

**CUMBRIA POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER  
PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY CONFERENCE**

Minutes of the Public Accountability Conference held on  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018 in Conference Room 3, Police Headquarters,  
Carleton Hall, Penrith, at 10.00am

**PRESENT**

Police & Crime Commissioner - Mr Peter McCall (Chair)

**Also present:**

Chief Constable (Michelle Skeer);

OPCC Chief Executive (Gill Shearer)

Joint Chief Finance Officer (Roger Marshall)

OPCC Governance Manager (Joanne Head) – taking minutes

**PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**001. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from the Deputy Joint Chief Finance Officer (Michelle Bellis).

**002. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

No questions had been received from members of the public prior to the meeting.

**003. URGENT BUSINESS AND EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no items of urgent business to be considered.

**004. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of any personal interest relating to any item on the Agenda.

## 005. MINUTES

The Chair presented the minutes of the Public Accountability Conference held on the 27 June 2018, these had previously been circulated with the agenda. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

**RESOLVED,** that, the

- (i) Minutes of the Public Accountability Conference held on the 27 June 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## 006. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2018/19 – QUARTER 1 TO JUNE 2018

The Joint Chief Finance Officer presented the Capital Budget Monitoring report. Up to the end of June 2018 there had not been much spending activity and the spending forecast was still on track with no reported slippage to date. Two large capital programmes were being progressed on time and on budget, these being the SAAB project and the building of the new Eden Deployment Centre.

In relation to ICT Schemes the largest single project within the ICT programme was the replacement of several smaller systems into one integrated Command and Control system. This project was progressing well and stage payments had been made in line with those outlined in the contract.

Fleet replacement was now progressing after an initial delay due to the temporary withdrawal of some models whilst manufacturers tested and made any necessary modifications in relation to emission levels. New models were now being introduced with the costs of the additional works being added to the purchase price, however the Fleet Manager was confident that the approved programme would be delivered within the agreed budget.

Within the report the Commissioner was asked to consider two recommendations these being:

Recommendation 1 – approve the transfer of £25k from the Control Room Futures capital budget to create a revenue budget within the project. A consultant has been employed to look at business processes, however this is not permissible within the capital expenditure. Within the approved budget there was provision made for additional project resources and therefore the monies were required to be transferred to be treated as a revenue expenditure.

Recommendation 2 – approve the addition to the 2018/19 programme a vehicle which was due for replacement in 2019/20 at a cost of £11k. The vehicle had been damaged beyond repair and would need to be replaced. Insurance receipts received would be transferred to the capital financing to part fund this accelerated replacement.

**RESOLVED,** that, the

- (i) transfer of £25k from the Control Room Futures capital budget to a revenue budget be approved; and
- (ii) addition of a vehicle to the 2018/19 fleet replacement programme be approved.

**007. CONSTABULARY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2018/19 – QUARTER 1 TO JUNE 2018**

The Joint Chief Finance Officer presented the Constabulary's Revenue Budget Monitoring report to the meeting. The current forecast was an overspend on police officer pay and allowances of £609k. This had arisen as a result of the earlier recruitment of the additional 25 police officers as pledged by the Commissioner in relation to the increase in council tax precept. Subsequently this has had a knock on effect to the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) numbers decreasing as a number have left to join as police officers.

Police staff establishment had more vacancies than were planned for at the beginning of the year. Recruitment to some specialist posts was proving difficult with second recruitment drives having to take place. The Chief Constable affirmed that staffing levels were considered on a regular basis and where demand was recognised this was often offset in other areas across the force. The Control Room was now close to its budget and additional staff were being utilised at peak demand periods between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm.

Additional officers and staff had resulted in additional pressures and costs in areas such as training, accommodation and ICT. This had resulted in a forecasted overspend of £108k within the supplies and services budget. It was recognised that due to the five-year Firearms Licensing renewal cyclical there would be an under recover by £115k. There had been additional pressures identified from national programmes such as GDPR and MOPi changes. The Joint Chief Finance Officer was not at this point concerned for the 2018/19 budget as any increase would only partly affect this years' budget, any implications would be recognised in the following year.

The Commissioner asked how the recent award affected the budget and the announcement of a potential 2% increase in the following year. The Joint Chief Finance Officer advised that budgeting provision had already been made. He pointed out that the pay award would be borne by the Constabulary and not Central Government and therefore any increase would be reliant on council tax funding.

**RESOLVED,** that, the report be noted.

**008. COMMISSIONER'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2018/19 – QUARTER 1 TO JUNE 2018**

The group position identified an overspend of £351k which included an underspend from the Police and Crime Commissioner of £50k. This could be attributed to current vacant posts within the OPCC yet to be filled. Budgets in relation to the Commissioner's estate were on target and it was recognised that no additional fire inspections and subsequent costs would be undertaken during the year.

Additional income from investment activity was predicted due to interest rates potentially increasing, although caution was being taken on any potential predictions being realised.

**RESOLVED,** that, the report be noted.

**009. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES 2018/19 – QUARTER 1 TO JUNE 2018**

The report highlighted the Treasury Management Activities that had taken place to the end of June 2018. As of 30 June 2018 the total value of investments was £9.655m which was within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) limits. In July the Constabulary would receive the annual pension grant of £20m which would be paid out to retired officers during the forthcoming year. The Joint Chief Finance Officer advised that this money would be invested only with those organisations who possessed an excellent credit rating; and not all within the same organisation to avoid any losses should that organisation find themselves in financial difficulties.

All investments were made within the parameters allowed by the TMSS and no contraventions had been identified.

**RESOLVED,** that, the report be noted.

**Meeting concluded at 10.25am**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_