



Cheshire

Police Authority - Service Improvement Panel

(K)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 JUNE 2010 IN CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD.

Present: R Hodson, Chairman
A Doran, Vice-Chairman
A Arnold
D Bateman
M Darby

P Findlow
R McNeil
M Ollerenshaw
B Silvester

Authority Officer:
M Sellwood, Chief Executive
L Lunn, Treasurer
M Eaton, Member Services Manager

Constabulary Officers:
B Simmons, Assistant Chief Officer
I Wiggett, Temporary Assistant Chief Constable
K Brown, Head of Business Development Services

1 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

2 CUSTODY TRANSPORT: EMERGING IMPACT OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable presented a summary of the performance following the implementation of the Constabulary's in-house arrangements for prisoner transportation. The report provided an update on key areas of service delivery within the custody suites, including response times to incidents; waiting times for booking-in prisoners; the number of adverse incidents reported; and the savings achieved.

In considering the report, Members discussed with the Temporary Assistant Chief Constable the reason for the significant increase in performance in attending incidents in the Western Area; the use of translation services; and prisoner booking-in procedures. The Panel welcomed the improved performance and commented on the Members visit to the Custody Suite in Middlewich on 25 May 2010.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

3 MIDDLE OFFICE REVIEW: UPDATE

The Assistant Chief Officer presented a report on the outcome of the remaining nine reviews of middle office functions which included the post reductions and savings to be achieved.

The Panel discussed with the Assistant Chief Officer a number of issues including the effectiveness of the third fingerprint check by Forensics; the proposed reduction in firearms licensing staff; the progress of the civilianisation of the Professional Standards Department; and the need for a full review of the additional allowances paid.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the outcome of the middle office reviews detailed in the Chief Constable's report be supported, and the savings identified be approved, and reflected in the 2010/11 budget and efficiency plan;
- (2) the budgeted staffing levels approved by the Authority on 23 February 2010 (Minute 100) be amended to reflect the outcome of the Middle Office Reviews and the posts funded by Warrington Community Safety Partnership and be confirmed as 2,115 police officers and 1589 police staff (excluding PCSOs) at 31 March 2011 and the 2010-13 Policing Plan, be amended accordingly; and
- (3) the Chief Constable report to the Authority in due course on the outcome of the outstanding items identified in the Appendix to the report.

4. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Head of Business Development Services presented a report on the work of the business development programmes which included the Transforming Policing and Transforming Business Services projects, the progress of the development of the Tactical Training Centre; and the ongoing negotiations with regard to the Safe Place Project.

RESOLVED:

That the report on the progress of the programmes be received.

5. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CONSTABULARY'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Head of Business Development Services presented a report on the development activities managed as corporate projects, which included details of the structure of Business Development Services and each project; the current level of resources and the budget allocated to each project.

In considering the report, Members discussed the capitalisation of costs; the level of allocated resources; and the number of anticipated future projects, with the Head of Business Development Services.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) a further report detailing the resources assigned to 2011/12 individual review programmes and the scope for any savings to feed into the 2011/12 budget, be presented to the Panel on 6 December 2010.

6. PROCUREMENT: ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

The Assistant Chief Officer presented a report on the activities of the Strategic Procurement Unit (SPU) and work undertaken by other departments on procurement in 2009/10.

Members in welcoming the report and the total savings achieved to date, discussed the potential procurement opportunities being explored with other Cheshire based local authorities with the Assistant Chief Officer.

RESOLVED:

That the 2009/10 annual procurement report be welcomed.

7. ESTATES & PROPERTY SERVICES: ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

The Assistant Chief Officer presented the annual review of the Authority's property assets which remained in operational or accommodation use at 1 April 2010.

The Panel discussed a number of issues including the levels of rent payable for police houses and progressing the disposal programme; the reason for the delay in the establishment of the Partnership Estates Strategy Group; and the use of external consultants. Members also commented on the potential savings in the cost of utilities and the work required to resolve the recurrent problems the police station in Blacon. The Assistant Chief Officer responded to the issues raised and agreed to consider the development of incentives to tenants to vacate police houses.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the 2009/10 annual report on the Authority's estates and associated property management issues, be agreed; and
- (2) a report outlining the impact of the proposed reduction in staff on the estate; the progress of co-location discussed with partners; the scope of future savings from the sale of assets; and the results/data of the estate benchmarking group, be submitted to the Panel on 14 September, if practicable or 6 December 2010.

8. CLEANING PLUS CONTRACT: ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

The Assistant Chief Officer presented the annual report on the management and performance of the 'Cleaning Plus' soft services contract which included cleaning, waste management, grounds maintenance, pest control and vending services.

Members raised a number of issues with the Assistant Chief Officer and enquired about the reason for the significant increase in waste disposal charges; the likely savings to be achieved by the introduction of the dry mixed recycling scheme; clarification of the term electrical waste; and the need to encourage greater recycling within the Constabulary. The Assistant Chief Officer agreed to provide a response to the issues raised.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the 2009/10 annual report on the operation of the 'Cleaning Plus' contract be received and the budget implications be reflected in the budget outturn report;
- (2) the work being undertaken to review the provision of soft services and identify cost efficiencies, be supported; and
- (3) the implementation and expansion of the waste management recycling scheme and the recycling of more than 60% of the Constabulary's waste be welcomed.

9 HQ PFI CONTRACT: ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

The Assistant Chief Officer reported on the management and performance of the HQ PFI contract and the budgetary performance for 2009/10.

RECOMMENDED:

That the annual report on the performance of the Headquarters PFI contract, be received, and the underspend be incorporated into the budget outturn report.

10 EASTERN AREA: OPERATION NEIGHBOURHOODS PILOT

The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable reported on Operation Neighbourhoods, a six month pilot which commenced on 10 May 2010 in the Eastern Area and supported the Transforming Policing Project. The Panel was advised that the pilot aimed to test the hypothesis that localised multi-skilled police teams directly aligned to communities, would improve neighbourhood policing and provide greater flexibility to meet demand whilst improving operational resilience.

The report detailed the roles undertaken by specific officers and Teams; the changes to the current processes; the key benefits of the pilot and how it complemented the requirements of the Policing Pledge; and the evaluation approach. Members discussed with the Temporary Assistant Chief Constable a number of issues relating to the operation of the pilot; the negative views of officers and staff about the pilot; and the need to ensure that the evaluation model was based on customer perspective with regard to the confidence agenda and increased visibility. The Chief Executive advised that the early results of the pilot would inform the Transforming Policing business case which would be considered by the Authority on 28 September 2010.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the introduction of the Eastern Area Operation Neighbourhoods pilot be supported; and
- (2) the full evaluation report on the pilot be presented to the Panel on 6 December 2010.

Duration of meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and finished at 10.22am. [Following the meeting, Members visited the Tactical Training Centre.]