



Cheshire Police Authority - Service Improvement Panel

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2009 IN CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD.

Present: D Bateman (*Chairman*) A Doran
 G Cousins (*Vice-Chairman*) B Maher
 A Bradley P Nurse
 M Chapman M Ollerenshaw
 M Darby

Also in attendance: R Hodson, R McNeil and S Proctor

<i>Authority Officers:</i>	<i>Constabulary Officers:</i>
M Sellwood, Chief Executive	G Gerrard, Deputy Chief Constable
L Lunn, Treasurer	B Simmons, Assistant Chief Officer
M Eaton, Member Services Manager	Supt D Bertenshaw, Strategic Partnerships
	K Brown, Head of Business Development Services

47. MINUTES

In relation to Minute 42: Police Uniform, a Member requested that further consideration be given to a number of complaints and concerns by officers about lack of warmth of the jackets, the comfort of the trousers for female officers; fading colour; and the damage caused by the velcro straps. The Deputy Chief Constable agreed to advise the Uniform Group.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

48. LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION: UPDATE

Superintendent Bertenshaw presented a report on progress towards the implementation of the two new unitary authorities in Cheshire East and Cheshire West & Chester.

In considering the report, Members raised a number of issues including whether they were any benefits to policing if the NPU boundaries were re-aligned with the proposed area partnership boundaries and the likely financial implications; the involvement of the Authority in the new Local Strategic Partnerships; and concern about the operation of the Children & Young Person's Trusts and Safeguarding Boards to which the Deputy Chief Constable responded.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) a report on partnership arrangements in Cheshire West & Chester and Cheshire East, be submitted to the Panel on 17 March 2009, outlining the implications for the Authority and the Constabulary, particularly in relation to the policing model and the NPU boundaries.

49. CHESHIRE, WARRINGTON AND HALTON INFORMATION CONSORTIUM

The Chief Constable submitted a report on the decision to form a Cheshire & Warrington Improvement & Efficiency Partnership (CWEIP) to undertake the roles of several sub-groups, including shared services; procurement; Cheshire and Warrington Improvement Partnership (CWIP); and Cheshire Warrington and Halton Information Consortium (CWHIC). The partnership will have the flexibility, capacity and capability to successfully deliver the Government's Improvement and Efficiency Strategy. CWHIC, to which the Authority and Constabulary were legal partners, would cease on 31 March 2009.

In considering the report, Members stressed the need for the Authority and Constabulary to be involved in the work of the CWIEP and the benefits to be realised by the DORIC project.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the establishment of a Cheshire and Warrington Improvement and Efficiency Partnership, be noted;
- (2) the Constabulary's continued involvement in the further development of Co-Star and information sharing across the partners in Cheshire, Halton and Warrington, be supported; and
- (3) the Authority and the Constabulary make representations through the appropriate channels to become a member of Cheshire and Warrington Improvement and Efficiency Partnership.

50. THE EXTENDED USE OF TASER TO SPECIALLY TRAINED OFFICERS

The Deputy Chief Constable presented a report on the extended use of Tasers by specially trained officers within the Vector Unit, which followed the Home Secretary's decision to authorise the extended use of Taser from 1 January 2009.

The Panel considered the report which detailed comparative Taser usage; the outcome of the Taser pilot; the tactical and training impact on the Constabulary; and financial implications to the Authority. Members raised a number of issues including the availability of funding; the possibility of regional training; and whether the use of Tasers reduced injuries inflicted on officers, to which the Deputy Chief Constable responded.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the extended use of Tasers to specifically trained officers within the Constabulary's Vector Unit, be noted; and
- (2) the number of firearms deployments (including the discharge of Tasers) be included in future performance reports on the Force Operations Department presented to Performance Panel.

51. CARBON REDUCTION COMMITMENT

The Assistant Chief Officer presented a report on the introduction of the Government's Carbon Reduction Commitment, which was an obligatory emissions trading scheme aimed at reducing emissions from large non-energy intensive businesses and the public sector. The Commitment was proposed to come into effect in 2010 when organisations would be charged per tonne of carbon emitted annually and would incentivise participants by 'recycling' money back to organisations performing well. The actions proposed by the Constabulary in responding to the Commitment were outlined.

RESOLVED:

That the ongoing work to minimise the effect of the introduction of the Carbon Reduction Commitment, be supported.

52. QUEST II - INTELLIGENT INVESTIGATION: UPDATE

The Deputy Chief Constable presented an update on Quest II - Intelligent Investigation. The report outlined the aim of the project; and detailed the actions taken to improve processes and procedures in crime recording, initial investigation, custody/CIU/defender management, disposal options and effective crime management.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

53. BASE BUDGET REVIEW OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES: IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Head of Business Development Services presented a report on progress against the recommendations in the Base Budget Review (BBR) of Information Technology Services which was reported to Finance Panel on 10 June 2008 (Minute 16).

Members in considering the report, welcomed the progress made and the savings identified to date.

RESOLVED:

That the progress on implementing the recommendations in the Base Budget Review of IT Services, be noted.

54. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES: UPDATE

The Panel considered a report on the work of the three business development programmes – Public Safety; Sustaining and Improvement; and People.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Duration of meeting: The meeting commenced at 10.45am and finished at 12.30pm.