

DERBYSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES OF DERBYSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

PCC BUDGET TASK AND FINISH GROUP UPDATE REPORT

14 July 2016

1. Purpose of Report

To update the Panel of the task and finish group's work in challenging and supporting the PCC's budget and financial performance.

2. Information and Analysis

The Panel agreed at its pre-meeting on 28 January 2016 to establish a working group to look in more detail at the PCC's in year and longer term budgets. It was agreed that the Group be made up of Councillors Ellis, Murray, Robinson and Claff. Subsequently Councillor Robinson had to withdraw from the working group.

The working group held its second meeting on 2 June 2016. The meeting notes can be found in appendix one.

Members of the working group met with the Chief Executive and Treasurer from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The objective of the meeting was to clarify what will be of value to monitor in terms of the PCC's budget, given the Panel's remit.

In order to better understand the financial context of decisions made and the PCC and the role of the Panel in considering the pre-cept, the working group can be in a position to provide the Panel with concise and relevant analysis.

The working group Members will take in information regarding the budget and feedback their analysis to the Panel on a quarterly basis. This will help inform all Members of the financial context of the PCC and his decisions.

To facilitate this, the OPCC have offered to quarterly meetings with the working group Members to exchange information and knowledge. The dates have been agreed and the Panel will be updated as and when relevant.

3. Other considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health and transport considerations.

4. Background papers

Files held by the Improvement and Scrutiny Officer.

5. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel note;

1. the working group's progress in relation to budget monitoring
2. that the working group will provide further information and analysis at future Panel meetings.

John McElvaney

Director of Legal Services

Derbyshire County Council

Police and Crime Panel Working Group – OPCC Budget

Meeting Notes 02/06/2016

Present:

- Cllr's Claff, Ellis and Murray
- David Peet (Chief Executive, OPCC)
- Helen Boffy (Treasurer, OPCC)
- David Rose (Improvement and Scrutiny Officer)

Introduction

The working group met the Chief Executive and Treasurer from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The objective of the meeting was to clarify what will be of value to monitor in terms of the PCC's budget, given the Panel's remit.

This included:

- Better understand the financial processes that the Police and the OPCC operate under.
- Understand what potential service impacts there are as a result of financial decision being made. This includes how it impacts on each Police and Crime Plan objective.
- How to add value to the Panel Members in terms of budget monitoring knowledge/information in mind of their remit of challenge and support of the PCC.

The following points were noted:

Budget setting/monitoring:

- There is monthly budget monitoring by the OPCC.
- There is also quarterly reporting to the Strategic Governance Board, the papers of which all Panel Members receive.

- The current Police and Crime Plan is being reviewed as part of the new PCC's 100 days in office.
- There is no budget line against each Police and Crime Plan objective, as they are strategic aims.
- The appendix sheets to the pre-cept report in January each year contains useful financial information. This shows the Revenue Budget Projections to 2019/20 as at 2016/17 by different scenarios.
- There is also a Risk and Threat Seminar held (now every 3 years) where relevant partner agencies meet. Members were invited to attend the seminar.

Potential working group areas to develop:

- The Panel should operate their support and challenge role as part of assessing the decisions made by the PCC and on what financial basis.
- The Police and Crime Panel objectives are important to consider in this case. The Plan is reviewed each year.
- In order to better understand the financial context of decisions made and the PCC and the role of the Panel in accepting the pre-cept, the working group can be in a position to provide the Panel with concise and relevant analysis.
- The working group Members will take in information regarding the budget and feedback their analysis to the Panel on a quarterly basis. This will help inform all Members of the financial context of the PCC and his decisions.
- To facilitate this, the OPCC have offered to quarterly meetings with the working group Members to exchange information and knowledge.
- Financial training will also be considered for Members who wish for it.
- It is hoped that through the exchange of information and knowledge, the working group Members will be upskilled in the area of budget monitoring/financial information and be able to pass on this to the Panel Members.
- This will always be in the context of the Panel's remit to support and challenge the PCC.

Action

- **Invite working group Members to the Risk and Threat Seminar.**
- **Set up quarterly budget monitoring meeting dates with the OPCC.**

- **Update and inform the Panel on the budget context and developments.**