



CHIEF OFFICER GROUP MINUTES

15 October 2019
Conference Room 8, HQ

Attendance:

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

Mr A Duggan
Mr B Dutton
Mr J Betts
Ms J Marshall-Bell

Chief Constable (Chair)
Assistant Chief Officer
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
Superintendent Force Control Centre
Superintendent Roads Policing

Observers

Mr B Dutton
Mr T Condon
Ms J Moorcroft
Officers and Staff from
Headquarters
Ms H Rowland
Mr D Wollaston
Mr R Gibson
Ms S Carr

Superintendent Association
Federation Representative
Unison Secretary

Apologies:

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

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

1. Minutes and action updates (Part two)

The minutes of the last meeting held on 17 September 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 that decisions are taken at COG within the Scheme of Financial Delegation. Other decisions go to Joint Management Board for approval by the PCC.

CC Martland provided the following updates. At an Extraordinary Joint Management Board, 18 September 2019, the PCC approved a recommendation not to proceed with the proposed joint Fire and Police base facility at Crewe. The Estates Dedicated Support Team and Warrington LPU reports were due at the 9 October 2019, Joint Management Board, but were withdrawn by the PCC. CC Martland said he has been requested by the PCC to produce an Estates Strategy, which will go to Joint Management Board followed by revised reports on the Warrington and Runcorn Estates.

Occupational Health Unit – the recommendations were approved by the PCC at an Extraordinary Joint Management Board, 18 September 2019.

The Ethical Procurement Strategy and Social Value Policy were approved by the PCC at Joint Management Board, 9 October 2019.

T/ACC Welsted provided an update on the MET Firearms Contract.

COG ACTION/A/012/2019 T/ACC Welsted –An update on the MET Firearms Contract to come to November COG, due to the current contract notice period and fixed term contract implications.

CC Martland provided updates on the below.

- 'Futures' project, which is led by Supt. Lee, is reviewing the operational structure.
- National officer uplift, Cheshire's, initial allocation is 90. Also an additional 30 officers have been recruited over and above recruitment levels for 2019-20, they are due to commence January 2020. This will impact on training, equipment and vehicles.

CC Martland thanked HR, the Federation and Unison for their work on wellbeing and the OHU contract.

CC Martland asked for an update on work for Brexit. T/ACC Welsted said that plans are in place, a pan Cheshire risk assessment has taken place, and restrictions are in place for leave around 31 October 2019. More will be known after 19 October 2019.

T/ACC Welsted updated members on Mutual Aid - officers are supporting the MET re Extinction Rebellion protests. There is also planned Mutual Aid to support Brexit. At this stage there are no plans to support further requests due to resourcing the Constabulary. CC Martland explained that Mutual Aid is at cost recovery.

3. Finance

Mr Faulkner said the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy and draft Reserves Strategy has been produced, but will change between now and December 2019. Once finalised it will go to Joint Management Board for approval. The unknowns are the amount of settlement grant due from the Government, the amount the PCC can increase the precept and future funding for the additional officers.

Mr Faulkner said PBB is addressing the budget gap for 2020-21. He would bring the forecast outturn position to November COG, which has predicted a reduced underspend of £150k.

CC Martland asked that information from this meeting is not circulated.

Other Business

Items for Decision

4. HADECS Enforcement Options

T/ACC Welsted provided an overview of the HADECS Enforcement options. The main purpose for enforcement is to change drivers' attitudes and the Force aspiration is that drivers comply with road regulations and money from enforcement is invested back into road safety.

Supt. Marshall-Bell explained HADECS, which is an automated system that senses congestion and sets speed limits. She spoke further about the impacts, demand monitoring, number of cameras, potential significant increases on back office processes and resources, demand may exceed courts hours, driver behaviour and national speed limit.

A discussion followed about demand analysis and options.

5. Designated Power, Policing Support Officers

Mr Martland advised members that he had withdrawn this report and it will come to COG next month.

6. MCD Budget Expenditure request for Contingency Funds

Mr Martland said the report had been discussed at morning briefing. The request for contingency funds, is due to unexpected homicide demand. T/Chief Supt.

Duggan said the report tracks the decisions taken following requests for contingency funds. The Head of HR asked the meeting to disregard recommendations 3 and the comments at paragraph 10 in the report. T/Chief Supt. Duggan provided an overview of the operations and resourcing implications at the request of CC Martland.

Mr Faulkner confirmed that there will be no operational and general contingency fund left following this request. Mr Woods raised this as a risk, especially if funds are required for Brexit, from the contingency.

DECISION COG/D/042/2019 Mr Martland agreed recommendations 1, 2 and 4. Recommendation 3 was disregarded. Recommendation 5 will be taken to PBB 2020/21.

Chief Officer Group agrees the additional budget required in support of these major investigations from the Contingency Fund for the current financial year 2019-20 and additional funding requirements for 2020/21.

- 1. Op Musketry - £84.5K in 2019/20**
- 2. Op Hummingbird - £157,718 in 2019/20**
- 4. Chief Officer Group approves an additional £90.5K in 2019/20 in respect of the 3 homicides over the summer including Op Keynotes and,**
- 5. Chief Officers to note the continued operational need for the increased temporary staffing to continue into 2020/21 at an estimated cost of £66,000 for Op Musketry and £97,300 for recommendation 2 above Op Hummingbird.**

Mr Bryan advised that recommendation 5 is about an increase to the staff establishment. The Scheme of Financial Delegation permits in year variations which the Chief of Staff can agree. Recommendation 5 notes the operational need to be rolled into next year and COG does not have the authority to agree for next year. A discussion followed about the impact on resources, as the budget for next year is not agreed until the end January 2020. It was agreed to include recommendation 5 in PBB. The Federation and Unison spoke about the present need for additional resources and impact on officers. T/Chief Supt. Dutton spoke about the resource impact to LPUs. CC Martland said that the Force can't sustain this level of resource and gave a strong caveat not to request further funds.

ACTION COG/A/013/2019 T/ACC Burton to review with HR the resource options for detectives going forward.

Mr Martland asked T/Chief Supt. Duggan to pass on his thanks to officers and staff.

- 7. CC Scheme of Financial Delegation – annual refresh**
The Scheme of Financial Delegation is due at COG in November following the annual refresh.
- 8. Organisational Strategies – People, IT, Fleet, Asset Management Estates**
The Organisational strategies for Estates and Procurement are now due at November COG with the remainder to December COG.
- 9. Joint Strategic Risk Register**
Mr Woods explained the purpose of the joint Strategic Risk Register, which then goes forward to Joint Management Board for agreement by the PCC and to Audit Advisory Committee. The joint Strategic Risk Register reflects the current risks and the report is asking for a risk to be deescalated together with the reason.

Items for Discussion

10. None

Items for Information

11. Alliance Policing report deferred to 19 November 2019

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 Part two

12. **HADECS Enforcement Options**

A number of discussions followed about enforcement options, Ethic Advisory Panel advice and how the Force could accommodate an increase in offenses. It was highlighted that HADECS cameras for the Highways Agency are about keeping the motorways working, by managing congestion. T/Chief Supt. Dutton expressed concern about diminishing returns and that caution should be taken, as he thinks in three years the country could potentially have cars that are programmed to not speed. Mr Bryan said there is a governmental discussion to increase the speed limit to 80mph.

ACTION/A/014/2019 - A trial to take place and report to come back to COG.

13. **Joint Strategic Risk Register**

Mr Woods spoke about a risk that has been included on the Risk Register for a number of years, which is a financial risk and delay of timeliness. As the risk relates to a national project and has been delayed, the Constabulary is recommending that the risk is deescalated.

DECISION COG/D/043/2019 Mr Martland agree the recommendation and for the report to go to Joint Management Board 6 November 2019 followed by Audit Advisory Committee, 27 November 2019.

Items for Discussion

14. None

Items for Information

15. **Performance Update from Collaborations**

- Alliance Policing - report deferred to 19 November 2019.

16. **Exception Reporting**

- No updates due

17. **Joint Management Board Decisions –2 now 9 October 2019**

- Ethical Procurement Strategy and Social Value Policy – Approved

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- Section 22 A Collaboration Agreement Investigatory Powers Act – Approved

The following reports were not included at the 9 October 2019 Joint Management Board, Warrington Estate and Estates Dedicated Support Team.

18. **Any Other Business**
None

Meeting finished at 15.10hrs