MINUTES OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER, 2018 AT CHURCHGATE HOUSE, MANCHESTER

Members Present-

BURY COUNCIL                              Councillor Tamoor Tariq

GMCA                                     Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor (Policing
                                             and Crime) Beverley Hughes

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL                  Councillor Nigel Murphy

OLDHAM COUNCIL                           Councillor Stephen Williams

ROCHDALE COUNCIL                         Councillor Janet Emsley

SALFORD CITY COUNCIL                    Councillor David Lancaster

STOCKPORT COUNCIL                       Councillor Elise Wilson

TRAFFORD COUNCIL                        Councillor Mike Freeman

INDEPENDENT MEMBER                      Angela Lawrence

INDEPENDENT MEMBER                      Majid Hussain

Also in attendance-

Carolyn Wilkins                          Oldham Council
Richard Paver                            GMCA
Gwynne Williams                          GMCA
Jayne Owen                               GMCA
Lisa Lees                                GMCA
Sarah Barnes                             GMCA
Steve Annette                            GMCA
Jeanette Staley                          Salford City Council & GM Police & Crime
                                          Policy Lead

Peter Langmead-Jones                     GMP

PCP/18/19 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Boshell, Salford City Council, Councillor
Ayub, Bolton Council, Councillor Sheila Bailey, Stockport Council, Councillor Allison
PCP/18/20  DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

PCP/18/21  MINUTES OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING – 30 OCTOBER, 2018 AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the Police and Crime Panel held on 30 October 2018 were submitted for approval. It was noted that Councillor Boshell, Salford City Council was in attendance.

On behalf of the panel the Chair welcomed both Angela Lawrence and Majid Hussain, the newly appointed independent panel members to their first meeting, adding that both were exemplary candidates and that he looked forward to working with them both going forward. He also extended a welcome to Carolyn Wilkins, Lead Chief Executive for police and crime.

Councillor Lancaster reported that there were two matters that were still outstanding in relation to specific training needs for independent members, and the pension fund. In relation to training needs Jeanette Staley reported that she had been liaising with community safety managers and that responses were still awaited. She added that she would provide an update at the panel meeting in January.

RESOLVED/-

1. To approve the minutes of the Police and Crime Panel held on 30 October 2018

PCP/18/22  POLICE PRECEPT SETTING CONSIDERATIONS 2019/20 AND UPDATE ON 2018/19 INVESTMENT AREAS

Jayne Owen, Finance Director, GMCA introduced a report which provided the context within which the Mayor would set the precept for 2019/20. She added that the report presented was the second of a suite of reports brought before the panel with regards to the setting of the police precept and the considerations that needed to be taken into account. Members had previously requested details of the investment areas from the previous precept rise and those details were contained in the report together with the timetable for the setting of the 2019/20 precept.

In terms of the Autumn Statement there had been an expectation that there would be an indication of what would happen in relation to police funding, however that had not been forthcoming. An announcement was however made that there would be extra funding for counter terrorism amounting to £160m, but there are concerns that there will be hidden costs to police forces. It was said that police funding would be considered as part of the future spending review. It was reported that the police grant announcement would not be until 6 December, 2018 and it was incredibly important to
know what the settlement would be as Greater Manchester rely on 80% of the grant for its funding. The report highlighted various pressures and challenges and highlighted particular concerns in relation to pensions, the upgrading of the airways network and top slicing, and the impact this would have on the police grant. It was reported that last year a decision was taken to introduce a flat increase of £12 across all the force areas, conversations were continuing with regards to this year’s precept setting and a public consultation exercise would canvass the views of the public on the precept levels. It was noted that the precept proposals would be presented to the next panel meeting on 24 January, 2019.

The Deputy Mayor added that the report summarised the areas that the precept would support in terms of service development and improvements and that the work was substantially on track or delivered. For the benefit of the newly appointed independent members, the Chair highlighted the background to last year’s precept setting and how the resources where allocated.

A member expressed concern about the spiralling costs around pensions and asked why the force was not being more radical in relation to professional standards and why police forces were not looking at forming some form of a regional shared service across north-west forces and asked whether this could be explored going forward. In relation to a question about demand and how best to respond to it, the Deputy Mayor said it was important to maintain our commitment as best we can to place-based working and neighbourhood policing, however with the reduction in the number of police officers and PCSO’s over the last eight years and the increase in demand is ever stretching available resources. The Deputy Mayor said that she was not aware of any plans to have a regional/pan north-west service to handle complaints and agreed to take this matter-up with the Chief Constable.

A member said that the lack of clarity from the government on next year’s police settlement at this stage would make it very hard to put service delivery plans in place for next year and added that he felt it would be very difficult to raise the precept by £12 next year if this was solely to protect police pensions. He suggested that further representations should be made to the government to say that we do not have enough funding in GM to provide a policing service to protect its citizens. A member added her support and suggested that all members should look at other ways of lobbying government. The Deputy Mayor added that having a three-year settlement would give such clarity and allow for more flexibility within the resources available. It was reported that a lot of work was happening around lobbying government particularly in relation to the pension review.

The Chair added that he had previously written to the government on this very matter and no response had been forthcoming. He added that his local authority had recently passed a motion at its full council meeting condemning the police cuts. He suggested that an urgent communication statement should be sent to government and encouraged that it be shared by members in the respect districts as it was important to get the message out to the public.
RESOLVED/-

1. To note the key issues for consideration by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor when considering the 2019/20 police precept.

2. To note the progress against the investment areas funded in the 2018/19 budget.

3. To note the timetable for the setting of the 2019/20 police precept.

PCP/18/23 PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK FOR THE STANDING TOGETHER PLAN

The Deputy Mayor briefly introduced the report before inviting officers to provide a detailed update.

A member asked how it was proposed that the business community was going to be consulted in this process. In response Lisa Lees, GMCA confirmed that this particular survey was primarily focused on the general resident population of GM, however it was recognised that the business community played a key part in the development of the plan and that the business communities’ views and experiences would be key in developing and moving forward the outcomes framework.

A member expressed concern about the level of resources available to address the issues raised in the survey.

A member said that it was important to ensure the consultation process reached out to a broad sample of members of the public and that this was done in various ways including using online tools as well as more traditional methods, such as shopping and civic centre gathering points.

The Deputy Mayor added that the ambition was to capture a broad range of views from members of the public across GM and a key aim at the end of the process was to be able to disaggregate that information at the end of the process to reflect and act upon on the views of groups of people as well as individuals.

There was a general discussion about the need to obtain the views of service users, i.e. those that commit crime and to look at solutions.

PCP/18/24 GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – FORWARD PLAN 2018/19

The Panel received a report which set out the Forward Plan to inform the business of the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Panel (GMPCP).

Jeanette Staley reported that currently there was only one panel meeting scheduled to take place in the New Year (24 January) and said that she would add to the forward look training needs for panel members and an update on the 101 call service
and would confirm dates for the forthcoming year. She added that should members wish to include any items to the forward look then to contact her with details.

RESOLVED/-

1. To approve the Forward Plan.

PCP/18/25 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair reported that he along with Councillors Freeman and Anderson had recently attended the National Police and Crime Panel’s Annual Conference which had been very productive with lots of learning from the day. He added that the Association had been running for six years and that currently GM was not a member, and suggested that going forward it would be useful if GM considers becoming a member of the association, not least for it providing a national platform for campaigning, sharing ideas as well as training opportunities for panel members.

It was noted that West Midland Combined Authority was due to visit GM in the near future to understand how the GM model operated.