



CHESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICE AUTHORITY HELD ON TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2007 IN CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

Present: P Nurse (*Chairman*)
 P J Walker (*Vice-Chairman*)
 D T Bateman
 A Bradley
 D Cargill
 M D Darby
 A Doran
 J P Findlow

R Hodson
 C Kirkpatrick
 E Lam
 B Maher
 M A Ollerenshaw
 S Proctor
 T Savage

Police Authority Officers:
 M Sellwood, Chief Executive
 L Lunn, Treasurer
 M Eaton, Member Services Manager
 W Bebbington, Assistant Treasurer

Constabulary Officers:
 P Fahy, Chief Constable
 G Gerrard, Deputy Chief Constable
 B Simmons, Chief Constable
 K Watkins, Director of Performance
 Development

Apologies: M Chapman and G A Cousins

58. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.

59. URGENT BUSINESS: AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP

The Chief Executive reported on a change in membership of the Authority, following the resignation of Roy Giltrap.

The Chairman welcomed Adrian Bradley as the new Member of the Police Authority, who had been appointed by the Joint Committee with effect from 10 December 2007. It was proposed that the committee/panel places previously taken by Mr Giltrap be allocated to Mr Bradley until the Annual Meeting of the Authority on 8 April 2008

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the appointment of Mr Bradley as a Member of the Police Authority be noted; and
- (2) the appointment of Mr Bradley to the Audit Committee, Staff Committee and Service Improvement Panel, be approved.

60. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS AND SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED AT POLICE FORUMS

The Chief Executive submitted a response following concerns raised at the Staff Committee, regarding the tenure policy for NPU Inspectors and Sergeants. It was reported that the Chief Constable had confirmed the two year tenure policy proposed in the policing model which was approved by the Authority in December 2004.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Minutes of the following meetings be received and the recommendations from the specific Minutes listed below, be adopted:-
 - Remuneration Committee – 15 October 2007
 - Engagement Committee – 13 November 2007
 - Staff Committee – 27 November 2007

 - Performance Panel – 23 October 2007
Minute 37, Police Authority Self Assessment: Approach

 - Finance Panel – 6 November 2007
Minute 30, Operational Uniform: Evaluation of Pilot
Minute 32, Investment Strategy: Consultation
Minute 35, Replacement of Specialised Systems in Call Management
Minute 36, Medium Term Strategy: Capital Implications
Minute 38, Draft Budget Strategy

 - Service Improvement Panel – 20 November 2007
Minute 38, Relocation of the Police Dog Training Unit: Update
Minute 39, PCSO Scrutiny Group: Final Report
Minute 43, Programmes: Revised Structures
- (2) the summary of issues raised at the last cycle of Forum meetings, be noted.

61. CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

The Chief Constable presented his quarterly operational report which showed an 16% decrease in overall recorded crime, together with decreases across all the other main crime areas, and a 26.7% sanction detection rate for the period September to November 2007. The Chief Constable reported on a number of issues including the progress of Operation Quest to improve incident management processes within the force; the development of Restorative Justice

(RJ) work; call handling performance; and the positive work of the Neighbourhood Policing Units. Members were also advised of the receipt by two members of staff of national awards for commitment to diversity and health & safety activity.

The Chairman congratulated the Constabulary on the continued reductions in the level of crime and the reduction in the number of casualties and fatalities on Cheshire's roads. Members noted the report and raised several other issues relating to Operation Quest; the use and taking forward of RJ; and the data audit of forensics. Appreciation was also expressed to the Constabulary for the work undertaken during the Safer Halton Week and for the positive work by PCSOs in controlling the use of mini-motorbikes in Halton.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

62. DIVERSITY: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Chief Constable presented the quarterly report on diversity issues which included details of the collaborative work undertaken with North Wales Police; the progress against the actions contained in the Constabulary and Authority Race; Disability; and Gender Equality Schemes; the work of the staff networks; training; recruitment/employment; national involvement; and a summary of race crimes and incidents.

Members discussed with the Chief Constable the activity of the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) and noted that a report on the role and responsibilities of the IAG would be submitted to Engagement Committee on 13 February 2008.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

63. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW: OUTCOME

Item withdrawn

64. EMBEDDING THE WAY WE POLICE: DEVELOPING A STRATEGY TO ENHANCE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

The Chief Constable presented an update on the strategy for neighbourhood policing following HMIC's down grading of the Constabulary from good to fair in this area of activity in the latest baseline assessment

In considering the report, Members discussed in detail the aspirational approach being adopted and stressed the need for immediate action to be taken to establish and implement the actions plans this year in order to improve the HMICs assessment of the current year. Members noted the work outlined to embed neighbourhood policing and enquired how this would be progressed. The Chief Constable responded to the issues raised and confirmed he was confident

that the actions being taken with the Constabulary would result in an improvement in the next HMIC assessment.

Members also discussed the need to further review the stakeholders included in Key Independent Networks and the role of the targeted patrol teams in neighbourhood policing. The Chief Constable agreed to consider these matters and arrange for the Assistant Chief Constable to meet with appropriate Members to consider the matters further.

The Chief Constable advised that a further report on progress against the HMIC action plan would be submitted to Performance Panel on 20 December 2007 and a progress report on the development of the strategies, plans and actions would be submitted to the Authority on 26 February 2008.

RESOLVED:

That the development of a strategy for neighbourhood policing, be noted

65. POLICE REFORM GREEN PAPER

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the Home Secretary's intention to publish a Green Paper on police reform, which would build on the findings of Sir Ronnie Flanagan's Review of Policing and include a consultation on wider policing issues.

Members noted that the Green Paper would focus on the four key themes:- getting the best use from our resources and capacity; effective leadership & governance; clear, effective performance machinery; and clarity and co-operation over competing demands. The Chief Constable commented on the areas under review by HMCIC that needed to be reflected in the Green Paper.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

66. POLICE REFORM AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES: APPROACH TO RISK ASSESSMENT

The Chief Constable presented a report on the timetable and progress for the submission of the protective services action plan.

RESOLVED: That;

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the protective services assessment and action plans be presented to the Authority on 8 April 2008 for consideration.

67. POLICING OBJECTIVES, TARGET SETTING AND POLICING STRATEGY

The Director of Performance Development presented a report on the approach to planning for 2008/09 including the three year policing strategy, annual objectives

and target setting. Members were advised that the Police & Justice Act 2006 had changed the statutory planning requirements on the Authority and replaced the requirements to produce a three year strategy and an annual local policing plan with a requirement to produce a single combined strategy and plan.

Members considered the proposals for setting objectives and targets for 2008/09 and the Ministerial Priorities for 2008/09.

RESOLVED:

That the approach to policing objectives and targets for 2008/09 and the three year policing strategy, be approved.

68. REVIEW OF EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the review of publications produced for the public by the Authority and Constabulary. The report outlined details of all the current publications and how these could be improved to satisfy the changing statutory requirements on the Authority to provide information to the public and the Home Office.

The Authority noted the proposals for publications in 2008/09 and the proposal to undertake a survey to ensure effective delivery to households.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed planning publications and method of distribution for 2008/09, be approved.

69. FORENSIC INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT: COLLABORATION WITH NORTH WALES

The Chief Constable submitted a report which sought support for a six month collaboration trial of joint management of the Cheshire Constabulary Forensic Investigation Unit and the North Wales Police Scientific Support Unit. The report outlined the recommendations of the ACPO leads, the identified areas of collaboration; and the potential benefits.

The proposal would enable the Constabulary to assess the potential benefits of collaboration and review current processes. The potential benefits would be independently assessed and a detailed assessment would be provided at the end of the trial period.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the six-month trial of the joint management of forensic services in Cheshire and North Wales as outlined in the Chief Constable's report, be supported; and
- (2) a report on the results of the trial be submitted to Service Improvement Panel on 15 July 2008.

70. PROTOCOL MEMBER/OFFICER RELATIONS

The Chief Executive submitted the draft protocol for Police Authority Member and Officer relations. The protocol which supplemented the Code of Conduct, aimed to maintain the integrity of the Authority, by setting out what was expected in relation to personal conduct by Members and officers of the Authority and Constabulary.

RESOLVED:

That the protocol on Member/Officer relations, as amended by Members, be adopted.

71. MEMBERS' ACTIVITY

The Chief Executive submitted a report which detailed Members reports on their attendance at recent meetings to which they represented the Authority which included collaboration meeting with North Wales Police and Authority; North West Regional Meeting of Chairmen, Chief Executives and Chief Constables; the APA and other bodies.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

72. URGENT BUSINESS: HEALTH & SAFETY - OPERATIONAL IMPACT

In accordance with Standing Order 5.3, the Chairman was of the opinion that this matter be considered as a matter of urgency as it was necessary to brief Members on the operational impact of the recent prosecution of the Metropolitan Police Service under Health & Safety legislation.

RESOLVED:

That an item of urgent business relating to the Health & Safety: Operational Impact be considered in Part 2 of the agenda.

73. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as applied by the Police Act 1996, and as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the items of business listed below on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act in the paragraphs indicated:-

<i>Item</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>	
Urgent Business: Health & Safety - Operational Impact	(7)	Information relating to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

Forensics Analytical Services Contract: Collaboration	(6)	Information relating to the proposed actions of the Police Authority
Chief Officer: Conditions	(4)	Information relating to labour relations.

PART 2 – MATTERS CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

74. URGENT BUSINESS: HEALTH & SAFETY - OPERATIONAL IMPACT

The Chief Constable presented a report issued by the National Policing Board on the potential implications for policing following the recent prosecution of the Metropolitan Police Service under the Health & Safety legislation and of the possible implications for Cheshire Constabulary.

It was noted that the implications of the prosecution was being discussed by ACPO and the APA and further guidance was anticipated.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted and the Chief Constable submit further reports to the Authority as the guidance is developed and the implications for the Constabulary are identified.

75. FORENSICS ANALYTICAL SERVICES CONTRACT: COLLABORATION

The Assistant Chief Officer reported on the outcome of the fourteen force collaborative procurement for forensic analytical services and sought approval to formally join the consortium and award contracts. The Authority on 25 September 2007 (Minute 80) had previously considered the proposed procurement process and governance arrangements for the contract.

The Authority considered the procurement process and the latest assessment of the anticipated savings.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received;
- (2) the procurement of forensic analytical services from the suppliers detailed in Annex 3 to the Chief Constable's report, be approved;
- (3) the collaboration agreement which provides details of the collaboration governance, Contracts Management Team and budgetary requirements, be approved in principle;
- (4) the Chief Executive be authorised to finalise the collaboration agreement by 31 December 2007; and

- (5) M A Ollerenshaw be appointed to serve on the Forensic Analytical Services Joint Committee.

76. CHIEF OFFICER: CONDITIONS

The Chief Executive presented a report which invited the Authority to consider a matter relating to Chief Officer conditions of services. Members discussed the proposal contained in the report and considered a minor amendment to the wording.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the amendment by Members, the proposal contained in the Appendix to the Chief Executive's report, be approved.

Duration of meeting: The meeting commenced at 11.05am and finished at 12.50pm.