



CHIEF OFFICER GROUP MINUTES

21 May 2019

Ellesmere Port Police Station, 2nd floor, Meeting room

Attendance:

Mr D Martland

Ms J Gill

Mr M Burton

Mr D Bryan

Mr P Woods

Ms W Bebbington

Ms L Marsh

Mr S Roscoe

Mrs N Bailey

Ms D Worth

Mr B Dutton

Mr R Rees

Mr L Moss

Ms J Barlow

Chief Constable (Chair)

Assistant Chief Officer

T/Assistant Chief Constable

Head of Legal Services

Head of Planning and Performance

Head of Finance

Head of Corporate Communications

Head of Strategic Change

Head of Human Resources

Chief Superintendent Public Protection

Department

T/Chief Superintendent Local Policing &

Superintendents Association

Superintendent for Local Policing

Staff Officer

Head of People Development and Wellbeing

Observers from Ellesmere Port

LPU;

Mr A McMillan

Mr P Fegan

Ms K Brook

Mr E Harwood

Ms D Lavery

Ms L Kelsall

Chief Inspector

Inspector Response

Detective Sergeant Response

PCSO

Helpdesk Officer

Student

Observers

Mr B Kennedy

Mr P Taubinger

Federation Secretary

Unison Representative

Apologies:

Ms J Cooke

Deputy Chief Constable

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Mr M Welsted
Mr A Duggan
Ms J Moorcroft

A/Assistant Chief Constable
T/Chief Superintendent Crime
Federation Secretary

1. Minutes and action updates (Part two)

The minutes of the last meeting held on 16 April 2019 were agreed as a true record without amendment. The actions were updated.

2. Chief Constable update

CC Martland explained the purpose of Chief Officer Group and recent changes to the chief officer team and his strategic plans. The budget and increased precept for 2019-20 has provided approximately 40 police officers and 9 PCSOs.

Operationally the Constabulary needs to look at domestic abuse and cybercrime and then plan for next year's saving options. DC Brook asked if the Constabulary was considering external recruitment to assist with specialist areas of demand. Mrs Bailey said that HR will look at transferees into the Force. A discussion followed. Mr Martland said that at present the current LPU structure by local authority area will remain.

3. Finance

Ms Bebbington advised that the accounts have been finalised for 2018-19. The Constabulary has underspent by £1.2m, which is from, business services, the contingencies budget and savings made in advance of PBB. The OPCC has underspent by £400k. The Constabulary has requested in the final budget report for 2018-19, that the underspend is carried forward. Ms Bebbington advised that some of the pension actuarial increase from last year has been funded by Government money but not all, the remainder will be funded from the budget.

Ms Bebbington spoke about different options to ensure a balanced budget for 2020-21, these are based on assumptions of - a 2% pay award, same amount of government grant, but are dependent on the amount of increase in precept that the Commissioner can agree. Therefore the budget could end up with a £6m or £1m or nil shortfall, dependent on the amount of precept for next year.

CC Martland said that the underspend of £1.2m has been used to fund operational commitment for this year.

Other Business

Items for Decision

4. Force Management Statement

Mr Woods gave an explanation of the Force Management Statement, which is in its second year. The Chief Constable is required to submit to HMICFRS an annual assessment, which includes the operational demand that the force can expect over the next four years, how it will meet the demand and what money will be available. CC Martland expressed his thanks to Mr Woods' team for completion of the FMS. CC Martland provided an overview of what the Force will do to address identified demand and the learning that Chief Officers will take from the document.

Mr Woods explained that the FMS is requested by HMICFRS as their inspections are risk based. All 43 FMS will highlight the risks for the Police Service.

DECISION COG/D/008/2019 Mr Martland approved the Force Management Statement 2018-19 and that it can be forwarded to HMICFRS by 31 May 2019.

5. Alliance Dog Unit proposal – kennelling

CC Martland said that an extensive business case had been prepared and COG agreed 3 recommendations in March 2019 – revised officer model, constabulary vehicles to transport dogs to and from work and funding. The decision requested today is about kennelling. C/Supt Dutton explained the proposal to move to the North Wales model – to use private kennels. The savings are dependent on the number of dogs and days that private kennels will be used. Ms Bebbington said that the use of a Constabulary vehicle can be seen as a benefit in kind which can have a tax implication. This has been reviewed with tax advisors and as it's a requirement for officers to take the dog home there is no tax liability.

CC Martland spoke about how the kennels are operated and cover provided by officers when staff are unavailable and that the building used was owned by the PCC. Mr Bryan spoke about the building being used for other purposes including training and asked if it would continue. If not a separate report will be required on the future of the building. CC Martland advised that clarity is required in the report prior to Joint Management Board on the future use of the building.

DECISION COG/D/009/2019 CC Martland agreed the kennelling model for Cheshire Constabulary, which will align with North Wales and use private kennelling for Cheshire Constabulary police dogs.

Mr Martland explained that he will make his recommendations to the PCC at Joint Management Board on 5 June 2019 on the proposals in this report about the estate, subject to clarity on future use of the building for training purposes.

6. Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship – update on authorisation to enter into a contract

Mrs Bailey said that the aim is to introduce the Police Apprenticeship from September 2019. There are three entry routes and she explained the background to each. In August 2018, agreement was given by the Commissioner to work with the University of Chester. She spoke about the core requirements and standards to meet the Apprenticeship levy terms.

Ms Barlow said that the apprenticeship degree is for 3 years and year 1 is 16 weeks training with force trainers. Year 2 – 25 weeks training between internal trainers and the University of Chester and includes attachments. Year 3 is spent on a LPU but with time to complete their dissertation. The abstractions will need to be well managed and HR has set up a student management unit to support and provide feedback. The degree is a level 6 qualification and should be cost neutral for students. Cheshire Constabulary is in negotiation with the University of Chester about the degree and training. The Force can only charge up to £100k for each cohort in year one, followed by up to £500k for subsequent years but only expects to drawdown £250k each year.

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The Constabulary is due to be assessed at a College of Policing Panel on 28th May 2019 to check if the Force is at the correct standard. HR has secured funding for Tutor constables and training officers. A discussion followed about - young in service tutor constables who will require additional support, the opportunity to use staff with degrees, salary route and impact / demand on the Force due to the professionalisation of the police service. A/ACC Burton said it would be interesting to see what happens at the end of the 3 year degree course and the impact on the force.

DECISION COG/D/010/2019 –The update on delivery of the Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship was noted.

ACTION/COG/A/005/2019 - Mr Martland asked HR for an update to COG later in the year on the Apprenticeship Degree - due December 2019.

7. Mobility for Frontline Policing

CC Martland spoke about the proposal for improved mobility for frontline police officers and said that mobile devices are given to officers on roads, response, crime team and beat management for a trial period in one LPU. C/Supt Dutton advised that the cost is already in the IT budget. He explained that the ESN replacement was due to come on line a year ago and would have provided mobile phones, but due to significant delays is now under project reset. This proposal will give more functionality to officers, access to SAAB, google maps, evidential and non evidential photos and social media capability. There are sufficient devices to roll out to an LPU and it was agreed that the pilot will commence in Ellesmere Port LPU. A discussion followed about the benefits.

DECISION COG/D/011/2019 Option 4 was agreed and Ellesmere Port LPU will be the pilot area. The funding of the mobile phones will be from within the IT budget and not as detailed in the report – ‘underspend from the Airwave lockers budget’.

Recommendations

1. The Mobility for Frontline Policing Project is given the approval to commence
2. The baseline functionality for the phones meets the requirements stated in the business case
3. Option 4 is delivered to equip **all Roads and Crime Team, all Beat Management and the Response Officers in one LPU (Ellesmere Port) with personal issue mobile phones (approx. 322 devices).**

NOTE following COG – The Head of IT and Finance Accountant advised that as Option 4 is linked to SAAB and developing further use of the system, then the budget for this option, will be charged against the existing SAAB budget as associated with Phase 2 development.-

8. **Single Online Home**

Ms Gill said that Single Online Home is a national project, which will replace police.co.uk. 21 forces have already joined up, with a vast majority of the remainder expected to follow. Option 3 is the recommended option – to join the national project. The report will go to the Commissioner for him to sign the section 22a collaboration agreement.

Ms Marsh explained that each force will be able to include local content and feed, but from a public point of view the look for all forces will be uniform. The site will include areas for the public to report crime, download dashcam footage, RTC reporting, licensing and transactional benefits. It's about the public being able to contact the police other than by phone and also improve the ability to interact with communities.

CC Martland said that the pro rata cost for this year is £50k, which is in the budget. Mr Roscoe said he has the team, but an FCC resource is required which will be discussed outside COG. The project will move at speed and the first 4 capabilities are due to be live by September 2019.

A discussion followed about the potential reduction in demand in FCC and transactional capability in CJ & C, the potential increase in demand on officers, who will own the functions and transformation of processes. Questions were raised about - will there be sufficient resources to deal with the increased demand, is it a website or a communications tool and will it require 24/7 resources.

DECISION COG/D/012/2019 Option three was approved and the section 22a collaboration agreement to go forward to 5 June 2019 Joint Management Board for agreement and signature.

Items for Discussion

9. **Digital Plan – update**

Mr Roscoe said the plan had been brought for an update on progress against objectives – the detail is in the plan. A detailed discussion had taken place at the Digital Transformation Board on progress, who are satisfied with the plan. Some work has already been completed against the two year strategy. Mr Roscoe spoke about the programmes commissioned last year in respect of digital enablement and the need to consider if there is a gap in digital policing.

Mr Martland said that a large amount of work is taking place to ensure that the Force has the right technology, but there is a high financial cost including resources and training.

PART TWO - PRIVATE ITEMS

That the following matters be considered in private on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 31 Law Enforcement and Section 43 Commercial Interest.

Items for Decision

10. **Insurance Briefing**

Mr Woods provided an overview, Cheshire are part of the Northern Forces Consortium for insurance, which has recently been renewed. A tender process is due to commence in June 2019 for new insurance providers from April 2020. A

copy of the briefing has been forwarded to the PCC. Mr Woods recommended that the briefing is considered against increasing the budget / liability and included in future PBB processes, due to the premium increasing year on year. Ms Bebbington said that the actuarial review had provided three options to consider.

Items for Information

11. Performance Update from Collaborations

- ROCU – A/ACC Burton provided an overview on staffing, budget and operational business.
- Community Bases - See briefing.

12. Exception Reporting

- MFSS – no update.
- Bluelight – no update.

13. Joint Management Board Decisions –1 May 2019 – meeting cancelled. The Joint Strategic Risk Register will go forward to the 5 June 2019 Joint Management Board.

14. Any Other Business

Vehicle Telematics update - following on from 19 March 2019, COG Decision 214/2019– to implement and procure a Vehicle telematics solution. The Constabulary now wish to proceed with the route to market being a Direct Award based on the National Framework Agreement for Vehicle Telematics System - Framework Ref 1609-2017.

CC Martland gave an overview and purpose of Vehicle telematics, which is a more appropriate way to management the fleet and should provide significant savings and officer safety.

DECISION COG/D/013/2019 – The report will go forward to Joint Management Board, 5 June 2019 for a decision by the Commissioner to proceed.

Recommendation:

That approval be given to proceed with the commissioning of the vehicle telematics solution from a provider and through a route to market which are identified in Part 2 of the paper

CC Martland expressed his thanks to all Ellesmere Port LPU staff for their contributions and presentations. Chief Inspector McMillan said that it had been very useful for LPU staff and also put names to faces. Ms Lavery said she had found it helpful. Insp.Fegan said it was very useful to help understand the decisions that are taken.

Meeting finished at 15.50 hrs