



CHESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICE AUTHORITY HELD ON TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2007 IN CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

Present:

P Nurse (<i>Chairman</i>)	R Giltrap
P J Walker (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)	R Hodson
D T Bateman	C Kirkpatrick
D Cargill	E Lam
M Chapman	B Maher
G A Cousins	M A Ollerenshaw
M D Darby	S Proctor
A Doran	T Savage
J P Findlow	

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

Constabulary Officers:
P Fahy, Chief Constable
G Gerrard, Deputy Chief Constable
B Simmons, Assistant Chief Officer
K Watkins, Director of Performance
Development
C Barton, Director of Human Resources
A Rainford, Head of Finance and
Procurement

58. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.

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

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Minutes of the following meetings be received and the recommendations from the specific Minutes listed below, be adopted:-
- Audit Committee – 27 June and 3 September 2007
 - Remuneration Committee – 10 July 2007
 - Standards Committee – 12 July 2007
 - Selection Committee – 16 July 2007
 - Engagement Committee – 21 August 2007
 - Staff Committee – 28 August 2007
- Minute 36, Efficiency Procedures: Changes to Financial Regulations

- Performance Panel – 3 July and 4 September 2007
- Finance Panel – 17 July and 18 September 2007
Minute 16, Public Consultation Programme: Investing in Policing
Minute 18, Police Authority Budget Meeting
Minute 21, Review of Capital Expenditure and Financing 2007/08
Minute 22, Review of Local Government Finance Grant Distribution Formula
Minute 25, Management of Police Information: Update
Minute 27, Review of Member's Mileage and Subsistence Rates
- Service Improvement Panel – 24 July and 11 September 2007
Minute 22, National Police Shared Services Programme

(2) the summary of issues raised at the last cycle of Forum meetings, be noted.

60. CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

The Chief Constable presented his quarterly operational report which showed a 10.3% decrease in all crime, together with decreases across all the other main crime areas, with the exception of vehicle crime for the period June to August 2007, compared with the same period in 2006. The report included details of a number of successful operations and initiatives; the roll out of CJSSS and the selection as a Beacon site for criminal justice; the launch of 14 Restorative Justice (RJ) pilot schemes; and the activities undertaken in the Eastern, Northern and Western police areas.

The Chief Constable specifically reported on the improvements being made in customer focus by the implementation of customer service desks; the robust approach to reducing sickness absence; and the work undertaken to improve the sanction detection rate.

Members in considering the report, welcomed the reduction in the level of crime and enquired about the principles to be adopted to develop the Beacon site for criminal justice; the timescale for implementing RJ and the need for outcomes to be counted as detections; security and reassurance policing; and reported on the positive feedback of the local community in relation to the policing of 'Creamfields', to which the Chief Constable responded.

RESOLVED:

That the operational report of the Chief Constable be noted.

61. ALCOHOL AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Chief Constable presented a report on the recent media attention and comments expressed about alcohol and anti-social behaviour following the fatal attack on Garry Newlove in Warrington on 10 August 2007.

The Chief Constable reported on a series of actions which the Constabulary planned to undertake to reduce incidents of alcohol related anti-social behaviour.

In considering the report, Members enquired as to the cost to the police and other local authorities of a typical Friday night; partnership working; mechanisms for reporting progress on the actions; and the need to link-in existing partnerships working with young people and alcohol to avoid duplication.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the proposed actions outlined in the report by the Constabulary to take forward the alcohol and anti-social behaviour agenda, be supported.

62. DIVERSITY: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Chief Constable presented the quarterly report on diversity issues which included details on the progress against the actions contained in the various Equality Schemes; the work of the staff networks; training; recruitment/employment; and a summary of race crimes and incidents.

Members noted the report and enquired about the role and need for Force Area and NPU level IAGs and asked for further reports to include details of the work of the Diversity Monitoring Group to which the Chief Constable responded.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Chief Constable review the development and need for IAGs at Area and NPU level and report back at the next meeting; and
- (3) future reports contain information on work of the Diversity Monitoring Group.

63. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF POLICING: INTERIM REPORT

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the initial findings of the Independent Review of Policing by HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Sir Ronnie Flanagan.

The report focused on addressing the continuing problem of bureaucracy in police forces; the roll out of neighbourhood policing; and the willingness of the police service to embrace change. The report outlined the potential of neighbourhood policing to improve the effectiveness of local policing and deliver results, and the need to work with other local services in joined up 'neighbourhood management.'

In noting the report, Members expressed their support to the proposals and agreed that a letter be sent to the HMCIC and Home Secretary, and enquired about the frequent changes in NPU officers particularly in the Western Area. The Chief Constable agreed to submit a report on the tenure policy to the next Staff Committee.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the interim report of the Independent Review of Policing, be noted; and
- (2) a letter in support of the proposals outlined in the interim report be sent to HMCIC and Home Secretary.

64. AUTOMATIC NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION (ANPR): THE FORCE STRATEGY

The Chief Constable submitted a report on the development of Automatic Number Plate Recognition and the current capabilities and strategy within the Constabulary. The report detailed the national and local context; the number of vehicles; the locations of sites; and the results of activity over a twelve month period.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

65. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: HUMAN RESOURCES

The Chief Constable submitted proposals to create a HR Organisational Development Team which aimed to improve leadership and people management processes which would release talent to drive-up performance, reduce inefficiency and focus on delivering excellence.

The report detailed the factors influencing the proposals which included workforce modernisation; the creation of a Shared Services Centre; the staff needed for the Team; and the financial implications.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) a HR Organisational Development Team be established as outlined in the Chief Constable's report;
- (3) the part-year (5 months) funding for the three new posts (£67,000) plus a provision for consultancy advice to the Team (£50,000) be met from reserves in 2007/08; and
- (4) the commitment of £160,000 for new staff to form the HR Organisational Development Team be noted and included in the 2008/09 budget proposals.

66. E-TENDERING: AMENDMENT TO FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Chief Executive sought approval to amend Section 5 of Financial Regulations in relation to the procurement of goods and services to include e-tendering.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed amendment to Financial Regulations as detailed in the Chief Executive's report, be approved.

67. REVISED MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chief Executive presented the revised Members' Code of Conduct for approval following consideration by the Authority's Standards Committee on 12 July 2007.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the revised Code of Conduct, as set out in Appendix 1 to the Chief Executive's report, be adopted; and
- (3) the ten general principles of public life, as set out in Appendix 2 to the Chief Executive's report, be adopted and included in the Authority's Code of Conduct.

68. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The Chief Executive submitted a report which invited the Authority to consider the outcome of the independent review of the scheme of allowances which was undertaken by Mr Robin Wendt. The review considered the current scheme of allowances, schemes in comparable authority areas and included informal discussions with the Chairman, Members and officers.

The report detailed the outcome of the review which proposed the introduction of a two or three tier scheme of allowances and recommended that the existing performance criteria be continued and that consideration be given to developing a personal review system for Members.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the findings from the independent review of Members' allowances, as detailed in the Chief Executive's report, be noted and three tier option 1, be approved with effect from 1 April 2007;
- (2) the allowances be reviewed annually by the Chief Executive in accordance with the police staff pay award in the preceding year;
- (3) the costs associated with implementation of the review in 2007/08, be met from reserves and a sum be included as a growth item in the 2008/09 budget; and
- (4) the Chief Executive draft an approach to a Members Personal Review Scheme for consideration at the Discussion Day on 22 October 2007.

69. COLLABORATION MEETINGS WITH NORTH WALES POLICE AUTHORITY:
APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Chief Executive presented a report on the appointment of Members to represent the Authority at collaboration meetings with North Wales Police Authority and Police.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chairman of Service Improvement Panel represent the Authority at the collaboration meetings.

70. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2008/09

The Chief Executive submitted the draft programme of meetings for 2008/09 for consideration.

RESOLVED:

That the programme of meetings for 2008/09, as contained in the Appendix to the Chief Executive's report, be approved.

71. MEMBERS' ACTIVITY

The Chief Executive submitted a report which detailed Members reports on their attendance at recent meetings and conferences to which they represented the Authority.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

72. CHAIRMAN'S APPROVAL

The Chief Executive reported that in accordance with the urgency procedures under Standing Order No.11, the Chairman had been consulted on the following issues:-

- (a) progression of the agreed recommendations in relation to the Constabulary's 'Ambition' document arising from the Members Seminar on 26 June 2007;
- (b) a response to the APA on the proposals for a single equality bill;
- (c) the progression of recommendations from Finance Panel on 17 July 2007 and Service Improvement Panel on 24 July 2007 in relation to funding for external support to improve the use of resources; and
- (d) the allocation of funding to support the implementation of Customer Service Desks.

RESOLVED:

That the action taken by the Chairman be noted.

73. URGENT BUSINESS: (1) EXTERNAL AND EUROPEAN FUNDING AND
(2) BRIEFING ON THE POTENTIAL BUDGET OVERSPEND

In accordance with Standing Order 5.3, the Chairman was of the opinion that two items of urgent business be considered as matters of urgency - External and European Funding in Part 1 and a briefing on the potential budget overspend in Part 2 of the meeting, as it was necessary to progress arrangements as soon as possible and advise the Authority accordingly.

RESOLVED:

That the report on External and European Funding be considered in Part 1 of the meeting and the Briefing on the potential budget overspend be considered in Part 2 of the meeting,

74. URGENT BUSINESS: EXTERNAL AND EUROPEAN FUNDING

The Treasurer presented a report which sought approval to develop an agreement with Cheshire County Council's External Funding Unit, for a trial period to assist the Authority in exploring and securing additional external and European funding.

RESOLVED:

That a formal agreement be entered into with Cheshire County Council, for the period October 2007 to March 2009 at a cost of £15,000, for advice and support to the Authority in securing external and European Funding.

75. 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: Briefing on the potential budget overspend	(3)	Information relating to financial business affairs of a proposed organisation.
Joint Air Support Unit: Cheshire Constabulary and North Wales Police	(3)	Information relating to financial business affairs of a third party.
The future of Air Support: A Business Case for the procurement of a new aircraft	(3)	Information relating to financial business affairs of a proposed organisation.

Sexual Assault Referral Centre: Business Case	(3)	Information relating to financial business affairs of a proposed organisation.
Forensic Analytical Services: Collaboration	(3)	Information relating to financial business affairs of a proposed organisation.
Mobile Data: Business Case	(3)	Information relating to financial business affairs of a proposed organisation.
Chairman's Approval	(2)	Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual

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

76. URGENT BUSINESS: BRIEFING ON THE POTENTIAL BUDGET OVERSPEND

The Assistant Chief Officer, at the request of Finance Panel on 18 September 2007, gave a briefing on the potential budget overspend in relation to the Force Operations Directorate.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

77. JOINT AIR SUPPORT UNIT: CHESHIRE CONSTABULARY AND NORTH WALES POLICE

The Deputy Chief Constable reported on progress in establishing a joint Air Support Unit (ASU) with North Wales Police, following Authority support on 26 June 2007 (Minute 54).

The report outlined issues relating to the establishment of a joint unit which included the benefits; governance and legal issues; Civil Aviation Authority requirements; and joint management structures and working.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the establishment of a joint Cheshire and North Wales Air Support Unit, as detailed in the report, be approved and the appropriate legal agreements be developed; and
- (3) the governance of the joint air support unit, via the established member representative and the Cheshire and North Wales Police Authorities meeting structure, be continued.

78. THE FUTURE OF AIR SUPPORT: A BUSINESS CASE FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF A NEW AIRCRAFT

The Chief Constable submitted a detailed business case on the options for the future development of air support and for the procurement of a new force aircraft in 2010/11 when the current aircraft was due for replacement.

Members considered the business case which included details of the aircraft, staffing issues, current contracts, financial implications, the benefits and the future options available.

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the business case for the purchase of a new aircraft, be supported in principle;
- (2) the procurement of a new aircraft to replace the current force aircraft proceed to the next stage, as detailed in the report;
- (3) the submission of a bid to the Home Office for the 2007/08 Air Operations Support capital funding programme in order to secure up to 40% funding for the potential new aircraft, be approved; and
- (4) the final business case be submitted to the Authority on 26 February 2008, for consideration.

79. SEXUAL ASSAULT REFERRAL CENTRE: BUSINESS CASE

The Chief Constable submitted the business case for the development of a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in Cheshire, following outline approval at the Authority on 20 February 2007 (Minute 102) of a capital allocation of up to £800,000.

Members considered the business case which detailed the proposal, capital and revenue costs and funding, the views of key partners, and the proposed sale of the four existing premises which would offset the cost.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the development of a single Cheshire SARC at the preferred location of Leighton Hospital, Crewe, be supported, subject to the legal rights issues being resolved to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive;
- (3) the associated funding of up to £800,000 capital and additional revenue of £20,000, be approved;
- (4) the progression of SARC development to the design phase, be approved; and

- (5) the sale of the four existing premises, as detailed in the Chief Constable's report, be supported.

80. FORENSIC ANALYTICAL SERVICES: COLLABORATION

The Assistant Chief Officer presented a report on the collaborative activity undertaken with thirteen other North West, South West and Wales forces to develop a contract for forensic services.

The report provided the background to the development of the collaboration project and detailed the proposed governance arrangements for the procurement and management of services, which had yet to be resolved.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report on activity to develop a collaboration arrangement for forensic analytical services, be noted;
- (2) the development of the collaborative contract and agreement for forensic analytical services be supported in principle; and
- (3) the proposed recommendations contained in Appendix 1 to the Chief Constable's report, be noted and the amendments/comments set out in paragraph 11, be supported.

81. MOBILE DATA: BUSINESS CASE

The Chief Constable submitted the detailed business case for the introduction of a mobile data solution, following the success of the recent pilot which had been overseen by the Service Improvement Panel.

Members considered the business case which detailed the benefits to be realised; the development opportunities; and the financial implications.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted and the business case for mobile data, be approved;
- (2) the implementation of mobile data as detailed in the Chief Constable's report, be approved; and
- (3) the development of mobile data commence with immediate effect and the current year revenue costs of £39,000 be funded from existing budgets.

81. CHAIRMAN'S APPROVAL

The Chief Executive reported that in accordance with the urgency procedures under Standing Order No.11, the Chairman had been consulted on the early retirement of a manager to enable essential business improvements to be achieved.

RESOLVED:

That the action taken by the Chairman, be noted.

Duration of meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and finished at 1.20pm.