

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

Minutes of the Public Accountability Conference held on
Wednesday 3rd November 2021 at Carleton Hall, Penrith
at 15:30

PRESENT

Police & Crime Commissioner - Mr Peter McCall (Chair)

Also present:

Deputy Chief Constable (Mark Webster);
OPCC Chief Executive (Vivian Stafford);
Joint Chief Finance Officer (Roger Marshall);
OPCC Executive Support Officer (Paula Zutic) – taking minutes
OPCC Administration Assistant (Bronwyn Musgrave) - observing

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

001. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from the Chief Constable (Michelle Skeer); the T/Assistant Chief Constable (Jonny Blackwell); and the Deputy 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 by the Committee.

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 12th July 2021, 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 12th July 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair;

A discussion took place in relation to Community Triggers and around repeat incidents. There is a broader piece of work that is being led by Chief Inspector Sherlock. Chief Superintendent Jackson will pick this up and will discuss further with Vivian Stafford in a separate meeting.

006. FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2021/22 – QUARTER2 TO SEPTEMBER 2021

The report was presented by the Chief Finance Officer on a 'by exception' basis.

We are now halfway through the financial year and the forecast underspend currently stands at £203k (combined budget) which equates to 0.2% of the overall budget. The majority of the underspend (£187k) is attributed to the Constabulary while the remaining £16 is attributed to the OPCC.

The Capital Budget has seen some slippage, but remains within tolerances. There has been reduced expenditure on premises with a fixed contract on utilities which runs to the end of the financial year.

The main slippage has been seen in ICT schemes. Fleet have also experienced issues procuring vehicles, although these are now starting to come through & the fleet programme is expected to get back on track. It was noted that vehicle costs have increased significantly like for like.

It was noted that inflation is expected to have an impact in the next financial year.

Operation Uplift - We are slightly above target on officer numbers, this has been offset by a number of police staff vacancies (approximately 60) – work is ongoing with HR in relation to this. The graph on page 6 of the presentation shown the officer numbers and projected actuals – we will be quite a way ahead of Op Uplift targets by the end of the financial year which puts us in a good position for the start of the next phase.

Non staff budgets are also showing an underspend. There has been some reduced activity due to COVID but a detailed analysis still needs to be carried out to drill down into this. There is a specific piece of work going on looking at the budget for future years.

Overtime was discussed and some issues relating to the bedding in of the new CROWN system.

A discussion took place in relation to the estate in West Cumbria, this is now being looked at in more detail as it was previously delayed due to COVID.

The Commissioner felt there was a wider discussion to be held in relation to the estate in general, taking into account developments in LGR and Blue Light.

It was noted that sustainability & the green agenda are high priorities for HMICFRS.

Following a discussion, the presentation was noted; and the recommendations were all approved in accordance with the detail set out within the report.

RESOLVED, that,

- (i) The presentation be noted;

007. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES 2021/22 – QUARTER 2 TO SEPTEMBER 2021

The report was presented by the Chief Finance Officer.

It was acknowledged that a cautious approach has been taken, as it is not worth being exposed to any unnecessary risk.

Balances are close to budget & it was noted that there is expected to be a gradual increase in interest rates from next year.

Treasury management indicators and tolerances are all within limits.

The possibility of a pay rise was discussed as the Chancellor had announced the lifting of the pay freeze. We are currently waiting for more information on this, and there will be negotiations with unions etc.

Following a discussion, the report was noted.

RESOLVED, that,

- (i) The report be noted;

Meeting concluded at 16:25

Signed: _____

Date: _____