Cheshire Constabulary

Dan Price
Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner

JOINT MANAGEMENT BOARD

Notes of the Joint Management Board held on Tuesday 30 June 2026 which took place online via Teams.

PRESENT:	Gemma Southern, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC) Mark Roberts, Chief Constable (CC)
	Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner C Hodgson, Chief Finance Officer J Whalen, Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner K Kardas, Research & Volunteer Support Officer
	Cheshire Constabulary D Bryan, Chief Legal Officer B Jones, Chief Accountant

No members of the public observed Part 1 of the meeting.

Part 1 - Public items

1. Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2026 were received and approved with a following minor amendment in relation to item 2 Provisional Financial Position Outturn:

"Members should note a £344k amendment to the 2025/26 outturn following a review of the Allard provision. The original provision was £394k for potential legal claims; following updated advice, £50k has been retained and the remainder released. This has been reflected through contingency and corporate costs, so there is no overall impact on the outturn. It is a one-off adjustment and does not affect the underlying financial position. This is shown in Note 27 of the Group Accounts."

2. Treasury Management Outturn 2025/26

The Chief Accountant presented the report which sets out the outturn position on all treasury management activities together with a review of the current economic environment and interest rate forecasts.

The review mentions that the Bank Rate during the last few years has enabled the Commissioner to secure good short to medium term rates of return in 2025/26.

The Police and Crime Commissioner approved the following recommendations:

(1) the report be noted; and
(2) the prudential and treasury management outturn indicators as detailed in the report be noted.

The rationale was that the report sets out the outturn position on all Treasury Management activities, as required by CIPFA's (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Code, including a review of the current economic environment and interest rate forecasts. During the financial year, treasury management activities have operated within the approved indicators and limits and in compliance with the Treasury Management Practices.

3. IT & Digital Strategy Progress Update

The IT and Digital Strategy 2025–2029, approved in 2025, sets out the key outcomes across three programme boards that report to the Digital Delivery Board, chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable.
This update summarises progress against the strategy, which was developed in consultation with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and aligns with the Police and Crime Plan, particularly Pillar 2: Modernise – Technology and Innovation.
The strategy also reflects relevant national strategies, including those supporting police reform.

The Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable approved the following recommendation:

(1) that the Board note the contents of the update paper.

The rationale was that review of the IT and Digital Strategy forms part of the scrutiny function and enables Commissioner to check on progress against set objectives.

4. Utilisation of POCA Funding in 2025/26

The Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) fund is used to help reduce crime and ensure that money recovered from criminal activity is reinvested for the benefit of communities, rather than benefitting offenders.

This report outlines the projects funded through the POCA fund during 2025/26 financial year showing how funding was allocated between the Constabulary and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable approved the following recommendation:

(1) that the report be noted.

The rationale was that the POCA funding allocated during 2025/26 has been categorised in line with ARIS requirements and will form part of the annual ARIS return to the Home Office.

It was noted that the Chief Constable felt the table did not accurately reflect the distribution of the fund as it suggested the Constabulary benefitted more than the OPCC which, he believed, was inaccurate as he felt the vast majority of spend was OPCC - the issue in question being that he believed the spend on Financial Investigators and Legal were in effect a shared 'fixed cost' to actually deliver the POCA returns and as such need separately and jointly reflecting. As the report was for information only, the table was noted as presented (subject to these comments) and further discussions would be undertaken outside of the meeting to come to an agreed position on the splits.

5. Joint Management Board Forward Plan

An updated version of the Joint Management Board Forward Plan for 2026/27 was noted.

Part 2 – Private items

6. Strategic Risk Register

The Strategic Risk Register documents all risks that the Constabulary and Office of Police & Crime Commissioner have identified as having the potential to prevent either organisation from achieving the strategic objectives.

The Strategic Risk Register containing the risk analysis has been presented. The report includes an explanation with regards to new joint risk and also new risk for Constabulary.

The Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable approved the following recommendations:

(1) A new joint risk around police reform is added in part 1 combining previous joint risks relating to the review of the police funding formula and local authority devolution along with the OPCC risk relating to the removal of PCCs.
(2) A new constabulary risk is added in part 2 relating to capacity to deal with the management of offenders as a result of the sentencing review.
(3) The overall score for SR-Joint-26/27-1.3 (Medium Term Financial Scenario) is increased from 16 to 20.
(4) The overall score for SR-Joint-26/27-1.4 (Council Budget Deficits) is increased from 12 to 16.

The rationale for this decision is to ensure strategic risks are effectively managed to support the delivery of high-quality policing services.

7. Annual Risk Management Report

The Annual Risk Management Report was presented for the purposes of consideration by the board and approval.

The Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable noted the following recommendation:

1) that the Annual Risk Management Report be noted.

The rationale was that such decision would support the delivery of high-quality policing services through effective strategic risk management.

8. Memorandum of Understanding – Diesel Tank

Cheshire Constabulary operates a diesel fuel tank at Winsford to support its vehicle fleet. This provides a more cost-effective fuel supply than alternative purchasing arrangements, delivering operational and financial benefits.
A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been developed to enable Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service to access the fuel facility on a cost-recovery basis. A small additional charge per litre will be applied to cover the Constabulary's administration and management costs.

The Police and Crime Commissioner approved the following recommendation:

1) That the Memorandum of Understanding with Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service for the supply of diesel fuel be approved.

The rationale was that such arrangement will support closer partnership working and improve operational resilience across agencies, while ensuring value for money in the delivery of public services for Cheshire taxpayers.

9. Joint Management Board Action Log

The Joint Management Board Action Log was noted.

The meeting concluded at 12.00pm.