



*To support and scrutinise the Office of  
the Police and Crime Commissioner*

## **DORSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

### **Notes of the informal virtual meeting held on Thursday 25 June 2020**

**Present:** Mike Short (Chairman), Bobbie Dove (Vice-Chairman), George Farquhar, Les Fry, Barry Goringe, May Haines, Rachel Maidment, Iain McVie, Bill Pipe, Molly Rennie and David Taylor

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mohan Iyengar from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. Cllr May Haine attended as substitutes.

**Officers present** (for all or part of the meeting): Simon Bullock (Chief Executive, OPCC), Marc Eyre (Service Manager for Assurance), Adam Harrold (Director of Operations), Julie Strange (Chief Finance Officer), Martyn Underhill (Police and Crime Commissioner) and David Trotter (Risk and Resilience Officer (Assurance) - notes)

*Note: Councillor Bill Pipe left the meeting at 12:23 pm*

#### **1. Roll-call and Virtual Meeting Procedure**

The Chairman (Mike Short) thanked all present for joining the virtual Dorset Police and Crime Panel meeting. The Service Manager for Assurance (Marc Eyre) informed the virtual panel on the approach to be taken for the meeting procedure. He reminded members that the meeting today was informal and that a formal meeting would be held in September 2020. Members noted the suggested meeting procedure.

#### **2. Chairman's Introduction**

Unfortunately, Cllr Bungey had sadly passed away and the Chairman wished to pass the panel's heartfelt condolences to his family. He said the Cllr Bungey had been an active member of the panel and a great loss. The PCC reported that he too acknowledged the loss and would also pass on condolences during the difficult time to the family.

The Chairman then welcomed all panel members and stakeholders to the first virtual meeting of the Dorset Police and Crime Panel. He thanked all officers for their hard work to set up the meeting. The meeting acknowledged the plans that had been put in place to enable stakeholders voice opinions together with the continued work to support and scrutinise the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

Members were reminded that whilst the meeting was not "live" the meeting would be recorded and made available on the PCP website, for public viewing. It was remarked that the panel meeting was possibly the first virtual informal Police Crime Panel in the country.

The Chairman reflected that the Dorset Force's 126 Special Constables had contributed in excess of 24,000 hours in tackling crime and disorder during the Covid 19 pandemic with the provision of support to regular officers. The panel acknowledged the essential work undertaken by Special Constables and thanked all involved. The OPCC stated that a communication would be issued to all Special Constables to acknowledge their efforts in helping to protect Dorset residents. The Chairman congratulated the OPCC for their scrutiny of Dorset Police during these difficult times. The independent Out of Courts Disposal panel which membership consisted of residents from a range of different backgrounds had met virtually for the first time since restrictions began in order to consider a range of anonymised cases. It was noted there was in place the same process for Fixed Penalty Notices.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

Panel members were invited to make any declarations of interest that are necessary to ensure compliance with the Code of Conduct.

- No declarations of interest were made

### **4. Questions from the public - To receive questions or statements on the business of the committee from town and parish councils and members of the public.**

The Service Manager for Assurance reported that three questions had been received from Mr David Sidwick. He stated that two questions would be dealt at the meeting and that the third in relation to 'stop and search' would be considered at the next formal meeting.

Question One - The first and only priority for a PCC should be to increase the safety for their residents by reducing their risk whether from crime or more recently from Covid-19. During the first month of lockdown between March 27th and April 28th, where did Dorset rank versus other forces including our Alliance partner regarding the issuing of fixed penalty notices. What discussions did you have with the Chief Constable that may have affected this result?

Response - The PCC stated that he and Mr Sidwick held different views on what the function and role of the PCC was. He said that he did not agree that the only priority for a PCC should be to increase the safety of residents, as the role is significantly more multifaceted than that, as are indeed the statutory requirements of the PCC. National league tables are a matter for national bodies, and are quite unhelpful in this matter, as they did not account for local variations in circumstance and demand.

The panel noted that some forces – such as Dorset – with our range of beaches and beauty spots, might attract a higher number of visitors from outside the county (despite some travel restrictions in place during some of the lockdown period). This had caused a different issue than those experienced in an urban area like London or Birmingham. Such matters were not for a PCC, whose role had no operational policing remit. As the Chief Constable assumed the Chair of the Dorset Strategic Co-ordinating Group in Week 1 of Lockdown, he led conversations on the enforcement strategy agreed with health, local authorities, and other blue lights and partners in the room.

Whilst the South West Forces held an agreed enforcement strategy on some issues, for example, Camper Vans travelling to the South West, in the main, Covid enforcement in Dorset had been Dorset specific, hence the comment on unhelpful league tables.

Question Two - Many commentators predicted a reduction in crime during lockdown overall with an increase in domestic violence, child sexual abuse and commercial property theft. What actions did you take to prepare and prioritise resources for these increases?

Response – The PCC reported that whilst it might be expedient to take views from commentators, he chose not to for the following reasons;

- The PCC chose to take a steer from the detailed horizon scanning and evidence review conducted by Dorset Police.
- Most commentators had predicted a huge rise in police demand AFTER lockdown, not during it... and that was something that we had not seen during the initial phased release of lockdown and was not something that had been anticipated to happen in Dorset, although it might happen elsewhere nationally.

With reference to Force detailed intelligence, the panel noted that the March Strategic Performance Board had considered the possible impact of Covid-19 on crime and ASB rates. This had included learning from other countries which had already entered lockdown, and national emerging best practice from NPCC, College of Policing and others.

Whilst Covid-19 was an undoubtedly an extraordinary circumstance, the ability of policing to flex and respond to dynamic changes in demand was well proven, and Dorset Police and the Dorset OPCC had clear systems and process in place to consider not only future possible but also emerging actual demand.

The actions had formed part of the PCC team's Business as Usual activities, and focused on clear considerations of emerging intelligence, daily performance briefings and longer-term performance, safeguarding and resource management ambitions in conjunction with the Chief Constable and his team. The daily Covid report, produced by the Force, enabled assessment of the potential risk areas on a daily live time basis, for example, allowing the PCC team to scope potential areas of demand in the third sector, which was why the Covid-19 Emergency Fund to safeguard the continued delivery of victims' services had been introduced by the PCC.

**5. Covid 19 To receive an update from the Police and Crime Commissioner based on the Key Lines of Enquiry established by the Panel.**

The Chairman thanked Mr Iain McVie on the production of the key lines of enquiry (KLOE). The meeting received an update from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) on the response to the global Coronavirus pandemic. Members were reminded that on 13 March 2020 the Government made the decision to postpone the PCC elections by one year. At that time the OPCC had provided a formal update on Covid-19 by the Gold commander and discussed several topics with the Chief Constable which included community impact assessment, resource contingency planning, staff protection/PPE, and sickness absence management.

It was noted that Dorset Police produced a daily 'executive briefing' that covered staffing availability; daily performance on the numbers of incidents, local incidents of note and high priority areas such as vulnerability, domestic abuse, fixed penalty notices together with the impact on force command centre. The information and intelligence helped to the OPCC with the necessary resource to better question and challenge the Chief Constable. The panel was advised that during lockdown the OPCC which was represented by the Police Crime Commissioner, Chief Executive Chief Finance Officer, Director of Operations and OPCC management had overseen Force activity through attendance at strategic Boards that had met remotely. In addition to these strategic boards, a range of groups, or 'cells' had been enabled by the Local Resilience Forum, Dorset Police, and partner agencies as a response to Covid-19 crisis and the OPCC had attended a number of the meetings.

It was reported that the cross-partnership recovery work was being led by John Sellgren, Executive Director of Place for Dorset Council and was ongoing with a focus on restart, reset, resilience and wellbeing and COVID 19 safe. It was noted that the SCG was undertaking a mapping exercise that would set out the range of pan-Dorset recovery and reset work. The OPCC reported that in March local public services had been asked to provide initial cost estimates to their Government departments and subsequently as a result of representations, public services, such as health, fire and local government had benefitted from a range of emergency funding to help with service provision. The PCC acknowledged that direct funding had not been made available to police forces, and instead forces had received 'repurposed' and 'flexible' reallocation of existing funds. The OPCC stressed that PCCs and Chief Constables had received verbal confirmation that Covid-19 spend (notably on PPE) and income lost due to reduced operations during lockdown, would be fully reimbursed by Government. He pointed out that the funding position had yet to be ratified in writing, nor had the mechanism of any reimbursement been made clear.

In mid-April, the PCC decided to launch an extraordinary funding scheme to support charities affected by the Covid-19. The OPCC advised the panel that the funding would be used either as an emergency stopgap for charities struggling financially for help with the emergence of new issues due to Covid-19 and social isolation measures, or for issues which would arise as the lockdown measures eased. The meeting noted that to date 23 requests for funding had been received.

It was pointed out to members that in early May, to provide assurance to the PCC and the public that Dorset Police had used its Covid-19 powers legally, appropriately and proportionately an extraordinary scrutiny process had been undertaken by the Director of Operations. The OPCC advised the meeting that cases had been selected at random, that related to Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued between 3 and 21 April 2020. The scrutiny process considered the early stages of a new process together with the overall quality of the decision-making process. The PCC had been briefed on the findings and was assured that the Force had used Covid-19 powers legally, appropriately and proportionately.

Members noted that in April, both alliance forces agreed to obtain a 'temperature check' on how each force was perceived by the public. Questions had been based on existing questions from the Crime Survey for England and Wales, and the PCC's public perception surveys. In summary, most of the respondents felt that Dorset Police undertook an excellent or a good job, and that the Force's public messages during the Covid-19 lockdown had been clear.

The PCC and his team were able to undertake significant scrutiny of Dorset Police and partner agencies during the lockdown period. OPCC has fulfilled its usual duties, roles and responsibilities during the lockdown period. Members welcomed the update and asked questions that sought assurance on the following issues:

- Car Parking and Police COVID costs (George Farquhar) – The panel was informed that the costs for Covid during April and May totalled £350,000 a month. However, the OPCC pointed out that due to loss of income for the driver awareness scheme the true cost was £100,000 a month. The OPCC acknowledged that parking was a problem together with unacceptable attitude to inappropriate parking. He reported that he had written to both Dorset Chief Executives asking that the current car parking fine of £30 be raised to £100 to help deter people leaving their vehicles in dangerous places.
- Anti-Social Behaviour / Drugs in Weymouth (Les Fry) – Residents frustrated with the ongoing situation in Weymouth with the people rehoused in Weymouth and the incidents that occur due to the rehousing. The OPCC acknowledged the frustrations and remarked that in his view it was ill conceived to house 173 people from across the county all in Weymouth. He said that there needed to be a plan in place that provided far better outcomes for homeless people and felt that this could be achieved due to Covid why not before, and in the future.
- Police Staff – Wellbeing (Les Fry) – How are staff coping in these difficult times and recent increase in demand. The OPCC reported that 90% of staff were homeworking and that staffing levels remained good. However, he reported that he had concerns for the future with people's mental health and wellbeing during the uncertain times ahead.

- Social Distancing (Barry Goringe) – What preparations being made on the easing down of social distancing from 2m to 1m plus and what action can be taken if people do not adhere. The OPCC reminded the panel that the social distancing was only guidance and not law and as such could not be enforced. He stated that he would like to see tough measures taken if not followed and referred to the recent incidents at Bournemouth and Durdle Door beaches. He would like to see heavy fines and jail sentences imposed to people who refused to follow social distancing protocols.
- Lockdown Dorset (Barry Goringe) – Would Government permission need to be sought to lockdown Dorset. The OPCC reminded the meeting that rules/ guidance changed on a regular basis and as things stood currently any lockdown would now be at a local level, for example, hospital or school. The Chief Executive of the OPCC (Simon Bullock) reported that local outbreak management plans would be in place to deal with issues and help to implement remedial actions.
- Dispersal Notices / Enforcement (May Haines) – Due to the influx of numbers to the area could dispersal orders be used to move people on. The OPCC reported that section 35 orders for dispersal had been considered and had been found not to be appropriate use of powers yet. The panel was advised that the police were prepared for 4 July easement and dispersal orders had not been ruled out.
- Finance (Iain McVie) – Concerned that costs linked to COVID would escalate and affect reserves. What assurance is there for the Government to provide financial support to local authorities. The OPCC restated that that direct funding had not been made available to police forces, and instead forces had received ‘repurposed’ and ‘flexible’ reallocation of existing funds. He pointed out that assurances had been provided by the Police Minister that 20,000 additional officers would still be employed in the UK as promised. The OPCC Chief Finance Officer (Julie Strange) reported that monthly Police costs were forwarded to the Government for monitoring and it was hoped that would act as a trigger to capture additional needed funding from the Government. She pointed out that the finances at present had been manageable and that there might be a requirement to use reserves or savings from projects that had not been implemented due to COVID in the next financial year.
- Mental Health (Rachel Maidment) – What have been the effects of lockdown and how could it impact moving forward. The OPCC reported that during the lockdown routine crimes had fallen but since the gentle ease down crimes are moving back to business as usual. He stated that he was worried for the future with the apparent lack of resources to deal with crime related incidents. Recent incidents that included the influx of visitors to the area had caused issues and the police force had been its busiest in history. The panel also noted that during the lockdown that there had been a rise in domestic abuse.

- It was suggested that when public houses and nightclubs re opened that any issues can be managed and supported by the premises I house staff, however, problems could arise with groups of people in public places gathering and police not aided by in house staff or security.
- Funding (Bill Pipe) – Highlighted the concern about funding and the all allocation of monies to help Dorset Police. It was hoped that the Ministry of Justice would provide monetary support in view of the cost of resources surrounding dealing with COVID.
- Domestic Abuse (Molly Renee) – Thanked the police the way they had dealt with domestic problems. The OPCC agreed with Councillor Renee and stated that the police had been proactive with dealing with abuse and stalking.
- Staff / Councillor Wellbeing (David Taylor) – Concerned that staff and councillors had been abused whilst trying to undertake their duties. Sought assurance that measures were in place to deal with wellbeing matters.

**6. Qtr. 4 Report - To receive an update of progress against the Police and Crime Plan Q4 2019-20, to enable Panel members to scrutinise performance, seek assurance and assess outcomes achieved in the reporting period.**

The Panel considered a report informing them of the progress against the Police and Crime Plan and Priorities 2017-2021. The monitoring report provided information on the financial outturn position for the Q4 period of the year, including updates on the following items which are listed under the relevant pillars:

Pillar 1 – Protecting People at Risk and Harm – Cllr Mohan Iyengar

The OPCC reported on the activity and achievements made:

- The PCC match funded a County Lines locality review for Bournemouth by the Home Office sponsored Violence and Vulnerability Unit (VVU). Scheduled for the end of March, the review had to be postponed with the onset of Covid 19
- STARS sexual violence charity opened a new centre in Dorchester, supported with funding from the PCC
- The PCC worked with partners to launch a new Appropriate Adult service for juvenile detainees operated by The Appropriate Adult Service (TAAS)
- Through funding secured by the PCC, the Dorset Anti-Slavery Partnership (ASP) delivered awareness raising training relating to the local night-time and 'gig' economies
- The Veterans Hub in Weymouth added a gym and therapeutic areas during the period, with support from the PCC

- Following the illness and death of colleague Ron Hogg, the PCC coordinated a lobbying campaign for change in the law on assisted dying, which secured national media coverage.
- The PCC issued a blog commenting on the burden being placed on policing as a result of those suffering mental ill health
- With lockdown being instigated towards the end of the period, the PCC commented on the initial policing response. With the postponement of the PCC elections until 2021, he also confirmed his intention to remain in post for a further 12 months
- The PCC commissioned Citizens Advice Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) to run a project raising awareness around hate crime and available support for night-time economy staff
- January saw Action for Children fully launch a mentoring and support programme for vulnerable young people, commissioned by the PCC within a wider package of youth diversion measures.
- With concerns over the possible impact of the Covid 19 lockdown on victims of domestic abuse an awareness raising campaign was launched to highlight the support still available and ways to report concerns
- Following the launch of the Police Cadet scheme, Cadet Molly became the first recipient of the Cadet of the Year award at the annual Dorset Police Awards Ceremony in February

Members welcomed the update and asked questions that sought assurance on the following issues:

- What work was being undertaken by the PCC in the potential identification of hidden victims and the being implemented to support them in coming forward to report criminal events that might have occurred during March, April and May 2020. The vulnerable groups which had been identified include:
  - Online grooming (not just sexual)
  - Non accidental child injuries
  - Crimes that involved elder residents (especially families have not been able to visit, for example, care homes and fraud)
  - Suicides
- With the summer here, what action had the PCC taken to ensure that the public were aware of the Anti-Social Behaviour task force and how would it be used over the next coming months to aid Dorset residents.



## Pillar 2 - Working with our Communities – Cllr Les Fry and Cllr David Taylor

The OPCC reported on the activity and achievements made:

- Dorset Police No Excuse teams seized 35 vehicles in three weeks as part of a crackdown on rogue and unsafe drivers
- To mark Safer Internet Day, the Dorset Police cyber protect officer produced a guest blog with some simple tips for people to protect themselves online
- Dorset Police are engaged with the National Economic Crime Centre (NECC) Project Otello to step up the response to fraud. This includes the City of London Police coordinated Operation Radium, a multi-agency response to courier fraud
- A further guest blog from the cyber protect officer provided advice and guidance on avoiding online scammers seeking to exploit the Covid 19 outbreak
- An OPCC Panel reviewed each Neighbourhood Engagement Plan developed by the respective Dorset Police neighbourhood teams, rating them 'good' against strict criteria
- Dorset Police recognised police officers, staff and volunteers for exceptional service at the annual awards ceremony in February
- In line with his commitment, the PCC has published his Annual Engagement Report for 2019-20, summarising activity to inform, engage and consult during the year
- The PCC launched his annual precept and funding consultation, including a blog and series of roadshow events to gather the views of the public on his proposals for 2020-21. The consultation was challenging given that it needed to be launched ahead of the delayed Government funding settlement announcement
- The first ever Bobby Van scheme was launched in Dorset, via the Safer Dorset Foundation (SDF) charity, to enable vulnerable victims of crime to receive security advice and measures to prevent repeat victimisation
- A series of prosecutions relating to Purbeck, Weymouth and Christchurch/Weymouth highlight the inroads being made by partners in tackling fly tipping. Partnership working has been enhanced by the dedicated Focus Group instigated by the PCC's Problem-Solving Forum on fly tipping.
- The OPCC led on submitting two partnership bids to the Home Office Safer Streets Fund, seeking to tackle burglary and acquisitive crime in the Pokesdown and Boscombe hotspots within the BCP Council area.

### Pillar 3 – Supporting Victim, Witnesses and Reducing Reoffending – Cllrs Bill Pipe and Molly Rennie

The OPCC reported on the activity and achievements made:

- The PCC published a summary of progress made against his specific commitments to support victims and witnesses of crime during his term of office
- STARS sexual violence charity opened a new centre in Dorchester, supported with funding from the PCC
- The Covid 19 outbreak has had a significant impact on the criminal justice system (CJS), including the postponement of all court cases from late March 2020. The PCC and OPCC officers have been actively engaged in Wessex Area Response Groups and Dorset Criminal Justice Board (DCJB) discussions around the challenges, appropriate responses and recovery plans post lockdown
- The PCC published a summary of progress made against his specific commitments to reduce reoffending during his term of office
- Responding to planned prison reforms, the PCC blogged on his support for the proposals and the positive impact on reducing reoffending that could result if implemented effectively
- Some early interim evaluation feedback from the custody environment research project has been received. Between January and March 2020 there has been a 20% reduction in adverse incidents. Detainees have also provided positive feedback on the measures implemented following the research

### Pillar 4 – Transforming for the Future – Iain McVie and Cllr Barry Goringe

The OPCC reported on the activity and achievements made:

- The Police and Crime Panel approved the PCC's budget and precept proposals in February 2020. The increase of £10 per year, or 83 pence per month based on an average band D household, was less than anticipated ahead of the Government funding settlement announcement
- In February 2020 the OPCC successfully submitted a bid for funding to equip more frontline officers with Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs), more commonly known as 'Tasers'. The money secured covers additional devices and training, equating to 315 extra CEDs for officers.
- Ahead of the delayed Government funding settlement announcement, the PCC called for "root and branch transformation" of the funding formula deemed to penalise smaller, rural and coastal forces.

- The Alliance Drone Unit has been enhanced by moving onto a dedicated flight management software system and the delivery of two dedicated drone vans, one per Force. Two new drones with enhanced capability are also on order and anticipated to arrive in July 2020
- The long-awaited police complaint reforms progressed with the relevant legislation passed in February 2020 allowing PCCs to oversee the appeal process against Force complaint decisions. An OPCC Complaints Review Officer was accordingly appointed following a recruitment process. The same legislation brings about changes to Chief Constable complaints handling, with mandatory referrals to IOPC now introduced.
- Following a regional agreement, officers from Dorset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Avon & Somerset and Devon & Cornwall will be able to use any police owned electric charging point in the region without charge when travelling on police duty

The panel discussed the various achievements made against the Police and Crime Plan and welcomed the report. There was concern on the significant impact on the criminal justice system and the potential of a three-year delay in addressing crimes. It was clear that urgent action was required, and consideration given in to how justice could be delivered in an alternative manner. It was suggested that reduced sentencing could be a solution which would provide all involved with some form of punishment and remedial action.

- ACTION: The OPCC requested the panel to send the office views on how the issues about the delays in the criminal justice system could be dealt with.

The OPCC reported three new initiatives had been agreed for 2020:

- Violence Reduction Unit
- Protection of the Vulnerable
- Antisocial Behaviour

#### Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).

- Whilst Dorset had not experienced the kinds of serious youth violence and knife crime that had blighted other force areas, Dorset was not immune from the antecedents that drove such criminality, and before a problem occurred it was felt to be the right time to put in place a preventative, public health approach.
- VRUs are a HO supported initiatives, and significant seed funding had been provided to those force areas that had higher levels of knife violence. Dorset was not one, and therefore options to self-fund a Dorset initiative would be considered.

- VRUs consider the proven drivers of serious violence – mental health, deprivation, exclusions and adverse childhood experiences – to ensure a ‘whole person’ approach to building resiliency in young people. Currently the position was that a phased delivery plan for the delivery of a VRU had been drawn up, and funding opportunities were being sought to help realise the ambition.

#### Protection of the Vulnerable.

- It was noted that the PCC aspires to the creation of a vulnerable person’s unit, or similar, that served both children and adults with pooled partner budgets. The aspiration had been subjected to peaks and troughs as decisions elsewhere had led to the collapse of the countywide MASH, but now looking more promising with the pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership and the pan-Dorset System Partnership Board.
- Covid had meant that agencies were considering their post-lockdown recovery work. Part of that work was to reflect on the impact to residents and delivery systems, in the short, medium and longer term – and how Dorset could inform collective business together. Work was currently in its infancy, but there was a clear desire to join to maximise the benefit to the public, and vulnerable populations.

#### Anti-Social Behaviour.

- The PCC stated that Dorset was slightly behind where he had hoped to be for the priority, as he had planned on the priority being the focus of summer engagement programme.
- The panel was advised that this would now afford Dorset the opportunity to re-evaluate what was known about what residents wanted and expected, particularly as the lockdown eases and some state of normality was able to resume. The OPCC would be undertaking extensive public consultation during the summer and the results from that would help to set out the activity for the remainder of the year in consultation with the Chief.

Regarding finance the report had set out detailed transactions for each reserve, but the changes had broadly fit into three categories. The first was around funding for the capital programme with nearly £1m fewer capital receipts being used in 2019-20. It was reported that there were a significant number of carry forwards this year, totalling £1.6m across the Force, the Region and our Commissioning, primarily related to delays caused by the pandemic. The panel noted that whilst the lockdown had only been during the last week of the financial year, planning had begun several weeks before that with projects being suspended or not started to enable staff and officers to be redeployed. The third area was around the general underspends and funding for specific projects which had been set aside.

Members were advised that the quarter three report projected a forecast balance as at 31 Mar 20 of Total Usable Reserves of £6.5M. The Quarter four report had showed an actual balance in the area of £9.9m. The OPCC was asked to outline why the 30% increase had not been more accurately forecast?

The panel noted that at the time the Quarter three forecast had been produced in early January and the implications and impact of COVID-19 was not known and might the OPCC had anticipated some carry forward requests it would never had been on the scale that had been agreed. The main area where forecasts needed to be improved was around the capital programme. As part of the Capital Strategy approved in February, a Capital Strategy Group had been established and one of the roles was focused on the improvement on the accuracy of the capital forecasts and the provision of additional scrutiny and challenge. The Group had met twice with the next meeting scheduled for July where quarter one forecast would be reviewed.

## **7. Annual Report - To receive the PCC's Draft Annual Report.**

The meeting was presented with the Draft Annual Report 2019-20 for consideration in accordance with Section 12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Members were reminded that under Section 12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act), the Police and Crime Commissioner (the PCC) is required to report to the Police and Crime Panel (the Panel) on the exercise of his functions in each financial year. Members of the Panel were invited to review the report and to make any recommendations to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for consideration in the final editing process.

The panel was advised that feedback be provided to the Chief Executive by Monday 13 July 2020. It was reported that the aim of the annual report was to provide useful and informative high information of the work undertaken by me OPCC during the last financial year and reflected on the following:

- Local government restructure and major structural changes to physical and mental health service provision nationally
- Significant prison and probation reforms
- Brexit
- General Election has brought with it several spending commitments, including a significant upturn in police officer numbers
- Covid 19
- Most recently, the Black Lives Matter cause has further highlighted that much is still needed to be done to address equality and fairness for all

It was stressed how Covid 19 had posed a significant challenge to both Dorset Police and the OPCC. As restrictions start to lift, focus and attention would now divert to the what that means for policing and the continued work with criminal justice partners in tackling the significant issues faced by courts and others in dealing with the backlog of cases. It was reported that during these current times there had been obvious difficulties and hardships and the OPCC had been heartened by the positive response by so many Dorset residents.

- **ACTION:** The panel was requested by the chairman to provide comments on the Draft Annual Report to the Service Manager for Assurance (Marc Eyre) by no later than 2 July 2020. The chairman would then collate all views, in conjunction with his own, and respond to the OPCC by 10 July 2020.

## **8. Innovation Fund - One Year Update - To receive an update on how the PCC's Innovation Fund has progressed over the last year.**

The Dorset Police and Crime Panel received an update on the first year of operation of the Dorset Innovation Board. The panel was reminded that as part of the 2019 precept, the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner agreed to create a joint Innovation Fund. The Innovation Fund enabled ideas to be submitted by any member of the workforce. These ideas were assessed by the Force Innovation and Efficiency Officer, who considered if the idea was new, technically achievable and would realise the intended aim.

It was reported that to date, over one hundred separate bids had been submitted. 35% of these progressed from idea into a deliverable outcome, whether that be a piece of equipment, technology, process or a new post. A further 45% had been assessed by the Board for further development and appropriate support provided to the innovator. Most of the remainder were found to be initiatives already underway or ideas effectively part of enhanced business as usual. In all these cases the innovator was thanked for their idea and connected to the area of business where the idea was already in place for their further thought.

Members noted that bids totalling £981,850 were funded in 2019- 20 with the remaining £18,150 within the fund had been approved by the Resource Control Board to be carried forward to 2020-21 and added to the opening balance of £500k. The administration of the Innovation Fund had benefitted from utilising existing OPCC processes in managing its various commissioning streams. Part of these include an evaluation to ensure funded projects deliver on the expected outcomes and are fully embedded into the organisation allowing for a maximisation of the investment. It was highlighted that the first Innovation Board was held in March 2019, and focused on the 'bids' previously identified in the precept setting process, including:

- Innovation and Efficiency Officer
- Integrated Offender Management Officers x3
- Marine Crime Officer
- Rural Crime Officer
- Safety Camera Operative
- Missing Person Co-ordinator
- Bobby Van Scheme
- Cadet Scheme

The Innovation Board is a useful endeavour. Aside from providing a mechanism for allowing the organisation to fast track Chief Constable and PCC supported initiatives through to full implementation and go-live, the Board has also spearheaded the embedding of innovation and problem solving within the wider Force, providing opportunities for staff at all levels to identify new and innovative ways of working.

Ian McVie sought assurance that the posts would be able to be funded in the next financial year and assurance was given that this would be the case.

- **ACTION:** The Chairman reiterated the concerns about the transfer of posts from the innovation fund into the regular budget and requested that the matter be placed on the forward plan for further consideration. The OPCC agreed to provide at the next meeting data on how funding would be identified within the main budget upon transfer from the Innovation Funding Line.

**9. Complaints - To receive an update on complaints received in the last quarter and any ongoing complaints against the PCC.**

Iain McVie reported that currently there were three complaints lodged for consideration by the Police and Crime Panel. He reported that as the meeting was informal than information should be kept and shared as a minimum. The panel was afforded the following key points:

- Complainant A – A complaint that was considered by the Panel and upheld the decision made by OPCC. The complainant escalated the complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO).

The LGO determined not to investigate the complaint.

It was reported that the LGO had deemed that there was insufficient wider public interest to investigate as the Police and Crime Panel had dealt with the complaint. Members noted that since this decision, the complainant had continued to make further enquiries that were clearly linked to the original complaint.

The complainant had been informed that the matter was closed.

The panel noted that this complaint highlighted minor concerns with respect of the panel's complaints process; this has been reviewed and amended accordingly.

- Complainant B – The Panel received correspondence from both the Complainant and the IOPC.

The complaint accused the Police and Crime Commissioner of failing to hold the Chief Constable to account but it was noted that the complaint was essentially lodged against the Chief Constable.

The complaint had been forwarded to the IOPC for consideration.

It was noted that the panel's involvement in matter had now been closed.

- Complainant C – The issue related to policing and was not a complaint against the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner.

It was reported that the matter had been forwarded to Dorset Police for action.

The panel's involvement with the complaint had been closed.

The OPCC advised the meeting that there were no substantial complaints currently lodged against the OPCC.

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset thanked the Dorset Police and Crime Panel for the meeting and stated that he and the office had been scrutinised. He reminded the meeting that his role was to scrutinise the police commissioner and panel members role was to scrutinise the OPCC and it was clear that this had been achieved and would continue to be the case.

It was recognised that Dorset residents continued to make extraordinary sacrifices now in order to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

The meeting closed at 1:10 pm