

MINUTES
POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX
and
ESSEX POLICE
PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY BOARD

27 March 2023, 1030 to 1230 via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Jane Gardner (JG)	Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (Chair)
Pippa Brent-Isherwood	Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer, PFCC's office
Suzanne Harris (SH)	Head of Performance and Scrutiny (Policing), PFCC's office
Fiona Henderson (FH)	Director of Continuous Improvement and Analytics, Essex Police
Richard Jones (RJ)	Head of business Partnering and Management Accounting, Essex Police
Rachel Nolan (RN)	Assistant Chief Constable, Essex Police
Janet Perry (JP)	Strategic Head of Performance and Resources, PFCC's office
Andrew Prophet (AP)	Deputy Chief Constable, Essex Police
Andrew Pritchard	Assistant Chief Constable, Essex Police
Camilla Brandal	Minutes, PFCC's office

Apologies:

BJ Harrington (BJH)	Chief Constable, Essex Police
Roger Hirst (RH)	Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
Debbie Martin (DM)	Chief Finance Officer, Essex Police

1 Introduction and welcome

JG welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from those above.

2.i Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

There were no amendments to the minutes of 28 February 2023, and they were therefore approved. There were no matters arising.

2.ii Action Log

18/22 Quarterly Performance Report
Meeting taken place. New style report to be received before closing action.
New format report proposed to be July. RH would like the new format for April as this is what has been promised to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel. FH to speak to MJ. To remain open.

- 41/22 Public Contact
Briefing received on 17 March. Close.
- 67/22 Engaging with people with Asperger's syndrome/ autism
JG to speak to AP. Remain open.
- 69/22 Monthly Finance Report
Decision Report 022/23 received. Close.
- 02/23 Monthly Performance Report
Victim support work – deadline extended to April. Remain open.
- 03/23 Monthly Performance Report
FH confirmed that the data has been obtained for the low level of referrals with the results being brought back to the Board. Remain open.
- 04/23 Monthly Performance Report
Collaboration data circulated. Close.
- 05/23 Monthly Performance Report
Conversation taken place. National Cyber Crime numbers to be brought into reporting. Close.
- 10/23 Use of Force/ Stop and Search
Information on Under 18's received. Close.

Action 12/23:

It was agreed that future Stop and Search reporting would include more data on Under 18s, particularly with regard to strip searches, effective from the next report.

- 11/23 Monthly Performance Report
KSI data – proposed to move to April. Remain open.

2.iii Forward Plan

SH asked that the Force Performance against National Crime and Policing measures was duplicated in April and May – it will remain in April. The PSD Annual report will be deferred to June to avoid coinciding with the PSD Quarterly paper deadline.

3 Monthly Finance Report

- 3.1 RJ presented the 2022/23 Month 11 position for the Force and it was recommended that the appropriations to/ from earmarked reserves were noted, along with the additional funding of up to £1.2m in relation to overachievement of Police Officer Uplift allocations is not included in the revenue forecast pending clarification of the level of overachievement. This funding however, will be applied to either the Major Operational Reserve or the General Reserve at year end, subject to approval. The Executive Summary included revenue forecasts on overspends, underspends, police officer strength, police staff strength, PCSO strength, vacancies, reserves, capital spends and forecast capital expenditure.
- 3.2 Discussions took place around the Police Officer Uplift monies and the appropriations listed in the report and whether the appropriation for the Dashcams will be included in the year end appropriations Decision Report or as a separate Decision Report. It was

agreed that if decisions are not all in one Decision Report then the final Decision Report should reference any decisions already made. It was agreed that JP, DM and RJ would take this particular issue offline.

- 3.3 RJ went through the remainder of the report, which included items on income, overspends to officer overtime, staff pay and allowances, suppliers and services, council tax share back scheme and surplus income. A brief discussion took place around overdraft limits at the year end and the third party supplier payments from the Home Office.
- 3.4 It was agreed that Recommendation 2.2 would be changed to 'noting' not 'approval', and Recommendation 2.3 would be changed to the 'funding will be applied to the General Reserve unless a decision report requires it to be applied to a different Reserve'.

Action 13/23:

The recommendations in the paper would be amended prior to publication: Recommendation 2.2 would be changed to 'noting' not 'approval' for those not requiring approval, and to acknowledge that a decision report would be submitted for any that do require approval.

Recommendation 2.3 would be changed to the 'funding will be applied to the General Reserve unless a decision report requires it to be applied to a different Reserve'. RJ would send through an amended paper for publishing.

AP joined the meeting at 1105

4 Efficiency Savings Programme

- 4.1 FH presented the quarterly progress and updates against current and future efficiency and savings plans as set out in the budget and the Force's Medium Term Financial Strategy. The report also included an update on the current Operational Transformation Reserve. From the Executive Summary, savings of £4.662m had been identified in the 2022/23 savings and efficiency plan, the identified non cashable savings for 2022/23 were at £3.906m with a combined cashable and non-cashable total of £8.568m for the 2022/23 savings and efficiency plan. The 2023/24 progress has been reviewed and has identified cashable savings of £12.213m and £11.162m recurring. The paper also included an update on the remaining OTR live workstreams with an unrequired amount of £41.5k being returned to the General Reserve. A brief discussion took place around the unrequired amount of £41.5k.
- 4.2 FH updated on the various workstreams and noted that there will be more updates on the 2023/24 Plan in June. JG commented on the work done and posed the question of whether the plan is ambitious enough? After a brief discussion, it was agreed that with the challenge that had been set, the level of ambition is still present.

5 Strategic Policing Requirement

- 5.1 APri presented the paper on the Strategic Policing Requirement which updated on the Force's response to the 2015 SPR and progress against the tactical plans for each strand. APri went through the six threat areas in detail and a discussion took place around whether clarification could be given as to whether the force believes they are meeting its duty in terms of being prepared to meet the requirements of the SPR. It was noted that the Force are responding proportionately but well.

- 5.2 A further discussion took place around the response to the requirements and future reporting of the current and revised SPR, and it was agreed that an update paper would be scheduled to fit in with the Board papers and Deep Dives and which would also provide a gap analysis of the work undertaken. FH and SH would agree suitable timing on the Forward Plan.

Action 14/23:

It was agreed that FH and SH would agree timing for an update paper on the SPR.

6 Monthly Performance Report

- 6.1 FH presented the monthly report and from the Executive Summary; three of the twelve PFCC priorities were graded as 'Good', six had a recommended grade of 'Adequate' and three had a grade of 'Requires Improvement'. Confidence in the local policing is at 75%, All Crime, Rural Crime and Business Crime had all increased compared with the 12 months to February 2022, theft offences rose by 14% primarily driven by shoplifting, theft of a vehicle and theft from a vehicle. There had been a 4.5% decrease in the number of offences with a repeat victim, a decrease of violence Against the Person offences committed against females, a 6.2% increase in the number of those Killed or Seriously Injured, 37 more OCG disruptions in the 12 months to December 2022, an increase in Burglaries and a decrease in Domestic Abuse offences.
- 6.2 A discussion took place around the gradings for adequate and the VAWG and Street Safe work, abandonment rates in FCR and the Resolution Centre, and comms work around the Rural Crime Strategy driving the levels of confidence up.

7 Independent SMSR Survey

- 7.1 FH went through the report highlighting points of note (confidence, crime and ASB, perceptions of fairness, cyber crime, bringing offenders to justice, dealing with drug crime, visibility and communities, victim support and confidence).
- 7.2 A discussion took place around the victim response post contact parameters and demographics, and it was agreed that FH and SH would speak offline around demographic data.

Action 15/23:

It was agreed that FH and SH would speak offline around demographic data.

APri left the meeting at 1228.

8 Operational Policing Command

- 8.1 RN presented the 6 month update on the work undertaken by OPC and the specialist and support functions for Essex Police. The update included items on the Serious Violence Unit, the Operational Support Group, the Marine Section, the Drone Team, CBRN, Dog Section, Roads Policing, Operations Centre, Resilience Department, Stansted and the FSU.
- 8.2 A discussion took place around the Dog Section and the Drones Team. It was agreed that a redacted version of the OPC paper would be submitted for publishing.

Action 16/23:

A redacted version of the OPC paper would be submitted by the Force for publishing.

- 8.3 A further brief discussion took place around the emergency plans and business continuity plans which are back on track following a pause.

9 Update on the Roads Policing Strategy

- 9.1 RN presented the new Roads Policing Strategy which included a summary of activity undertaken by Partners. It was agreed that the recommendation would be to 'endorse' the Essex Police Roads Policing Strategy rather than approve.
- 9.2 A brief discussion took place around the roles that Partners have to play in the SERP space, whether the Force are planning to take items 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 to the SERP Board (they were), item 9.5 as a concept and the plans around the creation of an independent investigation body.

Action 17/23:

A revised version of the Roads Policing paper, showing an amended recommendation, would be submitted by the Force for publishing.

10 Approval for publishing of documents

It was agreed that the papers for publishing would be 3i, 6, 7, 8 and 9. Papers 3i, 8 and 9 will be amended/ redacted and sent through to the PFCC's office.

11 Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1252.