



## BUSINESS CO-ORDINATION BOARD

### APPROVED MINUTES

<b>Date:</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b>	<b>Time: 14:00</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Via Microsoft Teams</b>	
<b>Members:</b>	Darryl Preston	Police and Crime Commissioner
	Nick Dean	Chief Constable, Cambridgeshire Constabulary
	Jim Haylett	Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
	Jon Lee	Chief Finance Officer & Director of Resources, Cambridgeshire Constabulary
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Claire Dicker	Business Support Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
	Nancy Leversha	Strategic Accountant, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
	Fran Toovey	Policy Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (Observer)

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Jane Gyford, Deputy Chief Constable, Cambridgeshire Constabulary Vicki Evans, Assistant Chief Constable, Cambridgeshire Constabulary; and Matthew Warren, Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

**3. To approve minutes of the Business Coordination Board meetings held on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

3.1 The minutes were not circulated to the Business Coordination Board (the “Board”) in time for the meeting. The minutes will now be submitted to the Board on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 for consideration.

**4. Business Co-ordination Board Action Log**

4.1 There are currently no actions on the log and therefore nothing to report on.

**5. Cambridgeshire Constabulary Performance Report – Corporate Plan**

5.1 The Chief Constable presented the report to the Board on Cambridgeshire Constabulary’s (the “Constabulary”) performance over the last 12 months up to the end of July 2021. The Board noted that the report also focused on the Constabulary’s Corporate Plan priority of ‘Combat acquisitive crime’.

5.2 The Commissioner asked why there was an increase in 999 calls and that July had the highest ever recorded 999 calls. The Chief Constable reported that the increase in calls has had an impact on calls for service and average waiting times. However, levels of 101 calls are lower than pre-Covid levels. There has also been a channel shift in terms of how calls for service are made as currently one in every ten reports are by webchat. The increase in 999 calls was due to a seasonal expectation over the summer period and a number of unexpected incidents. There has also been a big spike in Public Order incidents with the re-opening of the night-time economy especially over the weekends. However, this does appear to be a national trend for the increase in 999 calls and not just one being seen in Cambridgeshire. The diversion into online/webchat appears to be working well as is the use of the digital desk and social media.

5.3 The Commissioner asked if service had been further impacted due to staffing pressures due to Covid and recruitment, as the report mentioned that these issues are being addressed by the Demand Hub management and he wanted to know what action is being taken. The Chief Constable stated that current recruitment has been escalated with an agreement to recruit over and above the level required to account for the turnover of staff. Absence however does remain a concern but the changes in Covid absence guidelines have meant that staff absences have been reduced through daily testing within the Demand Hub.

5.4 The Commissioner asked about the Daily Incident Volumes and the scope of the partnership prevention work, who is involved and the timescales relating to this. In response, the Chief Constable informed the Board that the highest contributor to this are Concern for Welfare checks. These account for approximately 15% of the incidents received. Many of these incidents have been dealt with by the Early Intervention and Domestic Abuse Focus Desks, along with the Mental Health nurses within the Demand Hub.

5.5 The Commissioner asked about the increase in immediate response times for officers to attend an incident and noted from the report that the increase in demand has led to an increase in the median time to respond and wanted to know what the current immediate response time was. The Chief Constable reported that the current immediate response time has increased to 18 minutes from 15 minutes.

- 5.6 The recent upward trend in the long-term indicator for all recorded crime was halted last month; with the number of crimes recorded in August lower than July's high and comparable to the same month in each of the last three years. However, differences in the underlying crime profile at district level, coupled with varying rates of recovery for each crime type (especially in South area), when comparing April-August 2021 with the equivalent (pre-pandemic) period in 2019; in the North area recorded crime increased by 4.6%.
- 5.7 The Commissioner noted that the latest 'Op Talla' report states that violence with injury has increased since January 2021 with weekly crime in July above the same periods in 2019 and wanted to know if the violence is being driven by the opening of the night-time economy or other issues such as Domestic Abuse or is it a combination of both. The Chief Constable confirmed that there had been an increase in cases of violence with Injury and that there are a number of factors pertaining to this, which include the re-opening of the night-time economy, festivals, football matches, and Public Order events.
- 5.8 The Commissioner noted that there had also been an increase in sexual offences and if there is any indication as to what has caused the increase, if the cases were recent or historical ones, and whether the victims were adults or children. He also commented that the additional narrative helps to better understand if this is linked to the opening of the night time economy or domestic abuse. The Chief Constable advised that 77% of the reported assaults were of a recent nature rather than a historic one and that one reason may be the reopening of the night-time economy, and that the increase is being seen as both a national and local trend
- 5.9 The Commissioner made the Chief Constable aware of the issues and concerns raised by members of the public through both correspondence and engagement activity during July. These included: drug dealing, visibility of police, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), burglary, and driving matters such as speeding and parking.
- 5.10 The Chief Constable advised that with the investment placed into the Neighbourhood Policing Teams is seen as beneficial, along with the support of the Neighbourhood Support Teams. Action is being taken and there is reassurance that the attention is being given to the concerns that are being raised.
- 5.11 The Chief Executive raised a point surrounding the Concerns for Welfare and Mental Health as he felt that this should be a matter for discussion between partners and the police. The Chief Constable advised that these concerns are something that he feels needs to be addressed with National Police Chiefs' Council portfolio lead for policing and mental health. There is also the need for more discussion both regionally and nationally as to how the police and other agencies can support each other better.
- 5.12 The Commissioner commented on the Prosecution possible rates in terms of outcomes in August 2020 at 10.8% when compared to 11% in August 2021 and wanted to know what the timescales are in relation to the improvement plan and the governance arrangements in place to ensure that the increase in the Prosecution possible rates continues. The Chief Constable replied that the plan is being managed by the Force Performance Board and that the outcome rate is monitored daily.

5.13 The Commissioner noted that there are lower burglary detections on a monthly comparison and it now shows that these are back to 2018 levels yet there are less burglaries. The Chief Constable replied that while the burglary detection rate has deteriorated, the Constabulary remains tenth nationally for residential burglary detection rates.

5.14 The Board noted the report.

## **6. Revenue and Capital Monitoring Report 2021/22 Months 3 & 4**

6.1 The Director of Finance and Resources presented both reports to the Board.

6.2 He advised that The Revenue Budget is currently forecast as £301K overspend at the end of Month 4 (July).

6.3 The key points for variance for Month 4 are:

- An overspend in Local Policing is offset by underspend in Investigations and Safeguarding;
- Non-operational budgets are forecasting an underspend;
- Collaboration & Partnerships are forecasting an overspend; and
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) are forecasting an underspend (£183k).

6.4 The Commissioner noted that in both reports the Police Officer forecast overspend for the year end is £1.2m, which is offset by a forecast underspend in staff of £1.6m and wanted to know what is the sustainability of this.

6.5 The Director of Resources replied to say that Month 4 showed the latest forecast year-end outturn position for 2021/2022. This will continue to be monitored throughout the year.

6.6 There were two capital amendments proposed in Month 3:

- To cover the Estates major repair capital commitments at year end 2020/21, it was proposed to add £183k to the Major Repairs Project this year funded from the £183k of the additional capital receipts (proceeds from the sale of the land at Bretton, Peterborough).
- In addition, it was proposed that an additional £50k for the Automatic Number plate Recognition cameras following the business case is also funded from Capital Receipts.

6.7 There was one capital amendment proposed in Month 4:

- To approve the proposed Capital amendment for a capital budget movement of £60k between Estates projects (from mast repairs to the Wisbech police station refurbishment).

6.8 The three amendments are within the Chief Constable's delegated approved limit and therefore a Decision Notice by the Commissioner is not required. All three of the amendments were approved by the Board.

6.9 The Board noted both reports.

## **7. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services Reports Update**

7.1 A verbal update was given by the Chief Constable on the following Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) thematic reports:

- Review of Policing Domestic Abuse During the Pandemic 2021;
- Inspection into how effectively the police engage with women and girls; and
- A duty to protect police use of protective measures in cases involving violence against women and girls.

7.2 The Board noted that the Commissioner's responses to the reports, as per his statutory duty under section 55 of the Police Act 1996, had been submitted to the Home Secretary and responses published on the Commissioner's website.

7.3 The Chief Executive updated the Board regarding the discussions between the OPCC and the Constabulary regarding future HMICFRS reporting requirements in order that assurance can be gained on both individual force and thematic reports and tracking of progress against any recommendations and areas for improvement (AFIs) are made. Options being considered are that the Board receive force specific reports such as the Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL) inspection report, Crime Data Integrity report etc, or where it is a thematic report which is considered of key public interest, and then have a six monthly report on the Constabulary's progress towards any recommendations AFIs made. All Constabulary responses to HMICFRS reports, and the Commissioner's S55 response would continue to be put on the Commissioner's website for the purposes of transparency even if they have not been submitted to the Board.

7.4 The Board noted the update.

## **8. Any Other Business**

### **8.1 Business Coordination Board Terms of Reference and Meetings Going Forward**

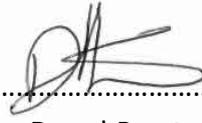
8.1.1 The Chief Executive provided the Board with a verbal update asking them to note the action arising from the Risk Management Internal Audit, regarding the Terms of Reference for the Board. The audit had noted that the Terms of Reference should be reviewed annually and as such raised a management action recommending that these be updated by the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

8.1.2 There was a discussion in relation to a forthcoming review and refresh of the OPCC's system of governance. This review will take into account the links to the risk register and public interest factors, looking at which reports will need to be submitted to the Board, or other internal governance groups, in order to hold the Chief Constable to account in a more proportionate way. The Board also discussed the frequency of its meetings, what business could be considered at the meetings, and equally what governance information can be transparently displayed on the Commissioner's website.

8.1.3 The Commissioner stated that he will be holding the Chief Constable to account going forward in respect of the Government's National Crime and Policing Measures and the Board may be the forum for this:

- Reduce murder and other homicides;
- Reduce serious violence;

- Disrupt drugs supply and county lines;
- Reduce neighbourhood crime
- Tackle cyber crime
- Improve satisfaction among victims – with a focus on victims of domestic abuse.



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Darryl Preston  
Police and Crime Commissioner