

APCC Annual General Meeting Minutes: Wednesday July 15th 2020:

Item 1: Corporate Matters:

- As a retiring member of the APCC Board, Julia Mulligan (JM) chaired the first part of the AGM and welcomed PCCs to the meeting. Following proposing and seconding, Members elected the new Board members who in turn elected a new APCC Chair and 2 Vice Chairs, who are listed at the end of this section. JM thanked the outgoing Chair, Katy Bourne (KB), Board Members and APCC staff for all their hard work over the last year.
- As newly elected APCC Chair, Paddy Tipping (PT) took over the AGM business. PT proposed that Members agreed the Annual Accounts, appointment of a new Auditor and their fee, which had all been approved by the APCC Board the previous day.
- PT then thanked KB for chairing the APCC in the last year. KB thanked colleagues for their support in a year which had included a General Election and an infrastructure boosting budget as well as challenges around policing Covid-19, all of which had raised the profile of PCCs. KB felt key areas for PCCs for the future included harnessing technology and data; clearing the CJS backlog; transparency around rooting out racism; progressing rural policing; ensuring forces do not get overstretched by covering other public sector areas and responsibilities where funding may have been cut; and retaining public confidence and local consent. Chairing the APCC had been a privilege and KB will continue to support the APCC and its Chair in the future.

Approved/Agreed Actions were:

- Board members were elected as follows: Paddy Tipping (PT) and Mark Burns-Williamson (MBW) as Labour PCC representatives; Roger Hirst (RH) and Katy Bourne (KB) as Conservative PCC representatives; Martin Surl (MS) as the Independent PCC representative; Arfon Jones (AJ) as the Plaid Cymru representative; and Simon Duckworth (SD) as the Other Policing Bodies representative.
- PT was elected as the new Chair of the APCC.
- MS and RH were elected as the two Vice Chairs of the APCC.
- APCC Members approved the APCC Annual Accounts.
- APCC Members approved Price Bailey as the new Auditors for the APCC at their agreed remuneration fee.

Item 2: General Meeting Business:

- As incoming APCC Chair, PT thanked all colleagues and KB for raising the profile of PCCs in the last year; JM for her long standing membership of the Board; and Susannah Hancock (SH) and the APCC Team for their work throughout the year.
- PT was keen that we learn the lessons from Covid-19 regarding working in partnership; being kinder; being agile, and addressing new challenges, including making the case for policing during the Spending Review. During the PCC Review we should remember we are an established part of the policing landscape, part of a fantastic organisation we should be proud of, and are well placed to make a stronger case for greater involvement. PT highlighted the opportunities for change that exist through for instance having a strong voice in the Royal Commission's Review of the CJS, and in tackling racism.
- PT reported that the APCC Board are very pleased with the draft APCC Business Plan (2020/22) which reflects feedback from colleagues and confirmed that work is now underway to design the final product ready for publication in September. PT further reported the APCC Board had discussed the newly updated APCC Risk Register yesterday and, whilst there are both opportunities and challenges in the coming year, the Board is confident we can work together to make a difference. PT also updated members on PCC portfolio updates which had been proposed by the political groups. The APCC Board were content with these changes but will review them before the 2021 Elections.
- Vince Strafford (VS) then updated members on the Policing Vision 2025 Refresh which now contained recent regional meeting feedback and key feedback from the CoP and SOC. PCCs had suggested creating 2 documents: 1. A public facing document 2. A full document for the sector/partners. VS asked how do we complete the Vision, agreeing shared outcomes, and how aspects will be funded? A handover document, stakeholder map and document archive is being produced before VS leaves at the end of July. VS felt an end of September release post editorial completion is possible but the Vision needs to be a living document with the foreword annually updated and progress of targets monitored. PT thanked VS for all his work on this document.

Approved/Agreed Actions were:

- The minutes of the last APCC General Meeting were agreed.
- The APCC Business Plan should proceed to the final editing and design stage so that it could be launched in September.
- PCCs should feedback further comments on the Policing Vision 2025 Refresh to VS within the next week.

Item 3: Matthew Rycroft CBE, Permanent Secretary at the Home Office:

- PT welcomed Matthew Rycroft (MR), Permanent Secretary at the Home Office, to the General Meeting. MR thanked the APCC for the invite and noted he had taken over at the Home Office on the first day of lockdown and that Covid-19 had posed a huge challenge to the Department, and policing, over the last four months. He felt that policing had stepped up to this challenge and its reputation had been enhanced during the course of this crisis. MR noted that there has been a good link up between the department and policing through regular calls with Chief Constables in the crisis.
- MR was looking forward to working with the APCC and building on the Home Office's strong relationship with PCCs. He agreed on the big issues raised by PT and highlighted keeping the public safe is a primary duty of government, with supporting policing via Operation Uplift an example of this, and PCCs are essential to that. He said that we do not know the precise timetable for the Spending Review yet but it is tight and there are gaps in income this financial year due to Covid-19.
- MR stated that tackling racism is also a big issue for the country and the department.

Key Points raised by PCCs:

- RH, PCC for Essex and Finance Lead for the APCC, said that PCCs supported the efforts of the Home Office, recognised we are in this together and referred to the team jointly put together by the APCC/NPCC which had led our Spending Review work for some time. PCCs support the Uplift programme and have welcomed the freedom around the council tax precept, which has helped provide necessary reinvestment in prevention and early intervention. Now we must face the Covid crisis where police forces have spent £30m on PPE and need that reimbursed. PCCs are also concerned about the projected deficit impact on council tax collection/business rates. MR stated a PPE reimbursement can be expected imminently and regarding council tax, the Home Office must become better joined up with the MHCLG to resolve these big issues.
- MBW, PCC for West Yorkshire, asked for more information on devolution, referencing the devolution deal currently being consulted on in West Yorkshire, the White Paper on Local Government, and the PCC review. He said there is concern that the PCC policing governance role is not being recognised or preserved. MR said he is still talking to Ministers about how and when the PCC review will take place but the manifesto commitment on accountability is set in stone, and will be taken forward asap. The role of PCCs has developed significantly since 2012 and this review is about taking stock. Consideration of fire governance proposals is also being considered though this will be taken forward post 2021 Elections.
- Alun Michael (AM), PCC for South Wales, highlighted the good levels of cooperation between PCCs and Chief Constables in Wales which has been recognised by various bodies. MR accepted his invitation to come and see this work.
- Marc Jones (MJ), PCC for Lincolnshire, reported that the Mackey SOC Review was a great piece of work but we are now in a post Covid space and our efforts must match up with the Spending Review. MJ is keeping the dialogue going with partners around creating an effective SOC system, including hosting a cross-agency roundtable, and welcomes the cooperation between the department, the APCC and NPCC. MR noted Mackey was an important first step and the Home Office is determined to be ambitious in this space, maintain momentum and create a genuine system, with PCCs feeding into the Spending Review on this.
- Stephen Mold (SM), PCC for Northamptonshire, asked how do we make sure we join up our policing technology systems as we need data connectivity across all government departments and police forces? MR stated it is important that the ESMCP has the capability and the kit required for this and that we cannot run two parallel systems.

Item 4: Rt Hon Robert Buckland QC, Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor: MD/AC:

- PT welcomed the Rt Hon Robert Buckland QC (RB), Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor, to the General Meeting. RB thanked the APCC for the invite and noted he recognised and valued PCCs including the 'and crime' part of the role. RB stated the CJS is changing due to Covid-19 but these forced issues were needed and some will be permanent.

- RB outlined government priorities of reducing crime, protecting the public, and supporting victims. He believed every department of state must be a criminal justice partner and issues must be addressed in a different way to prevent them becoming court/justice issues. A Crime and Justice Taskforce has been set up and the Probation Service is changing too. RB wants to see closer integration of probation and policing services and closer co-commissioning with PCCs in the future.
- RB stated we must reform sentences; increase monitoring on license; implement White Paper measures for the most violent and sexual offenders; address the causes of offending such as mental health and drug addiction; and improve our pre-sentence reports. We cannot forget victims and we are working across government to support victims and witnesses. He thanked PCCs for their use of ISVA funding. A Domestic Abuse Bill is also progressing and a Victims Law is coming.
- RB has asked officials to look at and learn the lessons from joined up partnership working with LCJBs and PCCs. RT sees PCCs as key local leaders and asked if PCCs can share their data across areas to help drive up performance. RB set PCCs a challenge to continue to work effectively in partnership at a local level.

Key Points raised by PCCs:

- JM, PFCC for North Yorkshire and APCC Victims Portfolio Lead, thanked RB for coming today and for facilitating funding to address domestic abuse. Given the CSR and funding support for domestic violence and sexual violence victims is ending, JM asked if representation can be made on ploughing back any underspends as caseloads and complexities are increasing ? RB requested that PCCs continue to feed in case studies to help provide evidence base information for inclusion in the Spending Review with the Treasury.
- Sue Mountstevens (SM), PCC for Avon & Somerset and APCC CJS Portfolio Deputy Lead, thanked RB for the victims funding but highlighted that court backlogs are failing our system and we now need a radical approach. RB stated how we can scale up case resolution during the recovery is being looked at. His ambition is to ensure we are working at full capacity within social distancing limits. 10 more courts are about to open and RB wants dozens more to open across the country. RB is also looking at staggering opening hours and wants practical scaling up and PCC engagement on this.
- Hardyal Dhindsa (HD), PCC for Derbyshire and APCC EDHR Portfolio Lead, raised the issue of BAME representation in the CJS. RB reported that it is recognised there is more we can do to encourage BAME opportunities including through for example sitting with Judges for longer periods and he wanted to work with PCCs on this.

Approved/Agreed Actions were:

- The Lord Chancellor will write to the APCC requesting PCC help including through greater sharing of national and local data to improve performance.

Item 5: Finance, Spending Review & Commercial Update:

Item 5.1: Finance & Spending Review Update:

- RH, PFCC for Essex and APCC Finance Lead, reported that the APCC had been working hard on the Spending Review case as a key part of a joint team with NPCC, PACCTS and OPCC Teams. . The current focus of the work is on:
 - Establishing the baseline, including pay inflation impact, and making the case for a 'flat real' not 'flat cash' settlement.
 - Delivering Operation Uplift and ensuring we have the resources to finance 8,000 uniformed police officers in 2021-22.
 - Considering the risk of the impact of Covid-19 on council tax/business rate policing income.
- Other areas of work include addressing commercial and digital and technology funding. Chief Constables are making the case for a Strategic Centre for Policing. We also anticipate a substantial bid for funding for SOC from the NCA/CT policing. On the Spending Review, the Chancellor did not confirm a timetable and there is a lack of clarity about what will need to be delivered when. The expectation is we will need to finalise the submission by August 31st. RH and PT continue to raise the need for a Funding Formula review with the Home Office at every opportunity.
- RH encouraged PCCs to respond to the Home Office Special Grants Survey as only 5 PCC have responded so far. A deadline extension has been secured until Friday June 17th. In addition, RH specifically mentioned the issues of flexibility on the 1% trigger level, the need for a multi-year arrangement, and a fund to manage hardship.

Approved/Agreed Actions were:

- All PCCs were urged to complete and return the Home Office Special Grants Survey ASAP.
- Simon Efford (APCC) would circulate the link to the survey again including the draft APCC Special Grants Survey response to PCCs.

Item 5.2: BlueLight Commercial Update:

- Matthew Scott (MS), PCC for Kent and Chair of Blue Light Commercial and the National Commercial Board, updated PCCs on the letter he had recently sent to the Policing Minister Kit Malthouse which underlined the procurement and shared services savings made so far by policing. This included £437m in procurement savings since 2015, greatly exceeding the original 2015 5 year target of £350m and being on track to deliver the 3 year £100m of cashable procurement savings by March 2021. He was grateful for all the hard work put in by many into delivering them.
- Lianne Deeming, the new CEO of BlueLight Commercial, was introduced. She noted that the Company had been formally in place since June 1st with its 9 strong board, which included 5 PCCs and 2 Chief Constables, and its website was live. She was looking at the organisational design of the company to ensure it was set up properly and fit to run. Key immediate objectives included onboarding the staff required: 5 were in place, 14 had been offered positions and another 9 roles advertised. By September, the hope was to have 28 in the team who would be focussing on the organisational key pillars. This would include work on the fleet, including reengaging with the tender process, helping with police aviation, and work in respect of the people and professional services category. BlueLight Commercial had already been very involved in helping Operation Talla with PPE and it had an important role to play in engaging with supply chains to address peaks in demand and pinch points.
- Other areas with potential for making savings included on Energy, where there was a potential for £10m of savings, and estates. The figures would be validated and proposals in that area would be shared by October. The Company would also be looking into how to build social value into its strategies and it would be pursuing the journey to commercial excellence which would include simplifying the process for contracting so that we can be more agile. As a contracting body it would need a guarantee at some point in order to be able to go to market. Work would be taken forward on engaging Fire and other agencies that wanted to join in with the collaborative approach.

Key Points raised by PCCs:

- Some PCCs had paid out considerable sums of money on behalf of all to purchase PPE and they needed that money reimbursed by the Government and as quickly as possible. RH said that there had been repeated assurances from the Minister that this would be done, although not in writing. There were currently discussions taking place on the channel by which reimbursement might take place, which could be via the NHS. It was noted that we would need to address any suggestion that future PPE should be sourced through the DHSC.
- MBW clarified that the NPAS Board is ultimately responsible for work looking at the commercial options for the air fleet.
- Martin Surl, PCC for Gloucestershire and new APCC Lead for the environment and sustainability, was keen to meet up and discuss how these issues could be linked into vehicles and property.

Approved/Agreed Actions were:

- Lianne Deeming agreed to pick up Martin's request so that sustainability could be taken into account in BlueLight Commercial's strategies.

Item 6: Key Portfolio Updates:

- **Workforce Portfolio Update:** Kim McGuinness (KM), PCC for Northumbria and APCC Workforce Portfolio Lead, updated PCCs that the APCC has joined with the NPCC and the CPOSA in a Chief Officers Working Group to look at the pay and conditions of chief officers, including Chief Constables. KM and SM are the PCC representatives on the group. The first meeting considered terms of reference and agreed that an Independent Chair would facilitate discussion and business. The group acknowledge that pay and conditions only play a small part in the small number of candidates applying for Chief Officer vacancies and progress needs to be made in other areas. SM noted that issues around pensions are possibly the main obstacle in place.

- **Forensics Portfolio Update:** PT thanked Martyn Underhill, PCC for Dorset and APCC Forensics Lead, for his work on Forensics Capabilities. MU reported that the FCN membership network is the best way to influence change and a S22 agreement has been circulated for PCCs and Chief Constables to sign which will help meet the Policing Vision and government priorities on reducing crime and keeping people safe. His ACC in Dorset is going around the country to address any questions on this.
- **NPAS Update:** MBW thanked PCC representatives on the NPAS Board for their work on police aviation. Next steps include holding regional consultation events. The devolution issue on the transfer of assets with the Mayoral Model has not been addressed and we need Regional PCC engagement on where this sits. One PCC commented that this decision is a matter for PCCs not Chief Constables, which was agreed by MBW.
- **Roads Policing and Road Safety Portfolio:** Alison Hernandez (AH), PCC for Devon & Cornwall and APCC Roads Policing and Road Safety Portfolio Lead, outlined the APCC has an opportunity to drive this agenda forward with an HMICFRS Thematic Report on roads policing imminent. AH will email PCCs to identify their regional representation on roads policing and road safety given the impact of this issue. PCCs agreed that whilst disappointed this is not a Ministerial priority, it is for PCCs.

Approved/Agreed Actions were:

- PCCs were requested to sign the Forensics S22 agreement in order to progress forensics work.
- PCCs were requested to attend and participate in imminent NPAS regional consultation events.
- PCCs were requested to respond to the APCC Regional Roads Policing/Roads Safety Lead invitation email and to email AH regarding what works in this area.

Item 7: Key Discussion Items:

Item 7.1: Addressing race disparity & disproportionality in policing/CJS:

- PT discussed the establishment of the new APCC Working Group on Race Disparity and disproportionality, in response to the death of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement. PT thanked David Munro (DM) and HD for their work leading the EDHR portfolio and setting up this Working Group, which will be jointly chaired by PT and JM, the APCC Lead on Transparency and Integrity. PT also thanked DM, who at the AGM stepped down as the APCC Lead on EDHR, for his work over the years, which has been instrumental in providing a voice at a national level for PCCs on EDHR Issues.
- JM stated the Working group met on July 3rd, bringing together the APCC Leads on EDHR, Criminal Justice, Transparency and Integrity, Workforce, Victims, and Mental Health and Custody. The summary of this meeting is provided at Annex 7A in the AGM papers. JM said that the Working Group will be an important “dock-in” to other national organisations working to address race disparity, for example the NPCC and the IOPC. Working Group Members had agreed on an action plan for future work including:
 - National-level work with the NPCC, the CoP and other partners. There is an initial meeting with NPCC Chair Martin Hewitt shortly to discuss the proposed NPCC review and how we can best link up with their work.
 - The APCC encouraging firmer commitments on ethnicity data from government departments, in order to support PCCs’ scrutinising role.
 - The APCC facilitating discussion amongst PCCs on the potential benefits of the model used in the Police Service Northern Ireland to improve the service’s representation of the religious communities it serves.
 - The APCC developing a toolkit to assist PCCs in their work locally in driving progress and facilitating the sharing of good practice in this area.
- HD, APCC Lead on EDHR, stated that he welcomed the formation of the group and highlighted how the current opportunity to address race disparity needs to be seized. He further emphasised the need for improved data collection on ethnicity, and the need for APCC and NPCC workplans to tackle race disparity to complement one another.

Key Points raised by PCCs:

- This work is urgent and its vital that the APCC focus on the role PCCs can play in tackling race disparity. Recruitment and retention need to be addressed across the piece, including OPCC staff. Improving workforce diversity will improve the public service forces and OPCCs provide. Good partnership arrangements are needed to ensure progress.
- Meetings held locally with Black Lives Matter groups have been productive. BLM make the point that greater diversity in the workforce will not make a positive difference unless the “atmosphere of racism” is challenged head-on.

- There are problems with comparing disparity data with the 2011 Census data, as the latter is almost a decade old. Greater detail in Stop and Search data on age ranges could affect levels of statistical disproportionality. There is a need to disaggregate the term “BAME”, and focus specifically on the generally higher levels of disproportionality experienced by Black people in policing and criminal justice. There are also concerns around disproportionality in use of TASER.
- The Welsh PCCs have nominated Emma Wools, the DPCC for South Wales, to represent Wales in the Working Group.

Item 7.2: Update on key developments: PCC Review and NPCC Review:

- PT identified some potential issues and concerns for the APCC around: the Home Office desire to “lean in” with Ministers having their own priorities; the NPCC proposal for a new Operating Model that substantially increases its budget/capacity; the PCC review; and the Local Government White Paper. There was a risk of the APCC losing influence unless it responds effectively and at pace. The Board has therefore approved a programme of work, including the commissioning of some consultancy support to work with the APCC team on this.
- MU reported on NPCC organisational development from the perspective of the NPCC Audit and Assurance Board (AAB). Both PCC and its Independent Chair/representatives have significant concerns and cannot provide assurance that the financial management or effective governance of the NPCC as it currently operates is fit for purpose, and are not therefore in a position to sign off on a new model. While work is underway in the NPCC to address these issues, it is not proceeding at pace. A new Programme Advisory Board has been set up to review the model with 2 PCC representatives: JM and AM.
- JM reported that the proposed new NPCC model as it currently stands would create a central hub of around 60 FTE staff at a cost of £6.3m which reflects the NPCC/Ministerial belief in the need for more systematic, central coordination of major policing projects, and that Operation Uplift delivery and the Covid-19 response demonstrated this. The expectation is the new model would be centrally funded by the Home Office through top-slice, raising issues about policing control and governance, with the risk NPCC becomes a delivery agent for central government policing priorities. This is potentially at odds with local governance/accountability and the PCC role. Concerns include underestimating how much Uplift and the Covid response have been locally driven and managed; value for money; how this will be measured; no clear story about how the public benefit; and insufficient focus on service improvement and quality. There is also the question of how APCC portfolios would align to a new model.
- AM agreed stressing key developments in policing are being led locally and not via NPCC structures, reflecting the British model for policing. The case that this model helps to deliver a better policing service for the public is not being made. There is a Vfm question of the impact locally of having a large number of senior officers working in a central hub. There is concern at the Spending Review timetable. The APCC must consider its response on desired outcomes and red lines.

Key Points raised by PCCs:

- We need to be realistic that the Home Office want this to happen and it reflects a view in government that the Covid response had been effective, plus the government is pro-devolution and sees PCCs as an example of successful devolution. The aim should be for PCCs nationally to have the same role in relation to the NPCC as they have with their Chief Constable locally, otherwise the existing tripartite APCC, NPCC, Home Office relationship risks being unbalanced.
- A number of other issues were raised, such as what our levers of influence are; that finance is key to this; that we are still not sure that all Chief Constables agree with this proposal; what impact will this have on our wider policing model; and that the government will struggle justifying awarding £6m funding if the NPCC is incapable of administering its current budget which is less than £2m. PT supported these points and said that this would be a key priority for the APCC Board and APCC Team. We know the problem and the challenge, we have put a strong team together, and we will keep colleagues updated.

Item 8: AoB and Close:

- Philip Seccombe requested PCCs support in relation to future planning legislation that aims to get emergency services buildings classed as infrastructure for the purposes of section 106 payments.
- PT thanked colleagues for their attendance and contribution to the AGM and closed the meeting.