



# CHESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICE AUTHORITY HELD ON TUESDAY 26 JUNE 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
M D Darby	M A Ollerenshaw
A Doran	S Proctor
J P Findlow	T Savage

*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  
D Baines, Assistant Chief Constable  
G Shewan, Chief Constable  
B Simmons, Chief Constable  
K Watkins, Director of Performance  
Development

*Apologies:* G A Cousins

### 28. MINUTES

*RESOLVED:*

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.

### 29. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS AND 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:-
  - Selection Committee – 11 April & 11 June 2007
  - Engagement Committee – 15 May 2007  
Minute 3, Engagement Committee: Terms of Reference

- Staff Committee – 22 May 2007  
Minute 1, Staff Committee: Terms of Reference  
Minute 8, Special Priority Payments: Annual Review 2007
- Finance Panel – 17 April & 12 June 2007  
Minute 7, Annual Review of Members' Allowances  
Minute 9, Release of Capital Funds from Widnes Police Station Improvement Scheme  
Minute 10, Capital Expenditure and Financing 2006/07  
Minute 11, Purchase of Exhibition Vehicle  
Minute 12, Provisional Revenue Outturn 2006/07  
Minute 13, Value for Money Strategy
- Performance Panel – 24 April 2007  
Minute 3, Revised Performance Targets 2007/08  
Minute 4, Local Policing Domain 2007/08
- Service Improvement Panel – 8 May 2007  
Minute 15, Fleet Management Asset Plan

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

### 30. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF POLICING

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the Independent Review of Policing to be undertaken by HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Sir Ronnie Flanagan. The Review aimed to ensure that the police service was prepared for future challenges and would focus on key areas:- reducing bureaucracy and red tape to enable officers to return quickly to frontline policing; embedding the progress made on neighbourhood policing; ensuring the public drive local police priorities; and how the police service could best manage its resources to deliver the challenges facing it.

The Authority discussed the draft comments submitted by the Chief Executive and the Chief Constable relating to the accountability strand of the review. Members discussed the review and offered further comments to inform the Authority's response.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman, be authorised to finalise the Authority's response to the Independent Review of Policing and forward a copy to the Association of Police Authorities.

### 31. HOME OFFICE CONSULTATION: COUNTER TERRORISM BILL

The Chief Executive submitted a report which sought the Authority's comments on the Government's proposals for a further Counter Terrorism Bill. The Chief Constable outlined his comments on the proposals.

Members considered the Home Secretary's statement and the consultation paper and generally supported the proposed package of measures outlined, subject to any new legislation acknowledging the balance between improving security and countering terrorism with the need to maintain human rights and appropriate safeguards. The Authority felt that security at key sites be extended to include major petro-chemical installations.

*RESOLVED:*

The Chief Executive be authorised to finalise the Authority's response to Home Office consultation on the proposals for a further Counter Terrorism Bill and forward a copy of the response to the APA.

32. CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

The Chief Constable presented his quarterly operational report which showed an 8.5% decrease in overall recorded crime, together with decreases across all the other main crime areas, and a 25.4% sanction detection rate for the period January to April 2007, a 0.2% increase compared with the same period in 2006. The Chief Constable reported on a number of issues including the results of the Local Government User Satisfaction Survey for 2006/07 which showed a reduction in the public perception of fear of anti-social behaviour; the PCSO recruitment programme; the amalgamation of force uniform level 2 resources to create the 'Vector' unit; the implementation of the Child Rescue Alert initiative; and the positive work of the Neighbourhood Policing Units. Members were also advised that Cheshire had been selected as one of the ten 'beacon sites' in 2008, for the introduction of the Criminal Justice Simple Speedy Summary, which enabled cases to be progressed speedily through the courts, when a guilty plea was entered.

Members welcomed the reductions in the level of crime and the results of the Local Government User Satisfaction Survey 2006/07. Members noted the report and raised several other issues including the review of the response policing function; targeting crime in rural areas; and the improvements made in reducing sickness levels.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the operational report of the Chief Constable, be noted; and
- (2) a report on the outcome of the review of the response policing function be submitted to the Service Improvement Panel on 11 September 2007.

33. HUMAN RESOURCE STRATEGY 2007-10

The Chief Constable submitted the draft Human Resource Strategy 2007-10 for approval. The Strategy covered all aspects of people management needed to deliver the policing objectives contained in the Policing Plan, and included a costed training plan summary.

*RESOLVED:*

That the Human Resource Strategy 2007-10, be approved.

34. ANNUAL REPORT 2006/07

The Chief Executive invited the Authority to approve the combined Authority and Chief Constable Annual Report for 2006/07. Members had been circulated with a final draft of the report and their comments on both its content and layout were sought.

Members discussed the report and requested further work to refine the content and layout.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the draft combined Annual Report of the Chief Constable and the Authority, be noted;
- (2) the proposed distribution of the combined Annual Report, as outlined in the report, be approved; and
- (3) the Chief Executive and the Chief Constable, in consultation with the Chairman and the Chairman of Engagement Committee, be authorised to finalise the combined Annual Report and make the necessary arrangements to publish the report by the end of July for distribution to all households in September and October 2007.

35. 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 Constabulary and Authority Race and Disability and Gender Equality Schemes; the work of the staff networks; training; recruitment/employment; and a summary of race crimes and incidents.

*RESOLVED:*

That the report be noted

36. STOPS AND STOP/SEARCH DATA: ANNUAL REPORT

The Chief Constable submitted the stops and stop/search data for 2006/07, which detailed that 78,751 stops were conducted, a 64% increase compared to 2005/06. The increase was attributable to several factors which included officers being more proactive in the use of the stop forms especially in relation to anti-social behaviour.

The lead Member for Diversity commented that the data was scrutinised at the Diversity Monitoring review Group to ensure proportionality and equality in the use of stop and stop/search powers.

*RESOLVED:*

That the report, detailing the annual stops and stop/search data for 2006/07, be received.

37. HEALTH & SAFETY 2006/07: ANNUAL REPORT

The Chief Constable submitted an annual report on the progress and developments in relation to health and safety issues during 2006/07. The report included an update on legislative changes; management infrastructure; training, the involvement of the Health & Safety Executive; injury reporting and investigation; and a breakdown of injury statistics for police officers and staff.

*RESOLVED:*

That the annual report on health and safety, be noted.

38. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CHARGING POLICY

The Assistant Chief Officer presented the annual review of charging for police services, and sought approval to the proposed charging methodologies.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the proposed charging methodology for services provided under sections 25 and 92 of the Police Act 1996 and Section 31 of the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 be approved, and the associated decisions on charging continue to be delegated to the Chief Constable; and
- (3) the West Midlands charging methodology adopted by ACPO continue to be promoted as a useful guide for event planners as to the level of charge to be applied for particular events.

39. EXTERNAL FUNDING: ANNUAL REPORT 2006/07

The Chief Constable submitted a report on the external funding generated in 2006/07. The report detailed funding secured through sponsorship, gifts and loans; income generation; partnership funding; and grant funding. Members also received information on the organisations that had provided sponsorship during the year.

*RESOLVED:*

That the 2006/07 report on external funding, be received.

40. CHESHIRE SAFETY CAMERA PARTNERSHIP: ANNUAL REPORT

The Project Manager of the Safety Camera Partnership presented the final Annual Report for the Partnership, whose work would now be encompassed within the new Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership structure. The Report included

details of the partners involved; the aims and objectives of the partnership; the various types and locations of cameras and a breakdown of the financial implications.

Members in welcoming the report, noted that during the four year operation of the partnership, at camera sites, the average speed had reduced by 5mph; 115 fewer collisions had occurred; and 68 fewer people were killed or seriously injured, per year. The Chairman commented on the ongoing discussions with partner agencies to develop a system of public governance for the Partnership.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the casualty reduction achieved by the safety camera partnership be noted; and
- (2) the operation of the scheme at no cost to the taxpayer or any partner agency, be noted.

41. CRIME & DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIPS: ANNUAL REPORT

The Chief Constable presented an annual update on the progress of the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships which included a summary of the key initiatives being undertaken, together with details of the allocation Government BCU funding in 2006/07.

*RESOLVED:*

That the annual report on the progression of the local partnerships in 2006/07, be noted.

42. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION: ANNUAL REPORT 2006/07

The Chief Constable and the Chief Executive presented the annual report on requests made to the Constabulary and Authority under the Freedom of Information Act in 2006/07. During the period the Constabulary had received 381 requests of which 85 were refused and the Authority received two requests.

*RESOLVED:*

That the Freedom of Information Annual Report 2006/07, be noted.

43. BUDGET 2007/08: STARRED CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Chief Constable presented an update on the starred capital projects identified in the 2007/08 budget - Sexual Assault Referral Centre and Unified Police Security Architecture and sought approval to commence to the construction tender process for the Operations Training Facility.

The Chief Constable reported that the strategic operational demands and development options for the Constabulary over the next three years had been examined and indicated that there was a clear operational need for an operations training facility. Whilst surrounding forces were unwilling to contribute capital funds to develop a collaborative firearms and/or public order training facility in

Cheshire, it was evident that they would be interested in hiring the facilities to supplement their own.

In considering the report, Members raised a number of issues relating to affordability; concern about the Authority having to fully fund a regional facility; and the need for all other funding streams including other forces and the Government to be explored.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the updates on the Sexual Assault Referral Centre and the Unified Police Security Architecture, be noted;
- (2) the Chief Constable's decision to proceed to tender for the Operations Training Project based on the operational need for the facility; be noted;
- (3) the Project proceed to the construction tender process as outlined in the Chief Constable's supplementary report;
- (4) the Chief Constable continue to seek a collaborative approach to the provision of the facility both within the North West and elsewhere; and
- (5) a final business case for the provision of an Operations Training Facility be submitted to the Authority on 19 February 2008, for consideration.

#### 44. PROPOSED CHANGES TO OPERATIONAL UNIFORM

The Chief Constable presented a report on the proposal to introduce a new operational uniform, its proposed use and how it would be funded.

Members were advised that the new uniform would be piloted for approximately six weeks on 45 officers and PCSO's in the Western Area in early August during which public opinion would be gauged. The Chief Constable reported that the estimated capital costs for the replacement amounted to £695,000.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the operational uniform replacement capital scheme for 2007/08 be approved subject to satisfactory pilot trial and public consultation;
- (3) the outcome of the pilot be reported to the Authority prior to commitment to proceed to the full roll out of the new uniform;
- (4) £450,000 capital be approved for uniform replacement in 2007/08 funded by the release of £450,000 from premises improvement capital as detailed in the report;
- (5) a commitment of £245,000 capital be added to the 2008/09 capital programme; and
- (6) the 2007/08 revenue contribution, be noted.

45. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS: AMENDMENT

The Chief Executive presented a report which sought approval to amend the Authority's Financial Regulations in order to provide a more efficient and effective procurement approval process.

*RESOLVED:*

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

46. SCRUTINY GROUPS

The Chief Executive presented a progress report of the work of the current scrutiny groups and proposed that the deployment of PCSOs and the Authority's role in relation to Stops and Stop/Search as two further areas for scrutiny.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the progress of the initial scrutiny groups into citizen focus and forensics, be noted;
- (2) the establishment of scrutiny groups to look at PCSOs and stops and stop/search, be agreed; and
- (3) the following Members be appointed to each Scrutiny Group:-
  - (a) PCSOs – S Proctor, B Maher and D Cargill
  - (b) Stops and Stop/Search – E Lam, R Giltrap and T Savage

47. CHESHIRE POLICE DOG WELFARE INSPECTION SCHEME: ANNUAL REPORT

The Chief Executive reported on the annual review of the performance and operation of the Cheshire Police Dog Welfare Inspection Scheme. The report detailed the inspections undertaken by the Lay Inspectors, the Veterinary Surgeon and the Dogs Unit Sergeant.

*RESOLVED:*

That the report be noted.

48. MEMBERS' REPORT ON 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.

49. 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 submission of a planning application for the construction of an operations training facility; and the submission of three bids for 'demonstrator site' status in relation to collaboration.

*RESOLVED:*

That the action taken by the Chairman be noted.

50. URGENT BUSINESS

(There were no items of urgent business)

51. 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>	
Chief Constable's Report	(7)	Information relating to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime
Civil and other Claims: Annual Report	(1)	Information likely to reveal the identity of individuals
Collaboration with North Wales Police: Joint Air Support Unit	(4 & 7)	Information relating to labour relations and to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.
Collaboration with North Wales Police: Implementation Plan	(4 & 7)	Information relating to labour relations and to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.
Forensics Collaboration Agreement: Review	(7)	Information relating to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

Appointment of Cleaning Plus Contractor

(6)

Information relating to proposed actions by the Authority

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

52. CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

The Chief Constable presented the second part of his quarterly operational report, which included updates on a number of incidents and new and ongoing investigations which the Constabulary was undertaking.

*RESOLVED:*

That the Chief Constable's report be noted.

53. CIVIL AND OTHER CLAIMS: ANNUAL REPORT 2006/07

The Chief Constable submitted the annual report on civil claims and personal injury and employment tribunal claims. The Authority received details of the claims processed and settled during the year.

*RESOLVED:*

That the annual report on civil and other claims, be noted.

54. FUTURE JOINT AIR SUPPORT UNIT WITH NORTH WALES POLICE

The Chief Constable presented a report on a proposal to establish a joint Air Support Unit with North Wales Police. The report detailed the short and long term issues of the proposal and the options available with regard to provision of aircraft and location of air bases.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the report on the progress of the development of a joint Air Support Unit between Cheshire Constabulary and North Wales Police, be received;
- (2) the short-term proposals for greater joint working in the provision of air support, as detailed in the Chief Constable's report, be approved;
- (3) a detailed report on the formal establishment of a joint Air Support Unit be submitted to the Authority on 25 September 2007 including the determination of issues in relation to direction & control, governance, legal framework, licences and liability; and
- (4) the ongoing consideration of the need to submit a bid for funding to the Home Office in September 2007 for a replacement aircraft in 2010 be noted and should the Constabulary decide to proceed with a bid, a full business case be developed and presented to the Authority on 25 September 2007.

55. COLLABORATION ACTIVITIES WITH NORTH WALES POLICE

The Chief Constable presented an update on progress of collaborative activities with North Wales Police. The report detailed a number of policing activities which had been identified suitable for possible collaboration and the timescales.

*RESOLVED:*

That the report be noted.

56. FORENSICS COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

(Item deferred until 25 September 2007).

57. APPOINTMENT OF CLEANING PLUS CONTRACTOR

The Assistant Chief Officer presented a report which sought approval to the appointment of a cleaning and domestic services contractor. The report detailed the current position with regard to the negotiations with the proposed contractor and the impact on the budget.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the revised tender be approved and ESS be appointed the cleaning plus contractor.

*Duration of meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.15am and finished at 11.25am.*