

Decisions made by the Commissioner (including those made at Policing Board) 15th of February to 10th of July 2020

Title & Summary	Date
<p>Review of Animal Welfare Scheme Handbook</p> <p>The Commissioner supported a decision in relation to the review of the Animal Welfare Scheme Handbook. Changes to the handbook includes the addition of information to Section 6 regarding induction training and refresher training.</p>	<p>February 14</p>
<p>Review of Volunteer Policy</p> <p>The Commissioner supported a proposal to review the Volunteer Policy. Changes to the policy include providing additional information on the Quality Assurance Panel, a request for volunteers wishing to terminate their appointment to put it in writing to the Scheme Administrator and a request that all expense claims be submitted to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner within 6 months of expenditure.</p>	<p>February 14</p>
<p>Accepting quote for precept leaflet printing</p> <p>The Commissioner approved a decision to distribute the Police Precept leaflet to every household in the Dyfed Powys area with Council Tax Notices. The Commissioner is responsible for setting the level of the Police Precept. The Council Tax Regulations 2013 removes the legal obligation to include paper copies of the Council Tax booklet and Police leaflet within the annual Council Tax Demands. However to ensure transparency and open communication with the public, the Commissioner has taken the decision to distribute the Police Precept Council Tax Leaflet to inform the public of the reason behind his decision to increase the Precept.</p> <p>To ensure cost effectiveness the Commissioner requested quotes from three different companies. Based on the quotes received the Commissioner awarded the contract to Y Lolfa Cyf.</p>	<p>February 17</p>

2020/21 Joint Corporate Governance Framework

March 9

The Commissioner, in agreement with the Chief Constable, approved updates and amendments made to Dyfed-Powys Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Corporate Governance Framework. Amendments made were minor updates to reflect changes in legislation.

Joint Strategic Equality Plan

March 9

The Commissioner, in agreement with the Chief Constable, approved Dyfed Powys Police’s Joint Strategic Equality Plan for 2020 – 2024. Dyfed-Powys Police’s Strategic Equality Plan positively contributes to achieving the priorities set out in the Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan for 2017-2021 as well as Dyfed-Powys Police’s Mission, Vision and Values.

Collaboration Report

March 9

The Commissioner, in agreement with the Chief Constable, approved a press release written jointly by the Welsh National Police Chiefs’ Council and the Policing in Wales Group in relation to the findings of the PEEL Spotlight Report on Collaboration “The Hard Yards”. The Report included a recommendation that forces that haven’t yet implemented an effective benefits tracking system for police collaborations to track the benefits of their collaborations should use the system created by the National Police Chiefs’ Council, the Chief of Police and the Home Office. The Commissioner also agreed to this recommendation.

National Fleet Purchase Contract

March 9

The Commissioner, in consultation with the Chief Constable, agreed to the Statement of Intent for the national fleet purchase contract to be signed in advance of consideration of the collaboration agreement later in the year.

The agreement proposes that the Commissioner for South Yorkshire acts as Lead Commissioner and contracting authority in respect of the procurement exercise for the purchasing of fleet. The agreement seeks to gain Commissioners’ commitment to the principle of a Section 22 Agreement which will be drafted and sent out for signature prior to the anticipated contract start date of June 2020.

New dog section facility in Pembrey

March 9

The Commissioner in agreement with the Chief Constable decided to accept a bid by a company based in Cross Hands, Carmarthenshire named Sterling, to build a new dog section facility in Pembrey for the cost of £359,000.

The agreement proposes a new site for the dog section to include new bathroom facilities for staff and an area for the Unit's dogs to exercise.

Independent Custody Visits suspended during Coronavirus pandemic

March 18

The Commissioner decided, in agreement with Dyfed-Powys Police, that as a result of developments relating to the Coronavirus pandemic and advice issued by the Government, that all non-essential visits to Police sites would be postponed until further notice in order to safeguard the resilience of policing in Dyfed-Powys, and in particular the sensitive sites of Police Stations.

As such it was agreed that custody visits undertaken by Independent Custody Visitors would be suspended until threats posed by Coronavirus are lessened. Scrutiny of custody records would continue to be undertaken, albeit by OPCC staff. The Commissioner agreed to monitor the situation closely and to reinstate activity as soon as practically possible.

2020/21 Treasury Management Strategy

March 18

The Commissioner approved the 2020/21 Treasury Management Strategy which includes prudential indicators, financing requirements and the minimum revenue provision policy for 2020/21 following scrutiny of the document at the Joint Audit Committee meeting of the 18th of March 2020.

Grant activity extension during Covid-19 pandemic

March 20

The Commissioner agreed to a review of grant funding timelines in response to restrictions posed by Covid-19. A number of the Commissioner's projects were due to finalise their activity at the end of the current financial year, therefore the Commissioner agreed that where possible projects place their activities on hold with grants money retained by the recipient.

The Commissioner agreed that grant related activities should recommence in the new financial year when the threat of Covid-19 has lessened.

Outcome of Tender for Appropriate Adult Services

March 26

Due to the value of the provision being over £100,000, approval is required from Policing Board to proceed with the award of contract for the provision of the Appropriate Adult Services, which was led by Gwent Police on behalf of the 3 Forces in the region. The scope of the provision is to provide an appropriate adult service for vulnerable adults detained in Police Custody or questioned as a suspect in an investigation.

Following the tender process it is recommended that the contract for Appropriate Adult Services is awarded to Hafal for a period of 3 years with an option to extend for a further 12 months.

Hafal is an organisation managed by and for individuals who have been affected by serious mental illness. Hafal provides support across the seven local health board areas of Wales and assists with recovery and fighting discrimination against those suffering with mental health issues.

Procurement of Personal Protective Equipment

April 2

The Commissioner in agreement with the Chief Constable approved the procurement of £37,000 of Personal Protective Equipment to ensure the safety of frontline officers and staff dealing with the Covid-19 crisis.

The Commissioner approved the purchase in response to the national emergency arising from Covid-19, acknowledging that the need to move swiftly to secure equipment from scarce supplies means that the procurement falls out with the normal arrangements for approval as outlined in the Corporate Governance Framework which would consider a single tender award by Policing Board. The use of extreme urgency procedures under 32 (2) © of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 supports the Commissioner's decision to approve the plan of action.

New Pathways contract extension

April 2

The Commissioner, in agreement with the Chief Constable, approved an extension to the existing contract with New Pathways to the 31st of March 2022 at the value of £136,570. An uplift of £31,558 per annum would be included for additional Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) support, bringing the total to £168,000 per annum.

New Pathways is a charity that provides a range of specialist counselling and advocacy services for women, men, children and young people and is a service commissioned for Dyfed-Powys Police to support victims of crime.

Dyfed-Powys membership of Blue Light Commercial

April 2

The Commissioner, in agreement with the Chief Constable, approved a decision for Dyfed-Powys Police to become a member of the Blue Light Commercial, which was established in response to the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and National Police Chiefs' Council Policing Vision 2025 report. The Blue Light Commercial will allow for greater joint working between local authorities, emergency services and local police forces, including the formal integration of back office functions. The Blue Light Commercial will be funded by the UK Government for three years.

Sancus Solutions Ltd Procurement Appointment

April 3

The Commissioner approved the proposal to award a contract which will support the implementation of new Home Office legislation in relation to how complaints against the police are handled. The changes, which came into effect on the 1st of February 2020, aim to ensure that complaints can be dealt with quickly and effectively for the benefit of the public and the police.

The Commissioner approved the proposal to award the contract to Sancus Solutions Ltd on a 12-month period with an option to extend for a further 12-month period. The terms agreed with Sancus Solutions will be reviewed 18 months from the implementation date.

Employers' Pension Rate for Local Governments Pension Scheme

April 23

The Commissioner, in agreement with the Chief Constable, approved a proposal to authorise a payment toward the Employers' Pension Rate for Local Governments Pension Scheme. The Commissioner approved a one-off lump sum payment before the end of April 2020 as opposed to monthly payments which would result in a saving of £94,000 for Dyfed-Powys Police. The savings materialise as a result of Dyfed-Powys Police paying their Local Governments Pensions Scheme contribution of circa £4.3million to the pension fund managers as a upfront lump sum payment in April, rather than on a monthly basis.

Exemption from tender processes for Personal Protective Equipment procurement

April 23

The Commissioner approved a decision to temporarily amend the procurement policy with regard to purchasing Personal Protective Equipment. The current policy within the Force states that permission must be sought from the Policing Board for contract amounts over £25,000. This policy may potentially cause difficulty when the Force needs to move quickly to secure Personal Protective Equipment for officers and staff as stocks decrease and overseas markets are affected by Covid-19 restrictions.

The Commissioner agreed that such decisions need not be approved by the Board as per normal practice due to the current circumstances, however requested that update reports of purchases be provided to the Commissioner.

National bid for Personal Protective Equipment not approved

April 23

In response to national correspondence from the West Midlands Chief Constable Dave Thompson suggesting that forces across England and Wales make a joint commitment to purchasing Personal Protective Equipment in response to Covid-19, the Commissioner, in consultation with the Chief Constable, approved the recommendation to decline this request.

Dyfed-Powys Police is among the smallest forces in England and Wales and the Commissioner agreed that making a national bid for Personal Protective Equipment was not a necessary step for the Force to take.

CrimeStoppers Contact Centre and Service funding

April 23

The Commissioner, in agreement with the Chief Constable, committed to providing a financial contribution of £14,482 to the charity CrimeStoppers which allows individuals to report crime anonymously.

The request for funding from Crimestoppers is made to all Commissioners in England and Wales. The charity utilises the funding to host its Contact Centre which allows the public to report crime anonymously, whereupon the information is passed to the Police without any personal details which could identify the individual making the report.

The PCC confirmed he will be making a donation to the Charity EMBRACE

May 15

The Commissioner approved a decision to donate £3,500 from the Sale of Found Property budget toward Alfie's fund, which is an opportunity for officers to generate referrals toward the charity Embrace Child Victims of Crime. Alfie's fund raises money to help children who have been harmed by crime and who are now living in households where there is little or no income as a result of Covid-19 measures.

Embrace regularly works with Dyfed-Powys Police with provisions of support for child victims of crime. The Force regularly uses the charity as a referral base for child victims.

Serious Violence and Organised Crime Coordinator contribution

May 28

The Commissioner approved the allocation of £20,065 from the Forfeiture budget towards the Serious Violence and Organised Crime Co-ordinator role. The role will be key in developing a partnership approach to serious violence and organised crime.

The Serious Violence and Organised Crime Prevention Coordinator is responsible for reducing the impact of serious violence and organised crime on communities, diverting those most likely to become Serious Violence and Organised Crime offenders and protect the most vulnerable members of society from criminal exploitation.

For a contribution of £3,787 to be provided to Brake for services in 2020/21

June 2

The Commissioner, in agreement with the Chief Constable, approved the contribution of £3,787 to the charity Brake for services in 2020/21. Brake's helpline provides an estimated £3,000 per case in cost avoidance for police and are keen to be more inclusive of the Welsh language in their services and resources.

Brake is a road safety charity working with communities and organisations across the UK to stop road deaths and injuries and make the roads and communities safer for everyone while also supporting people bereaved and seriously injured on the roads.

Design company for Commissioner's 2019/2020 Annual Report

July 3

The Commissioner is required to produce an Annual Report of his activities against his Police and Crime Plan priorities and delivery of statutory functions. The report is written internally, and last year was designed by an external company to ensure a professional and prompt service. The decision was made to repeat this course of action this year. Quotes were requested from a number of local companies and were received from three. The chosen company, Elgan Griffiths demonstrates they were able to meet the brief in a cost effective way.

Independent Custody Visits to have telephone contact with detainees during pandemic

July 2

The Commissioner, in agreement with the Chief Constable, approved a recommendation to trial an option with regard to Independent Custody Visitors' engagement with detainees whereby Visitors would phone custody suites to speak with available detainees, ensuring the health and safety of volunteers. This would enable the statutory scheme to safely discharge it's role whilst being cognisant of the government recommendations for social distancing.

Trialling option 3 first prior to commencing physical visits into the suites will ensure the scheme is robust enough to prove effective should lockdown measures return in future.

The Commissioner agreed that alongside option 3, dip-sampling of custody records should occur every fortnight in order to maintain the reviewing of custody records and enable him to have oversight on key areas that may be affected by Covid-19 such as the provision of appropriate adults, solicitor and health care practitioners.

Recommendation for Llanelli Custody Project

July 2

The Commissioner in agreement with the Chief Constable approved a decision to proceed with Option A1 in relation to the Llanelli Custody Building Project. The Commissioner agreed to continue with the current designed but with an understanding that a revised total will result as part of the value engineering and any savings identified, this will be achieved as the project progresses through RIBA stage 3.

Option A1 would result in additional fees of £38,406 (Validated and reduced from £52,000 since Policing Board presentation) resulting in a total Build cost of £16,676,370.34 with the advantage of no additional fees or further programme delays compared to option B and C. The expected commencement on site date of this option would be June instead of May 2021 (which is 4 weeks longer that presented due to the Value Engineering progressing under option A1.)