

**HUMBERSIDE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

<b>DATE</b>	06 October 2020
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Assurance of OPCC s151 capacity through secondment arrangements
<b>STATUS</b>	Open

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Police and Crime Panel with an update as per the request made to the OPCC as part of the confirmation hearing process held on 28 November 2019 for the appointment of new Chief Financial Officer.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members of the Police and Crime Panel consider the views of the OPCC Chief Executive and Chief Fire Officer regarding the secondment arrangements and seek assurance that they are content that the arrangements are suitable and in the spirit of best public value.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Police and Crime Panel held a confirmation hearing on 28 November 2019 for the appointment of Kevin Wilson to the post of the OPCC Chief Financial Officer on a part time basis, two days a week through a secondment from Humberside Fire and Rescue.

The panel unanimously agreed on the appointment with the following recommendation;

*That the Chief Finance Officer secondment arrangement be reviewed in nine months time. This was to allow a review to be undertaken to determine whether a post consisting of 0.4 fte (2 days a week) provided enough capacity to fulfil the requirements of the Chief Finance Officer position.*

**4. REVIEW**

- 4.1 The Chief Finance Officer was fully operational from January 2020 when the previous post holder entered retirement. They have been supported with a Deputy Chief Finance Officer, Martyn Ransom also on a 2 day week basis on secondment from Humberside Fire and Rescue.

- 4.2 This has been an effective working relationship between Humberside OPCC and Humberside Fire and Rescue for the following reasons;
- Seamless induction and ability to demonstrate operational competence from the outset reducing risk to PCC assets
  - Made some operational improvements in how we manage treasury arrangements to build resilience and reporting templates
  - Able to demonstrate resilience through use of Deputy to cover any leave periods
  - Able to transfer existing knowledge of working with same external auditors and same members of the Joint Independent Audit Committee
  - Met demanding deadlines to manage end of year accounts working with key stakeholders in the force
  - Built good working relationships across all main stakeholders
  - Ensures weekly update to PCC directly on all matters relating to the portfolio.
- 4.3 The OPCC Chief Executive and Chief Fire Officer have an established working relationship and regular contact to discuss the arrangements and any issues that may occur.

## **5. FEEDBACK FROM HUMBERSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (HFRS)**

- 5.1 The Chief Fire Officer / Chief Executive has stated the following;

The move to collaborate to share the two roles as described was introduced in a well-planned way and there are obvious savings to the public purse.

The reduction in the time that the two posts are available to HFRS has been managed by increasing skills and capacity elsewhere in the Service and has therefore increased resilience overall. There have been no negative impacts on HFRS and this arrangement builds on the already very good working relationship between the two organisations.

## **6. FEEDBACK FROM THE POST HOLDER**

- 6.1 Working across the two roles has been rewarding despite the fact that it has been during one of the most challenging periods in memory for public services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the first 9 months in the role, supported by Martyn Ransom the Deputy S151 Officer we have completed the following key pieces of work:-
- Worked with the Force to deliver the PCC's Medium-Term Resource Strategy for 2020/21 to 2024/25 and the setting of the precept for 2020/21;
  - Reserves Strategy for 2020/21 onwards;
  - Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/21;
  - Worked with the Force to deliver the Annual Accounts for 2019/20 and the external audit;
  - Strengthened our day-to-day Treasury Management operations through the collaboration with Hull City Council from 1 July 2020;

- Developed excellent working relationships with the Force Finance Team, Mazars (External Audit), Internal Audit and the Joint Independent Audit Committee;
- Weekly Finance Briefings with the PCC and the PCC's Chief Executive;
- Attendance at the Accountability Board;
- Delivered Finance training sessions to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner;
- Started work to review the Joint Code of Corporate Governance.

There are undoubtedly synergies from working across the two organisations and we will continue to develop these as we move through the next 12 months.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 Humberside OPCC are content that the secondment arrangements are robust enough and provide sufficient time, skills and experience to ensure the interests of the PCC are protected.
- 7.2 The two secondees have demonstrated great value in the short time they have been in post. The arrangement brings benefits to all parties and sharing of costs between public agencies has benefits of reducing the overall cost to the tax payer in both agencies.

**Rachel Cook**

**Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer**

**Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside**