

HUMBERSIDE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

7 February 2024

PRESENT: -

East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Councillor P Smith
Hull City Council	Councillor A Singh Councillor L Tock
North East Lincolnshire Council	Councillor K Shutt Councillor D Westcott
North Lincolnshire Council	Councillor M Ali Councillor J Davison (Vice-Chair)
Independent Members	Mrs H Chase Mrs S Whittaker (Chair)

The meeting was held at the Ergo Connects Centre, Bridgehead Business Park, Hessle.

558 **MINUTES SILENCE** - As a mark of respect, the Panel observed a minute's silence following the untimely passing of Councillor Viv Padden.

559 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Vice-Chair of the Humberside Police and Crime Panel welcomed East Riding of Yorkshire Councillor Paul Smith to his first meeting and invited all in attendance to introduce themselves and identify the local authority/organisation they were representing.

560 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Resolved** - That it be noted that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Mrs C Randall (Hull City Council), Councillor A Talbot (East Riding of Yorkshire Council) and Councillor S Whyte (East Riding of Yorkshire Council).

561 **SUBSTITUTIONS** - There were no substitutes attending the meeting.

562 **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)** - Councillor M Ali declared a personal interest as the Chair of the North Lincolnshire Independent Advisory Group.

563 **TO TAKE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PANEL HELD ON 10 OCTOBER 2023 AS A CORRECT RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN - Resolved** - That the minutes of the meeting of the Police and

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Crime Panel held on 10 October 2023, having been printed and circulated amongst the members, be taken as read and correctly recorded.

564 **TO TAKE THE MINUTES OF THE CONFIRMATION HEARING HELD ON 10 OCTOBER 2023 AS A CORRECT RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN - Resolved** - That the minutes of the special meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held on 10 October 2023, having been printed and circulated amongst the members, be taken as read and correctly recorded.

565 **HUMBERSIDE POLICE PRECEPT AND THE MEDIUM TERM RESOURCE STRATEGY 2024-25 TO 2028-29** - The Vice-Chair welcomed Jonathan Evison, Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside, Rachel Cook, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside Chief Executive Officer and Martyn Ransom, Chief Finance Officer at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside to the meeting. Mr Evison, Ms Cook and Mr Ransom were in attendance to present the Humberside Police Precept and Medium-Term Resource Strategy (MTRS) for 2024-25 to 2028-29.

The Panel heard that 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.

Members were informed that 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. 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 2025-26 at the earliest and therefore, the MTRS had made no assumptions in this regard.

The Panel heard that the Provisional Police Finance Settlement for 2024-25 was announced on 14 December 2023. The final Police Finance Settlement would be released in February 2024. The headlines from the Police Finance Settlement for Humberside were as follows:

- Police core grants of £147.3m
- Legacy grants of £10m

The Secretary of State determined the maximum increase PCCs could make

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to council tax precept without requiring a referendum and in 2024-25, was more than £13 per year on a Band D property.

The Band D council tax precept set by the Commissioner for the year 2024-25 is £281.18.

The Commissioner had also ran a public consultation on the level of the council tax precept for 2024-25. There had been 1,238 responses to the consultation. 49% of these responses agreed with a £12.99 increase or more in a Band D council tax precept.

The Panel was informed that the MTRS as presented included an increase in the precept of £12.99 for a Band D property for 2024-25 and an increase of £9.99 in future years. Final decisions 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 2023-24. The amount for 2024-25 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.

The Panel heard that the group budget was held by the Police and Crime Commissioner who provided financial resources to the Chief Constable to deliver operational policing. The PCC had a small specific budget for funding of partnerships and the OPCC running costs. The Capital Financing budget comprised the revenue provision for repayment of borrowing, interest costs and investment income.

Members acknowledged that the overall Group forecast represented an overspend of £0.995m or 0.4%. The forecast closing position on reserves for 2023-24 was £23.6m.

When calculating the medium-term budget projections for Humberside consideration had been given to several budget pressures including:

- Pay and price increases;
- Budget pressures;
- Revenue implications of the capital programme.

Indicative budget forecasts for pay and price increases for 2024-25 to 2028-29 reflected the impact of inflation on budgets wherever possible such as energy, business rates and rent increases along with known contract

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increases.

In addition, estimates for future pay awards at 2.5% for 2024-25 and 2% for the following years were provided for.

The MTRS also included budget pressure 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.

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

Members were informed that throughout the MTRS period efficiencies would continue to be delivered wherever possible, to sustain the investment in policing, to continue to support local policing services in the face of a challenging financial situation and balance the budget, for example:

- Corporate Programme of efficiency and continuous improvement reviews;
- Non pay savings;
- Savings through procurement through the continued use of national frameworks;
- Maximising income generation wherever possible.

The Commissioner informed members that productivity initiatives had been delivered in the areas described below;

- Operation Uplift - Deployment of additional officers using demand data to inform organisation design;
- Right Care, Right Person – Working with health partners to ensure the most appropriate organisation provides timely care to individuals as required;
- Call Demand Productivity – Software was utilised to predict call volumes based on previous historical information which then provides a basis to allocate appropriate resources.

Following the comprehensive verbal presentation, the Vice-Chair facilitated a discussion between Panel Members and Mr Evison, Ms Cook and Mr Ransom.

Resolved – That having considered the evidence submitted by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Executive Officer at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and 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 2024-25, by 4.84% from £268.19 to £281.18 for a Band D property, an increase of £12.99.

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Having considered the evidence submitted by the Commissioner, Ms Cook and Mr Ranson, and their responses to questions from members, it was unanimously agreed that the Humberside Police and Crime Panel support the precept without qualification or comment.

However, with rising inflation and the impact of the cost of living crisis, the Panel was acutely aware of the impact the increase in the precept may have on some residents in Humberside.

The Panel acknowledged that Humberside Police continued to make great progress in improving the service it provided to local communities. The Panel 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.

The Panel heard that Humberside Police had, as of 31 December 2023, 2325 Police Officers (including 322 uplift allocation). There were 1510 Police Staff including PCSO's, 116 Special Constable's and 74 volunteers. However, there was an expectation by the Panel that in agreeing to the Commissioners precept increase, that there would be no reduction in these numbers.

In future, the Panel respectfully requests that the Commissioner's precept report include additional financial information which clearly states the financial impact to both Humberside Police and local residents of the proposed precept options.

566 **UPDATE REPORT - OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER** - The Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside gave the Panel an update on –

- Roll out of Operation Journey and receipt of a £65,000 grant
- Work with North East Business Resilience Centre to provide small grants to assist with cyber security in schools
- Whole System Approach to tackle women in the Criminal Justice System.
- Community Safety Partnerships
- Not in Our Community
- Humber Violence Prevention Partnership
- Hotspot Funding
- Contract and commissioned services
- Public Health approach to domestic abuse
- Community Safety Fund and Community Response Fund
- Assurance and statutory duties
- Communications

Following the comprehensive verbal report, the Vice-Chair facilitated a discussion between Mr Evison and Ms Cook.

Resolved - (a) That the contents of the verbal presentation be noted, and (b)

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that Mr Evison and Ms Cook be thanked for their verbal update and for responding to members' questions.

567 **END OF TERM REPORT - OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside introduced his end of term report, before the Panel viewed a short video that summarised the achievements of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside during 2021-24.

Resolved – That the end of term report 2021-24 be noted.

568 **CHIEF CONSTABLE - UPDATE**

The Vice-Chair welcomed the Chief Constable of Humberside Police to the meeting. Mr Anderson had been invited to the Panel to update members on –

- the new Force Executive Team
- Humberside Police future priorities
- Officer/staff numbers within the Force
- Special Constable recruitment
- Force performance against national outcomes
- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Operation Shield

Following the presentation, the Vice-Chair facilitated a discussion between Panel Members and the Chief Constable.

Resolved - (a) That the contents of the presentation be received with thanks, and (b) that Mr Anderson be thanked for his attendance, presentation and for responding to members' questions.

569 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING** - The Secretary informed the meeting that due to the commencement of the pre-election period prior to the Police and Crime Commissioner elections, the next scheduled meeting of the Panel would need to be brought forward.

Resolved – That the Secretary re-schedule the next meeting of the Panel, circulating details to all members and other interested stakeholders.

570 **ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MUST BE SPECIFIED -**

The Chair informed the meeting that the Communications and Engagement Manager at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner was attending his final Panel meeting before retiring from his position. The Chair thanked Mr Hudson for his help, advice, commitment, guidance professionalism and patience with the Panel and wished him a long and enjoyable retirement.