

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Police and Crime Panel** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 6 February 2020 at 10.00 am**

Present:

Councillor L Hovvels (Chair)

Durham County Council:

Councillors D Boyes, P Crathorne, J Nicholson, S Quinn, A Savory and M Simmons

Darlington Borough Council:

Councillors Dulston and B Jones (Vice-Chair)

Independent Co-opted Members:

Mr D K G Dodwell

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Crumbie and Mr N Cooke.

2 Substitute Members

Councillor E Heslop as substitute Member for Councillor H Crumbie.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

J Carling, Acting Chief Executive, Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner referred to Minute No 8 and informed the Panel that a Working Group had been established which was led by Joanne Waller of Durham County Council. The Working Group also had representatives from the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner and Darlington Borough Council and would produce an action plan in due course.

In reply to a question from Councillor Boyes regarding expenses for the Independent Co-opted Members, which was referenced at Minute No 12 the Governance Solicitor confirmed that this was being reviewed as part of a

wider piece of work regarding all Independent Members on County Council committees.

4 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Recent media activity

The Panel noted a report of the Media and Engagement Officer, Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which provided an update of press coverage concerning the work of the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (Acting PCVC) since the previous meeting (for copy see file of Minutes).

6 Precept 2020/21

The Panel considered a report of the Acting PCVC which provided an update on the process for setting the Policing precept for 2020-21 and sought the Panel's support for an increase of £10 per household per year for properties in Band D and commensurate increases for other properties (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Acting PCVC informed the Panel that 2,744 responses to the consultation had been received, which was 440% more than the previous year. Consultation had engaged social media advertising and SurveyMonkey and this engagement would continue through the year to measure what people thought about the police service.

Councillor Boyes informed the Panel that the level of response had been fantastic. The Government was decreasing the amount of money paid in grants to Police forces and funding was becoming increasingly reliant on the precept. The consultation feedback was a validation by people in County Durham and Darlington of what was being proposed.

Councillor Crathorne praised the Acting PCVC for his AAP attendance which had enabled him to explain to the community the need for investment in IT and infrastructure. Councillor Quinn asked whether the Acting PCVC would be able to attend Town Council meetings. The Acting PCVC replied that he would attend such meetings if invited. The Chair suggested that attendance at the Town Council Forum, to which all Town Council's were invited, may be a better solution.

Moved by Councillor Boyes, **Seconded** by Councillor Crathorne and

Resolved:

- i) That the current position of the consultation and expected outcome be noted.
- ii) That the proposed 4.87% precept increase be approved.
- iii) That there be no veto of the Acting PCVC proposal.
- iv) That the Chairman respond to the Acting PCVC and the response be published online.

7 Revenue and Capital Budgets 2020/21, Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2023/24 and Revenue and Capital Budget 2019/20

The Panel considered a report of the Chief Finance Officer from the Office of the Police and Crime Victims' Commissioner which provided details of the proposed Revenue and Capital Budgets 2020/21, Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2023/24 and Revenue and Capital Budgets 2019/20 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

8 Transforming Probation

The Panel received a presentation from Jeanne Trotter, Head of Policy, Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which provided an update on the transformation of Probation in England and Wales (for copy of slides see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the presentation be noted.

9 PCVC Decision Records

The Panel noted a report of the Acting PCVC which provided an update on the decision register for 2020 and the forward plan (for copy see file of Minutes).

10 HMICFRS Overview of 2020 and updates on current items

The Panel noted a report of the Acting PCVC which provided an update on the HMICFRS inspection landscape for 2020 and the recent County Lines and Child Protection inspections (for copy see file of Minutes).