



## Working Together Board

Meeting held on Tuesday 10 February 2026

Fowey Room, HQ Middlemoor, commenced at 10.00am – 12.30pm

### Attendance

Amanda Pearson (Chief Constable) (Dorset) (Chair)	David Sidwick (Police and Crime Commissioner) (Dorset) (Virtual)
Jim Colwell (Deputy Chief Constable) (Devon and Cornwall)	Rachel Farrell (Deputy Chief Constable) (Dorset) (Virtual)
Neal Butterworth (Chief Finance Officer) (Dorset) (Virtual)	David Wilkin (Director of Finance and Resources) (Devon and Cornwall)
Simon Bullock (Chief Executive, OPCC) (Dorset) (Virtual)	Fran Hughes (Chief Executive, OPCC) (Devon and Cornwall)
Steve Lyne (Assistant Chief Constable) (Dorset) (Virtual)	Nicky Allen (Treasurer, OPCC) (Devon and Cornwall)
Julie Strange (Treasurer, OPCC) (Dorset) (Virtual)	Seg Zulhayir (Staff Officer) (Devon and Cornwall)
Danielle Pearce (Specialist Support Coordinator)	

### Apologies

James Vaughan (Chief Constable) (Devon and Cornwall)	Alison Hernandez (Police and Crime Commissioner) (Devon and Cornwall)
Nikki Leaper (Assistant Chief Constable, Contact and Specialist Operations) (Devon and Cornwall)	Dave Thorne (Assistant Chief Constable, Vulnerability and Crime) (Devon and Cornwall)

### 01/26/01 Opening and Declaration of Interests [FOIA Open]

Amanda Pearson opened the meeting, welcoming members and noting apologies. No declarations of interest, Health and Safety, or equality concerns were raised.

### 01/26/02 Draft Minutes from previous meeting – Wednesday 15 October 2025 [FOIA Open]

The minutes from the previous meeting held on Wednesday 15 October 2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

### 01/26/03 Actions and Decisions Log [FOIA Open unless exemptions specified below]

- a. Action 110 Alliance Organisational Learning Register (previous minute reference 04/25/24 06/25/37a and 07/25/42a) [FOIA Closed s.31]  
*[This sentence has been redacted under the Freedom of Information Act 2002 s.31]*

- b. **Action 116 Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) Update - schedule (previous minute reference 07/25/44) [FOIA Closed s.22]**  
*[This sentence has been redacted under the Freedom of Information Act 2002 s.22]*

## **01/26/04 Terms of Reference (ToR) [FOIA Open]**

Members received and noted the Working Together Board ToR, which were presented for annual review for approval. The following amendments were required:

- Section 21a Savings Plan.
- Policing Reform White paper.
- Joint Assistant Chief Constables from the Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) Steering Group.
- Timeliness tracking of PBB cost savings.

Subject to the above changes, the Board:

1. Agreed the Terms of Reference.

## **01/26/05 Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) Update [FOIA Various]**

Members noted the PBB Update paper presented by Rachel Farrell and Jim Colwell, which provided an update of the latest Alliance PBB position, with the following key points highlighted:

- Following the recommendation from the 15 October 2025, Drawing the Line session, the Working Together Board had agreed £5.9 million in efficiency savings for the Alliance PBB. In addition, the Alliance would explore the feasibility of realising additional cashable savings identified in the PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) report of £226,000 in deliverables and £761,000 out of PBB, which were non-alliance business areas. £828,000 of non-cashable (officer) savings would be reinvested.
- The delivery of key areas had continued with members recognising there had been automation challenges due to capacity within the automation team. Further exploration was ongoing to identify how objectives would be met.
- ***This extract has been redacted under the Freedom of Information Act 2002 s.43]***
- The date for the Human Resources (HR) Research and Development (R&D) Productivity Proposal (P03) implementation was April 2026. A discussion was held at 13 January 2026 Joint Executive Board (JEB) regarding whether P03 should be removed or rephased. Members noted Alliance recruitment was at a critical juncture, and this would be balanced against a relatively small saving of £4,000. A recommendation to defer change P03 for 12 months was supported by the Board.
- A summary was provided to members on the cross-cutting productivity themes of Change Delivery, Transitional Admin Services (Agentic Artificial Intelligence) and the HR (skills review and joint structures).
- Members agreed that it would be helpful to have some further detail around HR Operations, particularly in relation to precision, timeliness and investment needs.

The Board agreed:

1. The HR R&D Productivity Proposal (P03) would be deferred for 12 months.

During discussion the following actions were created:

1. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) Devon and Cornwall Police (DCP), colleagues would be listed as observers in the PBB Steering Group ToR.  
**For action by: Steve Lyne**
2. Jim Colwell and Rachel Farrell would produce a Programme Highlight report and Gantt chart detailing PBB, which would be brought back to the 7 May 2026 Working Together Board.  
**For action by: Jim Colwell and Rachel Farrell**
3. Jim Colwell and Rachel Farrell would liaise to discuss the potential to change inefficiencies and effectiveness given the Workforce mix maintenance target. Discussions would also be had with DCP's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).  
**For action by: Jim Colwell and Rachel Farrell**

**01/26/06 Workplan 2026/27 [FOIA Closed s.22 Information intended for future publication]**

*[This extract has been redacted under the Freedom of Information Act 2002 s.22]*

**01/26/07 Overall Financial Position of Both Forces and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) [FOIA Open]**

Neal Butterworth and David Wilkin provided members with a verbal update, which outlined a summary of the financial position with Dorset and Devon and Cornwall Police (DCP). The following key points were noted:

- The savings target for 2025 had been achieved.
- It was recognised that one off savings had masked ongoing challenges within the Alliance.
- It was expected that awaited funds from officers' maintenance deals would be forfeited, this was being challenged and a reply had been awaited.
- Year-end figures were expected to be achieved, with the maintenance target being applied from 31 March 2026.
- A budget of £194 million had been set in the Alliance for 2027.
- £3.5 million worth of savings were required by the Alliance in 2026/27.
- Members acknowledged that it would be challenging to locate £800,000 worth of savings within the Alliance.
- Operation Resolve had not met the September 2025, Police Uplift Programme (PUP) target with a shortfall of £1.7 million. The target was anticipated to be reached by the end of March 2026.

**DCP 2025/26 Budget:**

- The forecasted overspend had been £2 million.
- Progress had been made with mitigations on the reduction of overtime, supplies and services, and transport costs.
- DCP were on target to recover the full Neighbourhood Policing Grant (NPG).

- The headcount target had not been achieved for the Uplift for September 2025. The Home Office had confirmed a penalty of £1.7 million would be applied as per the grant agreement.
- Regarding the March 2026 End of Year Uplift, the December 2025 forecast assumed a position of 18 against the target. The most recent update had suggested an improved position.

**DCP 2026/27 Budget:**

- The budget requirement for 2026/27 was £461.6 million
- The Capital Programme was £23 million for 2026/27.
- There would be an increase in Council Tax of £15, the maximum allowable.
- From PBB there would be an anticipated £5 million savings target.
- Due to results of changes from the PUP grant there had been £3 million in unspecified savings.

**Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.44am. The next Working Together Board meeting would be held on Thursday 7 May 2026 at 1.30pm in the Conegar Boardroom, Winfrith and via MS Teams.