

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1st February 2022

Present:

Chair

Councillor Jackie Oakes, Rossendale Borough Council

Committee Members

Councillor Peter Hunter, Blackpool Borough Council,
Councillor Martyn Hurt, Burnley Borough Council,
Councillor Alistair Bradley, Chorley Borough Council
Councillor Frank Andrews, Fylde Borough Council
Councillor Munsif Dad, Hyndburn Borough Council
Councillor Sandra Thornberry, Lancaster City Council
Councillor Philippa Williamson, Lancashire County Council
Councillor Mohammed Aslam, Pendle Borough Council
Councillor Simon Hore, Ribble Valley Borough Council
Councillor James Flannery, South Ribble Borough Council
Councillor Gareth Dowling, West Lancs Borough Council
Councillor Roger Berry, Wyre Borough Council
Councillor Peter Le Marinel, Wyre Borough Council

Also in attendance

- Andrew Snowden, Police and Crime Commissioner
- Angela Harrison, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Steve Freeman, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Asad Laher, Secretary
- Phil Llewellyn, Corporate and Democratic Lead

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair, Councillor Jackie Oakes, welcomed all to the meeting, apologies had been received from Councillors Threlfall, McGladdery, Boswell and Brunskill, and from the Deputy PCC Andrew Pratt.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest submitted.

3. Police and Crime Commissioner's Budget 2022-23

The Commissioner outlined his report which set out the forecast for the Police and Crime budgets in Lancashire for 2022/2023 and proposals in relation to the Council Tax Precept.

The Commissioner referred to the results of survey consultation undertaken in preparing the budget, and noted in particular that Anti-Social Behaviour was top of the issues affecting residents, and that this would be one of his key priorities as outlined in the Police and Crime Plan.

The report identified the current provisional funding position for 2022/23 and also identified the cost pressures that had emerged, savings required and investment needed for policing in Lancashire. The impact of the proposals for the 2022/23 budget were identified in an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

The PCC advised that a cost neutral budget had been delivered, to ensure that any increase in Council Tax would go to key areas such as Frontline Policing. It was assumed that the Council Tax base would increase by 1% in 2022/23. The PCC outlined cost pressures of £10M, and savings of £7M had to be offset across the Constabulary, and the Commissioner was therefore proposing a £10 increase for a Band D property in 2022/23.

The Commissioner outlined some of his key investment proposals, over and above the Uplift programme which included:

- A dedicated Rape and Sexual Assault Team made of 40 Officers, 20 of which were new posts
- 17 additional Neighbourhood Officers
- 4 PCs, 3 Sergeants, and 1 Inspector for the rural task force
- Investment in rural policing equipment
- Increase in the annual revenue budget to support capital investment

Steve Freeman also provided further information on the budget.

Members of the Panel then asked a number of questions and made comments on the Commissioner's proposals, the Commissioner responded to the comments and questions, advising:

- Additional grant funding available relating to Serious Violence, Violence against Women and Girls and for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Abuse over the three year funding period.
- Increased cost of injury awards – this was not a rise in the number of injuries, rather a rise in the size of the awards generally.
- Reduced partner contributions to the Youth Justice System, which were a result of structural changes at Councils.
- The Commissioner outlined the make-up of the Rape and Sexual Assault Team, which was 40 new and existing staff.
- The savings proposal of 50 staff would be delivered by looking at vacancies and efficiencies so there were no associated redundancy costs.
- The 17 additional Neighbourhood Officers would be a roaming Task Force and move around areas of Lancashire.
- In terms of an impact related to potential delays to National Insurance increases, the PCC advised that the proposed increase had already been reflected in the sector award.

- In terms of Accommodation expenditure, and the need for more progress reports going forwards, the PCC was in agreement and advised that there would be more scrutiny on this area going forwards.
- In answer to comments relating to under investment from Central Government over the last 10 years, and more generous funding this budget, and the subsequent amount to be raised via the Precept, the Commissioner advised that the Council Tax base should be taken into account and weighted, rather than applying the same process across the Country, as some Counties had larger Council Tax bases and more affluent residents than some others.
- The PCC agreed that value for money would need to be demonstrated for the extra £10 residents were being asked to pay, and advised that success would be gauged by the impact of the new arrangements and that performance indicators were being discussed with the Constabulary.

RESOLVED –

That the Police and Crime Panel:

- Note the details of the 2022/23 provisional police finance settlement, cost pressures and investments and the impact on Lancashire's budget;
- Approve the Commissioner's proposal to increase the council tax precept by £10 (4.42%) for a Band D property in 2022/23;
- Make arrangements to ensure that a formal written response to the proposals is sent to the Commissioner by 8th February 2022.
- Note the draft capital investment programme for the period 2022/23 to 2026/27;
- Note the position of the Commissioner's reserves in 2022/23 and future years

4. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The meeting scheduled in case of the Precept not being agreed (on 15th February 2022) was now not required, so the next meeting of the Panel would be held at 10.00am on Monday 7th March 2022.

Signed.....Chair
2022