highly valued but there would be public concern if they were told the precept increase was to be used to fund increased pension costs instead of to protect neighbourhood policing. It was suggested that the PCC's reserves were at a safe level and would need to be used if the future pension increased costs were not covered in the Comprehensive Spending Review.

In response to the points raised, the PCC replied that it was the Government's spending cuts that had put the budget in this position and if the additional £2m underspend had not been found then reserves would have been used. Using the reserves to fund future additional pension costs was impractical and not sustainable.

It was commented that the Government had not funded the force adequately or properly. The increase in the precept was putting the burden on to local people.

It was suggested that Government's last five years funding figures were not as bad as portrayed. The PCC replied that the force has had to lose over 1,000 officers.

It had been heard that neighbourhood policing was to be disbanded. The proposed precept increase should be supported if this guaranteed that it would not be. The PCC replied that it was not being disbanded and this was an unfounded rumour.

The reserves were there to be used for unexpected funding issues and should not be used to fund budget cuts. The reserves needed to be maintained at a safe level and the PCC cannot rely on reserves for much longer.

RESOLVED - That the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019/20 to 2022/23 be noted.

38. PROPOSED PRECEPT 2019/20

In accordance with the Police and Crime Panels (Precepts and Chief Constable Appointments) Regulations 2012, the PCC notified the Panel of the proposed 2019/20 council tax precept.

The proposed 2019/20 revenue budget and capital programme, a review of the 2018/19 budget position and future funding, fully aligned with the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019/20 – 2022/23 were submitted.

The precept excessiveness limit for 2019/20 is £24 per Band D Property.

The PCC's proposal for 2019/20 is to increase the precept by £24 per annum for a band D property (about 46p per week). This will allow for an additional and recurring £9.4m to resources.

The PCC circulated details of the police precept consultation that had been undertaken and the comments received. The majority of the participants supported the increase in the precept of £24 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 £24 for a band D property.

39. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – PROGRESS AND UPDATE REPORT

The PCC presented her update report to the Panel which covered the following:-

Supporting Victims Fund 2019-20
Collaborative budgeting with NHS England

Funding opportunities
HMICFRS – Policing and Mental Health – Picking up the Pieces
HMICFRS National Child Protection Inspection update
HMICFRS Integrated Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL)
Assessment – 2018/19
Engagement with Communities
Precept Consultation
Hate Crime Action plan
Raising Investigative Standards
Complaints Legislation
Brexit Update
National Consultations and Inquiries

Mrs Guy declared a non-pecuniary interest as she is a Member of the Victims First Northumbria Board of Trustees.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

It was asked if the force was prepared for the Peel assessment as the previous report indicated that some improvements were required. The PCC replied that she was reasonably optimistic about it.

Brexit could be a significant effect on policing particularly if there was a no deal. It was asked if the force understood the issues and plans were being drawn up. The PCC replied that that there had been a lot of discussions with partners and the force had been working on various plans.

The PCC and her team should be commended on their two successful funding applications. It was asked if there was funding for work with perpetrators. The PCC replied that this was part of the whole system approach to domestic abuse with other forces project. This could be a future themed topic presentation.

The PCC's engagement with the wider community had been extremely well received. Following a recent incident of racism and vandalism at the Islamic school in Benwell, there were serious concerns in the Muslim community. The local police officers had been tremendous and worked with the community. The PCC was encouraged to contact the local community and she agreed that this was an excellent suggestion.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

40. THEMED REPORT – HOW THE LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS' PLAN AND PRIORITIES ARE CONSIDERED IN RELATION TO THE PCC'S POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PRIORITIES

The 2017-2021 Police and Crime Plan was informed by a strong engagement process with communities and stakeholders including the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).

The Police and Crime Plan was shaped by a wide range of consultation and the priorities and concerns raised were subsequently reflected in the Plan's six priorities

All CSPs shared their latest thinking about community safety and policing priorities with the PCC and the strong messages around domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour and alcohol related crime were incorporated into the draft plan.

The CSPs were involved in the consultation meetings with key strategic partners which demonstrated that sexual exploitation and alcohol related crime were of great importance locally and should be prioritised within the Police and Crime Plan.

The Police and Crime Panel when consulted on the Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 priorities stated that it was important to ensure that the PCC considered the CSPs' priorities in the development of the plan and that young people and diverse communities were included in consultation plans.

Other engagement which informed the plan included: public consultation, Northumbria Police performance and strategic assessment, HMICFR inspection findings, the National Policing Vision and Strategic Policing Requirement, Advisory Groups and Victims Panel and students' consultation as outlined.

Since the publication of the plan, Northumbria Police and the PCC's office continue to engage and work to deliver services with CSPs. An overview of the work and some examples of specific projects was given.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

It was asked if the community warden service and CCTV which was under threat because it was not statutory funding could be looked at as the police had also expressed concerns. This was to be raised with the PCC.

It was asked how the different vulnerable people and catching the most vulnerable were built in to the consultation undertaken. It was replied that this was covered by the CSPs and the police neighbourhood teams and specialist teams working together to understand the local vulnerabilities in their different areas.

It was commented that the CSPs were very flexible if a problem was identified and they brought in outside partners to help address the issues.

It was suggested that some of the CSPs' local priorities could be different from the PCC's priorities because of her wider more strategic remit. The CSPs should try and work together more. The PCC's domestic violence work was an example where there had been good results.

CSPs should also focus on prevention eg speeding, motor cycles, accidents, etc and the provision of new speed cameras in the future needed to be considered.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

41. KEY ISSUES IN THE NEXT QUARTER

The PCC advised the Panel of the following key issues she would be addressing in the next quarter:-

The launch of the Commissioner Community Fund
Budget setting following the precept decision

Meeting frontline police officers to hear their thoughts and concerns
Working with the Ministry of Justice to develop a framework for monitoring compliance with the Victims Code of Practice
Working with partners with the commissioning process for the Community Rehabilitation Company
Delivering Operation Encompass Plus
Supporting the delivery of Streetgames using sport to tackle youth crime and anti-social behaviour
Fire Inspections for Northumberland Fire Service and the Tyne and Wear Fire Authority
Implementation of the new legislation for complaints

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

42. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 5 March 2019 at 2.00pm in SafetyWorks.