

## Item No.3

### MINUTES OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18 JANUARY, 2017 AT CHURCHGATE HOUSE, MANCHESTER

#### Members Present-

#### BOLTON COUNCIL

Councillor Derek Burrows

#### BURY COUNCIL

Councillor Tamoor Tariq (in the Chair)

#### GMCA

Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor (Policing and Crime) Beverley Hughes

#### MANCHESTER CC

Councillor Nigel Murphy

#### OLDHAM COUNCIL

Councillor Barbara Brownridge

#### ROCHDALE MBC

Councillor Sultan Ali

#### SALFORD CC

Councillor David Lancaster

#### STOCKPORT MBC

Councillor Wendy Wild

#### TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Councillor Laura Evans

#### WIGAN COUNCIL

Councillor Nazia Rehman

#### INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

Maqsood Ahmed  
Diane Curry

#### Also in attendance-

Clare Monaghan  
Jayne Stephenson  
Gwynne Williams  
Jeanette Staley

GMCA  
GMCA  
GMCA  
Salford City Council & GM Police & Crime  
Policy Lead  
GMCA

Nicola Ward

**PCP/01/18 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Joe Kitchen, Tameside Council, Ian Hopkins, Chief Constable, GMP and Eamonn Boylan, GMCA.

#### **PCP/02/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were received.

#### **PCP/03/18 MINUTES OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING 12 DECEMBER 2017**

The minutes of the Police and Crime Panel held on 12 December 2017 were submitted for approval.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. To approve the minutes of the Police and Crime Panel held on 12 December 2017 as an accurate record.

#### **PCP/04/18 PRECEPT AND BUDGET PROPOSALS**

The Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor (Policing and Crime) presented a report and supplementary report which advised the members of the Police and Crime Panel of the process and context for setting the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) component of the Mayoral precept. She explained that the provisional settlement from Government had been received on 19 December 2017 indicating that the police grant for 2018/19 would remain the same as the 2017/18 grant, coupled with increasing costs there would be an estimated saving requirement for GMP for 2018/19 of £12 million. When considering raising the precept level, the rising crime levels, the threats identified and the impact of cumulative cuts since 2010 have all been taken into account.

The Government has provided the flexibility for all Police and Crime Commissioners to raise the precept by £12, this has been a difficult dilemma which has been considered by the Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor at length. A statutory public consultation regarding the PCC precept proposals has taken place, a total of 2,896 people responded to the consultation, of which 74% agreed with the proposed precept.

Therefore, the Greater Manchester Mayor and Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor are proposing a £12 increase to the PCC component of the Mayoral precept for band D properties. This will raise an additional £8.7 million to support the police budget and help to tackle the increase in demand. This funding will be specifically used to maintain visible community safety presence in neighbourhoods, maximise the number of police officers, provide a ring fenced community safety fund and prioritise service improvements.

There are some uncertainties within the budget, including the funding for the emergency services network which is a national project migrating services from the current provider that will require support in continuing with the current licensing whilst finding new provision.

The budget will also allow for levels of PCSOs to remain the same, whilst increasing the number of police officers (by at least 50) for the first time in a number of years. This will be in addition to replacing those officers who leave/retire as has been the policy for the last couple of years.

Another priority for the precept funding is to accelerate the improvements to the 101 service through a targeted operating model.

In recognition to the cuts in Local Authority budgets, it is intended that the Community Safety Grant continues to be earmarked to fund the work of the Community Safety Partnerships in Greater Manchester for 2018/19 at the same level of 2017/2018.

Members welcomed the report and thanked officers for the detailed highlights, however there was some concern that the additional precept would not be welcomed amongst the public and that officers should commit to detailed communication from the outset of these proposals.

A member further added that although everyone wants to see a strong police service that an increase in the precept needs to be justified and supported by a detailed narrative as to what this funding will bring to each and every community in Greater Manchester. Members went on to suggest that this could even be broken down into how many police officers per borough or how much funding would be allocated to each borough.

The Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor reminded the Panel of the events of 2017 which had increased the demand on local policing, and the concern of residents, and agreed that these budget proposals must be communicated in practical and illustrative ways to ensure that local people can clearly see what this additional funding will bring for the people of Greater Manchester.

Members commented that this budget settlement marked a difficult time for policing, as the proposed funding was not substantial for sustaining the required levels of neighbourhood policing. It was felt that this shortfall should not fall on the tax payer, and that this was the responsibility of Central Government.

Members asked whether Greater Manchester Police had made enough efficiency savings before considering an increase in the precept. The Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor confirmed that there have been successive efficiencies over the past few years, and savings of £26 million in 2017-18 despite an increased cost of extra policing for a number of large scale events following the arena attack. The precept will partially mitigate the savings in the budget, but will also bring much needed additional resources.

A member commented that they welcomed the preservation of the PCSOs and a commitment to neighbourhood policing, however they had some concern that the shortfall of funding will fall on Local Authorities and as a result will negatively impact local communities.

The Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor thanked members of the Panel for their work in building relationships with their divisional commander and making time to discuss local operational issues. She particularly highlighted Salford's approach to addressing the effective use of local resourcing. A member further added that local consideration of

police resources is a really useful process and that if the funding can be detailed in a similar way it would help to explain how the precept will bring added benefits to local authority areas. Officers confirmed that the additional funding could be split out as central spend, and local spend and that the ring fenced police fund could be communicated separately to the public.

Members were concerned that with rising levels of crime, and serious incidents over the past 12 months and felt that the public perception of policing is low. Therefore it is crucial that communication is clear as to what additional support the precept will bring and how improving responsiveness and effectiveness of neighbourhood policing remains a priority for GMP.

A member suggested that the figures received through the proceeds of crime work in GM are also detailed in the communications about policing budgets.

Members also commented that the process for applying for community safety grants need to be improved to ensure that local authorities have equal access to such opportunities. Officers reported that there had been similar feedback through the formal consultation and that this was in the process of being reviewed. Officers further agreed to circulate additional information as to the detail of the consultation and the respondents.

A member of the Panel commented that over the past 5 years there had been a cumulative increase to the precept of £37. They expressed concern these proposals marked the most significant increase, and that this would become the norm for future precepts. The Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor recognised the concerns, and empathised with the sensitivities of passing this funding shortfall burden onto the public however it was impossible to assess what would happen in future years without the provision of a longer term Government settlement. She further added that a three year settlement would give a stronger context to future planning.

Members welcomed the additional recruitment in GMP, but urged that they remain committed to diversity in their workforce. The Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor reported that GMP had won an award for their achievements in diverse recruitment and that there had been significant improvements but there were still further opportunities to increase this further. Members expressed their thanks to GMP for all their efforts taking Greater Manchester through a challenging year with limited resources.

Following the discussion a member suggested that an additional recommendation be agreed which demonstrated the feelings of the Panel in relation to the Government Settlement and in support of this, that a letter be sent outlining the concerns of Members.

The suggested recommendation was given as –

That the Police and Crime Panel notes that the Government accepts that policing across the country is underfunded and is disappointed that despite this no additional funds were made available in the recent budget settlement. Instead, the Government decided to place the burden on council tax payers via the option to increase the precept by £12. By agreeing to increase the precept, we note that Greater Manchester are able to maintain a visible community safety presence in our neighbourhoods, maximise the number of

police officers, prioritise service improvements and ring-fence our community safety fund.

The recommendation was voted on, and agreed unanimously.

A member summarised, that although there were some serious concerns about the shortfall in the Government settlement that they would accept the proposed precept with a 'heavy heart'.

Another member asked that there be some quick communication as to the decision taken by the Panel and that a short briefing be prepared for members to share with colleagues at their own authority.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the process and context within which the PCC component of the precept has been set be noted.
2. That the Panel propose that the precept level can be issued.
3. That the budget assumptions relating to the budgets for 2018/19, including the proposals for the Community Safety Fund be noted.
4. That officers explore how it could be demonstrated in which borough the additional funding is being used, and for what specific purpose.
5. That officers circulate further details of the consultation on the precept proposals.
6. That officers prepare a short briefing on the precept for members of the panel to share in their own authorities.
7. That the Panel notes that the Government accepts that policing across the country is underfunded and is disappointed that despite this no additional funds were made available in the recent budget settlement. Instead, the Government decided to place the burden on council tax payers via the option to increase the precept by £12. By agreeing to increase the precept, we note that Greater Manchester are able to maintain a visible community safety presence in our neighbourhoods, maximise the number of police officers, prioritise service improvements and ring-fence our community safety fund.
8. That the Panel write to Government expressing their concerns as set out in the above recommendation.

