

Minutes

Minutes of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel held on Friday 2 February 2018, in Olympic Room Aylesbury Vale District Council Gatehouse Road Aylesbury Bucks HP19 8FF, commencing at 11.00 am and concluding at 1.30 pm.

Members Present

Councillor Julia Adey (Wycombe District Council), Councillor Margaret Burke (Milton Keynes Council), Councillor Derek Sharp (Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead), Councillor Emily Culverhouse (Chiltern District Council), Councillor Trevor Egleton (South Bucks District Council), Cllr Tom Hayes (Oxford City Council), Councillor Angela Macpherson (Aylesbury Vale District Council), Councillor Kieron Mallon (Oxfordshire County Council), Councillor Pavitar Mann (Slough Borough Council), Curtis-James Marshall (Independent Member), Councillor Chris McCarthy (Vale of White Horse District Council), Councillor Iain McCracken (Bracknell Forest Council), Councillor Tony Page (Reading Borough Council), Councillor Barrie Patman (Wokingham Borough Council), Cllr Emma Webster (West Berkshire Council), Councillor Ian White (South Oxfordshire District Council) and Cllr Barry Wood (Cherwell District Council)

Officers Present

Clare Gray

Others Present

Matthew Barber (Deputy PCC), Francis Habgood (Thames Valley Police), Paul Hammond (Office of the PCC), Dr Louis Lee (Joint Independent Audit Committee), Anthony Stansfeld (PCC) and Ian Thompson (Office of the PCC)

Apologies

Bill Bendyshe-Brown (Buckinghamshire County Council), Julia Girling (Independent Member) and Councillor Carol Reynolds (West Oxfordshire District Council)

143. Declarations of Interest

Emma Webster and Iain McCracken declared a personal interest as Members of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority.

144. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting on 17 November 2017 were agreed as a correct record subject to an amendment regarding RAHAB which was based in Reading not Oxford.

The following points were noted:-

- The Office of the PCC has access to the TVP performance dashboard (this related to the discussion on Local Policing).

- An internal Force review had been carried out in relation to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs but there was also a separate review of the Berkshire MASH which had not yet been completed. The PCC reported that having six MASH in Berkshire was not sustainable but confirmed that the review would look at all MASH across the Thames Valley. They were looking to complete this review by the end of 2018. Members asked if they could help with this review and the PCC responded by asking all Councils to keep him updated on any safeguarding issues within their area.

145. Public Question Time

The following public question was submitted:-

A graph was submitted from their Mobile VAS. "It is located in our village, 220 metres inside the 30 speed limit zone. This is a country road classified as 4b local access by BCC. We have over 2000 drivers a day coming through the village in each direction. As you can see, 76% of these are exceeding the posted speed limit. 50% are doing over 40mph, 200 a day are going over 50mph and on average 17 a day are exceeding 60mph, we get at least one a day doing over 70. The average speed is 45mph, at some rush hours this can be 48mph, that's the average. This is not only an offence but it is a form of anti-social behaviour which greatly affects our local amenity. It also costs in excessive wear to the roads and verges. The safety implications are obvious.

Since the speed limit was introduced in the 2010 review, we have been campaigning to have some enforcement in the village but we and our fellow parishes in the LAF are told that it is not a priority and nothing is done. We understand that this needs to come behind a list of more serious crimes but that doesn't stop it remaining an issue and it should not mean do nothing at all. The Police are the only authority given the power to enforce speed limits and to simply not do it should not be acceptable.

So, my somewhat rhetorical question is, when does this become unacceptable? If an average speed of 45mph warrants no action, what would?

We have been told to use techniques such as speed watch and to buy vehicle activated signs, sentinel devices and so on. While these DIY approaches can have an effect, it is short lived. People using these roads are regulars, commuters passing through mostly, all we need is occasional enforcement to educate drivers that there is a speed limit and it will be enforced. This need not be much, a few hours a few times a year at the right time."

The Chairman informed the Panel that this issue was discussed at the Great Brickhill and Wing Local Area Forum and there was concern about speeding in Mentmore and the safety implications of this.

The PCC reported that the best response to speeding was engineering and for the Council to install chicanes or speed humps. Enforcement would not stop speeding. Speeding was an issue for all Parishes. The Local Police Area were aware of the issue and would look at this from a policing point of view. The Chief Constable reported that the right forum for this issue was the Neighbourhood Action Group. The District and County Councillor for this area reassured the Parish Council that she sat on the Community Safety Partnership and road safety was one of its priorities. They would shortly be establishing a Task and Finish Group with partners to see how they could work together to improve road safety in the local area. The TVP Local Area Commander would sit on this Group.

The Chairman of the Parish Council reported that he had already made contact with the necessary partners which was why he had escalated the problem to the Panel. The Chief Constable reported that a Thames Valley wide Road Safety Summit had been held in September 2017 to look at engagement with Local Authorities on road safety and that a Working Group had been set up to continue this work. The Chief Constable was also meeting with Chief Executives to look at a more strategic approach to road safety and to target areas with high casualties.

146. Chairman Update/PCC Update

National Police and Crime Panel Association

The Chairman referred to the setting up of a Special Interest Group by the Local Government Association which would act as the national voice for Police and Crime Panels. To enable this work to be taken forward a contribution of up to £500 was being requested from each Panel, although further clarification was required about whether the Home Office Grant could be used for this purpose. Members expressed concern that Local Authorities were being asked to contribute to this National Association and agreed that no contribution should be made at this current time.

Webcasting

Members were asked to consider the costs of webcasting and whether this should be taken forward. They considered that the cost of webcasting at Aylesbury Vale District Council was expensive and suggested that other options should be considered with a further report in June 2018 when the rules of procedure were reviewed.

Action: Scrutiny Officer

PCC Update

Language Schools

The PCC reported that a letter had been sent from Lord Agnew, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the School System in relation to Ofsted Inspections of English Language Schools. The letter referred to the publication of the Government's Counter Extremism Strategy in 2015, which set out plans to introduce a new system of oversight for out of school settings. Key features of the system include strengthening existing oversight, so there is transparency about where these settings are operating, as well as enabling Ofsted to enter, investigate and apply sanctions where there is evidence that a setting is failing to adequately safeguard children in its care. In the meantime the Government is continuing to work with the education sector, including Ofsted, community organisations and operational partners to safeguard children, and protect them from harm, including harm caused by radicalising influences. They have also been supporting local authorities to use their existing powers under safeguarding, or health and safety legislation to disrupt and tackle unsuitable out-of-school settings.

Police Helmets

A pilot was being undertaken in Reading to reintroduce police helmets and, according to the PCC, feedback so far from police officers was very positive. Cllr Hayes asked about the cost of helmets and was informed by the PCC that they cost £30 each which was good value for money for the visibility it provided. Most of the large Forces in the Country still wear helmets. The Chief Constable reported that the police uniform had been changed in 2009 and there had been a consultation undertaken. The change was mainly for officers on foot as the flat cap was more practicable for officers using cars. Following the pilot they would review feedback to see whether this scheme should be extended across the Force area. The PCC reported that there would be an upfront cost of around £30,000 but after incurring the upfront cost, the ongoing annual cost would significantly reduce. Cllr Hayes asked whether this funding would pay for a Police Community Support Officer. He reported that Oxford City were looking to employ two PCSO's which was £70k. The PCC reported that increased visibility of the police across the Thames Valley would balance out the cost of one PCSO.

National representation

The PCC was on some national bodies and he gave an update:-

- The PCC made reference to the recent HMICFRS Report on the National Police Air Service (NPAS) where a comment had been made that the National Police Air Service (NPAS) was being used less, costing more and not serving police as well. The PCC reported that because they were based in one area, it had previously cost forces located far away from the base too much money for transit costs. Therefore they were looking at how the air service should be run including having fixed costs and the use of airplanes rather than helicopters. Helicopters currently cost £2000 per hour

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/police-helicopters-not-calling-chase-criminals-escape-costs-delay-too-long-arrive-npas-hmic-report-a8083276.html>

- Strategic Counter Terrorism Board – the PCC reported that despite an increase in funding and firearm officers this was an area of concern, particularly with 23,000 people in the Country who were of interest to the police and that they were prioritising cases.
- The PCC had taken part in a recent House of Commons debate relating to various scandals that have hit the financial sector (this included the fraud committed by employees of HBOS Reading). Some small companies had been destroyed by fraud and this was a major issue to be addressed. Some of the financial losses were huge and outstripped serious organised crime.

Cllr Burke asked how much time he spent on national issues. The PCC responded that he spent one third of his time on national issues but they were issues that affected everyone such as Serious Organised Crime and national capabilities.

Cllr Mann referred to the recent media coverage relating to disclosure and how Thames Valley was approaching this. The Chief Constable reported that the Assistant Chief Constable led on disclosure and a lot of training was taking place. TVP were focusing on effective investigations and ensuring that all lines of enquiry were addressed. Disclosure was part of this investigation. The Chief Constable reported that nationally there was a crisis in confidence in investigations and that they were taking this issue seriously to build confidence.

147. Report of the Budget Task and Finish Group

As in previous years, the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel formed a Budget Task & Finish Group to assist in discharging its statutory duty to scrutinise the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Thames Valley's proposed council tax precept for 2018/19. Cllr McCracken, the Chairman of the Budget Task and Finish Group presented the report. He thanked Ian Thompson and Linda Waters for attending the Group and updating Members on the PCC's draft budget proposals and also Members of the Group for their work.

The Chairman particularly referred to the following points:-

- Precept increase flexibility of up to an additional £12 (Band D equivalent) for all PCCs (or equivalents) in 2018/19
- Flat cash grant funding i.e. the same allocations as in 2017/18 for Home Office Core Police Settlement, Ex-Department for Communities and Local Government, and Legacy Council Tax
- The Home Office has stated that grant will be maintained at current cash levels in 2019/20 and PCCs will be allowed to raise their Band D precept by £12 for two years subject to national targets on efficiency and productivity being met. No information is provided for grant in 2020/21 and later years; the working assumption is that grant will remain flat, and council tax precept will revert to a 2% increase in year three. The national review of the police funding formula has been 'parked' for the time being and is not likely to be introduced until after the next Comprehensive Spending Review.
- There were concerns about the level of reserves at the end of year 3.
- There were concerns regarding the clarity around number of police officers bearing in mind that 50 posts were not being reduced as planned due to the Local Policing model, there was an increase of 47 police officers but a reduction of 46 police staff and an additional 95 case investigators. The Chairman asked that no Local Police Area should be disadvantaged for loss of police officers and that they were redeployed as necessary.
- The Emergency Services Network government project has fallen an estimated 15 months behind schedule. This delay means that forces may need to extend their Airwave contracts, which is likely to have associated costs in addition to the delayed savings from ESN. An OPCC paper circulated earlier in the year estimated the cost of a 12 month delay at £400m. It is not yet clear how these additional costs will be met and by whom. The PCC responded that ESN was a real worry and that 15 months delay could still increase and that this issue had been taken up with senior civil servants.
- Reference was made to the cost of £35 million for the Head of Commonwealth Conference. The PCC reported that this cost was being picked up by the Metropolitan Police.

A recommendation had been put forward which was debated during the next item as follows:-

That the Panel approve the Police and Crime Commissioner's precept for 2018/19 as set out in the OPCC report 'Revenue Estimates 2018/19 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2020/21' subject to satisfactory responses to the questions raised and any other supplementary questions asked at the Panel meeting on 2 February 2018.

148. Scrutiny of the proposed precept - Questions to the Police and Crime Commissioner

The PCC responded to the following written questions:-

1. Will this budget mean that you can deliver the key objectives in your Police and Crime Plan?

Yes, this budget provides the chief constable and I with the resources we need to deliver the strategic priorities and key aims set out in my Police and Crime Plan. With the increasing demands and complexities in policing there is always more which could be done but the additional financial flexibility provided within this year's budget assists in protecting the delivery of the PCC Plans and the CC's Force commitment.

2. How are holding the Chief Constable to account on the use of this additional funding? Please give us a clear breakdown of how the £12 per head is being used also confirming that the funding increase goes directly to retaining and enhancing the services provided by police officers and that this is ringfenced and:-

- **That this extra funding is not being used for the 50 police officers being reinstated from the previous budget**

The budget provides the force with limited investment in our high priority areas such as vulnerability, maintains our overall strength and provides investment to facilitate increasing the productivity of officers and delivering future efficiency savings. The financial flexibility provided by the relaxation of council tax capping provides a limited opportunity to invest now and protect our future service without having to make unpalatable cuts. Savings as in previous years will only be taken when the full implications have been risk assessed and we are confident that there will not be any unintended consequences. Investing in our officers is critical to maintaining our service delivery given the continued restrictions on our funding and the significant increases in demands and the complexity of crime. The digital policing vision alongside continuous improvement is vital in these difficult times.

- **The number of vacancies the Force are currently carrying that are not being filled.**

LAs at the end of December the force was 98 officers below its year-end target. Against this shortfall we already have 72 additional case investigators in post and a number more are going through the recruitment and vetting process.

- **The number of efficiencies that are being made elsewhere and the criteria for reducing resources including the Joint Operations Unit**

All savings are risk assessed and the implications of reducing the funding in the particular area fully explored before the saving is deemed "green" and included within the financial plans. We also keep a register of Amber and red potential savings where we need to do further work to ensure we mitigate any knock on effects and that we are satisfied that the implication to the service is understood and accords with our future plans. Seeking continuous improvement and revisiting where and how our resources are used is a healthy process fortunately the £12 council tax has meant we will not have to remove any savings we do not consider to be "green".

Criteria – resource allocation/re-allocation is determined by relative priority of the policing function (re PCC's Police & Crime Plan and the CC's Annual Delivery Plan), which is based on public consultation feedback; strategic assessment of threat, harm and risk; legislative requirements and national initiatives (especially where funded by Govt grant)

- **Whether case investigators are cost effective?**

Yes, these are an extremely cost effective short-term. A number of retired officers who already have the required skills. From a cost aspect case investigators are slightly cheaper than officers due to their more limited area of expertise.

- **Should any of this funding be used to help attract police officers to Thames Valley – with help with housing costs?**

No, we would not want to go down that route because of the precedent it will set for future recruitments, and serving police officers and staff as well as the potential impact across the service of a race to the most expensive officer. We are also limited as to what we can pay officers in accordance with Police Regulations.

We are, as part of the Gold Group managing our response to the current situation in relation to police officer numbers, looking at how we can improve our recruitment process and how we can make TVP a more attractive proposition without increasing the long term cost. These actions include improving the overall recruitment process by speeding up the process so potential recruits do not have to wait so long to find out if they have been accepted and also gaining a better understanding of the potential market, available recruits, so we can direct our efforts in a more targeted approach.

3. What is your Plan B in relation to three years ahead when there are no capital reserves left and further funding is required?

We will continue to scrutinise all our capital expenditure requirements very carefully to ensure that we only implement those schemes that are absolutely necessary. We have already included revenue contributions of £13.5 million by 2020/21 and external borrowing of £5.0m. As capital receipts dry up we will inevitably become more reliant on external borrowing and revenue contributions if we are to maintain the necessary assets to support effective operational policing

4. Whilst you got positive feedback on your consultation do you think you could have done more to get feedback from particular demographics with 90% being from a white background?

Not in the time available. The Government only announced the facility for PCCs to increase their precept by £12 on 19th December. The online survey was sent to:

- All users of TVP Alert – at least 80,000 residents
- All town and parish councils
- All councillors from county, unitary and district councils
- All media in the TVP area via a press release
- Regular social media updates via Twitter

According to the 2011 census 85% of the population in the Thames valley were white, so we are only slightly adrift from the regional average.

5. How much funding are you putting into prevention strategies bearing in mind that 42% of violent crime is undertaken when people are under the influence of drink or drugs?

The demands of the Night Time Economy continue to require bespoke activity from TVP in addition to business as usual. Alcohol and the recreational use of drugs inevitably form a part of night time activity for a significant number of people.

The demands of the night time economy are met at a local level with activity appropriate to the issues. Inevitably this requires resourcing varying from a few extra staff working to reassure taxi drivers and licensees in small market towns to a larger operation involving ten to fifteen dedicated officers in some of our larger towns and cities. There are some good examples of engagement with partners to take ownership of potential issues created by new developments. Some areas have also reduced overt presence in traditionally busy areas in order to encourage ownership by establishments driving demand.

However overall TVP continue to provide additional staff specifically to prevent, reassure and if necessary deal with the Night Time Economy and drink and drug related crime and violence. We are also seeing the potential for an increase in illegal raves with links to organised criminality where drugs can be prevalent. Whilst primarily a London phenomenon at present we have seen an impact in Thames Valley and work is underway with other Forces to improve our intelligence. This is driving a prevention and disruption approach aimed at reducing the requirement for the significant number of resources needed to deal with these events if they occur.

- 6. Your report says that collaboration will continue to be a main focus of both improved services and reduced cost. How are your formal collaborative agreements under Section 22A of the Police Act 1996 performing and how can Panel Members scrutinise your performance in this area. Please can the Panel have information on your Joint Collaborative Oversight Boards to illustrate how these agreements are providing an efficient and effective police force?**

Rather than provision of 'information' on joint collaborative oversight boards – which would require agreement of partners and would also effectively represent the Panel seeking to undertake the PCC's responsibility to scrutinise & hold to account the CC for the performance of the collaborative functions, we could, by way of example, provide an example of the JoU and IT monitoring which goes to the joint PCC governance board

- 7. Your report says further investment in national programmes, and delivery of major technology investment programmes like the Contact Management Programme, ESMCP and ERP will all continue to receive scrutiny and challenge to ensure they deliver the required service improvements and savings as planned and expected. However, a number of these programmes have been delayed, including the Contact Management Programme (this has had a number of delays and savings have been moved back to the final year of the plan, resulting in a cost of £1.66m in 2018/19). How are you providing robust scrutiny of this investment in technology?**

- Scrutiny and approval of a business case (operational need; cost & savings, organizational / regional / national collaborative benefits)
- Attendance at, and participation in, Force management/project board meetings (inc. collaboration governance boards) where progress and delivery of projects is scrutinized
- Incorporation of planned savings in medium-term budgets
- Oversight of adequacy & effectiveness of governance arrangements by Joint Independent Audit Committee
- External assurance – ERP has been reviewed by Public Partnerships Limited at the request of the three CC's
- Internal assurance – Internal Audit e.g. ERP is currently undergoing an audit by the Surrey and Sussex internal audit team (delivered by HC) as requested by the PCC's
- ESN is a Home Office lead programme and has been the subject of a number of major reviews by Government

- 8. Does this budget take account of the impact on policing from Brexit including procurement of specialist equipment and services which are coming from EU countries?**

We scrutinise all contracts when they are due for renewal to ensure we continue to receive value for money. We include inflation for specific contracts in accordance with the terms and conditions and also areas of expenditure where the industry information indicates that the inflation will vary from the general CPI rate. We have not made a general allowance for procurement costs post Brexit

Further questions were asked to the PCC as follows:-

- Cllr Mann expressed concern that some of her fellow Councillors were not aware of the public consultation. She asked what the public would see for the extra £12 per year? The PCC reported that they would not see a cut in policing and that it would be kept at a level state.
- Cllr Egleton asked about the £450m additional funding for the service. The PCC reported that this funding was top sliced and funding went to the Independent Office for Police Conduct, the HMICFRS and funding to help combat terrorism. It was up to PCC's to raise the police precept to help fund other areas. This money was being used to plug a hole and there was a concern that there would be increases in council tax for years to come.
- Cllr Webster asked about when the case investigators would all be appointed and their areas of expertise. The PCC commented that he hoped that it would be a matter of weeks rather than months. The Chief Constable reported that because of the loss of 100 police officers, 95 case investigators were being recruited because of retention issues. They had a full range of duties but no powers of arrest. Local Area Commanders were very grateful for the extra resources that this provided. They had good experience and were being appointed on permanent and temporary contracts. Some case investigators were retired police officers but some investigators were younger who had the necessary experience and wanted to test out policing as a career. The Chief Constable was looking at the workforce mix to ensure that it was fit for purpose and adjusting numbers for each local area to ensure there was a balance across the Thames Valley.
- Cllr Webster asked about the salary difference. The Chief Constable reported that a more experienced case investigator was at a similar rate to a police officer but it depended on what shift work they undertook and whether they worked weekends. There was a slight saving with case investigators but they were employing them to help increase resources rather than produce savings.
- Cllr Egleton asked about the reduction to police officer numbers and referred to the efficiencies being looked at in the Joint Operations Unit with reductions to road policing officers. The Chief Constable reported that they were not losing officers to the Met Police but to other Force areas such as Devon and Cornwall where the quality of living was cheaper. They were providing a bonus payment to firearm officers to encourage them to work in the Thames Valley. The Met Police had a policy to resource their police through people who lived in London. They were undertaking exit interviews to find out the reasons for leaving. They asked officers whether it was the lack of promotion opportunities but this was not a cause. Recruitment agencies were being aggressive in taking officers from other Force areas because the demand was there. In terms of the Joint Operations Unit they still had to look for efficiencies and this Unit was better resourced than other similar Units across the Country. Some of the Roads Policing Officers were being deployed to help boost the numbers in Local Police Areas and these vacancies were not being filled.
- Cllr McCracken asked for reassurance around the Mounted Unit. The Chief Constable reported that the Mounted Unit would not be reviewed until 2019 and vacancies arising in the dog handling unit would be reviewed as and when they arise, as is the case with all other Force vacancies.
- Cllr Hayes asked if he could see the data behind the exit interviews to understand the reasons for leaving such as social factors, affordable housing and he also asked the PCC whether he had made representations to the Government Minister about the problems with recruitment and retention. He also referred to the short time period for the public consultation and whether the responses were sufficient to make a sound decision. The PCC reported that because of the government and statutory timetable to consider the precept, all PCC's had to conduct the consultation in a hurry and that they had an above average response. In terms of representation from ethnic minorities the PCC reported that 10% of 15% responded so they were only out by 5% and there was not much they could do to encourage a greater response. 84.3% overall had voted in favour of the precept increase.

- The Chief Constable referred to the exit interviews and housing and quality of life was a big factor in the majority of the interviews. In relation to housing he commented that he would need to look at key worker schemes in Berkshire. They were also making it easier for people who had a break from policing to come back into the Force at the appropriate level.
- Cllr Burke asked about rough sleepers in Windsor and the comments that had been made in relation to the Royal Wedding. She asked whether security for the Royal Wedding had been factored into the precept. The PCC reassured Members that it had and that there was a multi agency group working on this event. The PCC reported that there were some professional beggars in Windsor who were part of a serious organised crime gang and that they were trying to address those individuals with genuine problems to help them. The security for the Royal Wedding would be funded and undertaken by the Met Police. The Chief Constable reported that TVP were working with Local Authorities on drug and alcohol issues to help support vulnerable people. Some Community Safety Funding was being used for this purpose.
- Cllr Sharp referred to funding for Windsor and expressed concern in relation to CCTV and anti-terror barriers in Windsor. £1.9 million had been allocated for six barriers but the costs have risen since this funding was allocated. A recent article referred to the costs being shared between the police and the Local Authority. He asked for clarification about how much funding TVP would put in the pot as there was concern that TVP were backtracking on the permanent security measures. The Chief Constable reported that discussions about barriers were being held across the Country and that the responsibility lay with Local Authorities. There was also concern that TVP were not contributing towards the CCTV renewal programme which was costing in excess of £1.25 million. The Chief Constable reported that there were discussions about a hub proposal and that they were not clear how much this would cost as yet. The Chief Constable reported that it was important to ensure that there was a balance of funding for CCTV across the Thames Valley but he was pleased that the Council was upgrading the cameras.
- Cllr McCracken commented that reviewing the CCTV hub was an excellent idea and asked about ANPR cameras. The Chief Constable reported that there were links between CCTV and ANPR cameras. It was important to justify where every camera was positioned and what it was being used for.
- Cllr Sharp asked the Chief Constable whether he would do anything about aggressive beggars in his area and was given a positive answer.
- Cllr Hayes asked about inflationary pressures and particularly referred to Brexit. The PCC reported that they were always looking at making efficiencies where possible but there were cost pressures. He referred to the work on the new formula grant and expressed concern that the Thames Valley would not be given a fair slice of the cake because of pressures on urban areas, whilst Thames Valley was a huge area and had its own issues. Cllr Egleton agreed that Thames Valley was in the bottom half of the grant allocation and that residents had to pick up the costs of this.

RESOLVED

That the Panel approve the Police and Crime Commissioner's precept for 2018/19 as set out in the OPCC report 'Revenue Estimates 2018/19 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 to 2021/22' having received satisfactory responses to the questions raised.

149. Annual Assurance Report

Members received the Annual Assurance Report from the Chairman of the TVP/OPCC Joint Independent Audit Committee, Dr Louis Lee. The JIAC is a key component of the PCC and Chief Constable's arrangements for securing effective corporate governance and provides an independent and high-level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial management and reporting standards. This is the Committee's fifth Annual Report.

Dr Louis Lee presented the report which highlighted the following:-

- The external auditor Ernst and Young had issued an unqualified audit opinion and an unqualified value for money conclusion for both the PCC and Chief Constable.
- The JIAC has continued their scrutiny around ICT and its impact on force change management, the delivery of force financial performance and operational effectiveness. This was as a result of serious concerns raised the previous year. Reports presented to the Committee showed that positive progress was visible across the ICT business areas. There was a response to the Wannacry Malware incident that had attacked certain NHS Trust computer systems. There were no occurrences in TVP which showed that there are resilient and good processes in place.
- The Annual Treasury Management Strategy has been reviewed and scrutinised robustly and there was nothing of concern.
- JIAC Members were satisfied that both the PCC's Chief Financial Officer and the Force Director of Finance have the necessary capability and capacity to ensure the proper administration of their financial affairs.
- JIAC Members remain observers on the Hampshire/TVP Bilateral Governance Board.
- JIAC Members received regular quarterly updates from both the Force and the PCC in terms of their strategic risk management systems and processes. Members were satisfied that the business continuity management processes were operating efficiently and effectively in identifying issues and capturing organisational learning.
- The Committee received the annual report from the Chief Internal Auditor and all of the planned audits were completed. Of the 20 audits one had received substantial assurance, 12 had received reasonable assurance and 7 had received limited assurance.
- There were no significant governance issues that required immediate attention nor were there any potential issues that could have an adverse impact on the internal control environment.
- JIAC Members are observers of the bi-monthly meetings of the Complaints, Integrity and Ethics Panel to gain assurance from a government perspective that the PCC and Chief Constable's arrangements for the proper handling of complaints made against the Force and consideration of other integrity and ethics issues is subject to effective oversight.
- In terms of health and safety and the environment, JIAC Members were pleased to note the continued reduction in total safety incidents and that TVP was one of the best performing forces nationally in this area.
- A survey was sent to all JIAC Members and there were positive comments about the working of the Committee. Key points on the analysis are outlined on page 123 of the agenda.
- The year ahead will be very challenging when a number of leading edge digital policing developments would be brought into service.

During discussion Members asked the following:-

- Cllr Patman asked about the Police ICT company and whether various principles were being applied nationally across all the Forces. Dr Louis Lee reported that this company had more to learn from TVP who seemed to be leading the way on technology. A number of projects were being undertaken at regional level with collaborative projects across four Forces. The Chief Constable reported that the new Chief Executive of the Police ICT company was taking a lead in enabling programmes across the Country.
- Cllr Burke made reference to a Police Federation article that referred to a postcode lottery in terms of getting health and wellbeing support for officers. The Chief Constable reported that often officers were worried about declaring mental health issues because of the stigma around this area and therefore they had put in place mental health champions and had links with MIND. One of the areas that had not been cut, unlike other Forces was the occupational therapy department. TVP have invested significantly to change the culture of mental health. The Deputy PCC also pointed out that the reference to a 'postcode lottery' in the Police Federation article was a reference to the level of support available from respective local health services, rather than from forces.

The Chairman thanked Dr Louis Lee for attending the Panel and providing such a thorough report.

150. Police and Crime Plan - Performance

The Panel received the report of the OPCC on Strategic Aim 2 of the PCC's Police and Crime Plan which was prevention and early intervention. Within this his objective was to improve safeguarding. Specific areas also included road safety, cybercrime, peer on peer abuse, hate crime, technological surveillance and female genital mutilation.

During discussion Members raised the following points :-

- Cllr Culverhouse asked the Chief Constable whether he had a clear policy for sexting particularly when it came to thinking about how to classify those involved in sexting cases as suspects, victims or otherwise. The Chief Constable reported that there was national guidance on this area in relating to crime recording and how to deal with individuals. If an offence had been committed this had to be recorded but there needed to be a careful approach in relation to the criminal justice system. A large amount of work had been carried out with schools. Cllr Culverhouse referred to an article which mentioned prosecuting parents as they held the contract for the phone. The Chief Constable reported that it would be highly unlikely that a parent would be taken to court.
- Cllr Hayes referred to the performance measures for hate crime. He referred to the policy resource within the OPCC and asked what was being done to increase the reporting of hate crime. The PCC commented that there was an increase in reporting but it was a difficult area to differentiate between a crime and general rudeness. These figures are being monitored by the Force.
- Cllr Hayes referred to child drug exploitation and the increasing use of county lines. The PCC said that he was concerned about this area and the use of children to supply drugs. Vulnerable children were being drawn into serious organised crime and often it was not right to put them through the criminal justice system. If a child lost the drug supply they would then be beholden to the gang to pay back a loan. Cllr Hayes commended the work being undertaken by Supt. Joe Kidman in Oxford in this area and commented that many children drawn into this area had often experienced domestic abuse at home. He asked the PCC whether this was a priority? The PCC reported that it was an implicit priority.
- Cllr Burke asked for an update on the FGM strategy. The PCC reported that one of his concerns was understanding how big an issue this was because of the lack of reporting by the health service or schools. The OPCC were continuing to work on the strategy as set out in the OPCC Delivery Plan.
- Cllr Mann asked what the PCC was doing about revenge porn. The PCC reported that there were a number of school initiatives and there was also a school play which educated children in this area. This was a social issue and needed to be addressed by all partners not just the police.

The report was noted.

151. Report of the Complaints Sub-Committee

The report was noted.

152. Recommendation Monitoring

In terms of Panel recommendations Members noted the following:-

- The Local Criminal Justice Board were looking at improving their website to provide more information to the public including initiatives that were taking place e.g their business plan and work on domestic abuse. There was concern by Board Members about sharing performance data as this may be misconstrued without understanding detail behind the figures. There was ongoing monitoring of performance data at the Board. The PCC reported that there had been a considerable improvement in the performance of Magistrates Courts.
- Roads Policing – Cllr Page referred to working with the police in relation to 20mph zones. He referred to capital costs for additional cameras and average speed enforcement and whether this could be funded

through fines. He had made contact with his Chief Inspector and she was keen to discuss this further with him and to explore options at a local level. Cllr Egleton reported that it was important for all Councils to engage in these discussions with the police. The Chief Constable referred to the road safety summit and the up and coming Chief Executive's meeting (in March) which should improve communications with local authorities on this area. He also commented that engineering was important to ensure compliance with 20mph zones.

- Cllr Mallon referred to the regular Chief Executives meetings held by the Chief Constable and emphasised the importance of all Councils making sure that the appropriate level of representation attended these meetings to ensure positive outcomes.

153. Work Programme

The Work Programme was agreed. Cllr Hayes asked for two additional items; the value of community policing and the implications of Brexit on policing.

154. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Extra meetings were agreed as follows:-

16 November 2018

1 February 2019

15 February 2019 (provisional date in case precept is vetoed)

Panel Members thanked Cllr Burke from Milton Keynes Council as this was her last meeting. Cllr Burke had made a huge contribution to the work of the Panel and it was agreed that a letter should be written to the Leader of the Council.

CHAIRMAN