



ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

TUESDAY 18 June 2024 AT 10.00AM IN LANCASHIRE POINT (LP1 09), CHRIST CHURCH PRECINCT, COUNTY HALL, PRESTON

PRESENT

Clive Grunshaw - Police and Crime Commissioner
Sacha Hatchett - Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary

IN ATTENDANCE

Sam Mackenzie - Acting Deputy Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary
Russel Procter - Assistant Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary
Karen Edwards - Acting Assistant Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary
Mark Winstanley - Acting Assistant Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary
Nikki Evans - Chief Superintendent, Lancashire Constabulary
Gillian Routledge - Chief Operating Officer, Lancashire Constabulary#
Duncan Arthur - Inspector, Lancashire Constabulary
Dan Rogers - Chief Financial Officer, Lancashire Constabulary
Steve Freeman - Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Rachel Whittle - Head of Communication and Engagement, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner
Ian Dickinson, Head of Governance and Accountability, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Richard Harrison - Performance and Scrutiny Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

APOLOGIES

No apologies were received for this meeting.

CURRENT AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

It was noted that the forthcoming period was anticipated to place high demand upon the Force's resources due to the General Election, UEFA European Championship and festival season, alongside possible protest activity, too.

The Board were informed that ACC Russell Procter had notified the Chief Constable of his intention to retire and consequently, this would be his final Accountability Board. The Chief Constable wished to note her appreciation for ACC Procter's 31 years' in service.

It was explained that an interim appointment had been made to fill the vacant post upon ACC Procter's departure, and a formal process would ensue towards identifying



a permanent replacement. It was also outlined that a process to identify a permanent Deputy Chief Constable would take place in due course.

The Board were informed that former Chief Constable, Chris Rowley, had been awarded the King's Police Medal in the King's Birthday Honour's List.

The Police and Crime Commissioner highlighted that the General Election had been called by the Prime Minister, which had presented some obstacles in relation to the consultation process concerning his new Police and Crime Plan. It was expressed that it was anticipated more would be known in the autumn in terms of policies that would influence policing priorities and resources at the Force's disposal.

FEES AND CHARGES 2024/25

The Chief Financial Officer, Lancashire Constabulary, introduced the report, which outlined the updated schedule of fees and charges for financial year 2024/25. It was explained that the contents had been consulted on with the Constabulary's Chief Officer team and was therefore presented to the Board for information.

It was noted that the majority of fees and charges were led by National Police Chief Council (NPCC) guidance, and, therefore, the fees increase ranged from 4.6-7% depending upon the inflationary driver applied; however, some fees remained unchanged, as explained within the paper.

In relation to firearms licencing, the Commissioner's Chief Finance Officer asked if available funds were sufficient to cover the increasing financial demand. In response, it was explained that the current position suggested that costs could be covered; however, this would be continually monitored.

Regarding training course costs, it was noted that fees had increased which was attributed to the recruitment of new Police Officers under Operation Uplift. It was also explained that the raising of driving standards requirements had resulted in increased costs, too.

01/2024 Resolved:

That the updated scheduled of fees and charges for financial year 2024/25 be noted.

SPONSORSHIP, GIFTS AND LOANS 2023/24

The Chief Financial Officer, Lancashire Constabulary, introduced the report which, it was noted, was received annually by the Board, outlining the sponsorship, gifts and loans received during financial year 2023/24.



It was highlighted that the value of contributions was significantly higher than 2022/23 as a result of funds received from the Premier League. It was noted that the funds received were unconditional, and, therefore, there was flexibility in terms of their utilisation, with options being considered; however, this was subject to decision.

In addition, funding contributions were received via Lancashire Partnership Against Crime (LANPAC), totaling £42,911.12, to support a number of Community Safety Initiatives across the County, which had been awarded based on bids from divisions and departments to LANPAC. West Division and East Division respectively received contributions, with Blackburn with Darwen Council contributing the majority of additional funds towards drug partnership operations across the East area. Outside of LANPAC funding, no extra sponsorship, gifts, or loans were received.

It was suggested that the report be received regularly to assure the Commissioner in terms of funds received and their utilisation. This was agreed to be possible going forward.

The Police and Crime Commissioner queried whether funds received from Blackburn with Darwen should be categorised as a gift. It was explained that this had been categorised as a gift as it resulted from partnership work through the Community Safety Partnership.

The Police and Crime Commissioner suggested that further consideration be placed into the categorisation of funds of this nature going forward.

02/2024 Resolved:

- i. That the Board note the value of sponsorship, gifts and loans received in 2023/24.
- ii. That consideration be placed into providing the Commissioner with information regarding sponsorship, gifts and loans at regular intervals.
- iii. That further consideration be placed into the categorisation of elements of funding as gifts going forward.

GIFTS AND GRATUITIES UPDATE

The Chief Operating Officer, Lancashire Constabulary, introduced the report, which set out the details of Gifts and Hospitality registered during the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

It was explained that the policy had been embedded within the Force and was managed by the Head of Professional Standards. During the period, it was outlined



the bulk of gifts and gratuities registered were made to officers and staff in public facing roles, often consisting of low value offerings of food and drink. Investigations, Neighbourhood and Response Policing, and the Public Protection Unit (PPU), accounted for 74% of submissions, with data demonstrating an even distribution of gifts and gratuities received across all divisions. It was reported that the option to "re-gift" had enabled options for staff who had found it difficult to refuse gifts and therefore had been welcomed. Over the course of the period, 4% had been rejected or "re-gifted" to charitable causes.

The Board were informed that two gifts valuing over £500 had been offered, with one "re-gifted", and the other offered to the Rural Task Force and utilised towards a team building experience day. Four monetary gifts had been submitted, with all bar one rejected or "re-gifted", this being to the value of £10 and purposed to purchase refreshments for the Fleetwood Neighbourhood Policing Team.

The Commissioner's Chief Finance Officer noted that the Gifts and Gratuities policy was cited within the report and stated to be under review, and, therefore, requested that the Commissioner be provided with the draft version as an aspect of the consultation process.

The Chief Operating Officer, Lancashire Constabulary, agreed to share the draft version of the new Gifts and Gratuities policy with the Commissioner for consultation.

03/2024 Resolved:

- i. That the Gift and Gratuities Update be noted.
- ii. That the Commissioner be consulted on the draft version of the new Gifts and Gratuities Policy.

DATA PROTECTION OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

The Chief Operating Officer, Lancashire Constabulary, introduced the report, which provided the Commissioner with an overview of the Constabulary's performance and progress in relation to information governance during 2023/24.

It was explained that the governance structure had changed to improve corporate insight with consideration of business requirements and to undertake due diligence. The new model sought to ensure that information asset owners were mindful of their role and sought to embed accountability.

It was reported that there was one personal data breach in relation to social media during the period, which had resulted in the need for training to be delivered to mitigate future risks.



It was explained that the Constabulary provided detailed information in relation to the background and context concerning the decision to disclose information relating to the missing person, Nicola Bulley, following widespread criticism of the disclosure of information during the missing person inquiry. Following a review by the Information Commissioner's Office, it was highlighted that no action was taken, and they were content with the actions of the Force.

The Board were informed that an IT health check had taken place and had resulted in the conclusion that the Constabulary were in a positive position, with security notably concluded to be higher than other Forces nationally.

The Commissioner noted that the report outlined progress had been made with the introduction of the Family Hubs Information Service (FHIS), which was welcomed. The Commissioner asked for a timescale for the finalisation of the project as a result.

The Chief Operating Officer explained that there was not a specified timescale for completion as there were complexities, particularly concerning the Information Sharing Agreement. It was confirmed an update would be requested in order to inform the Commissioner around progress.

Resolved:

- i. That the Data Protection Office Annual Report be noted.
- ii. That the Chief Operating Officer provide an update on progress with the Family Hubs Information Service following liaison with coordinators of the project.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting was to be held on 13th August 2024.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

That the press and public be excluded from the Meeting during the consideration of the following Items of business on the grounds that there would be a likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as indicated against the heading to the Item, and the public interest not to disclose it outweighed the public interest in disclosing it.

PART II – PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

PROGRESS AGAINST POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PRIORITIES 2021 – 2025



The Police and Crime Commissioner received a report setting out the Constabulary's progress against the priorities and measures set out in the current version of the Police and Crime Plan.

STRATEGIC POLICING REQUIREMENT

The Commissioner received a report regarding the Strategic Policing Requirement.

WORKFORCE PLANNING

The Commissioner received a report in relation to Workforce Planning.

BENEFITS REALISATION/PRODUCTIVITY REPORT

The Commissioner received a report regarding Benefits Realisation and Productivity.

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Chief Constable delivered their annual report to the Commissioner.

INSPECTIONS, AUDITS AND REVIEWS

The Commissioner received a presentation setting out the Constabulary's progress against the HMICFRS recommendations and Areas for Improvement.

CURRENT AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Police and Crime Commissioner received an overview regarding current and significant issues from the Chief Constable.

Mr Steve Freeman
Interim Chief Executive