



## **BUSINESS CO-ORDINATION BOARD**

### **APPROVED MINUTES**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>	<b>Time: 14:00</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Via Microsoft Teams</b>	
<b>Members:</b>	Ray Bisby	Acting Police and Crime Commissioner
	Nick Dean	Chief Constable, Cambridgeshire Constabulary
	Jim Haylett	Acting Chief Executive, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
	Jon Lee	Director of Finance & Resources, Cambridgeshire Constabulary
	Matthew Warren	Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Aly Flowers	Head of Compliance, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
	Catherine Kimberley	Communications & Engagement Manager, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
	Cristina Strood	Head of Policy for Police & Fire, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

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

1.1 Deputy Chief Constable Jane Gyford and Assistant Chief Constable Vickie Evans.

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

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

**3. To approve minutes of the Business Coordination Board meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

3.1 The Business Coordination Board (the “Board”) noted and agreed that the minutes from the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020 would be submitted to the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Board meeting for consideration and approval.

**4. Precept considerations, Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) discussion and update**

4.1 The Acting Commissioner introduced the agenda item as a discussion item, the purpose of which was to provide a verbal update on the the approach being taken to:

- seeking the views of the people of Cambridgeshire on the precept;
- the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021/22 to 2024/25; and
- the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

4.2 The Acting Commissioner informed the Board that the Government had enabled Police and Crime Commissioners to raise the police precept component of council tax by £15 per year or £1.25 per month on a Band D property. The precept can be used to fund policing activity, and as such following discussions with the Chief Constable on what resources he required, the Acting Commissioner had launched a survey on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 seeking the views of those within the county on the £1.25 a month (based on a Band D property) precept rise. The survey also sought views on what matters to the public in terms of policing and crime.

4.3 The survey was launched through a media release and signposting to the survey. Distribution was to local media outlets, MPs, Police and Crime Panel, Community Safety Partnerships, Speedwatch, and representative groups. It was also launched via Facebook, Twitter and via Ecops to around 20,000 subscribers. There will also be targeted communications with hard to reach groups. Social media posts will be undertaken throughout the survey reminding the public of timescales, until it closes on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

4.4 Daily analysis of the survey responses would take place in order that on-going consideration could be given to the responses in order to gauge the views of the public in respect of support, or otherwise, for an increase of £1.25 and their priorities for policing and crime. Once the Acting Commissioner had considered these views, and taken into account the views of the Chief Constable, he would be in a position at the Board meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to have a full discussion of the financial position based on the MTFS. This would then enable the Acting Commissioner to decide on what precept level to set in order to deliver efficient and effective policing in Cambridgeshire, and then propose this to the Police and Crime Panel for their consideration.

4.5 The Constabulary’s Director of Finance & Resources and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (OPCC) Chief Finance Officer outlined to the Board the approach adopted for the MTFS for 2021/22 to 2024/25 and the MTFP. The key considerations to note are as follows:

4.5.1 As in previous years, the Constabulary’s financial planning for 2021/22 and beyond cannot be seen in isolation given the backdrop of continual budget pressures within policing, Cambridgeshire being one of the lowest funded forces in the England and

Wales, continued population growth in the county, and funding pressures on other public service providers.

- 4.5.2 The MTFS aims to draw together the strategic planning priorities, demand and resource forecasts and likely impact of changes in the wider service delivery environment to produce a costed plan which defines the work which needs to be undertaken to achieve long-term financial sustainability. This forms a pivotal link to translate the organisation's ambitions and constraints into deliverable options.
- 4.5.3 The Constabulary's Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment (STRA) that took place in 2020 identified the current and anticipated operational pressures in meeting the Constabulary's priorities. This model assessed the identified pressures against the current capacity and capability of the force to manage the expected future demand and risk. Consequently, the STRA has developed informed thinking to managing the 2021/22 budget, consideration of options to close the current budget gap, understanding of future cost pressures and to provide a longer-term strategy for financial planning. The Constabulary's Corporate Plan has also led the STRA business planning model in what services are required for the future of Cambridgeshire communities. This assurance in business planning means that both efficiency and effectiveness, as well as future proofing of the Constabulary has been paramount.
- 4.5.3 In the last year due to the Government's Uplift programme, Cambridgeshire was allocated 62 new officers which takes the force to an establishment of 1,559 full time equivalent officers, the highest number of warranted officers the Constabulary has had, with another 140 officers expected in the next two years. The Chief Constable stated his on-going commitment to neighbourhood policing, something that he had originally been committed to since he joined the Constabulary in 2018.
- 4.5.4 The Chief Constable then took the Board through the range of improvements for service delivery that had been identified as a result of the STRA process and the rationale for these. The Board were asked to note that these improvements also take into account all the additional projected costs of the Constabulary and the savings already identified, as follows:
- Additional call handlers
  - Additional support for responding to calls for service from the vulnerable
  - Cyber, online prevention officers
  - Digital Media Investigators
  - Increased capacity for handling digital contact from the public
  - Additional Support for the development of frontline officers
- 4.5.7 The Acting Commissioner thanked both the Chief Constable and the Director of Finance & Resources for providing the Board with that information. The Acting Commissioner emphasised that whilst it is his responsibility to set the annual budget for the Constabulary, including the level of police precept, it is for the Chief Constable to have day to day responsibility for financial management of the force and to decide on the configuration and organisation of policing resources.
- 4.6 The Board noted that at their meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> January, a report on the precept setting, including the results of the survey, and the MTFS would be discussed, and for them to provide their professional advice and recommendations to the Acting Commissioner in order for him to consider, alongside the views of the public, in

deciding what precept to propose to the Police and Crime Panel for their consideration.

**5. Any Other Business**

There was no Any Other Business

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Bisby', written over a horizontal dotted line.

Ray Bisby

Acting Police and Crime Commissioner