

General Meeting Minutes

16 March 2016

Welcome

1. The Chair APCC welcomed all PCCs and the Minutes from the General Meeting 20th January 2016 were agreed.

Corporate Update and APCC Business Plan and Budget

Business Plan and Budget 2016/17

2. OS presented the APCC Business Plan and Budget for 2016/17. It was noted that the plan builds on the 2015/16 Plan, however it would need to be flexible in order to accommodate the needs of incoming PCCs from May 2016 onwards. This means it is likely further revisions will be required later on in the year.
3. Two comments were made around whether the plan demonstrates enough cost / benefit analysis and mentions of Victims. A comment was also made that the APCC has a possible weakness in terms of a Chair being able to speak on behalf of all PCCs.

Agreed – The APCC Business Plan and Budget for 2016/17 was agreed by all members.

Money remaining from the ACPO / NPCC Transition

4. OS reminded Members that in 2014 all PCCs contributed approximately £600,000 in total (£14000 each) to fund the project overseeing the transition from ACPO to the NPCC.
5. This money was stored in the APCC Bank account and its use and expenditure was authorised and controlled by the ACPO Transition Board.
6. Over the course of the transition project, this money was used for:
 - Legal fees and staffing of the project.
 - Rent for 10 Victoria Street during the transition period.
 - Recruitment of the Chair and Non-Executive Directors.
7. The APCC is now in a position where we awaiting for a final invoice associated with some legal fees and expect there to be approximately £100,000 to be left over.
8. OS asked members what they would like to happen to the remainder of the money – approximately £100,000 (which belongs collectively to PCCs). Three options were presented:
 - a) Returned to PCCs Pro-rata
 - b) Retained as 'contingency' in the 2016/17 APCC Budget; and/or
 - c) Used for some other purpose – to be decided by the Board (for example for the Police Reform Programme and/or induction seminars for new PCCs etc.
9. A comment was expressed by a member from the floor that the money should be incorporated into the APCC's 'contingency' budget for use as and when determined by the APCC Board. This view was overwhelmingly supported by all PCCs.

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Agreed – The remainder of the ACPO Transition fund (Approximately £100,000) should be incorporated into the APCC's 'contingency' budget for use as and when determined by the APCC Board.

Chief Executive Recruitment

The Chair gave a short update on the Chief Executive recruitment.

PRRT Board Update

Policing Vision 2020

10. Cat McIntyre (CM) outlined the proposal for consultation on the Policing Vision 2020. In summary existing PCCs could input to the Vision based on their experience to date. This consultation had started on 03.03.16 and would close on the 25.03.16. Any key issues raised following the first part of the consultation would be used to amend the Vision/help redraw the document, and it will then be issued as an 'Interim Vision', which will set out the foundations of the Police Reform work on an interim basis.
11. A second consultation will be undertaken with incoming PCCs after May this year – this will be critical to shaping the direction of policing for their whole time in office, so it is important they have an opportunity to influence the document before it is finalised. The consultation will close around the end of June 2016 (date to be agreed), so that a final Vision document can be put in place shortly thereafter.
12. The following comments were made:
 - Most thought the document was going in the right direction, but there were a number of thoughts on the detail that would be fed back into the consultation process.
 - The Vision 2020 is very important, and PCCs need to engage from the outset as it will be used to underpin work being done between the APCC and NPCC over the next few years throughout the period of the Police Reform work.
 - Concerned was raised that the document seems to be owned by NPCC and it was important that this is seen as a joint venture by APCC & NPCC.
 - A view was expressed that the Vision is a metro-centered and it needs a more country-wide view.
 - A concern was raised around the possibility that Specialist Capabilities could be regional and funded from transformation fund without PCCs oversight.
 - It was noted that the APCC would need to look at the Standing Group structure in light of the PRT Board work. It was also noted that it is not very long until 2020 and we need to start thinking about period post 2020 soon.
 - Concern was raised that the document fails to bring out the 'why' of policing, the cultural issues, governance, public expectation as well as dealing with Mayors, doesn't deal with public expectation. It confuses local and neighbourhood.
 - A number of comments were made around the strengthening of the Governance section:

Agreed – The multi-stage consultation process was ratified.

Membership of Groups

13. PCCs were only nominated onto the following Boards:

- **Specialist Capabilities Board:**

- ✓ Chris Salmon
- ✓ Jane Kennedy

Rebecca Lawrence: MOPAC is happy to represent at officer level.

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- **Digital Policing Board** - Because of the complexity of the Digital Policing strand and the links to the wider CJS and the elements of public contact - PCCs decided that they would want to strongly argue for 3 PCC representatives on this board:
 - ✓ Katy Bourne
 - ✓ Martyn Underhill
 - ✓ Mark Burns-Williamson
- **Specialist Capabilities Governance Working Group:**
 - ✓ Padding Tipping
 - ✓ Kevin Hurley
 - ✓ Matthew Grove.

It was also felt that it might be helpful to involve a PCC or equivalent official to support them – possibly a representative from MOPAC.

- **Home Office Infrastructure Policing Challenge Group**
 - ✓ Ron Hogg

14. The following additional points were also made:

- PCCs on this board need to make a deliberate effort to communicate notes from the meetings to colleagues.
- If someone can't attend, can they nominate someone to vote in their place. This needs to be written into the Terms of Reference (if it has not already been done).

Concerns about transparency/governance of funding re Specialist Capabilities Project Lead

15. PCCs expressed concerns about the transparency of process in relation to the appointment of the project lead for the Specialist Capabilities programme. PCCs were aware that this issue was discussed briefly at the Police Reform and Transformation Board and through the Mary Calam correspondence. However, some concerns have emerged about this matter.

Agreed – Chair APCC to raise the matters with the Chair NPCC and agree on 'steps' to avoid a similar situation from happening again.

Standing Group Update

16. A General Point was raised concerning interim succession arrangements leadership of Standing Groups post-election. It was agreed that each Group would consider these arrangements bearing in mind that that formal membership will need to be fully reviewed post-election.

Agreed – Standing Groups to agree their own interim 'chairing' arrangements post-election.

Joining Up Criminal Justice System (CJS)

17. Work was continuing on CJS devolution and the group has continued to engage with Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the Home Office (HO) on this.

18. The National Criminal Justice Board had considered a paper on CJS Devolution at its meeting on 9th March and agreed to the proposal from MOJ and the HO to take this work forward.

19. The Group would continue to work with MOJ and the HO and APCC would ensure that PCCs were represented on any governance structures to take forward the detailed work on extending the role of PCCs in the CJS.

Performance

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20. The Chair stressed the need for all PCCs to their Chief Officer PDRs as well as stressed the risks involved in not doing them. The Chair also raised a matter with respect to the appointment of the Programme Manager Role on the Specialist Capabilities Sub Group – this discussion is reflected in the previous item.

Supporting Victims and Reducing Harm

21. Details of the Victims Grant Settlement for 2016-17 for each PCC area had been received from MOJ on 22nd January and been communicated to all PCCs.
22. The Government are now looking at options for devolving further commissioning to PCCs. Central to this is the court based Witness Service, but MOJ are looking for assurances that all PCCs would welcome this. Standing Group will be consulting PCC offices on this.

Strategic Policing

23. The Standing Group continue to work closely with the National Crime Agency (NCA) in developing and implementing the NCA Commitment to working with Police and Crime Commissioners.
24. In relation to the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR), PCCs on the Standing Group engage with the national policing leads and key stakeholders and attend the SPR Programme Board on behalf of Commissioners.
25. PCCs are working with policing leads in relation to the development of Regional Organised Crime Units.

Transparency

26. This item was introduced by the Chair of the Transparency and Integrity Standing Group. The only key item on the Standing Group paper was to approve the Protocol between IPCC and PCCs, setting out the basis of relationships between them, following significant discussions on this item at the last General Meeting.
27. Members were satisfied that the Protocol had now been amended to cover the concerns previously raised and therefore approved the document.

Resources, Efficiency and Strategic Finance

28. The Standing Group have influenced the Home Office and Treasury on overall service funding through a robust Comprehensive Spending Review submission on behalf of PCCs.
29. The Standing Group have engaged in extensive dialogue with Home Office Ministers and Directors regarding the funding formula plans.
30. The Standing Group are involved in ongoing discourse with Communities and Local Government, the Treasury and the Home Office regarding increasing the flexibility for PCCs to set local precept.
31. The Standing Group act as strategic leads for finance by responding to Provisional Grand Settlement Consultations, providing PCCs briefings in response to government announcements and formulating press lines on behalf of the APCC.

Working in Partnership to Reduce Crime

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32. The Chair of the Standing Group, noted that PCCs would receive an update from the Home Office on the Policing and Crime Bill later on the agenda. This would give PCCs an opportunity to raise issues regarding Emergency Services Collaboration, he was particularly keen to hear the Home Office view on areas of the country that lacked co-terminosity between police and fire services.
33. The Chair of the Standing Group noted that a draft of Concordat on Children in Custody had been shared with members in the papers for the General Meeting. It was the Standing Group's intention that the APCC should be a National Partner and this motion was agreed at the meeting. Being a national partner should not be confused with being a signatory to Concordat – this would be a decision for each PCC locally.

Agreed – APCC to be a National Partner to the Concordat on Children in Custody.

34. The Chair reported that the group didn't feel adequately consulted on the Modern Crime Prevention Strategy, alcohol aside, and were considering writing to the Home Secretary voicing disapproval.

Alcohol Sub Group

35. The Alcohol Working Group had continued to engage with the Home Office on the alcohol chapter of the Modern Crime Prevention Strategy Chapter, due to launch later in March. The group was seeking a range of measures to ensure that industry plays an active role in managing harm, reforms to the late night levy and key improvements to the licensing framework. On Minimum Unit Pricing the group awaits the Scottish Court's decision which is due later this year following the conclusion of the CJEU referral. A draft best practice guide covering innovative practices to operations and education has been collated and is being reviewed by the sub-group.
36. Work with Alcohol Concern on the development of a best practice manual on identifying and treating street drinkers was well underway (this work was funded by 8 PCCs) – this work was being overseen by an expert steering group which included representatives from the Local Government Association and the Portman Group.
37. A PCC briefing session would be held for MPs and Peers on 16th March in the House of Commons – hosted by Lord Beecham. The event had been put together by Vera Baird's Office. Members of the Working Group and MPs and peers would be joined by colleagues from the Local Government Association, the Metropolitan Police and the Home Office to discuss alcohol policy issues.

Workforce

38. The Workforce standing group had met the day before and received a presentation from the College of Policing Leadership Review team. The standing group had expressed the view that all Chief Constables should have PDRs but the Leadership Review team had responded that a range of views were emerging on this issue.
39. The Chair thanked PCCs for agreeing to provide future funding of the Police Staff Council. He confirmed that the full rate for 2016/7 would be £1095 with a discounted rate of £550 for those PCCs who were not members.
40. The standing group had agreed to support a bid for PCC funding from the National Police Chaplaincy Service, a paper on this would be circulated to all PCCs shortly.
41. The Chair reported that he had recently given oral evidence to the Police Remuneration Review Body on behalf of the APCC and had reconfirmed the position of PCCs that police officers should

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receive a consolidated pay award in 2016/7. The standing group did not support a proposal from the NPCC to convert six public holidays into nine annual leave days.

Policing and Crime Bill

42. Zonia Cavanagh, the Head of the Home Office Police Reform and Strategy Unit outlined the key proposals in the Bill, followed by a short Q&A session.

Question and Answer

Q. General power of competence needs to be in Bill somewhere – anything which PCCs do which is not illegal is not ultra vires? Limits PCC ability to act.

A. Too late to go in Bill now.

Q. Can PCCs appoint their Deputies straight away? Concern that rules around convening the Confirmation Hearing for the Panel may delay the process.

A. Paragraph 8(3) of Schedule 1 of the PRSRA provides: “The terms and conditions of a person who is appointed as the deputy police and crime commissioner must provide for the appointment to end not later than the day when the current term of office of the appointing police and crime commissioner ends.”

This means that the Deputy PCC’s appointment will have terminated when the PCC’s office terminates 6 days after the poll in the next election (section 50(7) PRSRA). The newly elected PCC will therefore not have a DPCC and will have to appoint one if they want to. This includes if the newly elected PCC is the same person who was PCC prior to the election.

The process for appointment of a DPCC is set out in paragraphs 8-12 of Schedule 1 of the PRSRA.

There was a comment made that some potential candidates could make salacious rumours about sitting PCC, but there may not be a process to deal with this matter until after the election. It was stressed that there needed to be some mechanism to refer candidates prior to election, to ensure all info is available to public

A comment was made with respect to fire and police mergers, if a PCC make savings in one service, need to capitalise in both – a request was made for this be done within legislation.

AOB

There was no AOB. The Chair thanked all PCCs, and wished those well who wouldn’t be able to make it to the farewell lunch immediately following the meeting.

The meeting was closed.