



Cleveland

Police and Crime Panel

Annual Report 2020/2021



Foreword

I am pleased to present the third Annual Report of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel (The Panel) and it covers a period of time when the spotlight has fallen on the very important, but often unseen and undervalued, work of our Police Force, emergency services, Local Authorities and partner agencies.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought extraordinary difficulties to our communities, and it has been remarkable how each of these organisations have risen to the many and varied challenges presented by the disease. They have demonstrated on a daily basis that working in partnership is the only way forward in keeping all of us safe with the ever-changing threat of this malady.

The Panel, like everyone else, has had to adjust to these challenges. We have entered the world of virtual meetings, at times hindered by technical difficulties of frozen screens and dropped internet connections. Beating these glitches could not have been achieved without the dedication and patience of the Panel Members and strong Support Officers, intent on ensuring the important work of supporting and scrutinising the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) continued.

The last year has been a demanding and upsetting chapter for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) with the Commissioner resigning unexpectedly. It was crucial that an Acting PCC was appointed swiftly to ensure that focus remained on ensuring Cleveland Police continued to move forward on their path out of special measures. The Panel was pleased to appoint Lisa Oldroyd as the Acting PCC until elections could be held in May 2021.

That recent election saw Steve Turner appointed as the Police and Crime Commissioner. I and the Panel Members look forward to this new chapter for the OPCC, working with Mr Turner in a healthy and professional manner to get the best service for our communities. The Commissioner has to live up to the promises he gave to the electorate; I and my colleagues on the Panel will hold him to them.

Finally, I hope you find the report helpful and informative.



Councillor Tony Riordan
Chair of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel



Role of the Police and Crime Panel

Police and Crime Commissioner

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 brought in new arrangements for national policing, including the introduction of elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). Elections take place every four years, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent cancellation of the scheduled May 2020 elections, the existing Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, Barry Copping, was to remain in post until May 2021.



In September 2020, Mr Copping resigned from his role and an Acting PCC, Lisa Oldroyd (from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland), was appointed to fulfil the position in a caretaking capacity until the May 2021 elections.

Police and Crime Commissioners are responsible for:

- Securing an efficient and effective Police Force for their area
- Producing, and consulting on, a five-year Police and Crime Plan
- Holding to account the Chief Constable, including the power to appoint and dismiss
- Publishing certain specified information / datasets, including an Annual Report
- Setting the annual Force budget and Police precept
- Requiring the Chief Constable to prepare reports on police matters, on request





Association of Police and Crime Commissioners

Some Police and Crime Commissioners are also responsible for their local **Fire and Rescue Services**



What does your Police and Crime Commissioner do for you?

Holds the Chief Constable to account for delivering an effective and efficient police service



Appoints the Chief Constable who runs the operational side of policing in your force area



Sets the police budget, decides how much **you pay towards policing** from your council tax, to add to the funding from central Government and decides how that combined money is spent



YOU HAVE A VOICE ...

Works with local authorities, health and education services, plus the voluntary sector and local businesses to create a **joined-up response** to local problems



Works with national and local policing and **Criminal Justice partners** to reduce crime and help **make communities safer**



After **consulting local people**, publishes a **Police and Crime Plan** to identify local priorities and how they plan to meet them



Funds **crime prevention** services to address issues such as drug and alcohol misuse, youth crime and anti-social behaviour to keep **your communities safe**



Commissions dedicated **local victim support services**, that you can access to **help you cope and recover**, if you become a victim of crime



Elected to represent your views on policing and crime locally. **Directly accountable to you**, the public



MAY 6th 2021

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Police and Crime Panels

Police and Crime Commissioners are held to account by Police and Crime Panels which are composed of locally elected Councillors and some lay members. The Police Force, however, is accountable to the Commissioner and not to the Panel.

The Police and Crime Panel is a scrutiny body which exists to scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner, promote openness in the transaction of Police business, and to support the PCC in the effective exercise of their functions. The Panel is responsible for:

- Holding the Police and Crime Commissioner to account
- Reviewing the PCC's proposed annual Police Precept
- Contributing to the development of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan (on which it is a statutory consultee)
- Reviewing the PCC's proposed appointments
- Making reports and recommendations on matters relating to the PCC
- Reviewing and scrutinising decisions made by the PCC
- Making comments on the PCC's annual report
- Determining complaints against the PCCs

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 sets out the process for issuing a precept, including the Panels role in reviewing the proposed precept, their power to veto the precept, and the steps to be taken if they do veto the proposed precept. The Act also requires Panels to hold confirmation hearings on the Commissioner's proposed appointment of a Chief Constable and sets out veto powers in relation to the appointment.

In 2012, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council was designated as the host Local Authority for the Panel. This means that the Council is responsible for training and supporting the Panel, as well as providing legal and constitutional advice. For the year 2020-2021, the Council received a grant of £53,441 from the Home Office to provide administrative support to the Panel (the maximum amount which could be claimed was £66,180) – this was used to cover costs including Officer time and meeting, conferences, subscriptions, training and printing expenses.

The composition of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel is in accordance with legislative provisions and is politically proportionate with the total number of Councillors in the Force area.



Cleveland Police and Crime Panel Membership 2020/21

The Panel consists of 12 Councillors with membership drawn from the four unitary Councils within the Cleveland Force Area. In addition, there are two non-political independent members.



**Chair
Councillor
Tony Riordan**
(Stockton-on-Tees)



**Vice-Chair
Councillor
Graham Cutler**
(Redcar and Cleveland)



**Councillor
Lee Cartwright**
(Hartlepool)



**Councillor
Barrie Cooper**
(Middlesbrough)



**Councillor
Stefan Houghton**
(Stockton-on-Tees)



**Councillor
Dave Hunter**
(Hartlepool)



**Councillor
Chris Jones**
(Redcar and Cleveland)



Paul McGrath
(Independent Member)



**Councillor
Steve Nelson**
(Stockton-on-Tees)



**Mayor
Andy Preston**
(Middlesbrough)



**Councillor
Carl Quartermain**
(Redcar and Cleveland)



Luigi Salvati
(Independent Member)



**Councillor
Norma
Stephenson OBE**
(Stockton-on-Tees)



**Councillor
Matthew Storey**
(Middlesbrough)



Matrix of Attendance at Panel Meetings 2020/2021

CLEVELAND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL ATTENDANCE - 2020/21

First Name	Last Name	Representing	07.07.20	10.09.20	15.09.20	06.10.20	17.11.20	02.02.21	04.03.21	Total Meetings Attended
Lee	Cartwright	Councillor - Hartlepool Borough Council	✓	RA	RA	✓	✓	✓	✓	5
Dave	Hunter	Councillor - Hartlepool Borough Council	✓	Apols	Apols	Apols	Apols	X	X	1
Andy	Preston	Mayor - Middlesbrough Borough Council	RA	Apols	RA	✓	RA	✓	✓	3
Barrie	Cooper	Councillor - Middlesbrough Borough Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7
Matthew	Storey	Councillor - Middlesbrough Borough Council	✓	✓	✓	Apols	✓	✓	Apols	5
Graham	Cutler	(Vice-Chair) Councillor - Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7
Chris	Jones	Councillor - Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7
Carl	Quartermain	Councillor - Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	✓	✓	2
Vera	Rider	Councillor - Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	n/a	n/a	5
Stefan	Houghton	Councillor - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	RA	✓	1
Steve	Nelson	Councillor - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7
Tony	Riordan	(Chair) Councillor - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7
Norma	Stephenson	Councillor - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7
Steve	Walmsley	Councillor - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	Apols	Apols	Apols	✓	RA	n/a	n/a	1
Paul	McGrath	Independent Member	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7
Luigi	Salvati	Independent Member	n/a	n/a	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5
Substitutes										
Shane	Moore	Councillor - Hartlepool Borough Council		✓						1
John	Tennant	Councillor - Hartlepool Borough Council			✓					1
Dorothy	Davison	Councillor - Middlebrough Borough Council	✓		✓		✓			3
Luke	Frost	Councillor - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council					✓			1
Lynn	Hall	Councillor - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council						✓		1

Key	
✓	Attended
RA	Apologies Submitted (replacement attended)
Apols	Apologies Submitted (no replacement)
X	Did Not Attend (no apologies received)
C	Cancelled Meeting
n/a	Not a Member



Key Activities and Achievements


The Panel's Core Programme

During 2020/2021, the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel met seven times, one of which was a session in September 2020 to consider and confirm the appointment of a second Non-Political Independent Member (NPIM), Mr Luigi Salvati, to the Panel.

The Panel meeting in July 2020 was the first of the municipal year, and following a vote, Councillor Tony Riordan was appointed as the new Chair. A further vote saw Councillor Graham Cutler appointed as the Panel's new Vice-Chair.

Throughout the year, standing items on Panel agendas included:

- Members' Questions to the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Police and Crime Commissioner's Updates
- Decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Police and Crime Commissioner's Scrutiny Programme
- Public Questions
- Forward Plan



"Serving the boroughs of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees"

Date: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Venue: Remote Meeting, to be held via Microsoft Teams

Hartlepool Borough Council	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Councillor Lee Cartwright Councillor Dave Hunter	Councillor Graham Cutler (Vice Chair) Councillor Chris Jones Councillor Carl Quartermain
Middlesbrough Borough Council	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Mayor Andy Preston Councillor Barrie Cooper Councillor Matthew Storey	Councillor Stefan Houghton Councillor Steve Neilson Councillor Norma Stephenson OBE Councillor Tony Riordan (Chair)
Non-Political Independent Members	
Paul McGrath Luigi Salvati	

AGENDA

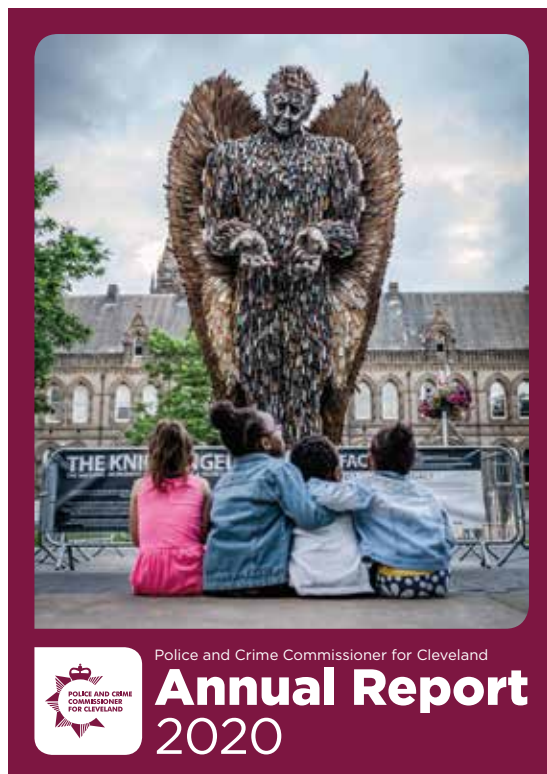
1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2020
4. Members' Questions to the Commissioner
5. Commissioner's Update
6. Decisions of the Commissioner and Forward Plan
7. Commissioner's Scrutiny Programme



Annual Report of Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner

In July 2020, the Panel received the Annual Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner for 2019/2020. The report reflected a cross-section of work the Commissioner had undertaken to implement his 71-point Police and Crime Plan during the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020, and comprised the following:

- Key events
- Foreword by Police and Crime Commissioner, Barry Coppinger
- Introduction by Chief Executive, Simon Dennis
- Police scrutiny and accountability
- Objective 1: Investing in our Police
- Objective 2: A Better Deal for Victims and Witnesses
- Objective 3: Tackling Offending and Re-Offending
- Objective 4: Working Together to Make Cleveland Safer
- Objective 5: Securing the Future of Our Communities
- Turning the tide on serious violence in Cleveland: How we implemented the Early Intervention Youth Fund grant



In presenting the Annual Report for 2019/2020, the Commissioner expressed his gratitude for the commitment and dedication of staff within his Office, the Chief Constable, Mr Richard Lewis, and all at Cleveland Police, the statutory partners and local agencies, many residents and community groups, and all those who work so hard in the communities (as organised groups or as individuals) to keep Cleveland safe. The Commissioner was immensely proud of all of this work, of how people in all organisations and in the communities rise to the challenge every day of the inequalities and injustices many of them face, and the part he had been able to play in helping and making progress.



Police and Crime Plan – Strategic Programme for 2020/2021

The Panel considered details of an extension to the existing Police and Crime Plan (previously refreshed in 2018) in July 2020.

Following the Government’s decision to postpone local elections due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Panel noted that Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) would remain in post until 2021 when it would be possible to hold an election safely. The Panel agreed that the proposed Strategic Programme for 2020-2021 would provide a solid set of foundations for how the PCC would hold the Force to account for its improvement and how it would help victim services, criminal justice agencies and the wider community recover from the COVID-19 crisis, as well as ensure the innovative partnership work continued to make Cleveland a safer place to be.

The Panel noted that the Commissioner’s Plan would maintain his commitment to the five objectives that he had been elected upon:



The Panel accepted the extension to the Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan and was content that the Commissioner could now publish it.



Panel Training

As part of Panel member development, a training session was held in September 2020 featuring external contributions from the National Association of Police and Crime Panels, Frontline Consulting Associates (who run a national project supporting Panels), and the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS). Content covered the Panel's statutory duties, remit and powers, as well as scrutiny skills.

Supplementing this training, a Cleveland Police and Crime Panel Handbook was issued to all Panel Members containing:

- Terms of Reference
- Rules of Procedure
- Panel Arrangements
- Complaints Procedure
- Panel Member Role Guide
- Guidance for Police and Crime Panels
- Annual Report 2019/2020
- Training Slides (September 2020)



Review into the role of Police and Crime Commissioners

The first review of the role of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) since their creation was announced by the Home Secretary on the 22nd July 2020, with the aim of giving the public a greater say over policing, and sharpening accountability, scrutiny and transparency. The review would not consider scrapping the PCC model (nor would it review the 43 police force model), and would take place in two parts:

- **Part 1:** to be conducted over summer 2020, this part would look at raising standards and improving accountability so that all members of the public were getting a good service from their PCCs.
- **Part 2:** to be undertaken following the PCC elections in May 2021, this part would focus on longer-term reform and would include a look at what extra powers PCCs need to better fight crime in their areas.

Responding to the announcement, the Commissioner for Cleveland notified the Panel that he welcomed the review and looked forward to making a submission as part of the evidence-gathering process.

In September 2020, Panel Members heard further developments regarding the review from representatives of the Home Office as part of a Local Government Association (LGA) Police and Crime Panel webinar. The Panel was also informed of the LGA response to part one of the review (for further details, see <https://www.local.gov.uk/review-role-police-and-crimecommissioners-part-one-lga-response-september-2020>), who highlighted that, two terms after the model was introduced, there continues to be mixed views among the LGA membership about the merits and value of the PCC role. Assurance was given that all responses provided were shared with the Home Office so that Panels' views were fully reflected.



Resignation of the Police and Crime Commissioner

In September 2020, the Panel was notified of the resignation of Barry Coppinger as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland after eight years in the post. With the office declared vacant, the Panel was quickly convened to consider the proposed appointment of an Acting Commissioner in accordance with section 62(1)(a) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

The Panel was given legal advice that it could only appoint a person to the office of Acting Commissioner if that person was a member of the Police and Crime Commissioner's staff at the time of the appointment. Once appointed, the Acting Commissioner could exercise all of the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner, except the issuing or variation of the Police and Crime Plan. The appointment of the Acting Commissioner would continue until a new Police and Crime Commissioner was elected or the appointment was terminated by the Panel or the Acting Commissioner.

After the existing Assistant Chief Executive from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Mrs Lisa Oldroyd, had indicated a willingness to be considered for the role of Acting Commissioner, the Panel debated this appointment which included asking questions of her in private. Following the debate, the Panel unanimously agreed to appoint Mrs Oldroyd (pictured right) as Acting Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland.



Crimestoppers

The Crimestoppers Regional Manager attended the Panel meeting in November 2020 and gave a presentation on the work of Crimestoppers. Supplemented by a Crimestoppers Impact Report 2019/2020 (<http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/images/att39391.pdf>), key aspects of the presentation included:

- Background to Crimestoppers
- Who / why do people contact CrimeStoppers
- What is the role of Crimestoppers
- Crimestoppers campaigns



CrimeStoppers.
Speak up. Stay safe.

The Panel made several observations in light of the information provided, including that funding for Crimestoppers should come from the proceeds of crime, and that more prevalence should be made of the Crimestoppers logo (with a link sent to Panel Members so that it can be shared on local social media sites). Discussions were also initiated on the subjects of false / malicious reporting (and the problems arising from that), illegal fireworks (it was noted that members of the public can report this issue to Crimestoppers who do run campaigns around the problem), and issues of anonymity involving the Crimestoppers customer survey. In addition, the Panel highlighted the scourge of domestic abuse and was informed that a new Crimestoppers campaign would be initiated in early-2021.

Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS)

The Panel received a further presentation in November 2020 on the work of Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS). Led by the service's Operational Manager and the CEO Safer Communities, information included the following key areas:



- Background to VCAS and the VCAS model
- Who does VCAS support and the referral process
- Victim Needs Assessment
- Support provided across Cleveland
- Overview of open cases

The Panel asked if a link could be provided so that the Members could share VCAS information on social media websites, and an invite was made for VCAS to attend and make a presentation to a future East Redcar Residents Association meeting.



National Police and Crime Panel Conference

The ninth annual Conference for Chairs, Members and Support Officers of Police and Crime Panels and Police, Fire and Crime Panels took place in November 2020. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Conference was moved online but with an extended programme over three days.

Accessed by the Chair and other Members of the Panel, delegates heard from a variety of high-profile speakers including Paddy Tipping (Chair of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners in 2020), Yvette Cooper MP (Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee), Frances Crook (Chief Executive, Howard League for Penal Reform) and Andy Burnham (Greater Manchester Combined Authority Mayor and PCC). In addition, a series of thematic policy seminars and practitioner-led workshops were held in relation to good practice and Panel development, including:

- Public policy and policing
- Public policy, women and criminal justice
- Tackling human trafficking and modern slavery
- Policing 2020: A very different year
- Working together – police and mental health triage
- Elections for Commissioners in 2021 – a briefing for Panels
- Working with public health around early intervention
- Effective Scrutiny by Panels
- Forums for Chairs, Independent Members and Support Officers of Panels

Ninth Annual Conference for Police (Fire) and Crime Panels Online 23 – 25 November 2020		frontline consulting
Final programme with useful links		
Monday 23 November 2020		Theme: Policy
10:30 am	Welcome to day one of the Online Conference by Lord Toby Harris, Co-Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Policing and Security, exploring issues around policies, performance and outcomes	
Conference plenary speakers		
• Chair of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners in 2020, Paddy Tipping https://apccs.police.uk/		
• Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee, Yvette Cooper MP https://committees.parliament.uk/committees/63/home-affairs-committee/		
Questions to each speaker will be selected from suggestions in Chat		
[NOTE - The speech by the Mayor and PCC of Greater Manchester will now take place on Wednesday at 10 am]		
12 noon	Lunch break	
1:30 pm	Conference breakout sessions, Good practice and Panel development Thematic policy seminars of one hour each	
1:30 pm	Public policy and policing Rick Muir, Police Foundation http://www.police-foundation.org.uk/	
2:30 pm	Screen break	
2:45 pm	Public policy, women and criminal justice Lorraine Atkinson, Howard League https://howardleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/APPG-on-Women-in-the-Penal-System-online-2-FINAL.pdf	
3:45 pm	Screen break	
4 pm	Tackling human trafficking and modern slavery Courtenay Forbes, Unseen https://www.unseenuk.org/	
5 pm	Close of day one of the Conference	



Task and Finish Scrutiny

In addition to the standing items which form the Panel's core programme, the Panel also undertakes proactive scrutiny work which expands the scope of the Panel beyond its formal statutory role. This approach strengthens the delivery of the Panel's core statutory responsibilities and also contributes to their statutory function in supporting the Police and Crime Commissioner in the effective exercise of their duties.

During 2020/2021, the Panel undertook the following task and finish work:

Scrutiny of the Local Policing Precept 2021/2022

One of the key roles of the Panel is to consider the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed policing budget and precept. As in previous years, a Task and Finish Group comprising the following Councillors was appointed to inform the work of the Panel:

- Councillor Graham Cutler (Chair) Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
- Councillor Lee Cartwright Hartlepool Borough Council
- Councillor Barrie Cooper Middlesbrough Borough Council
- Councillor Norma Stephenson OBE Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- Paul McGrath Non-Political Independent Member

The Group met on the 18th January 2021 to receive information about the Police and Crime Commissioner's overall budget strategy for 2021-2022. Discussion took place about funding and planning assumptions, total funding projections and funding pressures.

The Group reconvened on the 26th January 2021 to receive further updates from the Chief Finance Officer as well as input from the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner, and a final meeting of the Group took place on the 29th January 2021 to consider potential alternative options to the proposed 1.99% precept increase.

Presented at the Panel meeting in February 2021, the Group's final report (which can be accessed at <http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/images/att39919.pdf>) outlined the following key findings:



- Police settlement for 2021-2022 was a good one, though there was an expectation that certain elements had to be addressed within the 5.3% (£413.6m) core grant increase.
- However, the capital grant remains cash flat, and there will be a need to earmark some funding to support capital requirements around the maintenance of buildings, provision of equipment, etc.
- A significant deficit in Council Tax collections is expected due to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Coupled with the lack of growth in the underlying tax base, this could lead to a deficit pressure against original plans of around £1.9m.
- Expected that the financial plans will balance based on a 1.99% increase in precept, and that future years will also balance (based on a number of assumptions that carry risk). A 1.99% (£5.19) precept increase (in line with previous plans) would equate to around 10p extra per week for a Band D property in 2021-2022.
- A £15 precept increase (maximum level without triggering a referendum) would equate to around 29p extra per week for a Band D property in 2021-2022 – this would provide £1.5m additional funding (in comparison to a 1.99% increase) to invest in additional policing services on a recurring basis.
- Pay awards can have a significant impact on expenditure – suggested figures noted for the next few years are indicative only as there is no firm information available.
- There are no significant levels of reserves available. Prudent not to go below 3% of Net Budget Requirement – projected to be 3.6% in 2021-2022, so no scope within reserves to provide additional support.
- Close to achieving the required Officer uplift in Cleveland (72) by March 2021. Expect the Government to continue funding the Officer uplift programme as it was a key aspect of their election manifesto.
- OPCC challenged this year in not being able to get out into the community to ascertain what the public is thinking around funding for the Force. Only 181 responses to the online survey, with over 50% supporting an increase in the precept (of 1.99% or more), and around 20% supporting the maximum £15 increase.
- OPCC acknowledge the need to look at the way it conducts the consultation on the precept to ensure more robust representation from across the Cleveland area.
- The plan inherited by the Acting PCC was on the basis of a 1.99% precept increase for 2021-2022. Without having a currently elected PCC, the OPCC are trying to stick to the previous plan.
- Significant current demands on the Force, not just due to COVID-19 but also in response to the agreed actions following the 2019 HMICFRS report.



The Group concluded that Cleveland Police had made very good progress under the current Chief Constable and were keen to support the Force in meeting demand, as well as helping to ensure that service improvements were maintained and further strengthened.

However, concerns remained as to the allocation of resources across the whole of Cleveland, in particular Hartlepool and East Cleveland. The Group strongly urged the Force to ensure, as far as possible, that any additional funding made available through a precept rise benefits all four Local Authority areas, and that the public can see tangible evidence of a return on their investment.

In conclusion, the Group recommended that the proposal of the Police and Crime Commissioner to set the Band D Police Element of the Council Tax within Cleveland for 2021/2022 at £265.73 (an increase of £5.19, or 1.99%, over the 2020-2021 level) should be endorsed, a recommendation that was subsequently supported by the Panel.

Cleveland Police Communications Strategy

A Task and Finish Group comprising the following Councillors was appointed to conduct a piece of work on the overarching Cleveland Police Communications Strategy:

- Councillor Steve Nelson (Chair) Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- Councillor Lee Cartwright Hartlepool Borough Council
- Councillor Vera Rider Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
- Councillor Matthew Storey Middlesbrough Borough Council

The Group held its first meeting on the 27th November 2020 and considered evidence from the Commissioner's Officer for Communications and Information followed by the Head of Corporate Communications for Cleveland Police. Discussion points included the most effective methods of communication, the role of the PCC in operational announcements, partnership-working with wider stakeholders regarding communications, ensuring positive messages around policing are disseminated, and the use of social media.

A second meeting of the Group was scheduled for early-2021 but this had to be postponed due to the third COVID-19 national lockdown. It is anticipated that the Group will conclude its work and report back to the Panel in 2021/2022.



Update following the HMICFRS Integrated PEEL Assessment Report 2019

As documented in last year's Annual Report, 2019 saw the publication of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) fifth PEEL (police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy) assessment of Cleveland Police. PEEL is designed to provide information about how local police forces are performing in several important areas, in a way that is comparable both across England and Wales, and year-on-year. The 2019 report outlined that Cleveland Police had been graded 'inadequate' in each of the three pillars:

- How effectively does the force reduce crime and keep people safe?
- How efficiently does the force operate and how sustainable are its services to the public?
- How legitimately does the force treat the public and its workforce?

In February 2021, HMICFRS published a follow-up report on the Force's progress in relation to Crime Data Integrity, the National Child Protection Inspection, and the vulnerability cause for concern. There were several notifiable improvements from the inspection, including:

- The Force is better at assessing the vulnerability and risk to victims of domestic abuse, including repeat victims.
- Control Room staff are better at identifying risk; this is reflected in the grading of an incident.
- Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are in place across the Force area for children and young people.
- The Force has made promising improvements to its recording of crime.
- The Force has improved its allocation of crime.
- Custody staff are complying with statutory duties regarding detention.
- The Force has improved its use of legal powers to prevent reoffending, particularly Domestic Abuse Prevention Notices (DVPNs) and conditional bail.
- Victims are believed following deployment and record observations on body-worn video.
- The Force has improved its pursuit of justice on behalf of victims of domestic abuse.



An informal meeting was scheduled for February 2021 to provide an opportunity for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to inform Panel Members of their response to the 2019 HIMICFRS publication and to explain how, as an office, they would ensure an oversight of the Force's service improvement, hold the Force to account, and use the findings to inform their commissioning strategies.

In response to the presentation from the OPCC, the Panel highlighted the need to pick-up best practice from other Force areas, be mindful of the various bodies undertaking scrutiny of the Force to avoid duplication, and continue to focus on strengthening processes to ensure more accurate and timely reporting and recording of crime. Other issues discussed included children held in custody overnight due to a lack of Local Authority facilities, funding for appropriate adults, the impact of the outsourcing of the Force's Control Room, and a reflection on the levels and effectiveness of Force scrutiny from both the OPCC and the Panel itself prior to the 2019 'inadequate' grading.



Heroin Assisted Treatment (HAT) Programme – Evaluation Feedback

In March 2021, the Panel was given the opportunity to receive feedback on the evaluation of the ground-breaking Heroin Assisted Treatment (HAT) Programme (for further information, see (<https://www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk/how-can-we-help/community/heroin-assisted-treatment-hat/>)). Led by several professionals, the presentation included a contribution from a client who reflected on their own journey with heroin addiction and their subsequent involvement in the programme.

Early findings showed that HAT is likely associated with substantial behaviour change and psychosocial stabilisation, including:

- substantial reduction of the consumption of street heroin for most people
- reduction of risky injecting practices
- improvements in self-reported physical and psychological health indicators
- reductions in homelessness
- reductions in criminal behaviour and associated costs



All of these benefits had been delivered within an uncertain backdrop of a global public health crisis, though some limitations were acknowledged around the low sample size (affecting the confidence around the results and prohibiting statistical testing), no comparative control group (due to ethical and funding restrictions), and no face-to-face contact with participants.

The Panel commended the work of all those involved with the programme and emphasised the view that heroin addicts should be looked at as victims rather than criminals. Further comments focused on the impact of the programme in reducing crime (and therefore victims of crime), costs and how it is funded, and the need to continue with the programme beyond its current funding period.



Complaints

The Panel has certain duties (under the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012) relating to the recording and investigation of complaints about the PCC that relate to non-criminal behaviour.

The Panel has established a sub-committee to consider complaints against the PCC. Complaints are dealt with by an informal resolution process; there are no powers to investigate a complaint. The sub-committee can consider complaints at a meeting, which the complainant, PCC and/or others may be invited to attend, or by the submission of written documents.

During 2020/2021, two complaints were considered under the Panel's complaints procedure. Both complaints resulted in a decision of the sub-committee that no further action be taken due to Mr Barry Coppinger no longer being in post as PCC.



Further Information

You can keep up-to-date with the work of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel by visiting <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/our-people/police-and-crime-panel/>

All meetings of the Panel are open to the public.

Listening to the views of local residents is an important part of the work of the Panel and anyone who lives or works in the Cleveland Force Area is welcome to submit a question to the Panel.

If you wish to submit a question, contact details are below:

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