

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ASSURANCE BOARD AGENDA

<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	29 JUNE 2020
<b>TIME OF MEETING</b>	11AM
<b>LOCATION</b>	VIRTUAL
<b>PCC CONTACT OFFICER</b>	MRS LIZ KELLY (0300 122 6007)
<b>CONSTABULARY CONTACT OFFICER</b>	SUPT S WILSON(0300 122 5440)
<b>DISTRIBUTION:</b>	<p>PCC H DHINDSA  DPCC K GILLOTT  CC P GOODMAN  DCC R SWANN  T/ACC K MEHMET  ACC P GIBSON  MR D PEET  MR A DALE  MR S ALLSOP  SUPT. S WILSON  MRS L KELLY  OPCC PERFORMANCE OFFICER</p>

ITEM	SUBJECT	PURPOSE OF REPORT
<p><b>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</b></p> <p><b>A virtual surgery will be held at a later date, to be arranged.</b></p> <p><b>Members of the public can always contact the office directly with any questions.</b></p>		
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
3	ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONER	
4	ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHIEF CONSTABLE	
5	MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING	
6	COVID-19 – UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF CONSTABLE AND PCC’S COMMITMENTS MOVING FORWARD	
7	BLACK LIVES MATTER – UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF CONSTABLE	
8	CRIMINAL JUSTICE UPDATE	



# BUDGET SETTING MEETING

## MINUTES

<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	7 FEBRUARY 2020
<b>TIME OF MEETING</b>	1.30PM
<b>LOCATION</b>	CONFERENCE ROOM 2, FORCE HQ, RIPLEY, DERBYSHIRE.

**In attendance:**

**Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner:** PCC Dhindsa, Mr K Gillott, Mr A Dale, Mrs E Kelly, Ms D Rimell

**Constabulary:** CC P Goodman, Mr S Allsop

Agenda No.	Item	Decision (including Dec No.)/ Action
1.	<p><b>APOLOGIES</b> DCC Swann, T/ACC Mehmet, ACC Gibson,</p>	
2.	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> No declarations of interest were received.</p>	
3.	<p><b>ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONER</b> None</p>	
4.	<p><b>ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHIEF CONSTABLE</b> None</p>	
5A.	<p><b>BUDGET 2020/21, PRECEPT REPORT AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST 2020/21 – 2023/24</b></p> <p>The Commissioner welcomed the report which set out the budget and precept proposals.</p> <p>The Commissioner highlighted that the proposals had been unanimously agreed by the Police and Crime Panel at their meeting on 23 January and the £10 increase in the policing precept was therefore set by the Commissioner.</p> <p>The Commissioner went on to highlight that the decade of austerity has had a significant impact on the Service and the measures put in place over recent years will not fully repair the loss of police officers and still leave a significant deficit in police staff numbers. The Commissioner advised that he is working hard to turn back the impact of the cuts and he will continue to fight for more funding from Central Government</p> <p>The Chief Constable formally thanked the Commissioner for his support in increasing the precept which will provide much needed investment in the Constabulary.</p>	

**RESOLVED:**

1. The letter from the Chief Constable (see page 7-10) setting out his professional recommendation to the PCC regarding the budget and precept proposal for 2020/21 was noted and acknowledged.
2. In respect of the revenue budget for 2020/21: -
  - a) The information and analysis as set out in this report was noted.
  - b) The proposed adjustments to the 2020/21 budget as detailed in both this report and Annexes A through E was agreed.
  - c) To maintain a revenue contribution to capital of at least £2.95m into the base revenue budget.
  - d) The revenue budget for 2020/21 was approved.
3. In respect of the council tax requirement, the associated police precept and provisional contributions to/(from) reserves: -
  - a) Confirm the £10 precept increase for a Band D Property, as unanimously approved by the Police and Crime Panel on 23 January 2020.
  - b) To note the anticipated movement in reserves during 2020/21 as shown in paragraph 8.4 and Annex D.
4. In respect of the Medium Term Financial Forecast for 2020/21 - 2023/24 discussed within the report but also shown in more detail at Annex A: -
  - a) The financial forecasts up to 2023/24 were noted.
  - b) The assumptions inherent in those forecasts, as described in paragraph 6.7 and the scenarios that affect the projected financial position were noted.
  - c) The Medium Term Financial Forecast (paragraph 6.7 and Annex A) indicates reserves will not be sufficient to close a future funding gap was noted.
  - d) It was recognised that the Force will need to identify efficiencies and savings both for reinvestment but also to protect front-line services. (The savings strategy is included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy)
  - e) To repeat the call to government for a fairer funding settlement for Derbyshire that includes an increase in central funding and does not merely pass the financial burden to local taxpayers through precept increases.

5B	<p><b>MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS)</b> The Medium Term Financial strategy was attached to the report at Appendix A.</p> <p>Mr Allsop advised that the reserves continue to fall and there will be future challenges in making savings to sustain investment.</p> <p>Mr Dale added that the reserves are now at a historically low level, however they remain adequate to support the budget next year. He advised the Commissioner that he and the FD will continue to monitor reserve levels and make recommendations should they fall below an acceptable level</p>	
	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> The Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2020/21 was approved.</p>	
5C	<p><b>CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b> The Capital Programme for 202/21 to 2023/24 was attached to the report at Appendix and presented by Mr Allsop who highlighted several major projects which will need to be progressed over the next four year period.</p>	
	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> The Capital Programme for 2020/21 to 2023/24 and associated funding as set out in Appendix A was approved.</p>	
5D	<p><b>PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS, MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION, TREASURY MANAGEMENT &amp; INVESTMENT STRATEGY</b> Mr Allsop presented the report for approval and it was highlighted that the Constabulary are well within the bounds of prudence when borrowing.</p>	
	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2020/21 to 2022/23 contained within Appendix A of the report are approved.</li> <li>2. That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement contained within Appendix A</li> </ol>	

	<p>which sets out the PCC's policy on MRP be approved.</p> <p>3. That the Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21 to 2022/23 and the treasury Prudential Indicators contained within Appendix B be approved.</p> <p>4. That the Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator be approved.</p> <p>5. That the Investment Strategy 2020/23 contained in the treasury management strategy (Appendix B), the counterparties in Appendix D and detailed criteria included in Appendix E be approved.</p>	
5E	<p><b>BUDGET MONITORING PERIOD 9 (December 19)</b></p> <p>An overview of the financial position for the Force as a whole for the period 9 – end December 2019 was provided by Mr Allsop as contained within the report.</p> <p>Mr Dale provided reassurance around the overspend highlighting that this is a managed position.</p>	
	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That the Commissioner notes the current financial position of Derbyshire Police as set out in the Finance Briefing Document, in particular, a projected overspend of £0.192m to the end of the year (an overspend of £1.860m against the original approved budget);</p>	
6	<p><b>ESTATES STRATEGY</b></p> <p>Mr Dale presented the report, highlighting that the Estate suffered during the period of austerity. The strategy is an ambition for the future which contains some major work programmes. The strategy will serve as a baseline for future estates ambitions and guide discussions in the Strategic Estates Board.</p> <p>Mr Allsop added that this plan mirrors that approved by the Fire Authority, so the next step will be to examine how to bring the Strategic meetings together.</p> <p>The Commissioner welcomed the strategy which contains ambition for the future as modern facilities are needed for staff. The PCC referred to page 8 of the Strategy and suggested that more progress needed to be made on the co-locations.</p>	

	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To receive and approve the Asset Strategy 2020-2035</p>	
	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b> A member of Neighbourhood Watch attended the meeting and formally thanked both the Commissioner and the Chief Constable for their use of buildings for meetings and for their continued support of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The Commissioner thanked all members for the highly valued support that the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme gives to policing but in particular to the communities of Derbyshire.</p>	

Meeting closed at 13:55

# The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire – Our response to Covid-19

## FOREWORD

As the country, and the world, continues to respond to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, I thought it would be appropriate for me to communicate what my office and I are doing to continue our work supporting victims of crime, to continue to provide oversight of the work of Derbyshire Constabulary and to deliver against the Police & Crime Plan.

Like many others the staff in my office have risen to the challenge of working remotely and have continued to support me as your Police & Crime Commissioner. We have all become used to a world of conference calls and video meetings and we have almost mastered the challenge of being virtually paper-free.

I have worked closely with the Force on their response to Covid-19 and have been impressed by how quickly they have adapted to a 'new normal'. I have also been liaising with the providers of our victim support services to ensure that those who have been a victim of crime have access to support to help them cope and recover. Again, the resolve and can-do attitude of those providers to carry on providing, albeit it altered, support to victims has been testament to their professionalism and genuine care for those who have had their lives affected by crime.

What has been great to see is how communities have come together and how the vast majority of people have followed the advice and rules despite the difficulties and inconvenience this has caused. I appreciate things have been difficult for people and the sacrifices people have made, but life is precious and desperate times call for desperate measures.

There have been occasions where the Police have needed to enforce the regulations when people have deliberately flouted the rules. But I am pleased that Derbyshire, like police forces up and down the country, have adopted a 4 E approach to this. This means that they will:

**ENGAGE** – Engage with people around their behaviours

**EXPLAIN** – Explain why it is important to comply with the regulations

**ENCOURAGE** – Encourage people to comply, for example asking people to disperse

**ENFORCE** - Enforcement through Fixed Penalty Notices, though this is only seen as a matter of last resort

When compared with other forces nationally, Derbyshire Constabulary are somewhere in the middle of the pack in terms of numbers of fixed penalty notices issued as officers have only resorted to this approach as a last resort.

I would like to thank the vast majority of people in Derbyshire for playing their part in responding to this situation and I hope people stay safe and well.

**Hardyal Dhindsa, PCC for Derbyshire**

## **Victim Services**

A key responsibility of a PCC is the commissioning of support services for those who have been a victim of crime. To achieve this a raft of support services have been put in place dealing with both general support needs and the needs of those who require more specialised support. As with everyone these services have needed to adapt to the 'new normal' and have seen the ways in which they deliver their services change.

Grant funding for support services comes partly from the Ministry of Justice and as part of their ongoing work to ensure accessibility of service the office is required to complete regular data returns to the Ministry.

A particular issue is the support of vulnerable victims and those who have been victims of crimes such as domestic abuse where both the victim and perpetrator are forced to live in the same house due to lockdown restrictions. This impacts both on the daily life of the victim but also their ability to contact the police and support services to gain assistance. Work is therefore being undertaken to ensure that information about the ways in which to report crime and access support have been circulated widely and new and innovative approaches are being explored, taking learning from other areas of victim support.

### **As PCC:**

- **I will continue to monitor the uptake and delivery of local support services for victims, ensuring, where possible, providers have the necessary resources and capacity to be able to deliver services**
- **I will pay particular focus on those services that support the most vulnerable of victims and those who have been victim of crimes such as domestic abuse, sexual violence, child sexual exploitation or hate crime**

## **Force Response**

As with all major incidents, the Force has an established Gold, Silver and Bronze command system in place for Covid-19. The Gold Group was established in mid-February, well before many forces, and the PCC is represented on this group by his deputy, CEO and Chief Finance Officer. It is through this group that the PCC is able to be assured of the work being undertaken and understand how he can add value to the Force's work through his engagement with the Policing Minister and other PCCs.

The Force is represented on the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) and the Strategic Co-ordination Group (SCG), both of which are chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable.

Because of the early establishment of the Gold command structure, the Force has been ahead of the curve in terms of stocks of PPE. This means both staff and officers and members of the public are being kept safe. The PCC is regularly briefed on stocks of PPE and has received assurance from the Chief Constable that Derbyshire's approach to PPE goes above and beyond the national guidance that has been issued regarding what kind of PPE is required in different policing roles.

Any police force is only ever as good as its people, and the PCC receives regular updates on the number of staff and officers who are either off sick, self-isolating or caring for others who may be ill. Swift decision making at the start of the crisis has meant that sickness and absence levels have been effectively managed and currently do not cause any concern. Obviously, this is an ever-changing picture and both the Force and PCC are keeping a close eye on available resources to ensure all policing roles and responsibilities are being delivered and the police are able to keep the people of Derbyshire safe.

Following an initial drop in levels of volume crime the Force and PCC are aware that levels of these types of crime are starting to return to 'normal levels'. It is anticipated that this trend will continue as the various lockdown restrictions are reduced.

As the national approach to managing this situation continues to develop, the PCC continues to work with the senior leadership of the Force to understand how changes in policy impact on how the police does its business, and where necessary provides support and challenge to partners within the wider criminal justice community and to Government through regular calls between PCC nationally and the Policing Minister.

#### **As PCC:**

- **I will continue to be represented at the relevant police meetings to ensure I have oversight of the Force's response and understand where my role can add value.**
- **I will continue to monitor staff and officer resilience to ensure that the force has the capacity to be able to deliver the police service the people of Derbyshire deserve**

#### **Oversight & Governance**

Just because we are in very unusual times it does not mean the role of the PCC to provide oversight and scrutiny of the Force's work stops. It is true that the way in which this is undertaken has needed to change and adapt and that a proportionate, and sometimes lighter touch, approach has been necessary.

The PCC has continued to meet virtually with both the Chief Constable and the wider Chief Officer team to receive briefings of operational issues, challenges that the PCC is able to raise at a national level and to gain the assurance that the Force continues to deliver a quality policing service to the people of Derbyshire.

Whilst much of the Force's attention is focussed on the current situation there remains significant workstreams that must be maintained. The PCC is represented on all of the strategic programme boards by senior officers within the OPCC to provide assurance and scrutiny and ensure appropriate governance is in place.

An unexpected 'benefit' of the Covid-19 situation has seen a significant change in how people are working and a move to a more agile and flexible approach. As part of the process of moving forward and returning to a new 'normal' it is important for the PCC to ensure this learning is captured and built upon.

A significant challenge throughout this crisis has been the delivery of an effective criminal justice systems when parts of the system have needed to be closed due to social distancing requirements. The PCC chairs the local Criminal Justice Board which brings together partners from across the sector to identify best practice and understand where blockages may appear in the system and try to overcome these. Since the crisis these meetings have increased in frequency in response to the ever-changing challenges that Covid-19 has presented.

#### **As PCC:**

- **I will continue to hold the Chief Constable to account through regular 1-2-1 meetings as well as virtual public fora**
- **I will continue to ensure that my senior officer team represent me on the various strategic project boards the Force hold**
- **I will work with the Force to capture the learning from our Covid-19 experience and seek to maximise the opportunities of technology to support an agile approach, in line with Strategic Priority 7 of my Police & Crime Plan**
- **I will continue to provide support and challenge to Criminal Justice partners, through chairing the Local Criminal Justice Board, to ensure we are able to collectively deliver an efficient and effective Criminal Justice System**
- **I shall continue to act as a liaison between the local and the national on Policing and Wider Criminal Justice issues**

#### **Public Engagement**

A key role for the PCC is to understand the issues and concerns of local residents and use these to inform the strategy under-pinning the operational delivery of policing in Derbyshire. However, in a world where social distancing is required this means engagement moving into a virtual world. Whilst this is an effective tool for engaging with people it may unintentionally mute the voices of those who do not have access to the relevant technology or an online presence.

During lockdown, and the subsequent relaxing of rules and return to normal, it is impractical to deliver any real-world engagement activities as this may contravene current Covid-19 rules. As soon as it safe, however, to resume face to face engagement the PCC's team will put a programme of engagement events in place, paying particular attention to those demographics who may not have engaged virtually.

The PCC's investment in the Derbyshire Alert system has provided an effective tool for communicating with large number of individuals and work continues to encourage more Derbyshire residents to sign up to this free service.

In addition to Derbyshire Alert the PCC is using the additional capacity within the office to increase their reach via a variety of social media channels, including Twitter

and Facebook, and is working closely with colleagues within the Force to ensure that reassurance messages, information and Vlogs are shared as widely as possible.

The office is also monitoring correspondence into the office and identifying any themes in concerns or other issues relating to policing and is using this to inform conversations with the Chief Constable.

#### **As PCC:**

- **I will continue to monitor Covid-19 restrictions to understand when and how it would be appropriate to resume face to face engagement activity**
- **I will continue to use technology to support ongoing engagement and conversations with the public including Derbyshire Alert, social media and virtual meetings**
- **I will continue to use feedback from the public to inform my conversations with the Chief Constable**

#### **Recovery**

It remains unclear when, and for how long, the recovery process will take. It is, however, anticipated that this will be a long and slow process to ensure that we don't see repeated spikes in infection rates. The Force have already started working on various recovery scenario plans and the PCC's office is represented at the meetings where these issues are discussed.

As previously discussed the Covid-19 situation has seen significant changes in how business is undertaken and both the PCC and Chief Constable are keen to ensure that the learning from this experience is not lost. Local learning is being fed into a wider piece of work being driven by the National Police Chiefs' Council.

It will come as no surprise that the response to Covid-19 has seen significant additional costs locally. The Force's finance team, along with the PCC's Chief Finance Officer, are ensuring that these costs are captured, and where possible, reclaimed from Central Government.

Whilst the role of the PCC is possibly unclear during the delivery of an operational emergency response, it is believed that there is a more obvious role for PCCs during the journey back to recovery. This will include acting as the representative of the people of Derbyshire in discussions with the Force about the delivery of policing as well as sharing reassurance messages to the public and we move forward.

#### **As PCC:**

- **I will ensure that I am represented in relevant Force meetings discussing the local roadmap to recovery**
- **I will continue to support the Chief Constable in discussions I have with fellow PCCs and the Policing Minister to ensure the role and responsibilities of policing during the transition to recovery are understood**

- **I will work with the Force to capture the learning from our Covid-19 experience and seek to maximise the opportunities of technology to support an agile approach, in line with Strategic Priority 7 of my Police & Crime Plan**
- **I will ensure that, where possible, additional costs incurred by Derbyshire Constabulary during this crisis are reclaimed from Central Government.**