

APCC Annual General Meeting Minutes:

Day 1: Wednesday July 13 2022

1. Police Race Action Plan: DCC Tyron Joyce, Programme Lead for NPCC/College of Policing with an update from Alun Michael PCC on the dynamic in Wales

- Following an introduction and welcome by Marc Jones, APCC Chair and PCC for Lincolnshire, Alison Lowe OBE, APCC Joint Lead on Race Disparity and Deputy Mayor for West Yorkshire, stated that whilst APCC members had initially had concerns about the NPCC and College of Policing Police Race Action Plan, her and her fellow Lead John Campion, PCC for West Mercia, welcomed the fresh energy that the Plan represented in terms of tackling race disparity.
- DCC Tyron Joyce, Programme Lead for the NPCC and College Action Plan, began his presentation by underlining that policing is still failing Black communities in terms of enabling them to have confidence in the forces that serve them. DCC Joyce stated that whilst the vast majority of police officers are not racist, there is an environment in policing that facilitates people acting in a way that is, on occasion, reprehensible, as revealed by the Operation Hotton report, and further exemplified by the behaviour of the police officers charged with misconduct after they took photos of the murder victims Nicole Smallman and Bibaa Henry.
- DCC Joyce underlined that 'antiracism' is not a political term: it is about ensuring that forces provide fair services, and that officers have the tools they need to build trust and confidence. DCC Joyce stated that within the Plan, policing was committed to ensuring zero tolerance of racism within policing, that forces would adopt an 'explain or reform' approach, that forces will ensure that officers and police staff understand Black history, and that forces develop a representative workforce.
- DCC Joyce then outlined a number of actions where Chiefs are looking for PCCs' support, including:
 - PCC and Deputy Mayors who are responsible for Professional Standards Departments should make sure that forces are being consistent in terms of ensuring a zero-tolerance approach is taken to policing across the Board. PCCs should encourage Chief Constables to develop localised syllabi on Black history relevant to their local areas.
 - In regard to the use of police powers such as Stop and Search, there is a difference between legality and legitimacy. Policing does not have a single definition of what disproportionality means, and also there is no national agreement on how Body-Worn Video should be used, but the Action Plan aims to address this.
- DCC Joyce then outlined the external scrutiny that would be provided by the Independent Oversight and Scrutiny Board, who will conduct town hall meetings across the country. He stated that the Programme Board had encouraged them to link in with PCCs.
- Alun Michael, PCC for South Wales, then outlined how following the murder of George Floyd, PCCs and Chief Constables had come together in Wales to take steps to tackle race disparity and the lack of confidence amongst Black communities. Alun stated that his Deputy Emma Wools had led on developing a Plan, with the starting point being work with the communities that are directly affected, as well as the CPS. Alun stated that this Plan would complement the wider antiracism plan for Wales developed by the Welsh Government.

2. BlueLight Commercial update: Matthew Scott PCC

- Matthew Scott, PCC for Kent and Chair of the BlueLight Commercial Board, highlighted the Special Resolution sent out on July 6th seeking member agreement to a set of changes to the BlueLight Commercial (BLC) Articles of Association. These changes were intended to help BLC operate more flexibly and the closing date is July 26th. On a point raised relating to contracting on behalf of policing, Matthew confirmed that not only was there a letter confirming the legal advice but PCCs still had control as they needed to specifically opt into any sub agreements. He also made clear that any outstanding issues over future funding were an entirely separate issue and would be addressed if and when needed.
- Matthew highlighted that the BLC Annual Plan 2022/23 had been shared with the papers for the APCC AGM. It set out what would be delivered this year and the strategic ambition for the next 3 years.
- Matthew raised again both the need for all forces to provide the authority for BMW to share information relating to forces with BLC and to set out what their losses had been. He warned that if forces did not provide details of their losses, they would not be able to join in at a later date.
- Matthew confirmed that this was the start of year three and BLC were going from strength to strength and would carry on delivering.

Q & A:

- Tim Passmore, PCC for Suffolk, asked whether BLC would be keeping an eye on the futures market for energy. Matthew confirmed that BLC were reviewing the market across the utilities as well as the impact of supply pressures and price rises on construction.
- Andrew Snowdon, PCC for Lancashire, was grateful for all the additional information and the assurance about BLC being able to enter contracts where the legal advice had helped allay fears. He would be agreeing the resolution but asked that BLC continue to maintain a close dialogue with the sector on frameworks and contracts.
- Marc Jones highlighted how helpful BLC had been in supporting Lincolnshire to bring back in house many of the services that G4S had run for the last 10 years. BLC had been invaluable in ensuring a seamless transition and a move to improve services even more.
- Festus Akinbusoye, PCC for Bedfordshire, asked whether there was any material on the benefits of BLC that could be shared with the public. Matthew said that BLC had put together force statements on the benefits that had been realised and he would check on when they would be shared.

Action: PCCs to review and respond to the Special Resolution to agree changes to the BlueLight Commercial Articles of Association by Tuesday July 26th.

Action: PCCs to check that their forces had submitted the necessary authority re. to BLC dealing with BMW and a calculation of any losses.

Action: Matthew Scott to confirm the timing of the sharing of Force Benefit Statements.

3. Rural Crime Update: Tim Passmore PCC and Stuart Hand, Rural Crime Network Policy and Campaigns Manager

- Tim Passmore, PCC for Suffolk and Chair of the National Rural Crime Network (NRCN), provided an overview of the role of the NRCN which is a lobbying body looking to get rural crime higher up the agenda. The NRCN AGM is scheduled for September 19th and will publish the NRCN forward look programme as well as releasing the following two new pieces of research to relaunch the network: (1) Public perceptions of policing in rural areas and (2) Understanding and challenges of policing organised crime in rural areas.
- Stuart Hand, NRCN Policy & Campaigns Manager, added that the NRCN is looking to identify 2-3 key issues where it can have the most tangible impact, produce research on, and run public and lobbying campaigns on. Key issues which have been fed back so far are machinery theft and fly tipping. PCCs are asked to consider what future research the network should do.

Q & A:

- Mark Shelford, PCC for Avon & Somerset, flagged the issue of security arrangements for rural machinery which is easy to disable. Tim Passmore agreed that this is a problem which is at the top of the NRCN's agenda, and they are working with manufacturers to address it.
- John Campion, PCC for West Mercia, felt that the NRCN has a key role in demonstrating the economic benefit of investing in policing in rural communities. Tim Passmore agreed and noted that more education is needed to be able to demonstrate benefit.
- Alison Hernandez, PCC for Devon and Cornwall, added that road safety is another key issue in rural areas as there are more deaths on rural roads. It was noted that rural roads do not get the same focus as motorways despite the high death rate.
- David Sidwick, PCC for Dorset, stated we must ensure rural crime is not perceived as a problem only for rich landowners. He added that domestic abuse in rural areas is a key issue. Tim Passmore agreed that it is important to show that in rural areas there is less infrastructure which causes deprivation leading to exploitation and abuse.

4. Legally Qualified Chairs (LQCs): Giles Orpen-Smellie PCC

- Giles Orpen-Smellie, APCC Transparency and Integrity Portfolio Lead and PCC for Norfolk, provided an overview of the current situation with LQCs. LQCs were introduced following the Chapman report to ensure that the system is more accountable and transparent, however the question of immunity has been an issue since LQCs were introduced in 2016. The current Eckland case has further amplified fears of liability for LQCs and the National Association of Legally Qualified Chairs (NALQC) are pursuing the option of immunity with the Home Office.
- The Home Office however have asked PCCs to provide indemnity for the next 18 months – 2 years, while the Eckland case reaches a conclusion. Meanwhile, the situation is becoming increasingly challenging with many

LQCs refusing to sit until the situation is resolved, causing a backlog of cases, and some regions struggling to access any available LQCs. This has the potential to further erode public confidence in policing.

- Giles Orpen-Smellie outlined the number of outstanding cases and clarified his preferred position was immunity for LQCs, in line with the Ministry of Justice hearings, however he welcomed views from APCC Members.

Q & A:

- Stephen Mold, PFCC for Northamptonshire, asked whether the problem was that Chief Constables did not like the LQC model. Giles Orpen-Smellie replied that the LQCs had been introduced to provide greater independence and transparency to the police misconduct process. He had initially explored whether there was an appetite for Chiefs to pick up the process and had been assured this was not the case. GOS agreed to review alternative models.

Action: GOS will provide a paper on LQC and alternative models.

5. CPD Strategic Leadership/Management session: Legal masterclass

- Aley Gettins from Capsticks presented to Commissioners on positive action and the importance of workforce diversity. She highlighted that better workforce representation improves public confidence and can increase operational effectiveness, and that greater diversity provides greater diversity of thought. Research shows that those FTSE 100 companies with more diverse boards are more productive. Greater workforce representation also reduced the risk of legal challenge under the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- As the law stands, Aley highlighted there are two provisions in the Equality Act for the use of positive action:
 - Where protected characteristics have led to disadvantage, measures can be taken to encourage (e.g.) targeted advertising and training and coaching in recruitment and promotion processes. However, measures must be proportionate and have a proportionate aim.
 - Where two candidates are as qualified for a role then protected characteristics can be used as a tiebreaker. However, this was not particularly useful as it was unusual to have two candidates qualified identically. Where these provisions are used it has to be a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.
- Nathan East from Weightmans then presented to PCCs that there were lots of grey areas in the legislation that created PCCs. Each PCC is a corporation sole, but there is no exact guidance on what PCCs cannot do. Weightmans try and illuminate the grey areas and address the effective use of powers, as well as measures PCCs can take to make money.
- Martin Forshaw from Weightmans then spoke about managing risk and reputation and the advice Weightmans can give in respect of dealing with complaints. He highlighted the forthcoming Covid Inquiry as an area of particular interest to PCCs; it will touch on all aspects of PCC's core functions with hearings likely in early 2023.

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Day 2: Thursday July 14 2022

1. Welcome/AGM business: APCC Chair Marc Jones PCC

- Marc Jones, APCC Chair and PCC for Lincolnshire, welcomed colleagues to Day 2 and the formal part of the APCC AGM.
- Existing APCC Board members stood down and were then re-elected as listed below. Their PCC proposers then seconders are shown respectively in brackets following their name.
Labour: Alun Michael (Alison Lowe; Simon Foster); Kim McGuinness (Alison Lowe; Joy Allen)
Conservative: Roger Hirst (David Lloyd; Katy Bourne); David Lloyd (Roger Hirst; Katy Bourne); Alison Hernandez (Marc Jones; Katy Bourne); Katy Bourne (Alison Hernandez; Marc Jones)
Independent/Other Policing Bodies: James Thomson (The APCC Board asked James Thomson to continue as a Board Member for the next year)
- APCC Vice Chairs were then re-elected as listed below. Their PCC proposers then seconders are shown respectively in brackets following their name.
Alison Hernandez (Katy Bourne; Marc Jones); Alun Michael (Alison Lowe; Simon Foster).
- Marc Jones confirmed the APCC Annual Accounts (2021-2022) which had been approved by the Auditor and the APCC Board at their meeting the day before, and asked if there were any questions which there were not.

- Marc Jones provided a corporate update to APCC members which included items relating to Finance and Audit; the APCC Budget (2022-2023); and scenario planning options. MJ reported that the board were concerned that after a number of years of using reserves, current APCC support levels would be unsustainable and new areas could not be developed without an increase in subscriptions. Further information will be circulated to members in the coming months.
 - Marc Jones also thanked Marcus Roberts for doing a sterling job as the APCC Chief of Staff whilst recruitment for the new APCC CEO was underway.
 - The minutes of the last General Meeting on April 27th and April 28th 2022 were approved.
- Action:** PCCs to complete the Membership survey.

2. APCC Strategic Plan/Business Updates Part 1:

2.1 Launch of the Strategic Plan and Portfolio Delivery Plans

- Marc Jones updated colleagues that the APCC Strategic Plan (2022-2024) had now been approved and that accompanying Portfolio Delivery Plans can also be found in the meeting pack.

2.2 APCC Civility in public life survey overview

- Marc Jones reminded colleagues of the importance of the Civility of Public Life Survey which will be circulated to PCCs in a GR shortly in order to capture the increasing levels of abuse local politicians experienced.

2.3 Technology and digital portfolio update and Police Digital Service (PDS) update

- Andrew Snowden, PCC for Lancashire, and Stephen Mold, PCC for Northamptonshire and Chair of the Police Digital Service (PDS), provided an update to the General Meeting on the work of the Technology and Digital Portfolio and the Police Digital Service respectively. He noted the change in leadership in the Portfolio – he was the new Portfolio Lead while Andy Dunbobbin, PCC for North Wales, remained the Deputy.
- A priority for the portfolio would be the relationship with the (relatively) new NPCC lead for technology, Chief Constable Jo Farrell (Durham), who was completing a review of IMORCC (the NPCC's Coordinating Committee for information management and technology). Another priority was to engage with the Home Office who were now rolling out a National Public Safety Capabilities reform project to implement the recommendations of last year's Major Law Enforcement Programmes Review. A key development here was the creation of a new Commissioning Board to provide oversight of the totality of investment from the police budget in new technology and digital capabilities. Andrew Snowden was one of three PCCs who were members of the new Board.
- Of the major law enforcement programmes, ESMCP remained the primary concern. The programme SRO, Simon Parr, had launched a 're-lotting' exercise for the user-services element of ESN and Motorola would be leaving the Programme to focus on their Airwave business. The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) review of Airwave would conclude in the autumn, and it was hoped this would reduce the costs of the system whose use was likely to extend beyond 2026. Stephen Mold, as the lead PCC for ESMCP, concurred with this view. Simon Parr had brought vigour to the role of SRO and there was now increased confidence that the Programme would be delivered. The decisions on re-lotting would extend the Programme, but the budget overspend would be less if the CMA reduce Airwave costs. There would be additional costs for a further round of Airwave handsets, though the Programme were looking at the development of dual Airwave/ESN devices to mitigate those costs.
- Stephen Mold went on to provide an update on the work of the PDS. He noted recent successes. For 2021/22, the PDS commercial team provided £27m in cashable/cost avoidance to forces and the service was on track to deliver, within budget, the majority of the milestones for the 13 grant-funded national programmes now entrusted to PDS. He noted that the PDS AGM was on July 25th and reminded PCCs of the importance that they attend (on Teams) in order to sign off the accounts and to vote in the Board for the next year.
- PDS governance was also evolving as the company matures and its scope and remit broadens. The PDS Audit and Risk Committee and Nominations and Remuneration Committee are making a difference to the way the Board supports and challenges the Executive Team. A key role for PDS going forward was to secure agreement on national standards and cooperation on technology across 43 forces – the challenge for PCCs was that policing could not continue with 43 separate ways of 'doing' technology and we needed to find a way of 'pooling' activity and decision making. In support of this point, Andrew Snowden noted the substantial savings and efficiencies that could be possible through cooperation (recent work on geospatial data collection and analysis in the Home Office had suggested up to £100 million of savings could be possible). This did not have to be 'one size fits all' as regional collaboration could also be a way forward.

- Finally, Marc Jones, APCC Chair, noted the value of the technology portfolio and the work detailed by Andrew Snowden and Stephen Mold. Technology could be challenging and quite inaccessible to many colleagues, so it was vital that we had engaged leads to represent PCC interests in this complex, but important area. Stephen Mold reminded members of the benefit of adding a technology and digital lead to their local OPCC teams as oversight of local IT spend was very important and the post was likely to pay for itself.

2.4 Digital Public Contact Management

- Chief Superintendent Tony Josephs, Digital Public Contact (DPC) Programme Director, and David Shaylor, Strategic Capabilities Police Lead spoke to this item.
- Chief Superintendent Josephs reminded all PCCs that DPC's annual report was circulated earlier this week, in line with the requirement within the S22a, and to contact the DPC Programme directly with any questions in relation to this. DPC was introduced as the programme that leads on all things in the police/public digital interface space. Key priorities for DPC in the upcoming year are VAWG services including Sarah's Law applications, Claire's Law applications, Missing Persons reporting, Streetsafe, RASSO reporting and DA reporting.
- Those PCCs in areas not currently onboarded to the Single Online Home were encouraged to engage with their forces to identify what the barriers are.
- PCCs agreed that DPC should be transferred into the PDS as soon as a timeline and process could be agreed by the DPC Board. DPC was also recognised as playing a central role in publicising 999 performance data with the league tables showcased on police.uk from the end of May 2022.
- David Shaylor then presented DPC's work on the 'Citizen Portal' which is currently awaiting confirmation of funding from the Home Office to establish a full business case.

3. Home Office Update: Matthew Rycroft, Permanent Secretary, Home Office

- Matthew Rycroft, Permanent Secretary at the Home Office, commented on the following issues during his session at the General Meeting:
 - Pay review: The plan was to have an announcement on public sector pay, including policing, ahead of the summer recess.
 - PCC Review: Matthew Rycroft thanked PCCs for their help in the PCC Review and highlighted the importance of accountability and transparency and ensuring that PCCs had the tools that they needed.
 - Funding Formula Review: The Home Office hoped to confirm the launch of this consultation shortly.
 - The Beating Crime Plan: It was noted it would be important to turn the national framework into effective local delivery. The next step was to review Community Safety Partnerships through a Call for Evidence and to see what could be done to ensure that they were made more effective and accountable.
 - Drug Strategy: The Home Office were working up the White Paper on reducing drug demand which would include an escalating scale of sanctions in respect of recreational drug use.
 - Uplift programme: This was currently on track and on budget but the third year would be more challenging with challenges to recruitment and a higher target than in years 1 and 2.

Q & A:

- Marc Jones asked about the impact of the reduction in Civil Service numbers. Matthew Rycroft replied that the Home Office had submitted their proposal to the Cabinet Office for a 20% cut. He did not expect the cuts to dramatically impact the Home Office's work with stakeholders.
- Katy Bourne, PCC for Sussex, asked for an update on progress with a revised draft of the Policing Protocol which took account of the consultation responses. Matthew said that they were looking at the consultation responses and would keep PCCs updated and work with them on the response.
- Alison Hernandez, PCC for Devon and Cornwall, asked about support for the APCC given the £3.2m core funding that the NPCC receive. Matthew Rycroft said that if the funding were an issue they would be keen to hear what PCCs thought was needed.
- Alun Michael, PCC for South Wales, asked if Matthew Rycroft was aware of the issues around the National Police Air Service (NPAS). Matthew replied that he took an interest in this and recognised that it was a troubled issue. Marc Jones commented NPAS was a good example of what could go wrong with a nationally imposed solution.
- Marc Jones noted that the Fire consultation had included questions on changing force boundaries. Matthew Rycroft said that as far as he was concerned there was no pressure to change the current 43 force model.
- Stephen Mold, PCC for Northamptonshire, welcomed the appointment of Simon Parr as the SRO for ESMCP which had helped grip a very challenging programme and regained the confidence of the sector.

- Jonathan Jardine, CEO at West Midlands OPCC, highlighted a concern that the West Midlands had their proposals submitted under the Levelling Up devolution deals turned down despite their having no net cost and being supported by the Combined Authority. Matthew Rycroft said he would look into it.

4. Fire White Paper: Jonny Bugg, Head of Fire Strategy and Reform Unit, Home Office

- Jonny Bugg, Head of Fire Strategy and Reform at the Home Office, provided PCCs with an update on Fire issues. Sarah Dines is the new Fire Minister, replacing Lord Greenhalgh. The Home Office had taken on responsibility for fire in 2016 and introduced several initial reforms, including a Fire Standards Board and independent inspection.
- The inspectorate, alongside national inquiries including Grenfell, have provided an evidence base for further reform. Additionally, the sector's response to Covid-19 also identified issues around how fire and rescue services faced barriers and delays to providing much needed support to health partners.
- The Government has now launched its White Paper for Fire Reform (England only) which has three thematic areas of focus – people, professionalism and governance.
On people, the Home Office will launch a pay review and review and define the role of modern-day firefighters. A statutory oath and code of ethics are also part of the White Paper consultation.
On professionalism, a College of Fire has been proposed to help drive standards and research. Minimum entry requirements are also being considered and mandatory command courses.
On governance, the White Paper includes a question on whether PCCs should take on fire and rescue governance, building upon the existing 4 PFCCs. Mayors are also part of the consultation with a move to deliver greater accountability to fire governance. The Home Office are keen to hear PCC (England only) views on whether more Commissioners should take on fire.
- Views are sought on the current business case process for taking on fire as set out in the Policing and Crime Act 2017. This includes could this process be improved, are there lessons learned you would like to share, and what are the barriers that PCCs are facing when considering or attempting to take on fire governance, including boundary issues. The Home Office are also interested to hear views from PCCs on the transfer of resources from a fire and rescue authority to PCCs.
- The consultation closes on July 26th ([see link](#)) and PCCs are asked to share their views with the APCC via Senior Policy Manager Eddie Smithwick. PCCs may wish to respond only to the governance section of the White Paper.

Q & A:

- Andrew Snowden, PCC for Lancashire, was pleased to hear the Home Office is not looking to introduce degrees as a requirement for new firefighters. However, there was a missed opportunity in the White Paper to mandate fire governance to PCCs, the single executive member model has limitations and would not deliver accountability.
- John Champion, PCC for West Mercia, felt that the 2024 PCC elections represented an opportunity to deliver the governance reforms.
- Steve Turner, PCC for Cleveland, thought it would be useful to mandate governance to those areas that are coterminous and work out details at a later date for those areas who are not.
- David Sidwick, PCC for Dorset, said that there is no support for change in the South West area. It would be better to focus on coterminous areas and mandate.
- Marc Jones felt a joint College of Policing and College of Fire would be more useful and could deliver benefits around knowledge for both emergency services.

5. Crime Reduction:

5.1 Anti-Social Behaviour and Neighbourhood Crime: Steve Turner PCC

ASB Awareness Week:

- Steve Turner, Joint Lead for the APCC Local Policing and Partnerships Portfolio and PCC for Cleveland, explained the reason why he took on the role of lead in this APCC portfolio which was to focus on what is going on in local neighbourhoods. He highlighted the following issues:
- ASB Awareness Week July 18th – July 22nd: #ASBAwarenessWeek
 - OPCCs and Comms officers have been informed of this and a comms pack has been circulated. Each OPCC was encouraged to get involved and promote the good work that is going on in their area.
 - There is a launch event in Parliament on Monday July 18th 2022.
- Launching of the ASB Principles:
 - These principles are focused on following the victims code, local delivery and local policy.
 - If PCCs have any questions on this then they should contact Will Pryce and Jasmine Nourse at the APCC.

Community Remedy:

- Steve Turner confirmed there was not huge awareness of the Community Remedy amongst PCCs. There is however a mandate requirement placed on PCCs to have a Community Remedy Document available and visible on the PCC website. Currently only 24 PCCs have it on their websites and PCCs were encouraged to update and review their websites.

Community Trigger:

- Following a BBC Panorama Programme, a problem in a lack of understanding of the Community Trigger had been highlighted. The Community Trigger is a statutory responsibility of local authorities and housing agencies.
- There have been problems in several areas where the Community Trigger has been promoted and in ASB case reviews more widely. Local authorities have not been able to cope with the demand.
- 999 data both pre and post Covid is indicating a significant rise in the number of ASB calls going into the 999 service, rather than traditional ASB routes. In Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 there were roughly 400 ASB cases across the whole country.
- In the last 4 years, a third of all forces have never conducted an ASB review on the Community Trigger, and 35 PCCs do not have information in the Community Trigger on their website.

Action: PCCs were asked to get behind ASB Awareness Week and use the communications sent to OPCCs; to look at the Community Remedy situation in your area; to look at the Community Trigger locally and to find out who is the lead agency in your area; and make sure we are getting the most out of the courts regarding ASB cases.

Action: PCCs should have information on both the Community Trigger and Community remedy on their websites.

Action: PCCs should ensure they have access to ASB data and review the future use of the Community Trigger.

5.2 Business Crime: Katy Bourne PCC

- Katy Bourne, Portfolio Lead for the APCC Business Crime Portfolio and PCC for Sussex, reported that the National Business Crime Centre has produced a 'one stop shop' for everything businesses need relating to its crime needs and guidance for businesses. PCCs were asked to please direct their local businesses towards the following site: www.nbcc.police.uk
- Katy Bourne highlighted a number of further items shown below:
 - PCCs may wish to consider delivering an action day on business crime, to promote what they are doing and also direct businesses towards the website resources mentioned above. If they do they should contact Will Pryce at the APCC for more information.
 - The NPCC and NBCS completed a data sharing agreement in May 2022 to help share information on prolific offenders. This can support greater reporting of business crime too which has been a longstanding issue.
 - Sussex OPCC has piloted a One Touch Reporting approach and worked with the Co-op to improve reporting of business crime. This pilot enables reporting of these types of crime with one touch of a button, has increased reporting to the police, and through this data has built effective cases against prolific offenders, reduced crime numbers, and will hopefully build business sector confidence. Feedback from stores has been very positive.
 - Sussex Police has a Dedicated Business Crime Team (BCT) which investigates nearly all shoplifting reports. The Team has increased solved and detection rates for shoplifting, with business sector confidence also improving.

5.3 Prevention: Festus Akinbusoye PCC

- Festus Akinbusoye, Portfolio Lead for the APCC Prevention Portfolio and PCC for Bedfordshire, updated the APCC that current PCC Police and Crime plans now fully embrace prevention as a priority or objective, and the portfolio will release Public Health guidance for PCCs in the next quarter to support delivery of these plans.
- PCCs will also have received an embargoed confirmation of their Safer Streets Funding for Round 4. The Home Office will announce their decision publicly next week. The Home Office are unlikely to run a Round 4A.
- The APCC has received correspondence from the MoJ highlighting increased funds to Youth Offending Teams and encouraging PCCs to engage with their local YOTs and provide oversight to inform their local activity.

Q & A:

- Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor at MOPAC, asked where Designing Out Business Crime fits within the APCC Portfolios. Marc Jones suggested that a roundtable discussion on designing out business crime could be progressed between the Business Crime and Prevention Portfolio Leads.

5.4 Addictions and Substance Misuse: Joy Allen PCC and David Sidwick PCC

- David Sidwick, PCC for Dorset, and Joy Allen, PCC for Durham, who are both Joint Leads for the APCC Addictions and Substance Misuse Portfolio, reported that they had recently met with Sir Ian Gilmore and Baroness Finlay to discuss links between crime/ASB and alcohol.

Action: The Portfolio Leads would be keen to hear case studies they could use in the House of Lords, so that alcohol does not get left off the agenda.

Drug Strategy:

- The government hosted a Drug Strategy event in May. The Drug Strategy was a key theme again at the National Policing Board meeting on June 21st. In parliament, the Home Affairs Select Committee is conducting an enquiry on drug policy, to which we gave evidence, alongside PCCs Zoe Metcalfe and Andy Dunbobbin.
- Drug Strategy Guidance for Local Delivery Partners has now been received. Every area should have a new Local Combatting Drugs Partnership, chaired by a Single Responsible Owner or SRO. PCCs are at the top of the list of potential SROs.

Action: The portfolio will be surveying PCCs all soon to find out how local drug arrangements are shaping up and what PCCs experiences are, so that we can hold the mirror up to government and officials.

- The Portfolio has set up a national network for lead officers in your OPCCs to enable them to link up on drug strategy implementation and engage with key government departments / other national stakeholders – the next meeting of this group is on July 21st.

Action: If OPCCs are not involved in the July 21st Portfolio meeting already, PCCs were asked to encourage them to contact Marcus Roberts at the APCC.

- Local councils are submitting their plans for treatment and recovery systems, including additional investment for 50 of the most deprived areas (the first of 3 ‘tranches’ of 50 over the next 3 years). We are hearing from colleagues who have not been consulted on these plans, and we raised this with the Director in the Department of Health, Rosanna O’Connor, when we had our regular meeting with her last week. Rosanna O’Connor had said:
 - The treatment and recovery funding from OHID is going to local authorities, with Directors of Public Health as the SROs for these grants, with the expectation PCCs will be consulted.
 - DPHs will be expected to work closely with and be accountable to the new Combatting Drugs Partnership and its SRO, which will bring together all 3 strands of the strategy, and the various funding streams to support them – treatment, cutting supply and reducing demand.
 - PCCs should be at the centre of these partnerships, and we hope in many cases will chair them/be the partnership SRO.
- A White Paper on ‘tougher consequences’ and reducing demand is being produced. The portfolio have been meeting with Home Office officials to discuss this anticipated White Paper on demand reduction that will be setting plans for a new framework to deal with drug possession offences, so we can start to tackle the widespread use of illegal gateway drugs. They talked to us/other PCC leads about plans for a three-tier process of escalating sanctions, including new kinds of sanction like confiscation of passports and driving licences. We will be in touch with you all once the White Paper is published to frame our response.
- Project Adder is the project that is bringing together “diversion, disruption, enforcement and recovery” in some of the most deprived areas in the country, with many PCCs having Adder sites on their patches. Officials have been speaking to us about plans to seek match funding from PCCs for the enforcement component of existing Project Adder sites from 2023-24, with suggestions they may seek a 25% contribution (which by our calculations could be around £125k).

Night time economy and problem gambling

- LSAVI (Licensing Security and Vulnerability Initiative): The portfolio have been building our relationship with the new NPCC Alcohol Lead, ACC Scott Green, and working with LGA Licensing Champions, with a focus on how we make the night-time economy safer, particularly for women and girls. The portfolio would be interested in hearing from colleagues who are using tools like LSAVI and Purple Flag about their experience/approach and would encourage PCCs who are not familiar with these kinds of tools to have a look – they provide a ‘hygiene rating’ for licensees, with advice and support to improve safety.
- The portfolio are also continuing our work jointly with the Victims portfolio on Spiking, including linking in with Operation Lester.
- On gambling it is more of a mixed picture – the portfolio are still awaiting a White Paper on reform of the gambling laws which has been a long time coming.
- The portfolio wrote to Chris Philp, the Minister responsible for Gambling in May adding our voice as PCCs to those calling for a statutory gambling levy to fund research, education, and treatment. The Minister’s reply to us made no commitment to a statutory levy but was very clear on the ‘obligation to protect those who are suffering

harm from their gambling’, recognising that this ‘can lead to financial distress, bankruptcy, relationship breakdown, and other devastating consequences’.

Action: The portfolio reminded PCCs again about our ‘checklist’ for PCCs on all the things you can do locally to get gambling related crime on the agenda with partners.

Q & A:

- Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor at MOPAC, commented that OHID partners lacked some commitment to ensuring working partnerships on the ground are engaged through consultation. There must be local structure, highlighting the 18 London boroughs as an example of the challenges.
- Emily Spurrell, PCC for Merseyside, agreed and noted the need for clarity on expectations. She also noted the challenges on match funding for Project Adder; PCCs support the concept but the funding will be a challenge.
- Andrew Snowden, PCC for Lancashire, highlighted their use of the LCJB to bring partners together. He also noted the transformative nature of Project Adder but suggested the government should be smarter on how they allocate funding on rehabilitative measures. He invited colleagues to visit his area to see how it works in practice.
- The Addictions and Substance Misuse Portfolio Leads noted the comments and suggested PCCs share their structures to support delivery.

Action: The APCC Addictions and Substance Misuse Leads to visit Project Adder regions.

6. APCC Business Updates Part 2:

6.1 NPAS: Lisa Townsend PCC

- Lisa Townsend, Chair of the NPAS National Strategic Board (NSB) and PCC for Surrey, reported that monthly NSB meetings rather than quarterly sessions are currently being held to address transition issues.
- Two forces were engaged in the due diligence process regarding a potential list and shift. West Midlands have now withdrawn and there are issues for the Met. The relevant Gold Group has been stood down, although this issue is still a critical incident.
- West Yorkshire have extended their notice period as the LLPB for two further years and a Programme Board is being developed. The mission of the programme board is to produce solutions and the NSB will be pressing for innovation in that space.
- The NSB is meeting again next week and Lisa Townsend will be writing to all PCCs to update on these matters and to reassure PCCs that they are looking at the questions that you, as Commissioners, are asking e.g. regional structures; national arrangements; is there an appetite to continue in the direction we are proposing; drones and drone capacity; and also the requirement for continued investment and levels of affordability.
- The Programme Board will be reporting into the NSB so there is a real opportunity for PCCs to engage the reps going forward as we develop the programme. The Chair asked that all Commissioners engage with NPAS whatever your view of it. We need to know what the entirety of Commissioners want. PCCs control the finances and need to lead the way on this.
- Lianne Deeming, Chief Executive of BlueLight Commercial, added that when we are considering alternatives, we need to ensure that they meet future requirements – future proofing is paramount. The Home Office has mandated this and we need to understand how we can make that work.

Q & A:

- Alun Michael, PCC for South Wales, thanked colleagues regarding how this work is being approached in that it is looking for solutions. He believed that we have all got a bit of the picture and he referenced his earlier question to the Permanent Secretary that the Home Office need to confirm their role so we can find a long term solution. The APCC needs PCCs to recognise what is needed and to work with the Home Office to get there.
- Marc Jones added that we need to get viable options on the table for Ministers, one of which is that police air provision is not mandated. We are all in different spaces on this: To some PCCs NPAS is less relevant, to others it is critical.

7. Close and AOB

- MJ highlighted to PCCs his proposal on asking the government for an exemption for tax on fuel for the Emergency Services.
- Marc Jones thanked colleagues for attending and participating in the meeting and closed the AGM.