**Meeting: Policing Board**

**Venue: Teams Meeting**

**Date: 12th January 2024**

**Time: 10:20-11:30**

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| **Members:** | Chief Constable, Dr Richard Lewis (CC)  Police and Crime Commissioner, Dafydd Llywelyn (PCC)  Chief Executive, Carys Morgans OPCC (CEO)  Director of Finance, Ed Harries (DoF) |
| **Also Present:** | Staff Officer, DI Delyth Evans (DE)  Executive Support, Ffion Thomas OPCC (Minutes) |
| **Apologies:** | Chief Finance Officer, Beverley Peatling OPCC (CFO) |

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| **Decision No** | **Summary** |
| PB T3 77 | Agree to the annual contribution and the extra amount of Bluelight commercial funding. |
| PB T3 78 | To support the Letter of intent regarding Bluelight Commercial – Police Digital Company, pending consideration by the CFO. A response to BLC to be sent by the 02.02.24 |
| PB T3 79 | That the Variation to Offender Diversion Scheme contract to Pobl agreed to 31st march 2024, with the option to extend for a further period of up to 12 months on confirmation of funding from the Home Office. |
| PB T3 80 | To approve the Photovoltaic Panel Installation in Aberystwyth, Ammanford, Cardigan, Haverfordwest and Newtown stations at a cost of £373,411.42 |

**Administrative Matters**

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Everyone agreed that the previous minutes are a true and accurate record..

1. **Apologies and Introductions** *(Chair)*

It was agreed that the meeting would be conducted through the medium of Welsh as everyone in attendance is Welsh speaking.

The PCC advised that the Precept Panel sub group will be recommending to the Police and Crime Panel to agree on a precept of 6.2%. PCC thanked the CFO and the DoF for their work in developing the Mid-Term Financial Plan. The meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be held on the 26th January.

1. **Update on actions from previous meetings** *(Chair)*

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| **Action No.** | **Action Summary** | **To be progressed by** |
| PB 279 | Performance System - Relevant OPCC staff are involved at the testing stages prior to any future system roll out | Complete |
| PB 280 | Contact be made with Jackie Lewis for discussions and a meeting be convened including relevant staff from the Force and the OPCC. | Complete, replaced by PB 281 |

PB 279 – In addition to the briefing held recently for the PCC, the CEX advised that the Head of Scrutiny has been involved with the testing and had given very good feedback regarding the process, particularly noting the responsiveness of the Performance team to recommendations from those involved with the testing process.

PB 280 – PCC updated that he has met with Jackie Lewis and he has an understanding of the Force’s involvement with Investors in People and the planned interaction with the assessor. It was agreed that a meeting be arranged between Chief Officers, the PCC and the OPCC Chief Executive to discuss how to take the work on culture forward.

Action – Schedule meeting to discuss the proposed culture activity.

1. **Standing Items** 
   1. Chief Constable’s Update

The CC provided an overview of the paper submitted, which included an update in relation to a murder that had occurred in Pembrokeshire. The CC advised that he would be undertaking a welfare visit on officers involved in the incident to commend them on how they dealt with the incident.

It was also noted that an off duty officer assisted with a child that was choking and their actions saved a life.

The Chief Officers Roadshows have commenced with the first being held in Aberystwyth. The CC advised that there was good discussion with many questions and points raised. A suggestion was also put forward that leaders spend time in different departments on a regular basis. It was noted that the DoF’s input at the meetings had been particularly impactive and provided clarity in relation to the financial position.

The PCC touched on the Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse update provided in light of the recent reports within the Fire Service in South Wales. The PCC asked for re-assurance that the individuals within Force are being dealt with appropriately. The CC advised that he is not aware of individual cases as he may need to make decisions on any cases in the future. The necessary assurance will be sought from the Deputy Chief Constable.

FOI Gold Group – There has been a reduction of backlogs within the area and a temporary Chief Inspector resource has been allocated to oversee the ICO recommendations and improvement plan.

* 1. Police and Crime Commissioner’s Update

The PCC provided an update of the duties he’s undertaken. At a Community Engagement Day in Aberystwyth, the local Councillors were interested regarding contact with the University, and the PCC has arranged a meeting with the Student Union at the end of January.

PCC met with town councillors in Tenby and Pembroke where Councillors thought it important to have contact with the Force on a regular basis. It was noted that Pembroke Council stated they have contact with PCSO’s but the PCC suggested it would be beneficial if NPT Sergeants and Inspectors also made contact

Action - LPA's to ensure regular contact is made with local councils.

A role has been developed to co-ordinate the Serious Violence Duty work that will focus on early intervention and prevention activities, which is currently out to advert.

Work is ongoing with Safer Streets 5 although funding has been reduced, and a discussion ensued in relation to some of the challenges with this particularly with the reduction in funding. In the same vain,

the CC advised that funding streams from the Home Office have been reduced in areas including Digital Crime Performance pack.

**Matters for Discussion**

1. Fleet strategy (feedback from HMICFRS debrief re. availability of pool cars)

It was noted that the Force has a good understanding of the demand for fleet through telematics analysis. The PCC asked if the right vehicles are in the right place and aren’t viewed as belonging to a department or individual. The CC advised that it has been noted at the Roadshow that departments are reluctant to give up their cars but this will be reviewed at a strategic fleet meeting.

The PCC said it’s important for NPT to be walking from the station, however the NPT in the more rural areas must have cars to get about. Consideration also needs to be given to the use of the OPCC car.

Action: For the OPCC Business Manager to seek an understanding of the use of the OPCC car to facilitate future discussions.

DoF said there is work being done regarding the Operational model Group that could change the way cars are distributed, they now have that report and decisions will be made to make the most of the cars available.

1. DA/RASSO Progress Report on recommendations from VEF Feedback

The Board considered a DA/RASSO progress report and noted that it is important that the progress is considered within the appropriate governance structure. It was further noted that the CEX will ensure it is added to the relevant forum by the Policy Advisor.

1. Op Soteria progress update

The Board considered a progress report on Op Soteria noting that a Victim Engagement plan developed in 2023 contains 55 recommendations. The CC advised that a new Sergeant has commenced in the Bluestone Central Team this week.

1. Vulnerability Improvement Strategic Update - brief update for the PCC covering any feedback from Child Protection Inspection in Powys

The Board considered the update on Vulnerability Improvement that included information on the areas of improvement and the practices that are followed. It was noted that the work undertaken is reported to the Vulnerability Board and the ACC has responsibility for ensuring improvement. The CEX suggested that the OPCC and youth ambassadors could support their work and the CC agreed to a meeting between CEX and the ACC to discuss opportunities further.

1. HMICFRS Inspection report on the Super Complaint – Section 60 of Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and independent community scrutiny of stop and search

The CC provided a verbal update in relation to the HMICFRS Inspection report on the Super Complaint – Section 60 of Criminal Justice and Public order Act 1994 and independent community scrutiny of stop and search. It was noted that the recommendations of the inspection are being managed by CI Chris Neve who is compiling a response to the report.

It was noted that Section 60 has been used twice in the past 12 months, both at Stradey Park Hotel due to increased violence from persons wearing face coverings. It was noted that progress is being made against recommendations including a review of force training for Section 60 and progress against each recommendation must be made by 14th June 2024 and CI Neve is confident that Force will be compliant by then.

1. HMICFRS Inspection report on the effectiveness of police and law enforcement bodies’ to group based child sexual exploitation in England and Wales

The CC provided a verbal update on the HMICFRS Inspection of the effectiveness of police and law enforcement bodies’ to group child sexual exploitation in England and Wales.

The CC advised the recommendations in this thematic report have been allocated to a Lead and will sit under the Strategic Vulnerability Board that will receive quarterly updates on the recommendations. This has been only been allocated recently and meetings will be required with Leads to discuss the recommendations ahead of the Board meeting on 1st February.

Action – To discuss the force response to HMICFRS Inspection report on the Super Complaint – Section 60 and Effectiveness of Police and law enforcement bodies’ to group based CSE at the next Policing Board.

1. **Matters for Decision**
2. Bluelight Commercial funding

The PCC was advised that the report sought approval to contribute £10,000 per annum to BlueLight Commercial. It was agreed that there the contribution could be justified by the positive benefits the Force would receive.

Decision – Agree to contribute to the annual contribution and the extra amount of Bluelight commercial funding.

1. Bluelight Commercial – Police Digital Company

CEX confirmed that Heads of departments from Legal, Procurement and I.T. have considered the correspondence and are of the view that the risks are low. DoF also confirmed that he supports this. The Board agreed that a letter of intent can be sent by the 02.02.24 once the CFO has given approval.

Decision – To support the Letter of intent regarding Bluelight Commercial – Police Digital Company, pending consideration by the CFO. A response to BLC to be sent by the 02.02.24.

1. Variation to Offender Diversion Scheme contract

The PCC was advised that the report sought approval to award the Variation to Offender Diversion Scheme contract. It sought approve in principle the variation of contract for Offender Diversionary Scheme to Pobl, until 31st March 2024 with the option to extend for a further period of up to 12 months on confirmation of funding from the Home Office.

The extension will be confirmed on the basis of relevant funding and a commercially viable proposal. Further detail will be provided once received and the project board has approved the appropriate way forward.

Decision - Variation to Offender Diversion Scheme contract to Pobl agreed until 31st March 2024 with the option to extend for a further period of up to 12 months on confirmation of funding from the Home Office.

1. Photovoltaic Panel (PVP) Installations tender

The Board were advised that the report sought approval to award the tender for Photovoltaic Panel Installations. DoF advised the PVP Tender Summary report from Estates was to install Photovoltaic Panels at the following stations: Aberystywth, Ammanford, Cardigan, Haverfordwest & Newtown at a cost of £373,411.42 with a saving of £81,000 a year. Installation also reduces the force’s carbon footprint. This has been included in the financial plan for this year.

Decision – To approve the Photovoltaic Panel Installation in Aberystwyth, Ammanford, Cardigan, Haverfordwest and Newtown stations at a cost of £373,411.42.

1. **Any Other Business**
2. HMIC’s Annual Assessment of Policing



The Head of Policy for the OPCC and the Force are preparing a reply to the Annual Assessment of Policing and Heads of departments have been consulted. The CC will be providing a reply on behalf of the Force and contributing to a letter from the NPCC, both copies will be provided to the PCC. The CC feels the performance focus is great, but with a variety of dashboards, there needs to be a clear understanding of what is good performance.

1. Regrading of Senior Staff Posts

The PCC was advised that this report contains information in relation to two roles that have been been subject to a job evaluation process and have both been increased by one grade. The Director of People and OD is now salary grade “N” and Head of HR Service Delivery is now salary grade “K”. The PCC advised that this has been raised in the past and asked whether evaluations should be undertaken on a wider scale as responsibilities may have changed particularly with the higher graded posts.. The CC advised that this may already be under considerations but will check this with the DCC.

Action – CC to check with DCC regarding whether further job evaluations need to be done within HR or across roles of the same pay grade.

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1. **Review of all actions and decisions taken** *(Chair)*

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| **Action No.** | **Action Summary** | **To be progressed by** |
| PB 281 | Schedule meeting for to discuss the proposed culture activity. | OPCC |
| PB 282 | LPA's to ensure regular contact is made with local councils. | Force |
| PB 283 | For the OPCC Business Manager to seek an understanding of the use of the OPCC car to facilitate future discussions. | OPCC Business Manager |
| PB 284 | To discuss the force response to HMICFRS Inspection report on the Super Complaint – Section 60 and Effectiveness of Police and law enforcement bodies’ to group based CSE at the next Policing Board. | Force and OPCC |
| PB 285 | CC to check with DCC regarding whether further job evaluations need to be done within HR or across roles of the same pay grade. | Force |

**Next Meeting:** 23rd January 2024 – 9am