

APCC General Meeting–17.10.2019



APCC General Meeting Minutes

Thursday 17 October 2019

Venue: Conference Centre,
College of Policing, Leamington Road, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Coventry CV8 3EN

Item 1: Welcome, Minutes and Chairs Update

- Katy Bourne welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked the College of Policing for hosting the event. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and an update on recent APCC business was given including joint work with the NPCC, the recent APCC Board Away Day and the Police ICT Company. Paddy Tipping thanked everyone for their good wishes on behalf of Ron Hogg, PCC for Durham, and then provided an update on the PRTB.

Item 2: Finance and Commercial Update

Spending Round and wider funding developments:

- APCC Leads Roger Hirst and Paddy Tipping provided a financial update on the current Spending Round. It was confirmed that recent announcements by the Chancellor of £750m for policing represented the full policing settlement for the next financial year.
- Reference was made to the Operation Uplift programme. The challenge and opportunity was now about recruiting the first tranche (6000 police officers) by March 2021. There followed a discussion on whether the baseline should be based on headcount or FTE establishment as this could have significant implications for many forces. There was agreement that FTE would provide a better and more reliable measure and that RH and PT should write to Ministers confirming that.
- It was confirmed that the Senior Sector Group which provides strategic oversight and direction to the Spending Review process had been suspended until the Spring. PCC Leads have written to the Home Office Crime and Policing Group Director General urging that continuity is necessary through to the restart of the SR programme in spring 2020.
- It was confirmed PACCTS had recently sent a financial survey to OPCC CFOs in relation to the MTFs, potential financial shortfalls in 20/21 and precept. APCC finance leads were now in discussion with PACCTS regarding the survey and will review survey results prior to them being shared with the Home Office.

Police Commercial Organisation: Full Business Case:

- PCC Jason Ablewhite (Chair of the National Commercial Board) provided an update on the Final Business Case for the Police Commercial Organisation and the further due diligence carried out. Once established, a PCC led Board would provide the governance, direction and oversight of PCO delivery. It was recognised that the Home Office had made clear that the policing funding settlement was dependent on our taking the PCO forward for the next 3 years, making it important that we proceed. There followed a discussion on the proposal. PCCs then agreed to proceed with implementation of the PCO but stressed the need to review and evaluate its effectiveness and benefits which would inform decisions on its continuation beyond the initial 3 years. The need to be clear with the Home Office on issues of concern identified by PCCs was also stressed.

National Management Centre:

- PCC Paddy Tipping spoke to the paper on the National Management Centre (NMC) and explained that it would provide 24/7 capability to detect, protect, monitor and respond to cyber threats. More than 10 forces were now onboarded and over 20 would be by the end of 2019/2020. Novation of the contracts, which included the NMC, would take place between the Corporation of London and the Police ICT Company later this year. We are waiting to hear back on whether PTF funding will be available for the NMC for 2020/2021. If not, we will need to come back to PCCs in January to discuss issues of accepting ongoing liability and the basis on which funding is determined.

Key actions were:

- The APCC Finance Leads will write to the Policing Minister to confirm the importance of using FTE establishment (rather than headcount) in relation to the baseline for the recruitment of the 20,000.

- There was agreement that we should proceed with implementation of the PCO and that we should write to the Home Office confirming this and also setting out key areas of concern. The importance of a full evaluation of effectiveness and VFM was stressed.
- There was not common agreement on the basis on which NMC costs should be apportioned. If central PTF funding was available for 2020/2021 then this issue could be postponed until later in 2020, however, if not then there would need to be a further discussion on apportionment with the Police ICT Company at the January General Meeting.

Item 3: HMICFRS Presentation by Sir Tom Winsor

- APCC Deputy Lead Keith Hunter welcomed Sir Tom Windsor to the meeting. Sir Tom reported that he had published his sixth State of the Policing Report this year which had been well received. Its key messages were that investment in prevention services and police technology were critical. The investment in 20,000 new police officers was very welcome. Another key message was that the criminal justice system was not working effectively, was dysfunctional in many of its operations and needed radical change.
- The Home Office establishment of the National Policing Body shows that they will 'lean in' and are more interested in police performance. HMICFRS had also continued to develop their 'Police Performance Oversight Group' as a forum to support forces that are not performing well and help them improve. Sir Tom has also been encouraged with Force Management Statements and how this quality information is being used positively by PCCs.
- PCC comments highlighted a need for more joint inspections and in particular a strong cross-inspectorate approach to drawing out the effectiveness of the whole CJS. There was wide support across PCCs for a stronger focus on cross CJS improvements. There was also comment on the HMICFRS inspections of fire and rescue services. Sir Tom is writing an Annual Report on the State of the Fire Service to be published at the end of the year. Sir Tom also said he would shortly consult on his draft network code and was keen that all PCCs comment and feedback with suggestions once it is released. In response to a specific question and comment, Sir Tom asked PCCs to write to him if they felt there were cases of sensationalism in reporting by HMICFRS that needed to be looked at.

Item 4: The new Probation Service Model

- APCC Lead David Lloyd introduced Jim Barton, Senior Responsible Officer for Probation at the MOJ to the meeting. DL noted that PCCs had good local opportunities to join up the CJS and acknowledged JB's support for the PCC role. JB confirmed that the MOJ was committed to engaging with the APCC and PCCs. JB noted in particular that the decision in May not to run Transforming Rehabilitation 2 (TR2) had been due to the responses of a range of stakeholders including PCCs who did not have confidence in the existing model of Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs), along with critical reports from key agencies like the NAO and HMIP.
- JB reported that the current administration is firmly behind the approach of taking offender management back into a National Probation Service as it was recognised that a credible probation service is the key to controlling the prison population. Under the new model, all offender management will be delivered in house by the NPS while interventions to change lives will be purchased through probation delivery partners in the 11 new regions plus Wales. No police area would be in more than one of these 11 regions.
- NPS Regional Directors will provide effective oversight of their contractor and the expectation is that the tendering process for delivery partners will begin in November. The MOJ is starting the process of appointing Regional Directors with the expectation these will be in post by Christmas this year. A PCC representative from each region will sit on each of the recruitment panels where a new Director is being appointed. The Regional Director would be accountable to the Head of the Probation Service, and through them to the relevant Director General, but would also have a clear responsibility to work with the CJS in the regions and engage with the appropriate local partnerships. The move from 6 to 11 regions will happen incrementally from April 2020. The plan is to appoint the contracted providers by around November 2020, with CRCs winding up around June 2021. These organisations will then be mapped to get them accredited and on the framework, which will support PCCs and others on commissioning decisions. There will also be a 'dynamic procurement framework' to identify specialist organisations that work with a particular cohort of offenders on a particular issue or in a specific local area.

- The MOJ is also making a strong case to HMT for a Regional Outcome Fund to ring fence £20 million a year which will be distributed locally to invest in innovative services that address causes of offending. Regional Directors will manage this funding with a requirement that they consult with PCCs about their investment plans. PCCs continue to make the case for this fund to sit with them but the MOJ is minded for it to sit with their Regional Directors, although they must consult with PCCs on the use of the fund.
- APCC Deputy Lead for CJS Sue Mounstevens then spoke about the probation changes and said that PCCs should get to know their new Regional Directors and be proactive in influencing the transition to the new model. SM noted that in the South West they had successfully engaged a wide range of partners in the Regional Reducing Reoffending Board and it would be important to build on this progress (given others had similar structures in their local areas). On probation officer staffing and recruitment, SM sought clarity on how many probation officers would be needed for the launch, where the vacancies were and how these gaps would be addressed.
- Other PCCs made a case for further developing their role in the new probation service model, particularly with respect to the Regional Outcome Fund, given their experience in commissioning innovative services. JB said that the role of PCCs would be recognised through duties to involve and consult. JB also acknowledged the need to improve data sharing and evidence base quality. PCCs stressed the importance of robust data and performance information being shared with them by NPS.

Item 5: Preparations for Brexit

- DAC Richard Martin at the NPCC provided information on Brexit Contingency Planning in relation to EU tools and the support, advice and guidance the International Crime Coordination Centre can provide centrally and regionally on any international policing matter.
- There was a discussion on the importance of PCCs/OPCCs linking into their force readiness assessments and also local resilience boards.
- CC Charlie Hall also provided information on governance, strategic threat, risk assessment and business continuity on EU Exit Planning to PCCs. PCCs were reminded that there is an ICCC visit available on October 23rd but in addition to this PCCs could contact the ICCC to arrange a visit at anytime.

Key actions were:

- The NPCC can circulate force readiness assessments via the APCC to any individual PCCs who want them.

Item 6: Informal Update on Hate Crime

- APCC Lead David Munro reported that there had been an increased reporting of hate crime as more people felt able to come forward to report incidents, which was seen as a positive development and also linked to Hate Crime Awareness Week. However there were worrying trends in terms of increased targeting of various groups including Muslims and LGBT.

Key actions were:

- The APCC will provide an updated briefing with the NPCC on the steps that PCCs can take in holding their Chief Constables to account on this important issue in the next fortnight.

Item 7: Police Complaints Reform Implementation

- APCC Lead Julia Mulligan confirmed the key features of the Police Complaints Reform legislation that PCCs would need to implement/be aware of on February 1st 2020 and reminded them to let the APCC know which model they would be adopting if they had not done so already.

Item 8: AOB

- JM raised the importance of the review of rape that is occurring through the Law Commission.
- JM informed Board Members of the new Serious and Organised Waste Crime Unit that has been set up which includes representatives from the Environment Agency, HMRC and the police.
- PCCs were reminded of the written Portfolio updates and APCC Business Plan Progress Against Deliverables updates in their meeting papers.
- KB commented on the new style GM meeting (lunchtime to lunchtime) and the fact feedback on the format had been positive.
- On behalf of the meeting, JM thanked KB for all her hard work and commitment as the outgoing Chair of the Police ICT Company.