

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Police and Crime Panel** held in Committee Room 1A - County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 8 March 2018 at 1.00 pm**

Present:

Councillor L Hovvels (Chair)

Durham County Council:

Councillors A Bainbridge, D Boyes, P Brookes, P Crathorne, S Robinson and M Simmons

Darlington Borough Council:

Councillors S Harker, B Jones (Vice-Chair), M Knowles and Mr N J H Cooke

Independent Co-opted Members:

Mr N J H Cooke

1 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Mr D Dodwell.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members in attendance.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2018

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner provided the Panel with the following information arising from the previous meeting:

Provision of information to Parish Councils

The PCVC informed the Panel that he had written to all Parish Clerks to inform them of police engagement with local councils. Councillor Brookes replied that the letter did not mention the provision of a pro-forma on crime statistics to Parish Councils and asked that the PCVC ensured this would happen.

The Chief of Staff informed the Panel that it was important for local police officers to engage with Parish Councils and Parish Councillors to ascertain what they would want providing. In reply to a question from Councillor Brookes, the PCVC confirmed that if a Parish Clerk requested a written report on crime statistics, this would be provided. The PCVC added that the information from PACT meetings could also be provided to the Clerk if this was requested.

Grant/Taxation funding levels

The PCVC reported that in 2018/19 police funding was 72.9% Government grant, 27.1% taxation compared to 2015/16 when Government grant accounted for 76.6% of funding, with local taxation accounting for 23.4%. This was particularly significant in the Durham force area which had the lowest yield of any force and therefore a high level of dependency on Government grant. The PCVC added that he had received a letter from the Policing and Fire Minister to confirm that a proposal to levy increased funding from Band E to H properties was not permissible.

Reserves

The PCVC informed the Panel that a study by the National Audit Officer in 2015 into the impact of austerity has found that the level of reserves in the Durham force was below the national average.

Funding Contributions by Universities

The PCVC reported that Durham University contributed £30,000 per annum towards the cost of a University Liaison Police Officer. In neighbouring area, Teesside University contributed £100,000 over a 3-year period, Northumbria Force received £25,000 per annum from Sunderland University, £31,000 from Northumberland University and £47,000 from Newcastle University.

4 Declarations of Interest, if any

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Revenue & Capital Budgets 2017/18 & Revenue & Capital Budgets 2018/19 - Report of PCVC Chief Finance Officer

The Panel considered a report of the PCVC Chief Finance Officer which provided details of the proposed revenue budget and policing precept for 2018/19, the proposed capital budget for 2018/19, the revised revenue and capital budgets for 2018/19 and the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of reserves (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Crathorne informed the Panel she was pleased that an increased number of apprenticeships was proposed for 2018/19 and hoped this would help young people gain employment.

Councillor Hovvells thanked the PCVC Chief Finance Officer for his presentation of the report and congratulated him on his recent award of an OBE in the New Years' Honours.

In response to a question from Councillor Boyes regarding the top sliced funding streams referred to at paragraph 14 of the report, the Chief Finance Officer provided the Panel with information on those areas where top slicing would increase for 2018/19, including police technology programmes, arm's length bodies (HMIC and IOPC), strengthening the response to Organised Crime and Special Grant.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

6 Reducing Reoffending - Report of the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

The Panel received a presentation from the PCVC on reducing re-offending which was both an objective in the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan and one of the key objectives in the Local Criminal Justice Plan for Durham and Cleveland which was published by the PCVC and the PCC for Cleveland in January 2018 (for copy of slides see file of Minutes).

Councillor Boyes informed the meeting that any crime reduction strategy and strategy to reduce re-offending required partners to work together and asked whether there was any appetite from partners, for example housing providers and employers to participate in such strategies.

The PCVC replied that work with partners was essential adding that some were already very good. The Chief of Staff added that while some of the work with employers had proven to be challenging, some employers such as Timpson's had a number of their stores managed by ex-offenders and considered ex-offenders as some of their best employees. Attempts were being made to employ ex-offenders in particular roles within the Constabulary where possible and some Checkpoint navigators had an offending history.

Councillor Knowles informed the panel that some ex-offenders may have never been employed and therefore would need support. With regard to accommodation, some areas may not be suitable for ex-offenders to be located.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

7 Quarter 3 2017/18 Performance Report - Report of the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

The Panel noted a report of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which provided a Quarter 3 performance update for 2017/18 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the performance update be noted.

8 PCVC Decision Records - Report of Chief of Staff

The Panel noted a report of the Chief of Staff, Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, which provided an update on the PCVCs decision register since the last meeting, and forward plan (for copy see file of Minutes).

9 HMIC Crime Data Integrity Inspection - Report of the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

The Panel considered a report of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which provided information about Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) report into Durham's Crime Data Integrity which was published on 15 February 2018 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The PCVC informed the Panel that this was a good inspection report from HMICFRS which highlighted some areas for improvement. However he was pleased to report that the force had been rated as outstanding in the category of demonstrating leadership and culture necessary to meet the national standards for crime recording.

Councillor Boyes referred to the timeliness of crime recording which showed that 50% of violent crime and sexual offences were not recorded within 24 hours. The PCVC replied that the force had up to 72 hours to record offences, adding that work was taking place within the force regarding sexual offences to ensure these were being correctly processed.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

- 10 Such other business, as in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration**
- 11 Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the discussion of items containing exempt information**
- 12 Such other business, as in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration**