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Extraordinary Chief Constables' Council Minutes

20 October 2021

Attendees

AC Martin Hewitt	NPCC Chair
CC Sarah Crew	Avon and Somerset
CC Garry Forsyth	Bedfordshire
CC Nick Dean	Cambridgeshire
CC Mark Roberts	Cheshire
Cmsr Ian Dyson	City of London
DCC Helen McMillan	Cleveland
CC Michelle Skeer	Cumbria
CC Rachel Swann	Derbyshire Constabulary
CC Shaun Sawyer	Devon and Cornwall
CC Scott Chilton	Dorset
CC Jo Farrell	Durham
CC Claire Parmenter	Dyfed-Powys
CC Ben-Julian Harrington	Essex
CC Rod Hansen	Gloucestershire

Stephen Watson	Greater Manchester
CC Pam Kelly	Gwent
CC Olivia Pinkney	Hampshire
CC Charlie Hall	Hertfordshire
CC Lee Freeman	Humberside
CC Alan Pughsley	Kent
CC Chris Rowley	Lancashire
CC Simon Cole	Leicestershire
CC Bill Skelly	Lincolnshire
CC Serena Kennedy	Merseyside
Commissioner Cressida Dick	Metropolitan Police Service
Dep Cmsr Sir Stephen House	Metropolitan Police Service
AC Helen Ball	Metropolitan Police Service
AC Louisa Rolfe	Metropolitan Police Service
AC Nick Ephgrave	Metropolitan Police Service
AC Neil Basu	Metropolitan Police Service
AC Matt Jukes	Metropolitan Police Service
CC Andy Adams	Ministry of Defence Police
CC Carl Foulkes	North Wales
CC Paul Sanford	Norfolk Constabulary
CC Nick Adderley	Northamptonshire
CC Craig Guildford	Nottinghamshire
CC Winton Keenan	Northumbria
CC Lisa Winward	North Yorkshire
CC Iain Livingstone	Police Scotland
DCC Mark Hamilton	Police Service for Northern Ireland
CC James Vaughan	South Wales
T/CC Lauren Poultney	South Yorkshire
CC Emma Barnett	Staffordshire
CC Stephen Jupp	Suffolk
CC Gavin Stephens	Surrey
CC Jo Shiner	Sussex
CC John Campbell	Thames Valley
CC Debra Tedds	Warwickshire
CC Pippa Mills	West Mercia
CC Sir David Thompson	West Midlands
CC John Robins	West Yorkshire
CC Keir Prichard	Wiltshire
CC Lucy D'Orsi	British Transport Police
CC Simon Chesterman	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
CEO Andy Marsh	College of Policing
DG Steven Rodhouse	National Crime Agency

Dep Brig Sarah Pringle-Smith	Royal Military Police
Col Mark John	Royal Military Police
Wg Cmdr Mike Dixon	Royal Airforce Police
Wg Cmdr Nicholas Card	Royal Airforce Police
Brig Vivienne Buck	Royal Military Police
Cmdr Dean Oakley	Royal Navy Police
CO Ruari Hardy	Guernsey Police
CO Robin Smith	States of Jersey Police
CO Gary Roberts	Isle of Man Police
CC Chris Eyre	Sovereign bases of Royal Cyprus Police
Cmsr Ian McGrail	Royal Gibraltar Police

In attendance

Lianne Deeming	CEO Bluelight Commercial
Abbie Evans	Bluelight Commercial
DCC Maggie Blyth	NPCC VAWG Lead
AC Robert Beckley	Assistant Commissioner – Op Resolve
DCC Janette McCormick	Operation Uplift
Professor Paul Taylor	NPCC Chief Scientific Officer Policing
Gemma Stannard	NPCC Strategic Hub Lead
Tracy Holyer	NPCC Reform Lead
Hannah Hart	NPCC Strategy, Planning and Performance (SPP) Lead
Lee Milton	NPCC Strategic Planning and Risk Manager
Angela Connolly	NPCC Business Support Lead
T/Ch Insp Wayne Nash	NPCC Staff Officer
Richard Hampson	NPCC Senior Business Officer
Cathy Willis	NPCC Executive Assistant
Justine Brisley	NPCC FOIA
Fi Greenlees	NPCC FOIA
Stuart Sterling	Home Office, Government Liaison
Nicola Growcott	NPCC Head of Communications
Izzy Grainger	NPCC Communications Manager
Glenn Sebright	NPCC Deputy Head of Communications
Andy Begent	NPCC Data Protection Manager
Emily Colwill	NPCC Business Officer
Cathy Willis	NPCC Executive Assistant to NPCC Chair

SESSION 1:

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed those present to this virtual Extraordinary Chiefs' Council meeting.

Independent Strategic Review for Transforming Forensics Programme and the Forensic Capability Network

Summary:

The chair welcomed all Chiefs to the Extraordinary Chiefs Council, and firstly thanked them for their efforts since the MP murder in Essex. All MP's have received formal engagement from their forces, however there needs to be an 'end to end' look and an enormous amount of work has been undertaken by Cmdr Helen Millichap and work will continue with Chiefs and parliamentary security. We also need to incorporate and look at what potentially needs to be done about other elected public figures as well. The format of the terms of reference is currently being looked in to and identification of gaps in the process and what we can do to improve or things that are working well but we can perhaps spread more consistently.

The Chair introduced CC Nick Dean to present Independent Strategic Review for Transforming Forensics Programme and the Forensic Capability Network. Various presentations have been delivered to Chief Constables Council and it is evident this is a complex and more often than not, a contentious topic. It has had varying degrees of support or perceived support from council, which lead which lead to the review by Sir Craig Mackey at the early part of 2021. James Vaughan has led the portfolio as a result of the review and has led the portfolio just prior to the last gateway group, which was held last week.

It has been clear that the involvement, integration and the intrinsic link between FCN/TF cannot be underestimated or seen in isolation from wider policing or the wider portfolios for example fingerprints, digital forensics or market place.

The offer from the TF programme is for Richard and team to visit forces and provide details of the TF programme in detail, for example some of the interdependencies, the cost benefits, the advantages to policing and wider law enforcement. CC Nick Dean encouraged Chiefs to take the offer up and Richard is working to a timeframe of the end of the year.

CC Nick Dean stated in March 2021, Council commissioned an independent strategic review of the Forensic Capability Network (FCN) and the Transforming Forensics (TF) programme. Sir Craig MacKey assisted and others at Police Scotland conducted the review, and the recommendations were presented back to Council in July 2021. There were 21 recommendations (5 at strategic level, 7 for NPCC and 9 for FCN/TF). The decision on how this would be governed was through the Crime Coordination Committee and a gateway group (small group of Chief Officers) that represents each region to oversee the response to the recommendations. The gateway group has met 4 times so far and have made progress in providing clarity to all 21 recommendations. The FCN have built an action plan which has been directed from one of the recommendations, this has been circulated through the gateway group and have formed part of the papers for today's Extraordinary Chiefs Council.

CC Nick Dean aimed to use this meeting to ensure all Chiefs are on the same page regarding the recommendations from Sir Craig MacKey review, to understand the progress of the recommendations, to ask Council to agree the direction of travel and terms of reference where applicable. Some of the terms of reference require further debate and shaping, as they have only recently been presented to the gateway group. Also, to agree and approve the action plan, which has previously been circulated. Lastly, to confirm the role of the gateway group leads on behalf of Council and to seek agreement.

The key messages from the review:

- The FCN should have a narrower focus and remit, be smaller and cost less. Its future focus should be more aligned to being an 'intelligent client' to policing.
- The FCN should not be delivering high volume technology-related projects, and these should be transitioned to other organisations.
- There should be a clear, definitive plan developed for the completion and closure of TF projects.
- Any new programme activity should prioritise digital forensics.

The gateway group was formed through the direction of the Crime Coordination Committee, the recommendations have been categorised into 8 areas. These areas then form four themes:

- Refocusing FCN- A workstream has been established with a draft term of reference, to consider the revised remit of the FCN.
- Service Transition- The technology-related projects that need to be transitioned are being identified and work has commenced with PDS to consider the implementation plan and timescales.
- Closing out the TF Programme- A detailed TF completion/closure plan has been drafted and circulated for approval.
- Digital Forensics- Prioritisation has been given to digital forensics capabilities and capacity across policing aimed at implementing the digital forensic science strategy and a clear delivery plan is being developed.

CC Nick Dean requested support from Council for the FCN refocused and direction of travel.

The gateway group has previously agreed that the remit of the FCN needs to be refocused towards being an 'intelligent client', which in its context will be an oversight and coordination function which supports the strategic management of risks in forensics.

At high level this translates as being more focused on providing subject matter expertise to coordination, policy, and performance activities and to provide an interface between other national capabilities, forensic market, academia and innovation bodies on behalf of police forensics.

Terms of reference key points:

- Key considerations around new priorities and responsibilities
- Identification of those technical services that should transition to PDS
- Consideration of new structure and resource profile for the FCN
- Draft timeline

CC Scott Chilton questioned if this is the direction of travel that is being proposed, is the hub going to look at the long term solution regarding hosting, as the landscape changes vastly with PCC leads changing.

CC Nick Dean responded the issues with hosting has already been tabled on Cambridgeshire PCC's horizon. The discussion and outset between PCC's and NPCC, it is unsure what the future of hosting

will look like. He noted it can become clunky if it is not aligned to the Chief of Cambridgeshire, but this also ties in to the recommendations of the 'hub' and as to where the national capabilities sit.

The chair stated this is a debate that is ongoing, with Government more broadly where do we host the national service delivery. There also cannot be the assumption that all can sit with the NPCC Strategic Hub.

CC Kier Pritchard supported the direction of travel regarding FCN, however questioned the date for all to commit to either FCN and/or an alternative model around the South West Consortium and how the both of this fit together.

CC Nick Dean responded the element of FCN refocus with inevitably see the commercial arm of FCN dovetail directly into Blue Light Commercial.

CC John Robins stated the recommendations for the MacKey report state a narrower focus and accepting the issues regarding budgets and money, and we support the principles of let's continue with the work. However, it seems to be going around in circles and the gateway group does not seem the best place to solve it and therefore supportive of the direction of travel but still unclear as to what this will look like in the future.

CC Nick Dean responded in agreement that the gateway group may not be the best forum, it is more the structure of being brought into the gateway group as a reference and then being brought in to the high level governance and then through to the Crime Coordination Committee.

Ian Bell stated PDS have been a long-term engaging partner with the FCN and TF, engaging in various aspects and areas. PDS have strategic intent and desire, not only for FCN/TF but for national strategic areas also. The risk is we must get the transition right and understanding the composition of transition and what that means. The timelines proposed is to complete the transition by December 2022 with an ultimate go live date of April 2023.

CC Nick Dean discussed TF completion plan, which has been completed covering the completion of all in-flight TF projects including fingerprints, FCN Xchange, CSE Automate, RRRP (RASSO), CVS, Fire Investigation, eQMS and FMSP by end of financial year 2022/2023.

TF completion plan critical dependencies:

- CSR and funding post financial year 2021/2022
- FCN refocuses
- Service transition – interim and future (dependency on PDS)
- DFSS implementation plan

Wider strategic considerations:

- Potential deployment tail beyond financial year 2022/2023 (FP board) – requires resourcing
- Sustainability and requires resourcing
- Strategic intent and buy-in

CC Nick Dean presented the TF completion plan on a page timescale to Chief's.

Chris Porter added the issue is the plan is reliant on a spending review bid and if there were choices to be made and the bid was unsuccessful, we would need to reconvene and prioritise areas of the plan.

The chair agreed this is dependent on the position with the spending review and we know there will be a Chancellors statement next Wednesday. We will receive a call in from the policing minister to brief Council on what has emerged out of the review. We will then be in a position of prioritisation, and it will be highly unlikely all of the bids will receive exactly what was asked for.

CC Jo Farrell questioned what the financial implications will be once we know what the settlement is and where some of the capabilities provided nationally are obligated to support this financially and if we aren't in a position to take it.

The chair summarised there is the agreement from Council to carry on with the TF completion plan as it currently stands, but to be reviewed once we have a full understanding of the financial position.

CC Nick Dean stated we must have a understanding as individual forces, Council and National Policing on our position in the market place. A letter was received from the policing minister, and there is a tight deadline to respond to the Minister in terms of the UK marketplace.

Lianne Deeming stated the role of Blue Light Commercial (BLC) with in FCN and the partnership is acting as a contracting authority. This means BLC is not a passive partner, and we are looking at the commercial marketplace lifecycle and to ensure that the things in place will either meet the market considerations but will also meet the stakeholder considerations in terms of making sure the process works. It is also looking at the commercial and legal aspects, and ensuring we use best Government guidelines with regards to this. The latest Government guidance is in relation to the overriding procurement policy requirement and all public procurement must be based on value for money. Another consideration is using the sourcing playbook which is the best practice which is 11 points within the playbook.

Lianne stated so far BLC have been instrumental in in helping you put the pin together, and we've got the expertise in terms of the EU supply. For example, we reviewed the documents and we're still in that process of constant review both in the commercial and the legal side on BCDR and the workings of that and what it means to suppliers. We've looked at the award criteria in the use of the sub criteria to make sure it is efficient in how it how it works, that's means some rewrites of places to make sure that it is critical. We've looked at the social value in the carbon reduction, and we've also we've also assisted in market engagement sessions. The SQQ selection criteria which is fundamental and how we apply market share and what that looks like.

We are better placed and more intelligent as a client in the marketplace if we have one voice to the market. We need to recognise, in terms of the Government guidance, whether we can evidence this. As every bid we put forward will cost suppliers from 1-2%, so is this good value for money in the supply chain.

We are still working through the legal and commercial documents, and will be 80-90% there by the end of the week and will certainly be in a position next week to start advertising. The next stage is really trying to get an understanding of the mini competition.

The chair stated the South West Coast Consortium (SWCC) have voiced strong views, and he received a letter which gives a perspective from the consortium.

CC Ian Critchley stated the South West Coast Consortium currently consists of 19 forces. Will continue to seek to support nationally where there is a national approach but also to provide appropriate challenge. The marketplace was not destabilised by contract it was destabilised by other issues, however this marketplace has now corrected itself. To achieve a mandate of change, we must be very clear on the why and this has not been articulated to Council. It has also been articulated as a 'once in a life time', which is quite a big statement and indicates it needs to be done here and now rather than in a more measured way, taking in to account any impact change will have on existing contracts. He has been challenged here before for business plans to have full legal and financial considerations, which will now include putting to 19 forces the sign up to the SWCC and NGP but what are the legalities of this. In summary, this is creating an incomplete narrative that is being presented to the marketplace. CC Ian Critchley confirmed the contract for SWCC was due to end in March 2021, and the contract has been extended to secure services for forces between March and July. We are currently now out with the consortium seeking a Section 22 post-July with the consortium or those who wish to move across on to the framework.

CC Nick Dean responded with understanding of the points raised, however there is some misconception on some of the points raised.

Lianne Demming responded where we have seen parts of the process that need to be amended or changed, we have endeavoured to do so. The good market management is about looking beyond individual contracts and suppliers, it is about designing commercial strategies and contracts that promote healthy markets over the short, medium, and longer terms. The broader issue is how do we get to a position where the iterations that were trying to make and the simplicity we are trying to drive through this process, can actually come together.

CC Carl Foulkes stated the SWCC do not fundamentally disagree with Lianne's views about where we should be in the future, but there is a piece in the short to medium term of SWCC have delivered a good and effective service for almost 50% of policing. We must be fully assured that what we will move to will be better or equal to what is currently in place, and this is currently not the case.

CC Kier Pritchard stated our intention is to remain in the SWCC through until June 2022 as this is the current service provision, but the intention of the four SW Chiefs within the collaboration currently from the 1st July 2022 we will transition to FCN. So therefore, the point awaiting clarity is do the PCC's support this and where will Gloucestershire position in this.

CC Craig Guildford stated we do eventually want the BLC overarching, and as Chief would like to look at the opportunities that the SWCC could offer to us. In the short term we may have to enter into the position of presenting two faces to market until we can get to the conversion picture. CC Craig Guildford's Council would be can they both have oversight, and can they both have involvement so we can benefit from any opportunities on both ends.

John Stratford summarised our preferred approach would always be to do things centrally, do it once collectively and correctly. However, the current position of the Consortium is stable and delivering a good service therefore in the short term we are sought to endanger that to move to the new arrangement is a big leap of faith for Chiefs and PCC's.

Charlie Doyle stated there is the ask to move from a position of calm certainly in a perhaps volatile market, and this does not currently feel precise enough.

The chair summarised there is the SWCC which contains a significant proportion of forces, and it has been operating for a significant amount of time, and it is providing a satisfactory service. There is a timeline running on the Consortium for recontracting, until July 2022. The organisations within the Consortium need to be convinced that if they were to stop with the process towards recontacting, that would be a risk on the basis there is not enough detail at this stage of the national process under the proposed NGP. However, if we can get to a NGP process that is providing the service that is required, there is a recognition that makes sense for us to be able to do that once. There is also a confidence and encouragement for BLC to bring their experience to play into this. It is observed we are not able to get to a place where the SWCC will join, therefore we are in a position of compromise in terms of how we progress forward as it feels we will be progressing in a twin tracked approach.

Lianne Demming stated it is typical to go through this level of iteration and this stage, therefore we view to be in a good place in terms of the documents. There are ways of looking to simplifying some of the competition side and there are some options which may work and more suitable as it takes away some burden. She would like to work with Chiefs so see if we can overcome the hurdle, as it is still possible to do so in the timeframe.

CC Ian Critchley stated the timescale is very important because although the contract has been extended, there is still the push to retender. Secondly, other forces have contracts in place, and we must look at the impact on not only SWCC but also wider policing, in terms of not only the role of BLC but also where do we want the FCN to be around the control of the marketplace.

Chris Porter added the managed service has served the Metropolitan Police well and there is a lot of innovation built into the contract and the Met are entirely comfortable with the approach.

The chair summarised we should carry on with the work that Lianne is doing on behalf of developing the NGP. Simultaneously, the SWCC will need to be carrying on with their current process to get themselves in to a place to be retendering. However, we must be more effectively working between the two halves to try and identify the medium-term way we go forward. The two most important points are operational delivery and the cost implication to forces and ensuring there is best value for money.

James Vaughan observed we have not learnt the lessons of the last five years and we are in a worse position than we were 3 years ago in regard to marketplace. It does not seem that the West Coast are in a strong position to move forward.

CC Nick Dean stated the forces on the West Coast have been offered surgeries of engagement for FCN and BLC which have not been taken up.

CC Jeremy Vaughan questioned the statement of 'significant time' and what is their significant time for.

Lianne Demming responded she was referring to getting documents out into the marketplace that allow the process to go forward and have engagement with regards to how the process will work with the stakeholders.

The chair summarised we are going to go in two routes, as there is a clear position from the SWCC that they do not think that there is the time to allow what Lianne has described to happen, and still be able to carry out the retendering.

The intention with NGP is to be able to fulfil market conditions from July 2022 and contracts can be awarded from this period.

CC Alan Pughsley stated we look disjointed, and it is contrary to the outcome of the review.

Lianne Demming stated an important point is the communication and how do we communicate a consistent message to the marketplace.

The chair stated we should get further engagement between BLC, FCN and SWCC to ensure a full understanding and knowing exactly what the timelines are. A way may emerge of which we are able to try and present a consistent view and approach to the market.

CC Jeremy Vaughan commented one of the points regarding the Sir Craig MacKey review was confidence in Chiefs understanding the relationship in investments and benefits, and we have reached this stage as we do not have the same degree of confidence. A paper in December would be beneficial to have visibility of the contractual landscape as we understand it across policing and how that landscape may collide.

CC Nick Dean stated the final element was the concentration down of FCN and the future of TF around the digital forensics. There is already a Digital Forensic Science Strategy in place, which has been agreed. The Sir Craig MacKey review has placed the implementation of DF as a priority, and we work to the strategy that is in place.

The six themes to be led under the Digital Forensic Science Strategy:

1. Research & Innovation
2. Improving operations
3. Improving commercial practices
4. Building trust
5. Developing the workforce
6. Meeting the data challenge

The strategy must align with the ministerial and policing priorities, diverse stakeholder views and TF work already in progress.

We are currently in the key considerations area, particularly around the CSR and then into the prioritisation and focus of what can be delivered under the DF strategy.

Decision: Council agreed direction of travel.

CC Nick Dean presented the further recommendations because of the Sir Craig MacKey review. The recommendations (4&5) relate to the urgent need to establish the required baseline for force capabilities for both traditional and digital forensics with an assessment against that baseline.

Recommendation (FCN1) relates to a report which has been compiled and circulated detailing the spend and key deliverables of TF and the FCN.

Decision: Council approved and signed off the historic delivery and spend review.

Gemma Stannard stated recommendations (NPCC 1-4) refer to work that is currently ongoing within the hub, and therefore the recommendation is that we manage on behalf of the gateway group through the NPCC Strategic Hub.

Recommendation (NPCC 1) related to looking at a front door gateway to assist Council and whether we have gateway processes going forward.

Recommendation (NPCC 2) was regarding having a formal biannual mandate to review nationally coordinated capabilities.

Recommendation (NPCC 3) was regarding looking at the national roles and business to ensure complex roles comprised of the right mix of skills and individuals.

Much of this work is included in the work required to review the Section 22a for the NPCC, which is actively being worked on.

In summary, the recommendation is the Strategy, Planning and Performance Team within NPCC will own these recommendations and provide updates against these in line with the work being undertaken in the hub.

CC Nick Dean stated a clear distinction and clarity between the overarching forensic portfolio, the FCN and TF. There was a strong recommendation from the review to simplify and declutter the governance which is currently being worked on.

The following outstanding matters still require finalisation:

- Interdependencies
- The role of the gateway group leads
- Ensuring objectivity and independence on the work
- Resources required
- The timeline associated with the transition of services
- Overarching coordination of the workstreams and risk management

CC Nick Dean requested consideration of the directional of travel and approval:

- Action plan
- FCN refocused – terms of reference
- TF completion plan
- Forensic capabilities baselining – terms of reference
- Approach taken for the CSR

The proposed next steps, subject to Council approval:

- The agreed action plan will be implemented
- The FCN refocus work
- The TF programme will continue with the in-flight projects and start planning for those projects agreed to continue into 2022/2023 and beyond.

- Develop a detailed DFSS delivery plan
- Refine the CSR and add further details aligned with the Council decisions
- Empower the gateway group to direct the completion of works on a day-to-day basis, transition into business as usual
- Consider how the gateway group evolves
- Develop stronger community engagement

Outcome:

The chair summarised the following outcomes:

The FCN refocus was agreed by Council.

The TF completion plan was agreed and signed off by Council.

The Digital Forensic Strategy was agreed by Council.

The capabilities baseline work was supported

FCN Refocused

Decision: Chiefs agreed the direction of travel covering:

- Key considerations around new priorities and responsibilities
- Terms of Reference draft developed to help shape this work
- Identification of those technical services that should transition to PDS
- Consideration of new structure and resource profile for the FCN
- Draft timeline

Action: Governance hosting arrangements and funding review for all national units is being reviewed by the NPCC Strategic Hub and a paper will be shared with chiefs going forward.

TF Completion Plan

Decision: Chiefs agree the TF completion plan and noted the strategic considerations. (i.e. Pending Spending Review announcement).

Next Generation Procurement (NGP) Discussions

Action: Ian Critchley to share West Coast Consortium letter with all chiefs for reference.

Decisions:

- Chiefs agreed for Bluelight Commercial to keep developing NGP
- West Coast Consortium to continue with tendering processes going forward and extension
- Chiefs agreed a paper should come back to Council in December updating progress around the twin track approach between BLC, FCN and WCC with timescales going forward on convergence of a singular process.

Action: Paper with the above and update on outline of contractual landscape across forces mapped to provide overview working towards a singular process going forwards.

DF Science Strategy implementation

Decision: Chiefs agreed DF science strategy implementation direction of travel and next steps.

Recs NPCC 6 & 7 and Strategic 4

Decision: Chiefs approved the terms of reference and agreement that FCN undertakes the work.

Rec FCN1 - Historic delivery & spend

Decision: Chiefs approved and signed-off the historic delivery & spend report.

Managing national capabilities - Recommendations NPCC 1 – 5

Decision: Chiefs agreed the following next steps and noted these relate to the management of national capabilities more generally across the NPCC and beyond forensics:

- The SPP team will lead activity against these recommendations on behalf of the gateway group and the NPCC Strategic Hub, coordinating response activity and updating the gateway group on progress.
- SPP will also look to support activity in response to the other recommendations where possible via our project management, analysis, and research capabilities if the group requires
- Prior to the recommendations, activity was already underway to review and refresh the NPCC's S22a; revise funding and monitoring processes for national work and programmes, and to develop a structured recruitment and appointment policy.
- The Hub will continue to develop this work in coming weeks and will maintain close links to the gateway group and the wider action plan in response of the recommendations.

Covering Paper and Appendices

Decision: Chiefs noted the direction of travel and approved:

- Action plan
- FCN refocussed – Terms of reference
- Historic delivery & spend report
- TF completion plan
- Forensic capabilities baselining – Terms of reference
- Approach taken for the CSR

Decision: Chiefs agreed that the NCCC (Crime Committee) should continue to oversee progress with the gateway group (or its successor) empowered to direct the completion of the work.

VAWG Strategic Intent Paper

Decision: Chiefs noted the national strategic intent document which can be used to inform consultation with stakeholders in developing the plan.

Action: All future VAWG gold group meeting minutes will be shared with all chiefs via ChiefsNet going forward.

Action: National Strategic Intent document will be circulated to all forces to use (Internally).

ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND WRAP OF DECISIONS

No other business was raised in the meeting. See separate decision and action log for this meeting.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Summary:

The chair stated a Strategic Intent document has been collated to be circulated internally, to provide forces information on where the NPCC are and the proposals to move forward.

CC Maggie Blyth stated at the September 2021 Chiefs Council, the VAWG strategy was agreed by Chiefs.

In response to the past weeks, the headlines of the VAWG strategy have been included in the Strategic Intent document and this takes account of the level of scrutiny this is going to be given and what comes next.

The Strategic Intent document has been produced with the College of Policing and with the outcome's framework that the College of Policing have been working on.

The Strategic Intent document is a part of an intense consultation with partners and stakeholders. The Home Office and HMIC have provided recommendations to policing and how we will integrate this in to a delivery plan which will be presented in December 2021.

The chair stated a Gold Group has been set up to collate the work that is being done regarding VAWG. The chair will chair the Gold Group on a weekly basis, with two silver role strands. The silver roles are supported by CC Maggie Blyth, AC Louisa Rolfe and CC Craig Guildford.

CC Alan Pughsley stated a community engagement session will be held and questioned can the Strategic Intent document be referenced.

CC Maggie Blyth responded stated a Comms plan has been drafted and the VAWG intentions are proposed to go live November 2021.

The chair stated the headline language can be used, but the document cannot be handed out as it will open the potential for further scrutiny at this stage.

CC Carl Foulkes stated the document sets a framework and will overwhelm people, as they will want tangible points which is not currently set out.

Outcome:

Chiefs noted the information provided.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND WRAP OF DECISIONS

No other business was raised in the meeting. See separate decision and action log for this meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Chiefs' Council meeting will be held on **8-9 December 2021**.

