

Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel

MINUTES OF THE WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING HELD ON 7 JANUARY 2021

ON-LINE MEETING

Present:

Cllr Junab Ali, Cllr Abdul Amin, Maime Beasant, Cllr Alan Bishop, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Vinay Manro, Cllr Brian Mathew, Anna Richardson, Cllr Tom Rounds, Cllr Jonathon Seed and Cllr John Smale

Also Present:

Angus Macpherson – Police & Crime Commissioner
Naji Darwish – OPCC
Clive Barker – OPCC

Kevin Fielding – Wiltshire Council

110 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

111 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

112 Chairman's Announcements

That the panel members should remember that they were at the meeting to listen to the Commissioner's proposals, and not to approve the precept.

113 Public Participation

Two written questions were received from Paul Sunners - Chair Wiltshire NHW Association

What support has been given by the PCC to the Chief Constable's statement in respect of all front line workers being prioritised to receive the Covid vaccine?

The need for enforcement of lockdown restrictions seems only likely to increase with obvious implications for the police as the prime law-enforcement agency.

Following Brexit, the view held generally is that the UK is less secure as British policing has now forfeited some of its most valuable tools including the Schengen Information System, a vast database providing real-time alerts to locate terrorists and serious criminals. The UK has also lost its influential seat at the EU's policing agency, Europol. In light of these changes, does the PCC anticipate any practical difficulties for Wiltshire Police in crime prevention and detection as it relates to multi-national collaboration?

It was agreed that written replies would be provided by the OPCC.

114 **PCC Budget 2021/22 and MTFS**

The Commissioner introduced his draft budget settlement 2021-22 and outlined how he was consulting on three options:

- Option A – To increase council tax by £15 per annum (6.9%)
- Option B – To increase council tax by £12 per annum (5.5%)
- Option C – To increase council tax by £10 per annum (4.6%)

The Commissioner reported that on the 17 December the provisional settlement was announced by the government. This settlement confirmed that PCCs would be able to increase Band D Council Tax by £15 and that £415m had been provided to fund an additional 6,000 officers nationally. Whilst this was good news the usual letter to PCCs identifying requirements and detailing the settlement was still outstanding, when this was received it may lead to some changes in the proposals.

The MTFS forecasts the estimated financial position over the next 4 years and the impact this had on the Commissioner's ability to commission services. There remains no certainty surrounding future years funding, this was a one-year settlement.

With the lack of funding information, it meant that financial planning beyond 2020-21 was more uncertain than usual. The impact of Covid 19 on the economy and future settlements alongside the government's desire to continue increasing officers made estimating future settlements very difficult. These risks were in the Commissioner's mind as he looked to secure the viability of the service in future years.

Clive Barker - Chief Financial Officer, explained the detail of the budget proposals and the Medium Term Financial Strategy and answered questions.

The chairman thanked Clive Barker for a comprehensive and professional paper and presentation.

Decision

- **That the Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel endorses the Commissioner's decision to consult on Option A - To increase council tax by £15 per annum (6.9%)**

The Chairman thanked the Commissioner and Clive Barker for their reports.

115 **Forward Work Plan**

The Forward Work Plan was noted with the following additions:

March

- Commissioning budgets and delivery objectives
- Road safety work in Wiltshire & Swindon

June

- Complaints system, including local performance and governance mechanisms

116 **Future meeting dates**

Future meeting dates were:

- Thursday 4 February 2021 - 10am (On-Line meeting)
- Thursday 18 March 2021 - 10am (On-Line meeting)

117 **Any Other Business**

Cllr Jonathon Seed advised that he was still waiting for a satisfactory response from the Commissioner on the question re the car show in Trowbridge which was emailed to the OPCC on the 18 September 2020. Cllr Seed had again raised the same question at the 14 December PCP meeting.

It was agreed that the Commissioner would re-visit Cllr Seed's question and a response would be given.

Brian Mathew advised that re Cllr Richard Britton's question re auto speed watch cameras which was emailed to the OPCC on the 5 January 2021, that a local company had a product that Wiltshire Police may be interested in using.

It was agreed that the OPCC would get back to the panel on this matter. The Deputy Police Commissioner was aware of this company and its product.

118 **Close**

(Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 10.50 am)

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