



# Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner

## BUSINESS COORDINATION BOARD

### APPROVED MINUTES

**Date:** 20 January 2015

**Time:** 14:00

**Location:** Monkfield Room, Cambourne

**Members :** Sir Graham Bright Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner  
Brian Ashton Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner  
Dorothy Gregson Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner  
Niki Howard Chief Finance Officer, Cambridgeshire Constabulary  
Simon Parr Chief Constable, Cambridgeshire Constabulary  
Robert Vickers Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner  
Alec Wood Deputy Chief Constable, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

**In Attendance:** Beka Avery South Outreach Worker, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner  
Aly Flowers Senior Policy Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner  
Josie Gowler Director of Finance (elect)  
Charles Kitchin Director of Public Engagement and Communication, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner  
Colin Luscombe Director of Estates, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner  
Paul Ormerod Chief Inspector, Cambridgeshire Constabulary  
Nicky Phillipson Strategic Advisor, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner  
Cristina Strood Head of Policy and Performance, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner  
Andrea Warren Detective Sergeant, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Niki Howard, Director of Finance and Resources, Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Approval of the minutes from the last Business Coordination Board meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

- 3.1 The Business Coordination Board ("the Board") were updated on actions from the last meeting.
- 3.2 Item 5.4 – Police and Crime Commissioner ("the Commissioner") to sign the Decision Notice and Membership Form for The Road Safety Trust for the purposes of Cambridgeshire Constabulary ("the Constabulary") becoming a member of the National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme. **Action completed:** The Commissioner signed the membership form and Decision Notice on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015.
- 3.3 Item 6.4 – Commissioner to sign the Decision Notice to appoint Josie Gowler to the post of the Director of Finance. **Action completed:** The Commissioner signed the Decision Notice on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

**4. Draft Precept**

- 4.1 The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner ("the Deputy Commissioner") introduced the Draft Precept paper. In doing so reference was made to the paper that was presented to the Board at their meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015 and the record of the minutes of that meeting.
- 4.2 The Deputy Commissioner confirmed that the Commissioner would be recommending to the Police and Crime Panel ("the Panel") at their meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015 that there would be no increase in the percept as part of the Council Tax. This would mean that Band D Council Tax would be maintained at £181.35p.
- 4.3 Confirmation was also given that the Commissioner would be applying for the Government's Council Tax Freeze Grant.
- 4.3 The budget gap for 2015/16 was £5.1m. The 2014/15 budget had identified £4.7m in internal savings, and £0.4m being used from the reserve budget, which would be a major contribution towards the 2015/16 budget.
- 4.4 It was confirmed that it was the intention to maintain PSCO numbers at 150 during 2015/16.

## **NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

- 4.5 £2.81m of grant funding had been allocated for crime and disorder grants, with recipients being Community Safety Partnerships and victims services.
- 4.6 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) budget had been maintained at the same level as the previous year with an additional £20,000 incurred as a result of the internal audit fee being transferred from the Constabulary's budget.
- 4.7 The Board recognised that a remarkable effort had been made within the Constabulary to ensure that a balanced budget had been arrived at for the forthcoming year with no fundamental change in policing capacity. The Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner congratulated the Chief Constable and his staff for their work in achieving this.
- 4.4 The Deputy Commissioner gave a presentation to the Board on 'Policing 2006 – 2019'. The Board discussed the content of the presentation, noting a number of key points. Overall, the Board noted that since 2006 there had been a 5% reduction in police officers despite a 15% budget reduction since that time. Overall the Constabulary were doing more with less.
- 4.5 Financial and capacity savings had been achieved through the Constabulary's collaborative working with Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary and the programme in place would achieve further savings and improvements in performance. IT solutions, in particular, would drive efficiencies and effectiveness.
- 4.6 The Commissioner conveyed his thanks to the Deputy Commissioner, Niki Howard and Robert Vickers for ensuring a balanced budget, and to the Chief Constable and the Deputy Chief Constable to adapting operational change to make this happen.
- 4.7 The Commissioner felt in his opinion that it would not be possible to make a recommendation for a higher precept and was mindful of the need not to increase the burden on the public. However, he was mindful that this position may not be sustainable in the longer term.
- 4.8 The Chief Constable understood the Commissioner's position but a lack of increase in funding would have an impact of the 2018/19 budget particularly against the projected population growth within the county.

## **5. Decisions Paper**

- 5.1 The Chief Executive introduced the paper informing the Board that it was a procedural paper as an aid to transparency and accountability of the Commissioner's decision making.
- 5.2 The Board were content with the decisions detailed in the paper.

## **6. National Police Chief's Council**

