MINUTES

**NATIONAL POLICE AIR SERVICE (NPAS) – BUDGET SETTING**

**NATIONAL STRATEGIC BOARD (MEETING NUMBER 57)**

**07 February 2024 – via Teams**

**PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **NAME** | **REPRESENTING** |
| PCC Lisa Townsend (LT) – Chair | Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey – South East Region |
| Sarah Allen (SA) on behalf of CC Jason Hogg (JH) | Thames Valley Police – South East Region |
| Paul Wainwright (PW) on behalf of PCC Jonathan Evison | Head of Assurance & Statutory Duties - OPCC for Humberside - North East Region |
| ACO Gary Ridley (GR) on behalf of CC Rachel Bacon (RB) | Assistant Chief Officer Durham Police – North East Region |
| PCC Peter McCall (PM) on behalf of PCC John Dwyer | Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria – North West Region |
| CC Mark Roberts (MR) | Chief Constable Cheshire Police – North West Region |
| DPCC Rani Mahal (RM) on behalf of PCC Marc Jones | Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire – East Midlands Region |
| CC Rachel Swann QPM (RS) | Chief Constable for Nottinghamshire Police – East Midlands Region |
| PFCC Ben Adams (BA) | Police Fire & Rescue and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire Police - West Midlands Region |
| CC Debbie Tedds (DT) | Chief Constable Warwickshire Police – West Midlands Region |
| Ian Dalgarno (ID) on behalf of PCC Festus Akinbusoye | Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire Police – Eastern Region |
| Robert Cleal (RC) on behalf of CC Ben Julian-Harrington QPM (BJH) | Staff Officer to CC Harrington Essex Police – Eastern Region |
| Robin Merrett (RM) | Mayor’s Office for Police & Crime (MOPAC) |
| DAC Laurence Taylor (LTa) | Metropolitan Police Service – London Region & Chair of NPAS IAG  NPCC Drones Lead |
| PCC Philip Wilkinson (PW) | Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire Police – South West Region |
| CC Catherine Roper (CR) | Chief Constable for Wiltshire Police – South West Region |
| PCC Dafydd Llywelyn (DL) | Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys Police – Wales Region |
| CC Pam Kelly (PK) | Chief Constable Gwent Police - Wales Region |
| Alison Lowe OBE (AL) | Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime  West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) |
| CC John Robins QPM DL (JR) | Chief Constable - West Yorkshire Police – Police Air Operations Certificate Holder (PAOC) |
| Monique Wrench (MW) | National Police Capabilities Unit - Home Office |
| Aphra Brannan (AB) | National Police Capabilities Unit - Home Office |
| Ashleigh Taylor (AT) | Police Aviation Lead - Home Office |
| Colleen Rattigan (CR) | Head of Strategy & Innovation Northamptonshire Police – East Midlands Region |
| T/ACC Vicki White (VW) | T/Assistant Chief Constable West Yorkshire Police |
| T/Chief Superintendent Mark Jessop (MJe) | NPAS Chief Operating Officer |
| Katherine Johnson (KJ) | Assistant Chief Officer – Business Operations West Yorkshire Police |
| Mark Reeves (MR) | Finance and Commercial Services Director – West Yorkshire Police |
| Rod Brown (RBr) | Programme Director Transition Programme Board |
| Lianne Deeming (LD) | Chief Executive, BlueLight Commercial |
| Glenn Shelley (GS) | NPAS Head of Business Services and Accountable Manager |
| James Cunningham (JC) | NPAS Head of Aviation Safety |
| Lisa Fleming (LF) | NPAS Communications Lead |
| Ian McGibbon (IM) | Regional Policy Officer - Staffordshire OPCC – West Midlands Region |
| Elaine Grocock (EG) | Regional Collaboration Manager – East Midlands Region |
| Herval Almenoar-Webster (HAW) | National Policy Officer – OPCC Surrey |
| Rebecca Brookes (RBr) | Head of Legal & Governance Services – West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) |
| Caroline Fleming (CF) | Commercial Lawyer, West Yorkshire Police Legal Services |
| Simon Efford (SE) | APCC Secretariat |
| Melanie Jaundziekars (MJa) | NPAS Executive Office Manager |

**APOLOGIES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **NAME** | **REPRESENTING** |
| PCC John Dwyer (JD) | Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire – North West Region |
| PCC Jonathan Evison (JE) | Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside - North East Region |
| CC Rachel Bacon (RB) | Chief Constable Durham Police – North East Region |
| CC Ben Julian-Harrington QPM (BJH) | Chief Constable for Essex Police – Eastern Region |
| CC Jason Hogg (JH) | Chief Constable Thames Valley Police – South East Region |
| CC Charlie Hall (CH) | Chief Constable Hertfordshire Police & NPCC Aviation Lead |
| PCC Marc Jones (MJ) | Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire Police – East Midlands Region |
| PCC Festus Akinbusoye (FA) | Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire Police – Eastern Region |

PCC Lisa Townsend (LT) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone joining via Teams.

1. **ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies were noted and recorded.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Alison Lowe (AL) raised that she sits on the Board of Directors of BLC.

1. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2023 AND 10 OCTOBER 2023**

Minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

1. **ACTIONS**

All actions were discharged.

1. **NPAS FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND FORECAST POSITION**

Mark Reeves (MR) presented the monitoring report and outlined that the operational revenue position as of 31st December 2023 is indicating an operational underspend of £763k and the year-end forecast is reporting an operational underspend of £546k.

MR advised the most significant variance was pay and overtime due to a significant number of vacancies across NPAS as at the end of December and the pay award relating to officers and staff agreed at 7%.

MR advised that fixed wing spare parts are underspending due to the reduced number of pilots that are available to fly the fixed wing aircraft and therefore hours are down. Rotary spare parts have been overspending due to the increased number of parts required to improve the availability of the ageing fleet.

MR advised that the fixed wing contract cost has increased due to the move from Doncaster Airport to Leeds Bradford Airport and now into East Midlands Airport. MR advised that the move also led to an increase in travel costs.

**Resolved:**

**Members noted the financial position of NPAS**

**NPAS MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST (MTFF) AND RESERVES**

MR presented the draft Medium Term Financial Forecast (MTFF) for NPAS to 31 March 2027.

**Resolved:**

**Members noted the Revenue MTFF but due to the uncertainties raised agreed that this would need reflecting into the MTFF.**

**NPAS BUDGET AND CONTRIBUTIONS 2024/25**

Mark Reeves (MR) presented the balanced revenue budget for the financial year 2024/25 which has been calculated at £49,121m and is an increase of £2.4m from the 2023/24 budget. This assumes the full UR of 12,410 hours plus NPAS hours 1,877 totalling 14,287 hours.

**Resolved:**

**The majority of PCC Board members approved the budget and associated contributions for 2024/25. The Board agreed to allow the flexibility for regions to allocate their own contributions within their region.**

1. **NPAS TRANSITION PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Rod Brown (RBr) gave a short presentation and advised the business case will now be considered on the 19 March to allow time to complete key activities to inform the business case, plans to be agreed, and for the business case to be socialised ahead of the NSB.

RBr advised that NPAS staff wished to remain on the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and recent engagement has indicated there is an increasing retention risk if this is not possible.

RBr updated members with regards to the cost model.

1. **NPAS TRANSFORMATION UPDATE**

RBr gave a short presentation and outlined the key points in relation to Transformation.

RBr advised that workshops had now been held with the majority of regions to better understand what regions need from an air service and need to understand drone usage better and working towards a business case for approval in August/September 2024.

Members raised that it was important that the NPCC Drones Programme and the Transformation programme work together and need to ensure that the work is aligned.

Monique Wrench (MW) advised the Policing Minister is interested in the timelines for both Transition and Transformation and stated that the timelines are challenging for a number of reasons. MW stated that the outline business case is due in September 2024 and raised concern around the impact that this may have around fleet replacement and some of the decisions that will be required. MW also highlighted the need to understand drone capability and what our requirements are for the future and as part of that the Policing Minister has ensured there is additional funding for drones as part of the innovation and productivity allocation for next year. The Home Office are working with the teams to develop business cases and MW raised it is vital that both teams work together to ensure that future demand capability requirement is key and need to understand the full picture for what type of contracts are required for fleet replacement.

Alison Lowe (AL) agreed that the NPCC Drones Programme and the Transformation Programme Board need to work more closely together and raised concern around drones flying when NPAS are also flying and for drones to be reported into the NPAS Operations Centre. AL reinforced the need to work more collaboratively together and reiterated NPAS cannot fly as the Mayor will not want helicopters or fixed wing flying if there is a risk to life from a drone.

1. **ITEMS FOR NOTING**

Board members noted:

* Meeting notes from the NPAS Fleet Replacement Strategic Board held on 6 September 2023
* Meeting notes of the NPAS Local Strategic Board held on 14 September 2023
* NSB Work Programme

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No AOB was raised

**Date and time of next meeting: 19 March 2024**