

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

At a Meeting of **Police and Crime Panel** held in Committee Room 1A - County Hall, Durham on **Friday 1 February 2019 at 10.25 am**

### **Present:**

**Councillor L Hovvels (Chair)**

### **Durham County Council:**

Councillor S Quinn

### **Darlington Borough Council:**

Councillor M Knowles

### **Independent Co-opted Members:**

Mr N J H Cooke

The meeting started 25 minutes late due to the inclement weather.

The Chairman informed the Panel that, due to the low attendance because of inclement weather, Agenda Item Numbers 8 and 10 would be deferred to a later meeting of the Panel.

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Boyes, Brookes, Crathorne, Crumbie, Jones, Nicholson, Savory and Simmons and Mr Dodwell.

### **2 Substitute Members**

Councillor S Quinn as substitute Member for Councillor Crathorne.

### **3 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **4 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **5 Recent Media Activity**

The Panel noted a report of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which provided an update on media activity during the period since the last Panel meeting (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted

**6 Consultation on Council Tax Police Precept 2019-20**

The Panel considered a report of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (PCVC) which provided an update on the process for setting the Policing Precept for 2019-20 and which sought the Panel's support in doing so (for copy see file of Minutes).

S White, Chief Executive, Office of the PCVC informed the Panel that there had been a 43% increase in consultation responses compared to the previous year with approximately 50% of responses being made on-line. 78.1% of responses were accepting of the proposed precept increase to some degree, with 21.9% of responses being opposed to an increase.

Councillor Knowles **moved** that the Panel should dismiss consideration of a veto to the PCVC's proposed precept increase. This was **seconded** by Mr Cook.

Councillor Hovvells accepted that the proposed 13% precept increase would be difficult for some residents of County Durham and Darlington but the consultation showed a general feeling of support for the police and the Commissioner.

The Chief Executive, Office of the PCVC provided the Panel with details of the following qualitative responses which had been received to the consultation:

- the office costs of the PCVC were too high;
- the role of the PCVC was unnecessary
- students should not be exempt from the precept
- bars should be charged more for late night policing
- the role of the PCSOs should remain

Councillor Hovvells considered that PCSOs were well valued within the community and were a good source of intelligence gathering. Councillor Knowles asked whether it was the role of the Panel to promote the role of the PCVC so that the public had a better understanding. The Chief Executive replied that this was not the role of the Panel but was the role of the PCVC and his officers to explain and promote the role of the PCVC. This would form part of the review of office communications which the Chief Executive would be undertaking.

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the consultation returns be noted
- (ii) That the proposed 13.24% precept increase be agreed
- (iii) That there be no veto of the PCVC proposal
- (iv) That the Chairman respond to the PCVC and the response be published online.

**7 Revenue and Capital Budgets 2019/20, Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23 and Revenue and Capital Budgets 2018/19**

The Panel considered a report of the PCVC Chief Finance Officer which provided details of the proposed Revenue and Capital Budgets 2019/20, Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23 and Revenue and Capital Budgets 2018/19 (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**8 Local Criminal Justice Partnership 'One year on'**

This item was deferred to a later meeting of the Panel.

**9 Campaigning and Influencing Activity**

The Panel considered a report of the PCVC which provided an annual update on campaign activity by the PCVC to influence others, in particular central Government policy (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**10 Policing and Mental Health - Picking Up the Pieces**

This item was deferred to a later meeting of the Panel.

**11 Brexit Preparations**

The Panel considered a report of the PCVC which provided an up to date summary of the preparations for Brexit relating to the impact of Brexit on Durham Constabulary (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.