

HUMBERSIDE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

8 February 2023

PRESENT: -

East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Councillor J Abraham Councillor B Gateshill (Vice-Chair) Councillor C Holmes
Hull City Council	Councillor A Singh Councillor L Tock
North East Lincolnshire Council	Councillor K Shutt
North Lincolnshire Council	Councillor J Davison Councillor K Vickers
Independent Members	Mrs H Chase

The meeting was held at the Lazaat Hotel, Woodhill Way, Cottingham, HU16 5SX.

- 483 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** - The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited all in attendance to introduce themselves and state the capacity in which they were attending the meeting.
- 484 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - That it be noted that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor M Coward (Hull City Council), Councillor H Dawkins (North East Lincolnshire Council), Councillor R Hannigan (North Lincolnshire Council) and Mrs S Whittaker (Independent Member).
- 485 **SUBSTITUTIONS** - Councillor K Vickers substituted for Councillor R Hannigan (North Lincolnshire Council).
- 486 **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS (SUCH DECLARATIONS ARE TO BE MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MEMBERS' RESPECTIVE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT)** - There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Personal or Personal and Prejudicial interests.
- 487 **TO TAKE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PANEL HELD ON 29 NOVEMBER 2022 AS A CORRECT RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN - Resolved** - That the minutes of the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held on 29 November 2022, having been printed and circulated amongst the members, be taken as read and correctly recorded.
- 488 **HUMBERSIDE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – UPDATE** - The Vice-Chair welcomed Jonathan Evison, Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner to provide an update to the Panel on any matters of interest,

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and to respond to any questions about his role. The Police and Crime Commissioner informed the Panel of the following –

- Humberside Police had been contacted by several police forces, Police and Crime Commissioners and Government Ministers requesting meetings following the publication of the PEEL inspection.
- Further improvement in the 101 performance.
- Update on the roll-out of the ‘Right Care, Right Person’ initiative.
- College of Policing had recognised that Humberside Police’s neighbourhood policing model was best practice.
- Reduction in anti-social behaviour and burglary across Humberside.
- Force moral continued to improve.
- 71 police officers were currently in training, with a further 75 to commence their training in March.
- Update on the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner publicity campaigns.
- Update on the fraud awareness campaign.
- Progress on Home Office bids for grant monies.
- Purchase of additional equipment to assist Community Speedwatch volunteers.
- Crimestoppers success.
- Not in our Community rollout.

Following the Commissioner’s verbal presentation, the Chairman facilitated a discussion between the Panel Members and Mr Evison.

Resolved – (a) That the contents of the verbal presentation be noted, and (b) that Mr Evison be thanked for his verbal update and for responding to members’ questions.

489 **POLICE PRECEPT FOR 2023-24 AND MEDIUM TERM RESOURCE STRATEGY 2023-24 TO 2027-28** - The Vice-Chair welcomed Jonathan Evison, Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside and Kevin Wilson, Chief Finance Officer at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the meeting. Mr Evison and Mr Wilson were in attendance to guide members through the proposed police precept for 2023-24 and Medium Term Resource Strategy for 2023-24 to 2027-28.

Mr Evison informed the meeting that as part of the budget setting process, the Commissioner was required to consider whether or not to propose any changes to council tax. The amount of the council tax precept was a decision for the Commissioner who would take account of the views of the Police and Crime Panel and the Government’s Council Tax increase limit in making that decision.

The Commissioner had proposed a precept increase of 5.9%. The financial implications for residents were that the Band D Council Tax amount would increase to £268.19 for 2023-24, an increase of £14.99.

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The panel considered the Medium-Term Resource Strategy (MTRS) of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside, which covered a period of five years. It described the financial direction of the organisation and outlined financial pressures.

The MTRS provided options for delivering a sustainable budget and capital programme over the medium term. It also sets out how the Commissioner could provide the Chief Constable with the resources to deliver the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan within the challenging financial climate.

The MTRS sets the financial context for the Commissioner's revenue budget, capital programme and precepting decisions.

The overall financial strategy sought to deliver the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan, 2021 - 2025 and meet the requirements of the National Strategic Policing Requirement.

The Funding formula used to distribute Grant between Forces (Police Allocation Formula (PAF)) was introduced in 2006-07 and much of the data used had not been updated. Members heard that there had been recognition for many years that the formula no longer reflected needs, but previous attempts at reform of the PAF had not come to fruition due to various technical/political considerations. No change was anticipated to the PAF formula until at least 2024-25 at the earliest and therefore, the MTRS had made no assumptions in this regard.

Members were informed that the Government had made a commitment to increase police officer numbers nationally by 20,000 by March 2023. The profile for Humberside Police was as follows:

2020-21 - 97 Officers.
2021-22 - 96 Officers.
2022-23 - 129 Officers.

Funding had been allocated towards the costs of police officer salaries, additional police staff to facilitate the recruitment and training of officers and the necessary kit and equipment they needed.

The Provisional Police Finance Settlement for 2023-24 was announced on 14 December 2022. The final Police Finance Settlement would be released in February 2023.

Members were informed of the following headlines from the Police Finance Settlement for Humberside:

- Police core grants of £139.1m
- Legacy grants of £10m
- Ring-fenced grant of £4.4m relating to achievement of Operation Uplift targets

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Members were reminded that the Secretary of State determined the maximum increase PCCs could make to the council tax precept without requiring a referendum and in 2023-24, was more than £15 per year on a Band D property. The Band D council tax precept set by the Commissioner for the year 2023-24 was £268.19.

The Commissioner had also ran a public consultation on the level of the council tax precept for 2023-24. There had been 1,590 responses to the consultation. 69% of these responses agreed with a £9.99 increase or more in a Band D council tax precept.

The MTRS included an increase in the precept of £14.99 for a Band D property for 2023-24 and an increase of £9.99 in future years. A final decision on the actual precept would be made each year by the Police and Crime Commissioner based on the financial circumstances at the time.

Members were informed that the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) allocated a grant to the Commissioner each year for local commissioning of victim services. The grant was allocated between Police and Crime Commissioners on the basis of population. A total of £1.090m was allocated to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside for 2022-23. The amount for 2023-24 was yet to be confirmed.

The MOJ grant was held outside of the Police General Fund and the Commissioner made decisions on the commissioning of services on an annual basis, within the grant funding available. The commissioning of victim services therefore had no impact on Force budgets.

Members were informed of the following pressures -

Indicative budget forecasts for 2023-24 to 2027-28 reflected the impact of inflation on budgets wherever possible such as energy, business rates and rent increases along with known contract increases. In addition, estimates for future pay awards at 3% for 2023-24 and 2% for the following years.

The MTRS also included estimates of the impact of the annual cost of officer pay progression under police regulations and the triennial review of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), this review was completed for 2023-24 and the following two years and an increase in contributions was not required. Humberside Police would also face financial pressures due to the additional costs incurred following the recruitment of additional Police Officers and Police Staff as a result of Operation Uplift.

A revised five-year capital programme had been produced. The implications of this programme were fully reflected in the MTRS.

In considering the rationale behind the proposed increase in the police precept, the Commissioner had committed to the following –

1. Humberside Police would continue its programme of placing 24-hour

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response teams in every town in the force area – including the return of 24-hour policing teams in Driffield and Brigg.

2. This growth would be in addition to preserving existing bases and protecting officer numbers in Hull, Grimsby, Scunthorpe, Epworth, Beverley, Bridlington, Withernsea, Pocklington, Goole and Hedon (which were at their highest in ten years)
3. Humberside Police would be able to afford to keep 148 dedicated PCSO's embedded in every ward in East Riding, Hull, North and North East Lincolnshire
4. Humberside Police would be able to increase the number of dedicated community police officers working alongside PCSO colleagues
5. The force also recognised that rural communities want an increase in dedicated rural policing, and the continued support and development of dedicated Rural Task Force teams in the East Riding and in North and North East Lincolnshire would be achievable.
6. The dedicated Rural Task Force would be enhanced to 1 Sergeant and 8 Constables, based in the East Riding and Northern Lincolnshire
7. Humberside Police were also asked by local communities to invest more resources in tackling dangerous driving, illegal and uninsured drivers and driving that was leading to death and serious injury across the whole region.
8. Humberside Police would increase the number of police officers in its Roads Policing Unit to increase patrols, visibility and capability to proactively target offenders who continue to reduce safety on the roads for other users
9. Humberside Police had a key role to play in ensuring that victims of domestic abuse were protected and offenders were brought to justice. The impact such behaviour had on victims and children was generational and nothing other than providing an outstanding response every time should be accepted.
10. Ensure that the new dedicated Domestic Abuse Investigation and Safeguarding Teams could be fully resourced in 2023 whilst not reducing officer numbers elsewhere
11. Invest the additional officers as planned into local CID teams, to further improve the force's ability to investigate more crimes and provide a service that increased public trust and confidence in their local force

Following the Commissioners verbal update, the Vice-Chair facilitated a discussion between Panel Members and Mr Evison and Mr Wilson on the Commissioners proposed precept increase of 5.9 %. The financial implications for residents were that the Band D Council Tax amount would increase to £268.19 for 2023-24, an increase of £14.99.

Resolved – (a) That having considered the evidence submitted by the Police and Crime Commissioner and Mr Wilson, Chief Finance Officer at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and their responses to questions from members, it was unanimously agreed that the Humberside Police and Crime Panel support the Commissioner's proposal to increase the precept for 2023-24, by 5.9% (from £253.20 to £268.19 for a Band D property, an increase of £14.99), and (b) that, having considered the evidence submitted by the

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Commissioner and Mr Wilson, the Panel –

- Acknowledged that with rising inflation and the impact of the cost of living crisis, members were acutely aware of the impact the increase in the precept may have on some residents in Humberside. Despite funding from central Government and local tax payers, a further £6.2m would be required from police financial reserves next year to allow the Commissioner to proceed with current plans and cover increased costs in the present financial climate.
- Noted that Humberside Police had made great progress in improving the service it provided to local communities, resulting in last November's announcement from His Majesty's independent Inspectorate that the force had been graded Outstanding in most areas of its operations.
- Agreed with the Commissioner that this was not the time to reduce the resources available to Humberside Police, instead investing in further developments to drive the force forward.
- Stated that in supporting the precept proposal, the Panel respectfully asks that the members be provided with an update in six months' time on the implementation/continuation of the eleven commitments made by the Commissioner.

490 **POLICE FIRE AND CRIME PANELS: INDEPENDENT MEMBER RECRUITMENT GUIDANCE** - The Secretary circulated the Police, Fire and Crime Panels: Independent Member Recruitment Guidance which the Home Office had published in January 2023. The guidance was to assist panel chairs, members and supporting officers, and other officers from relevant local authorities who work regularly with panels. It was designed to support and add value to the recruitment process for independent panel members.

Resolved – (a) That the Police, Fire and Crime Panels: Independent Member Recruitment Guidance be noted, and (b) that the Secretary ensure that, for future recruitment of independent members, the guidance be used to enhance the process.

491 **COMPLAINTS REPORT** - The Secretary to the Police and Crime Panel circulated a report which provided the Panel with an update on complaints made against the Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner during the period 1 September 2022 to 30 January 2023.

As part of the complaint's procedure, it was agreed that the Police and Crime Panel would receive quarterly monitoring reports, at their formal meetings, on the number of complaints received.

During the period 1 September 2022 to 30 January 2023, there had been no complaints submitted against the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

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- 492 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING** - Wednesday 29 March 2023 commencing at 10.00 am at the Ergo Connects Building, Bridgehead Business Park, Hessle.
- 493 **ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MUST BE SPECIFIED** - There was no urgent business for consideration at the meeting.