

Title

JOINT BUSINESS MEETING

CLOSED SESSION

Date

8th September 2016

Location

OPCC, Balliol Business Park

Duration

9:45am – 11.30

Present:

Elaine Snaith – OPCC Chief Executive, Chair
Mr Steve Ashman - Chief Constable
Mr Winton Keenen – Deputy Chief Constable
Mr Darren Best - Assistant Chief Constable
Ms Joscelin Lawson – Director of Human Resources
Ms Elaine Snaith – Chief Executive
Mr Mike Tait – Director of Finance
Mr Mike Mullen – Head of Estates
Mr Dean Lowery – Officer of the PCC

Apologies for absence:

Ms Vera Baird - Police and Crime Commissioner

OPEN SESSION

1. Collaboration Update

Joscelin Lawson presented a report highlighting the ongoing collaboration work that Northumbria Police are currently engaged in following the introduction of the Northumbria Police Collaboration and Partnership Strategy which was adopted in May 2016.

The strategy identifies four main areas which are:

- Specialist policing Services
- Safeguarding
- Community Safety
- Enabling Services

Community Safety

A briefing regarding ongoing or potential collaboration was also provided, which included the co-location of Neighbourhood Policing Teams within Fire Service premises and successful joint funding bids.

Other potential collaboration opportunities such as the joint building of shared emergency control rooms and fleet vehicle/vessel sharing between the two organisations are also being explored.

Safeguarding

A new “Safeguarding Department” within Northumbria Police overseen by a Chief Superintendent is now fully operational. This department brings together the previous Protecting Vulnerable People and Operation Sanctuary teams under one department with the sole purpose of the departments work being to support the most vulnerable in communities.

The report also highlighted the introduction of NTW nurse attachments within mental health triage teams which has significantly reduced demand on frontline officers. Collaboration with the North East Ambulance Service in relation to the safe transportation of patients has also been undertaken which has also saved considerable officer time.

Co-location of Court Liaison staff within Victims First Northumbria has also led to an improved service to victims of crime.

Specialist Policing Services

The report highlighted the work of the North East Special Operations Unit which delivers support to the three North East regional forces.

The Northumbria Finger print laboratory has now been co-located within Durham Constabulary with further agreement being given to collaborate on all aspects of Scientific Support. This has offered savings of over £90,000 per year with opportunities to also improve service delivery.

A collaborative arrangement has also been put in place to co-locate Northumbria Police Dog Section within a new kennel facility within Durham Constabulary saving over £60,000 per year. Public order training for Northumbria Police officers is also being delivered at a Durham Constabulary facility.

Enabling Services

The force has collaborative arrangements ongoing with Newcastle, Northumbria and Sunderland Universities which include student placements, evaluation of projects, joint funding bids and Northumbria University Business Clinic to support the establishment of the new Safeguarding department.

Elaine Snaith welcomed the collaborative work that is ongoing but stressed that collaboration work is a specialist area of work and recruitment of staff with these skills may be needed. Joscelin stated that a restructure of staff within the force is currently ongoing to identify staff that have the necessary skills for this area of work.

Elaine also discussed if a detailed report relating to the ongoing collaboration with the Fire Service should be brought to a future JBM meeting. The group agreed that reports should be brought to JBM if the required action relates to budgets or financial matters.

Elaine discussed the Transformation fund projects that are reaching the end of their period of operation. A decision needs to be made urgently on the future of these projects so that this can be included within next year's budget. Assistant Chief Constable Keenan stated that discussions are currently ongoing and this will be raised within future budget meetings.

ACTION:

- **Elaine Snaith requested that a further detailed report in relation to the formation of the Safeguarding Department is provided in September 2016.**
- **That reports relating to Fire Service Collaboration be brought to JBM in the first instance if financial/budgetary decisions are needed.**
- **That a further collaboration update report be provided in March 2017.**

2. Police Now Graduate Leadership Development Programme

Joscelin Lawson provided the group with an update report in relation to the Police Now programme. The programme is designed to attract high caliber graduates into policing who undertake an intense six week training schedule that following completion allows them to undertake a Neighbourhood Policing role.

Upon completion of the training candidates then undertake a 28 day immersion period within a neighbourhood role under the supervision of a mentor. It is then expected that candidates deliver 6 impact projects over the course of the two year probation period to evidence their efforts at a Neighbourhood level.

At the conclusion of the two year programme there are several options open to participants however it is hoped that because of the work they have undertaken over the last two years that they will remain in police employment. However during the second year of the programme candidates are also given the opportunity to undertake internships with a range of different providers from the charity and business sectors.

The report highlighted the costs involved and the benefits of potentially adopting this scheme. The Chief Constable is very supportive of the scheme and has asked that the scheme be looked at in more detail with a clear proposal being presented to JBM in November 2016.

ACTION:

- **The Chief Constable requested that a proposal document in relation to the Police Now scheme be brought to a future JBM in November 2016.**

3. Legally Qualified Chairs

Following recent correspondence from the Home Office in relation to Legally Qualified Chairs, HMRC have determined that LQC's as a statutory position are classed as office holders for tax purposes and as such are required to be paid via the PCC payroll.

The Home office have also confirmed that they do not believe that the inclusion of LQC's on PCC payroll will dissuade them from sitting or leading to their independence being called into question.

The LQC expenses claim form has been amended to take this into account.

Elaine Snaith highlighted that the appointment of LQC's was undertaken on a seven force basis and led by Cleveland PCCs office. Elaine agreed to contact the Chief Executives from the forces regarding this matter and to discuss all payments being made through the payroll system. Mike Tait was also to liaise with other force treasurers regarding this.

ACTION:

- Elaine Snaith and Mike Tait to discuss this with the respective Chief Executives and Treasurers of the seven forces who jointly appointed LQCs.

4. National Fraud Initiative 2016/17

The group received a report which recommended that the Chief Constable be the lead body for the 2016/17 National Fraud Initiative data submission.

This is an exercise that matches electronic data within and between public and private sector bodies to prevent and detect fraud.

Both the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable are mandatory participants however the correspondence requests that only one police body in each area submits data on behalf of both parties.

In absence of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Elaine Snaith agreed the recommendation.

5. Creation of drop in facility at Blaydon Library, Wesley Court, Blaydon, for the Gateshead Inner West Neighbourhood Team

The Estates Strategy envisages the establishment of neighbourhood bases within the community where suitable premises can be identified. The local team have identified suitable premises at Blaydon Library, comprising a desk and use of shared facilities.

The Commissioner is asked to agree to enter into a licence in accordance with

the provisional terms set out in the report.

As the Commissioner was not in attendance the Elaine Snaith advised that the recommendation be approved.

6. Sale of Cramlington Police Station

The property has previously been declared surplus to requirements. Northumberland ARCH have expressed an interest in acquiring Cramlington Police Station in an off-market transaction.

An independent valuation has been commissioned and Northumberland ARCH have offered to purchase the property at the amount as recommended by the Independent gross valuation less a deduction respect of restrictive covenants.

The report recommends that the Commissioner agrees to the acceptance of the offer from Northumberland ARCH.

Elaine Snaith recommended the Commissioner agrees to the sale of the property to Northumberland ARCH.

7. Sale of Former Morpeth Police Station

The property has previously been declared surplus to requirements and has been marketed for sale by a commercial agent.

Several offers have now been received on the property.

The report recommended that the Commissioner agrees to the acceptance of the recommended offer and to the sale of the property.

Elaine Snaith recommended the Commissioner agrees to the report recommendation for the sale of the property.

8. Sale of Former Corbridge Police Station

OPCC had previously accepted an offer to purchase this property but the purchaser decided not to proceed prior to exchange of contracts. The property has subsequently been remarketed and a range of offers have been received.

That the Commissioner agrees to the acceptance of the recommended offer and to the sale of the property.

Elaine Snaith recommended the Commissioner agrees to the report recommendation for the sale of the property.

CLOSED SESSION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000