



CHIEF OFFICER GROUP MINUTES

17 September 2019
Macclesfield LPU, Briefing room

Attendance:

Mr D Martland
Ms J Cooke
Mr M Welsted
Mr D Bryan
Mr P Woods
Mrs N Bailey
Ms D Worth

Chief Constable Chair
Deputy Chief Constable
T/Assistant Chief Constable
Head of Legal Services
Head of Planning and Performance
Head of Human Resources
Chief Superintendent Public Protection
Department
T/Chief Superintendent Crime
T/Chief Superintendent Local Policing

Mr A Duggan
Mr B Dutton

Observers

Mr B Dutton
Mr A Condon
Ms J Moorcroft
Officers and Staff from Macclesfield
LPU

Superintendent Association
Federation Secretary
Unison Secretary

Apologies

Ms J Gill
Mr M Burton
Ms W Bebbington
Ms L Marsh
Mr S Roscoe

Assistant Chief Officer
T/Assistant Chief Constable
Head of Finance
Head of Corporate Communications
Head of Strategic Change

1. Minutes and action updates (Part two)

The minutes of the last meeting held on 20 August 2019 were agreed as a true record without amendment. The actions were updated.

2. Chief Constable update

CC Martland explained the purpose of COG and how decisions are taken, to officers and staff from Macclesfield LPU. He explained that part two reports are confidential and not to be discussed outside of COG.

A discussion followed about electronic pocket note books, following an update to the outstanding action.

The Chief Constable said that operational business had been very busy especially in July, up by 14% on last year and he thanked officer and staff responses. He mentioned the extra 20,000 officers and national programme. Mrs Bailey said that the impact and number of officers for Cheshire is unknown at this time, but HR are linked into the national recruitment programme. HR are reviewing if they can recruit an additional 30 officers this financial year.

DCC Cooke said that the neighbourhood policing model is being reviewed to understand if the right people are in the right place and consider if jobs can be done with softer borders, which could free up capacity to deal with high demand jobs. CC Martland said this is a challenge as the public want to see officers on the street. T/ACC Welsted provided an update on the multi-agency response to Brexit, the expected requests for mutual aid and restrictions placed on leave for the week before and after 31 October 2019.

3. Finance

Mr Woods provided an update on behalf of the Head of Finance. At the first quarter budget review the underspend was £1m due to police officer pay. It has since reduced to £600k and the PCC is expected to spend the POCA income of £100k. There are two areas of concern, the FCC - additional funding will be built into the budget for 2020-21 to cover the recruitment model and the second is in respect of the additional 20k officers, as it is not known how funding will be applied and if the on-costs, uniform, training etc. will be funded.

There are also a number of assumptions that require clarification, including the amount by which the Commissioner can raise the local council tax. In the past the PCC has been able to raise the precept by £5, £12 and £24, but the indications are that the 2% cap on council tax increases will return.

DCC Cooke said that Cheshire will increase officer numbers but may still have to make savings elsewhere.

T/ACC Welsted spoke about the overtime budget, which is overspent by £110k due to establishment changes, for example to create the Rural Crime team, officers have been taken out of neighbourhood policing. Overtime has been paid to support this and is monitored at the Resource Board.

Other Business

Items for Decision

4. Section 22A Collaboration Agreement Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (Part 1 & 2)

Mr Bryan explained that Forces are currently in a national collaboration agreement, which allows Chief Constable's to authorise tactics in Cheshire and other applications outside of Cheshire. The current national agreement is being updated following changes to the Investigatory Powers Act 2016. The report and agreement

will then go to Joint Management Board, as it requires the approval of the PCC. C/Supt. Dutton said that it is essential the agreement is signed, otherwise the Constabulary will be the only force not covered by the agreement. The agreement is at no cost to the Force

DECISION COG/D/034/2019 Mr Martland approved the Section 22A Collaboration Agreement for IPA, to go forward to Joint management Board, 2 October 2019 for approval by the PCC.

5. **Cheshire Fire & Rescue and Police Joint Facility at Crewe**

CC Martland explained the part one and part two reports and said he trusted that everyone would keep the part two information confidential. He advised that the Constabulary had commissioned a Feasibility study of the proposed site at Crewe, for a joint facility with Cheshire Fire & Rescue. It has shown that there is a significant barrier to the proposed facility and costs have increased significantly from the original costings. Therefore due to the significant increased cost and also because of limited parking, local to the proposed site, it is with regret that the project will be terminated with Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service.

DECISION COG/D/035/2019 – Mr Martland agreed that the project for a proposed joint facility with Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service at Crewe will not proceed. The report will go to an Extraordinary Joint Management Board, 18 September 2019 for a decision by the PCC.

A report will be commissioned to look at future options for Crewe Police Station in due course.

6. **Estates Dedicated Support Project Team**

CC Martland said that the Commissioner's real focus is to have a fit for purpose estate and that some of the estate requires improvement. This is a considerable amount of work which will require a dedicated police estates team to complete. A discussion followed about recruitment, qualifications, costs and savings. Mr Martland advised that the underspend could be used to finance the new team. It will cost approximately £200k per annum for two years and will be recruited immediately.

DECISION COG/D/036/2019 Mr Martland approved the recommendations, to go forward to Joint Management Board, 2 October 2019 for approval by the PCC. Subject to clarification that the recruitment will be on a 2 year fixed term contract.

7. **Warrington LPU Estates Proposal**

Mr Martland spoke about the proposal and that the building in Warrington is not fit for purpose in the long term. The PCC and CC wish officers to work in local communities and options have been explored. A discussion followed.

DECISION COG/D/037/2019 Mr Martland approved the preferred Option 4 recommendation, which will go forward to Joint Management Board, 2 October for approval by the PCC.

CC Martland asked that this item and discussion are kept confidential, as no decision has taken place and further work is required.

8. Runcorn LPU Estates Proposal

Mr Martland spoke about the proposal, background and offer of alternative accommodation which would need refurbishment. The proposal would be an operational benefit, not a saving. A discussion followed about the proposal.

DECISION COG/D/038/2019 Runcorn LPU Estates Proposal - Mr Martland agreed Option 3 and recommendations 1, 2 and 3. To go forward to Joint Management Board, 2 October 2019 for approval by the PCC.

- 9. Occupational Health Provision** – updated report dated 17 September 2019 recommendations following COG Decision No 211/2019 dated 19/03/2019 - Recommendation that the Chief Constable be authorised to commence a competitive tender process, with a view to appointing a provider for occupational health services from 1st December 2019 and COG Decision No 030/2019 dated 20/08/2019 - four recommendations were approved to go forward to Joint Management Board on 4 September 2019.

Mrs Bailey provided an overview of the report and work that had been carried out. HR have looked at an in house option or part in house and part external and consulted with the Federation and Unison and spoken to officers. Mrs Bailey advised that the report is asking for a 12 month contract extension of the current occupational health provider and also for the next 12 months have asked for an increased provision for counselling and a preventative programme at an increased cost. A discussion followed about services and what the Constabulary has considered for future provision.

Mr Martland summarised the recommendations, and stated that the Constabulary needs to understand future requirements from these recommendations and cost out for future provision.

DECISION COG/D/039/2019 Mr Martland approved the 4 recommendations to go to Extraordinary Joint Management Board, 18 September 2019 for approval by the PCC.

10. **Ethical Procurement Strategy and Social Value Policy**

Mr Martland advised that the PCC has asked the Constabulary to produce an Ethical Procurement Strategy and Social Value Policy, which has had overview by the OPCC.

DECISION COG/D/040/2019 Mr Martland agreed the Ethical Procurement Strategy and Social Value Policy to go to Joint Management Board, 2 October 2019 for approval by the PCC.

Items for Discussion

11. None

Items for Information

12. None

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 Information

13. **Performance Update from Collaborations**

- None Due

14. **Exception Reporting**

- No updates due

15. **Joint Management Board Decisions –4 September 2019**

- Financial Position First Quarter Review Recommendations agreed subject to a change to paragraph 22 in respect of Taser training. NOTE: Recommendation 2 is now to release up to £54k from the earmarked reserve from the Armed Alliance to be allocated for Taser training rather than Neighbourhood Policing.
- Joint Strategic Risk Register approved
- Salary Sacrifice Cycle to Work Scheme agreed. NOTE: Revised recommendation to close the Tech Save Scheme was approved by the Commissioner.

16. **Any Other Business**

Firearms Contract with Metropolitan Police

T/ACC Welsted spoke about the contract Cheshire Constabulary has with the Metropolitan Police. Mr Bryan provided legal advice on the notice period of the current contract and that a report could be brought to COG next month.

DECISION COG/D/041/2019 Mr Martland agreed to give 6 month notice to end the current Firearms contract with the Metropolitan

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Police, subject to understanding the risk, threat and harm to the MET if the contract is ended.

Mr Martland asked for officers' feedback from the visit and COG meeting and any other issues they wish to raise. He asked for confidentiality of the reports and discussions at COG today.

Mr Martland expressed his thanks to C/Insp Taylor and office and staff for accommodating Chief Officers and for the interesting presentations.

Meeting finished at 16.10 hrs