

**MINUTES OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL HELD ON FRIDAY 31 JANUARY 2020 AT CHURCHGATE HOUSE, MANCHESTER.**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Nadim Muslim	Bolton Council
Councillor Sharon Briggs	Bury Council
Councillor Nigel Murphy	Manchester City Council – (In the Chair)
Councillor Steve Williams	Oldham Council
Councillor Janet Emsley	Rochdale Council
Councillor David Lancaster	Salford City Council
Councillor Amanda Peers	Stockport Council
Councillor Warren Bray	Tameside Council
Councillor Mike Freeman	Trafford Council
Councillor Kevin Anderson	Wigan Council
Majid Hussain	Independent Member

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Andy Burnham	GM Mayor
Baroness Beverley Hughes	GM Deputy Mayor

**OFFICERS:**

Carolyn Wilkins	Chief Executive Oldham Council and Lead GM Chief Executive for Police, Crime and Civil Contingencies
Stephen Wilson	GMCA Treasurer
Ian Pilling	Deputy Chief Constable
Clare Monaghan	Director Policing, Crime and Fire, GMCA
Jeanette Staley	Salford City Council & GM Police and Crime Policy Lead
Gwynne Williams	Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA
Steve Annette	GMCA Governance and Scrutiny

**PCP/11/20**

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Paula Boshell, Salford City Council, Ian Hopkins, Chief Constable GMP, and Angela Lawrence Independent Panel Member.

**PCP/12/20**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair opened the meeting at the appointed time and members present introduced themselves. It was reported that the Greater Manchester Mayor and Deputy Mayor were en route from a previous meeting, and it was proposed and agreed that the meeting stand adjourned until they arrive

**PCP/13/19**

**RESUMPTION**

Business was resumed at 3.30 pm

**PCP/14/20**

**2020/21 PCC COMPONENT OF THE MAYORAL PRECEPT**

The Greater Manchester Mayor presented the proposals for the core budget of Greater Manchester Police for 2020/21. He indicated that raising the level of Council Tax was something that had to be approached with consideration of all the pressures that it places upon the local community, but also against the over-riding needs to protect that community. The top priority for the communities of Greater Manchester was to see greater investment in the police service and the Authority had been responding to that call since 2018/19 when additional resources funded from the precept began to allow for the recruitment of additional police officers, a process that had been continued in 2019/20 when funds had been made available to recruit 300 officers. For 2020/21 the budget sought to use the full increase in the precept (£10 for Band D properties) allowed by the Government which would raise £7.6M, but other changes in the Council Tax Base would also lever in a further £2.5M to support of an overall Force Budget of about £50M. 347 new police officer posts would be created in 2020/21, which is our share of the 6,000 that were being recruited in this first phase, not all being recruited nationally this year. He added that overall it is thought that our share would be 1156 officers; however, the Deputy Mayor added that this figure had not yet been confirmed. This would enable a number of things to be done, to make a commitment to the things that that members of this Panel have been calling for, and to allow the Force to begin to make a clearer commitment to the communities of Greater Manchester, part of which would be guarantees -

- that each ward in Greater Manchester would have a named beat officer and a named PCSO
- an allocation of funding to recruit full time school based police officers in schools demonstrating the greatest need; and
- to achieve improvements in 101 service responsiveness by the recruitment of 40 additional call handlers

The Deputy Mayor (Policing and Crime) whilst welcoming the opportunities to begin the process of restoring police numbers, voiced caution that the budget was essentially a flat cash settlement and that in overall terms the settlement failed to match the needs of policing in Greater Manchester without recourse to a precept contribution from local tax payers. There were key elements of the Government's budget settlement for 2020/21 where a degree of uncertainty remained, in respect of which the constraints of time since the settlement had been received had not allowed for detailed clarifications to be received. The settlement had been received very late due to delays created by the General Election in December 2019, and she paid tribute to the Treasurer for his efforts to construct the budget now before members in the time available since that settlement was notified.

The Treasurer then gave a visual presentation of the budget structure overall. He indicated that the statutory consultation process had been difficult and that in the absence of a government settlement the process had been largely modelled on assumptions. The Settlement received essentially predicates that the maximum precept allowed would need to be used to deliver the necessary resource level for the Force.

Members then posed a number of questions -

**Recruitment target for 2019/20** – a member sought assurances that the targeted budget for the recruitment of 300 additional officers in 2019/20 would be achieved by year-end. Deputy Chief Constable Ian Pilling indicated that the recruitment process was on track to deliver within 10/12 of the 300 target. The Panel was reminded that the recruitment of 300 additional officers was unprecedented and had taken place on top of the 400/500 appointments made annually. The recruitment process could not be looked at in isolation from the need for subsequent training which also placed demands on the Force. The Deputy Mayor indicated that the recruitment process had been rigorously monitored throughout the year, and though it presented real challenges for the organisation, she was confident that the targets would be achieved.

**District establishment** – a member reminded the Panel that there had been agreement that there should be a review of police officer numbers at district level. Deputy Chief Constable Ian Pilling indicated that the review had taken place, and that where areas of inequality had been identified these would be addressed in the allocation of new officers being recruited. A report was requested to a future meeting on where the 300 new officers had been placed and where future officers would be placed

**Back Office staff** – members were concerned that the increase in the number of police officers was not reflected in back office support staff. The Deputy Mayor indicated that whilst there were no earmarked resources to extend back office support a comprehensive review was taking place under the direction of an Assistant Chief Constable to review where improvements could be made in support service capability and effectiveness.

**School based police officers** – this proposal was broadly welcomed but members sought information about proposed locations. The Deputy Mayor indicated that some schools already had part time provision and there were others that had the ability to make a financial contribution to costs. The proposals would need to be firmed up with input from headteachers to establish where the priorities lay.

**Commitment of 2019/20 budget** – in response to questions the Treasurer indicated that the spend pattern as at December indicated that the budget spend profile was broadly in line with that originally set, and that the surplus going forward would be between £1M to £2M. A reports was requested to a future meeting detailing the spend in relation to the 19/20 budget

**Community based budgets** – members welcomed the retention of the community led delegated budgets that had resulted in real and tangible impacts on communities. The Deputy Mayor clarified that the Community Safety Grants, the monies to support Safeguarding Boards, support for voluntary organisations and monies for the development of interventions in conjunction with Violence Reduction Programmes had each been reserved in the budget presented

Welcoming all the comments made and the constructiveness of the meeting, the Mayor said that the budget proposals presented gave us the opportunity to begin to be ambitious again

in terms of the Force's responsiveness and to send out clear messages to both the communities of Manchester and to criminals about the Force's ability to respond on each crime committed. The past week had demonstrated there was much still to be done with partner agencies in terms of child sexual exploitation, hate crime, cyber-crime and fraud.

**Whereupon -**

**MOTION MADE AND SECONDED/-**

In agreeing to increase the precept, it is frustrating that instead of fairly funding the police directly, the Government has continued to expect the precept to be increased by the maximum amount, despite the inequalities and unfairness of the Council Tax system.

The increase will see the continued investment in neighbourhood policing including a named Neighbourhood Beat Officer and Police Community Support Officer for each ward in Greater Manchester. In addition, GMP will allocate a full time school based officer to schools across Greater Manchester in the greatest need. Investment will be made in new digital recording equipment and in an Interactive Voice Response telephone system that will improve the 101 service.

We welcome the support given to Community Safety Partnerships and voluntary sector organisations giving them additional resources to tackle on a local basis issues including ASB, support victims of domestic and sexual abuse, and work on reducing offending and re-offending, and therefore -

- support the Mayor's proposal to increase the Greater Manchester Police precept by £10 for a Band D property, with effect from 1 April 2020.
- note the budget assumptions relating to the budgets for 2020/21, including the proposals for the Community Safety Fund, and the process and context within which the PCC component of the precept has been proposed.

The Motion then being put and voted upon, it was

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY/-**

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