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GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING

Tuesday, 23 July 2024

Gateshead Council	Councillors A Douglas and P Maughan
North Tyneside Council	Councillors C Burdis and T Mulvenna
Northumberland County Council	Councillor N Oliver and G Stewart
Newcastle City Council	Councillor P Lovatt
Independent Members	Mr J Klajn and Mr K Kundi

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria

S Dungworth	- Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria (PCC)
R Durham	- Chief of Staff
A Pearson	- Director of Planning and Delivery
K Laing	- Chief Finance Officer
S Hume	- Director of Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit

Gateshead Council

A Simmons-Mather	- Representing the Clerk to the Panel
K Lowes	- Democratic Services

APOLOGIES: Councillors M Butler and K Chequer (Sunderland City Council),
J Foreman and J Welsh (South Tyneside Council)

16 MEMBERSHIP OF THE PANEL

The membership of the Panel for 2024/25 is as follows:

Gateshead	Councillors Angela Douglas and Peter Maughan
Newcastle	Councillors Peter Lovatt and Paula Maines
North Tyneside	Councillors Tommy Mulvenna and Matthew Thirlaway
Northumberland	Councillors Nick Oliver and Gordon Stewart
South Tyneside	Councillors Jim Foreman and Joyce Welsh
Sunderland	Councillors Michael Butler and Kelly Chequer
Independent Members	Mr Jonathan Klajn and Mr Kami Kundi

RESOLVED - That the Membership of the Panel for 2024/25 be noted.

17 APOLOGIES

18 MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 March 2024 be approved as a correct record.

19 DELIVERY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN - PREVENTING CRIME

The PCC reported that after being successful in the 2024 election as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria. After the elections work has begun on seeking the views of the public in to form the new Police and Crime Plan to incorporate the manifesto pledges set out during the election.

The key areas of focus for preventing and fighting crime are;

1. Reduce serious and violent crime, including violence against women and girls
2. Tackle anti-social behaviour
3. Strength neighbourhood policing
4. Communicate with and listen to you
5. Fight for properly funded police and public services

The PCC submitted a thematic report on preventing crime setting out the aims to support this core theme and updates on the work being undertaken in regard to the two priorities to prevent violent crime and neighbourhood policing in the new Police and Crime Plan. Northumbria Police and Crime Plan core performance data was also provided.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

20 DRAFT POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

The Panel's draft annual report for 2023/24 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 in 2023, in line with the then PCC's commitment to an annual refresh. The revised Plan was presented to the Police and Crime Panel earlier this year.

This draft annual report covers the work of the last Police and Crime Commissioner, who stepped down at the 2024 local elections. The next annual report will cover the new PCC's first year in office. A new Police and Crime Plan will be developed in Autumn 2024 and be presented to the Police and Crime Panel for consideration in December. Members will be consulted on this plan prior to the December meeting.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

It was asked with the increase in motor vehicle crime residents are fed up with reporting these crimes as they feel nothing is being done. The data that is being collected does not show the accurate number of motor thefts that occur. It was noted that bike crime is a problem across the region. Whilst we cannot answer questions regarding operations, however, Police are tackling the crimes. Challenges the Police face is the public not passing on any information they have, the public should be encouraged to report any crimes or any information to help tackle bike crime.

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 2023/24.

21 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 22/23 AND ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER

The Chief Finance Officer gave a presentation on the Statement of Accounts 2022/23 and Annual Audit Letter including its purpose, key principles.

The external auditor has confirmed that the audit report opinions on the Chief Constable, OCC Single Entity and Group's financial statements were modified, concluding that the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the financial position and the expenditure and income for the year;
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the UK 2022/23; and
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

Under the NAO Code of Practice, Grant Thornton need to be considered where the PCC and CC have put in place proper arrangements for Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness for Financial Sustainability, Governance and Improving Economy, Effectiveness and Efficiency. Grant Thornton has identified no significant weakness in all three criteria arrangements or any improvement recommendations.

RESOLVED - That the presentation is noted.

22 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2024/25 - 2026/27

The Chief Finance Officer gave a presentation on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) including its purpose, key principles, financial year 2024/25, investment, inflationary risk, key assumptions – total funding, budget projections, MTFS forecasts, capital programme and reserves forecasts for 2024/25 to 2027/28 risks and conclusions.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

What would the core £282m grant outcome be? Over the last few years it has been flat cash and with the consultation we expect this to be the same, with the grant uplift money this will give the force more flexibility in the resources available to the public.

RESOLVED - That the report is noted.

23 COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER - ANNUAL REPORT 23/24

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 2023 and March 2024.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

24 QUARTER UPDATE MARCH 24 - APRIL 24: COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

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 March 2024 and April 2024.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

25 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 12 October 2024 at 2.00pm

Chair.....