

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th February 2020

Present:

Chair

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Chorley Borough Council

Committee Members

Councillor Mohammed Khan, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

Councillor Ivan Taylor, Blackpool Borough Council

Councillor Geoff Driver, Lancashire County Council

Councillor Dave Parkins, Hyndburn Borough Council

Councillor Alistair Sinclair, Lancaster City Council

Councillor David Whipp, Pendle Borough Council

Councillor Robert Boswell, Preston City Council

Councillor Sue Bibby, Ribble Valley Borough Council

Councillor Jackie Oakes, Rossendale Borough Council

Councillor Mick Titherington, South Ribble Borough Council

Councillor Kevin Wright, West Lancs Borough Council

Councillor Roger Berry, Wyre Borough Council

Also in attendance

- Clive Grunshaw, Police and Crime Commissioner
- Angela Harrison, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Steve Freeman, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Sian Roxborough, Council Solicitor
- Phil Llewellyn, Governance and Democratic Manager

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair, Councillor Alistair Bradley welcomed all to the meeting, in particular Councillor Mohammed Khan, who had replaced Councillor Andy Kay as Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council's representative. Apologies had been received from Councillors Ben Aitken, Steve Hughes, Munsif Dad, Simon Hore and Paul Foster.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest submitted.

3. Appointment of Vice Chair

It was reported that due to a change of Panel representative from Blackburn with Darwen, that a new Vice Chair was required for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Councillor Roger Berry was nominated for the position of Vice Chair, which was seconded by several Members of the Panel.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Roger Berry be appointed Vice Chair of the Panel for the remainder of the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

4. Police and Crime Commissioner's Budget 2020-21

The Commissioner presented a report which set out the latest financial position for the Police and Crime budgets in Lancashire for 2020/2021 and proposals in relation to the Council Tax Precept.

The report set out the latest forecast for the Police and Crime budgets in Lancashire for 2020/21 and the proposals in relation to the precept.

As a result of the General Election in December 2019, the police finance settlement for 2020/21 was only received on 22nd January 2020. The published settlement had now provided certainty over the funding available and was reflected in the report.

Included in the report was the current financial position which reflected the changes in the level of resources, additional cost pressures, reductions in the cost base and the identification of additional savings agreed by the Commissioner since setting the budget for 2019/20. The report set out the draft revenue budget for 2020/21, the council tax proposal for 2020/21, and the draft capital investment programme for 2020/21 to 2024/25 and the financing available. In addition, the report set out the advice of the Commissioner's Chief Finance Officer on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of the level of reserves.

The Commissioner advised that the Police Settlement included the expectation that PCCs would increase council tax by £10 for a Band D property in 2020/21. The report gave details of the shortfall of funding compared to budget requirement, and if council tax was not increased this would be £5.773m. This was £1.798m higher than the gap previously identified to panel. The proposed increase to the precept of £10 for a Band D property would generate additional income of £4.444m in 2020/21 towards meeting the funding gap of £5.773m.

The report identified how the remaining funding gap would be bridged through additional savings of £1.329m, and detailed risks and uncertainties, the latest Medium Term Financial Strategy, the draft Capital Programme and also engagement with the public on the precept.

Members of the Panel then asked a number of questions and made comments on the Commissioner's proposals, in particular in relation to impact on Neighbourhood Policing, use and number of the extra Police Officers that would be employed in Lancashire following the Government's announcement of an extra 6,000 nationally, further details were required on the investment plans for the Estate, and also on Climate Change/'Greening' of the Constabulary.

The Commissioner, supported by Angela Harrison and Steve Freeman, provided responses to the questions and comments arising, and agreed to report back to the Panel at future meetings on 'Greening' of the Constabulary and also on investment plans for the Estate.

The Panel then moved to the vote and the recommendations were carried.

RESOLVED –

That the Police and Crime Panel:

- Noted the details of the 2020/21 police finance settlement and the overall impact on Lancashire's budget;
- Noted the report on the public consultation undertaken in respect of the proposed precept level;
- Agreed the Commissioner's proposal to increase the council tax precept by £10 for a Band D property in 2020/21;
- Make arrangements to ensure that a formal written response to the proposals is sent to the Commissioner by 8th February 2020.
- Noted the draft capital investment programme for the period 2020/21 to 2024/25 and the financing available;
- Noted the proposed use of the Commissioner's reserves in 2020/21 and future years.

5. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Panel would be held at 6.30pm on Monday 9th March 2020 at Chorley Town Hall.

Signed.....Chair
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