



POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR BEDFORDSHIRE

STRATEGIC BOARD MINUTES

Recorded 3rd January 2019

Confirmed with	Kathryn Holloway, Police and Crime Commissioner (KH) <i>Chair</i>
	Garry Forsyth, Deputy Chief Constable (GF)
	Phil Wells, Assistant Chief Officer (PW)
	Clare Kelly, Chief Executive, OPCC (CK)
	Zara Brown, Staff Officer (ZB)

Welcome

Minutes of previous meeting for agreement and matters arising

KH welcomed all to the meeting. Informed the Strategic Board that she would be changing the agenda slightly in the order in which she would like to discuss things, with addressing AOB as soon as the minutes from the last strategic board were agreed.

9. AOB (Change in Order)

The hub for intervention of offenders was discussed and Cllrs are wanting this accelerated in a bid to decrease serious youth violence and offending in the County. KH stated that from the business case for signpost, through the vetting of staff and to its opening was 11 months. Therefore, if we work collectively with partners this can be done by May 2019.

KH agreed that she will be attending the CSP exec meetings in Bedford from now on as she already attends CSP in Central and Luton. This means she will be able to take any action counselled by the Chief Executive to the meeting.

With regards to S106 applications the force should be informed if there is an application for 5 or more houses to be built. Phil Wells said this was usually done and Central Bedfordshire Council are very good at this and we then use the CIL money for temporary custody at Kempston. Place partnership's meeting is on the 31st January, either Kathryn Holloway or Clare Kelly will attend.



ACTION: DCC to send one paragraph to the Commissioner to include an introduction around PBB and the plan with what we can achieve with extra funds (only 50% of organisation done so far).

ACTION: Chief Inspector Zara Brown to provide an update around the current position of the Trap Car Operation.

2. OPCC Updates/Formal requests to the force

KH has attended three successive ride-alongs throughout the county and on each one she has both witnessed and had officers raise the concern over constantly encountering (especially within the traveller community) people who have a large amount of cash but no evidence that they are within legal employment. Officers feel they don't have clear direction as to how they handle this situation. GF explained that Martin Peters has done some work on this and these details have gone out. However, if officers have not had sight of this then he will ask for further work to be carried out.

NCA request

GF stated we have two: One for firearms and one for Countylines. There are questions over whether NCA is appropriate in this context. These powers have been in place for over five years and they have never been used previously.

GF explained the process of 'Gun number 6' which has been used on multiple shootings but not all forces submit. Bedfordshire Police definitely have scope to improve. GF will check the process with regards to NABIS and how it can be tightened up.

ACTION: GF to check the process regarding NABIS and how it can be tightened with regards to firearms.

The annual working plan was discussed prior to this meeting with CK and ZB. This will be discussed at the next Strategic Board at the end of the month.

CK offered the Force Executive confirmation of the events coming up for the OPCC.

14th	Jan	Houghton Regis Public Meeting
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21st	Jan	Winter Conference Community
3rd	Jan	Commissioning workshops begin
12th	Feb	Flitwick Surgery

KH stated she was currently setting out key priorities for the year. As of the 1st April the hub for ex-offenders should be open. Work has been done around this with regard to language etc so it appeals to the required target audience and is a user friendly website. This is to be presented to KH in 2 weeks' time for her review and approval. The 13 job centres in Bedfordshire and some in Herts are on board in supporting this and the aim is to have ex-offenders given the advice on the hub on the same day they leave prison.

A new propose unit to support vulnerable victims is at Doolittle Mill, will be in the middle of central Bedford (Amphill). This is a good central area, they are buildings which are no more than 5 years old. The chair stressed that a priority was to have separate areas within the unit for adults, teenagers and children. Therefore each age range would be in a comfortable environment.

The deadline for commissioning bids is the 11th January 2019 and we have received some very good in-force bids.

ACTION: CK to send bids to Force before the bids before they go to KH.

3. CC Update

CC had sent his apologies so GF provided an update in his absence:

#KH asked for an update on how Christmas and New Year was and if anything of note needed to be discussed. The DCC said it was actually a fairly quiet period compared to previous years. They only had one male who caused concern on Christmas Eve in custody but safety measures were put in place and he was apologetic the following morning. New Year Eve was busy as expected but was manageable.

A discussion was held over drying out tanks and it was agreed that any facility that would involve getting intoxicated people out of custody and into a health facility will be good. People in an intoxicated condition are at risk in safety as custody is not designed for that purpose. However, the NHS may not be willing to take this on. Would be very happy for that to be taken away from policing. Interesting on what the NHS would be willing to take on.

ACTION: Chief Inspector Zara Brown to collate some examples of difficulties the force had over the Christmas period and distribute to the Commissioner so she can write to Nick Hurd. For Example: Officers getting delayed at A&E etc



KH said that there must be a link with intoxicated people and assaults on officers. This was discussed and it was agreed that there will be undoubtedly be a link, however every assault is now recorded, even the minor ones (which they should be). These were not recorded in the past so the data will show a rise as they are all now recorded. Every officer will receive a phone call from the GF whenever they are assaulted to check on their welfare, no matter how minor the assault is.

There have been 288 recorded assaults on officers since April 2018, this equates to approximately 32 a month. There were 4 recorded yesterday: bitten; kicked and one female officer spat in face. The Commissioner is interested to see if it we can ban people from bars when they assault members of the emergency services. It is not thought this is possible for the Police as are some legal concerns around this. Therefore, it makes more sense that the OPCC does it. CK and ZB are working on this (Protect the Protectors) together and BedSafe are prepared to sign up. ZB and CK will keep the group updated on this.

The offender in Op Microphone (where a female officer had her leg broken) received a 2 year sentence. The Police cannot appeal this but the officer can which she is doing with the full support of the force.

It was agreed that the CC and GF will attend the magistrates meeting with the Commissioner.

4. Efficiency (covered under effectiveness by PBB update)

5. Effectiveness

PW said that we are coming to the end of panel 3 in PBB. Every individual area will be given their budget. On the 28th January there is another Strategic Board meeting which will be primarily focused on PBB and having the Commissioner sign it off before it is presented to the Crime Panel.

With regard to recruitment we will be hiring 160 new officers. This additional resource will be welcomed by the public and they will want to see these officers in local policing and be visible.

PW went through the summary and explained that even though the grant covers the cost of recruiting the new officers we still need to find additional funds to cover retaining new and existing officers, pensions etc. PW said that this needs to come out of the £24 council tax increase money otherwise will have to take from savings which will decrease officers as 90% of the budget is pay and constant costs. KH said that any statement going out to the public



needs to be clear and concise so they can understand it. The public will only want to pay more council tax if they are guaranteed more Police on the streets. This moved on to questions raised over where the additional officers would be based. PW said that these details would be signed off in the meeting on the 28th January.

6. Leadership and culture

Sickness –

There has been a 7% reduction in long term sickness. However, there has been increase short term sickness. Coms will send out a reminder to officers regarding the monthly drop in service. The level of stress that employees face is extremely high so the fact that long term sickness has reduced is a very positive step. Although this created a lot of pressure on managers to continue an effective management of this.

ACTION: PW to ensure that Doctors are aware they are to be giving a professional opinion and not asking the patients what they want them to write.

Performance figures –

There is a concern over the rise in rapes across the county. This is currently being managed.

There is a decline in solved crime rate. However this may be down to officers not recording things correctly or in some case they will not be detectable.

Shoplifting is at 38% which is a good improvement.

Vehicle crime – Tradesmen have always had the issue with vans being broken into. The OPCC is planning to do a campaign where leaflets are left under the windscreen of work vans to warn about thieves and taking tools out of the van at night and reiterate that if the van is not parked in a garage then the tools within it are not insured. They should advertise that no tools are left in the van overnight but using stickers that state this. KH asked if we could do a similar operation with vehicle crime as the one we do with burglary. GF cannot commit to this without further discussions with the ACC first.

There is a decrease in domestic burglary. KH has spoken to the public in and around Bury Park and they commented that confidence is being restored as they have seen more police and had less burglaries

7. Reporting against the Police Crime Plan

For this meeting was not required as we are awaiting the Police and Crime Panels schedule for the year. This will then be agreed with the Force.



8. Quarterly reporting

Demand Paper:

KH wanted to credit Edward Major for his excellent report on Managing demand in Bedfordshire.

At 2.4 in the demand report CK noted that there was no data around misper section.

Action: ZB to organise data on mispers in the demand report to be included in the next data reporting

CK commended the Force for the use of Clare's law but asked them to consider what would be the average for most similar forces in terms of use so we could bench mark what good looks like in this new area.

CK asked of the 19/20 annual plan would be in line with PBB, and how the OPCC would be consulted. GF offered assurance that the OPCC would be consulted and that yes the plan would include PBB.

Finances

PW presented the finance papers to the PCC highlighting:

The Commissioner and Chief Constable, in fulfilling their fiduciary duties, need to have a robust capital programme that is both affordable and is strongly linked to the efficiency and transformation of the Force. In this vein, the capital programme will focus heavily on providing the officers of Bedfordshire Police with the right tools for the job and transforming, through the use of ICT, the way in which our officers and staff work to protect as much of the Force's local policing capacity as possible, whilst reducing its overall revenue budget. It will also focus on ensuring the Estate for Bedfordshire Police is fit for purpose in terms of condition and energy efficiency, but more importantly is fit for purpose in relation to operational need and public access where this cannot be achieved through alternative means. The capital programme for 2018/19 to 2021/22 onwards was presented to the Police & Crime panel on 21 June 2018 and was approved at **£26.230M**. Details of the latest estimate of costs over the life of the programme are an increase of £1.384M within ICT, an increase of £0.202M within Estates and an increase of £0.307M within the Vehicle replacement programme giving an overall increase of **£1.893M** compared with the approved programme, the detail is shown at Appendix A and the variances described below. We do have the ability to reduce both the estates and ICT programme in future years and we are making revenue contributions to capital for fleet to offset some of the projected overspend.

While the medium term plan has been tested in the last three months the last formal report to the PCC in August concerning the plan projected a budget shortfall of £1.2M in 2019/20 with a further shortfall of £2.2M over the next three years. There has however been substantial changes since the August report making many of the assumptions within that report out of date. At that time nothing was known about the increased cost of the police pension scheme or the ability for PCC's to increase Council Tax

by £24 per annum. This will allow further flexibility around recruitment of officers and give an ability to set a realistic overtime budget that does not need to be supplemented by vacancies.

The financial settlement for 2018/19

2018/19		2019/20	Change	
£'M		£'M	£'M	%
62.8	Police Grant	64.1	1.3	2.1
0.0	Police Pension Grant	1.1	1.1	#
4.6	Legacy Council Tax Grants	4.6	0.0	0.0
67.4		69.8	2.4	3.6

The draft budget for 2019/20

		£'000
Draft Budget (November 2018 prices);		
	Force	112,763
	PCC (inc. CSF)	1,751
	Contingency	1,850
Draft Budget		116,364

Budget reductions

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	Indicative	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Estimated draft budget (a)	116,364	118,852	121,377	121,776
Estimated funding (b)	113,484	114,897	116,701	118,579
Shortfall (a-b)	2,880	3,955	4,676	3,197
Savings	2,880	2,050	2,050	1,500
Use of Budget Reserve		1,905	1,348	0
Budget Shortfall			1,278	1,697



DECISION: The PCC accepted the draft budget for 2019/20 from the CFO and it was agreed. The planned budget reductions were also agreed.

DECISION: The PCC has decided to take the proposal to raise council tax by £2 per month per band D home to the Police and Crime Panel on Feb 5th 2019

The draft budget of **£116.364M** can be reduced by savings of at least **£2.880M** which leaves a balanced budget of **£112.368M** assuming council tax will be increased by the maximum allowed. The PCC will review savings and growth plans in the light of funding data that is currently not available such as the potential for a higher than expected Council Tax surplus or changes to the Council Tax base for Bedfordshire. This will be completed before recommending a final budget to be presented to the PCC Executive Board when it next meets on **28 January 2019**