

(A)



# Cheshire Police Authority - Engagement Committee

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2010 IN  
CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

*Present:* M Chapman, Chairman  
B Silvester, Vice-Chairman  
A Arnold  
D Cargill  
M Darby  
E Lam  
B Maher  
M Ollerenshaw  
T Savage

*Also in attendance:* D Bateman, R Hodson, R McNeil and A Walmsley

*Authority Officers:*  
D Taylor, Deputy Chief Executive  
A Collins, Engagement Manager  
M Eaton, Member Services Manager  
*Constabulary Officers:*  
I Wiggett, Temporary Assistant Chief Constable  
J Roberts, Communities Unit Manager

## 44 MINUTES

The Committee was updated on progress and changes since the last meeting in relation to the following Minutes:-

### Minute 31, Custody Visitor Recruitment 2010

The Deputy Chief Executive advised that at the closing date, only 26 applications had been received and dependent upon the suitability of the applicants a full recruitment programme may now be required.

### Minute 36, Independent Advisory Group: Annual Priorities

The Chairman wished to amend the Minute to show that the Independent Advisory Group's annual priorities had been approved by the Committee, as opposed to being noted.

### Minute 42, Communities Unit: Quarterly Report

In relation to resolution (2), Members were advised that the business case for the development of a customer relationship management system would be presented to the Authority on 23 February 2010 as part of the 2010/11 budget proposals.

### *RESOLVED:*

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2009, subject to the above amendment, be confirmed as a correct record.

## 45 IDENTIFICATION & RESPONSE TO NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIORITIES

The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable presented the framework for setting local priorities with local communities to enhance public confidence and meet the requirements of the Policing Pledge. The report outlined the various processes of engagement activities currently undertaken by the Constabulary at the neighbourhood level and how the proposed new process would be implemented. Monthly Pledge meetings would complement the existing meetings being held within each Neighbourhood Policing Team area and information gathered from these meetings, together with other engagement activity and surveys would be used to inform the development of local policing priorities.

Members discussed with the Temporary Assistant Chief Constable a number of issues relating to the report including the lack of consistency throughout the Constabulary in arranging public meetings and notifying key individual networks; the level of attendance and the effectiveness of police surgeries; the need to involve partner agencies when consulting with the public; and the mechanisms for feeding back the results to the Authority.

Members raised some concerns about the accuracy of the meetings information in neighbourhoods and undertook to provide comments to the Constabulary to ensure that the information was up-to-date and that meetings were held in the most appropriate locations and NPU Inspectors ensure that their nominated member be included as a Key Individual Network (KIN) and receive information publicising the meetings.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the proposed framework of engagement to identify and address local priorities as outlined in the Chief Constable's report, be endorsed;
- (2) Members undertake regular reality testing of the local priority setting process as part of their monthly liaison meetings with their nominated NPU Inspectors; and
- (3) key issues from the local priority setting framework be fed into the planning process and form part of the reporting mechanism to the Authority.

## 46 PUBLIC CONSULTATION: ANNUAL REVIEW

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the review of public consultation meetings in 2009/10 and the alternative methods of consultation available to the Authority. The Deputy Chief Executive outlined the statutory duties on the Authority; the views from the recent Authority Inspection; the operation of the Have Your Say meetings including attendance levels and content and presentations made; and the use of the roadshows as a method of consultation.

Members discussed a number of issues including the various methods of public consultation currently undertaken by the Authority; the success of the roadshows in effectively consulting with the public; the need to improve

attendance at public meetings; and the proposed format, chairmanship and name of future public meetings.

Whilst noting that attendance at the current public meetings had decreased, Members emphasised the importance of retaining the opportunity for the public to hold both the Authority and Constabulary to account, as stipulated in the Policing White Paper, and supported the replacement of the HYS meetings. Members agreed the proposal to hold two cycles of public meetings as they felt any further reduction would impact adversely on public confidence. In agreeing the proposals, Members expressed their hope that the replacements were not just a re-branding exercise and that they should look and feel different to the current arrangements, and provide the public with a suitable opportunity to raise questions about and challenge, strategic policing issues and requested officers to further develop the proposals.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the outcome of the annual review of the operation of Have Your Say meetings in 2009/10 as set out in the Chief Executive's report, be approved;
- (2) the proposals to hold two cycles of roadshows in spring and autumn, as set out in the Chief Executive's report, be approved;
- (3) the proposal to hold two cycles of 6 public meetings (Option 1) as outlined in the Chief Executive's report be approved,
- (4) the format and name of the meetings to be further developed and the finalised arrangements be reported to Committee on 18 May 2010;
- (5) during 2010/11 discussions continue with partners to develop a more joined up approach to public consultation and Members attend a selection of partner public meetings to assess whether they could effectively be used by the Authority to discharge its statutory functions;
- (6) the Community Safety & Justice Commission hosting of an annual Community Safety Conference, be endorsed; and
- (7) the Authority on 23 February 2010 review the impact of the Committee's decisions on the Member's allowance scheme.

#### 47 DRAFT COUNCIL TAX LEAFLET 2010/11

The Deputy Chief Executive circulated the council tax leaflet for 2010/11 which was to be distributed to every household in the Authority area. The Chairman requested Members to submit any comments on the draft text and format of the leaflet to the Engagement Manager after the meeting.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the proposed layout and design of the leaflet, be approved;
- (2) the saving of £866 in the Chief Executive's budget be supported; and

- (3) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman, be authorised to approve the final council tax leaflet for 2010/11.

#### 48 POLICE AUTHORITY CONTACT PLAN: QUARTERLY UPDATE

The Engagement Manager submitted the quarterly update on actions taken to progress the Authority's Contact Plan. The report outlined the 2010/11 budget communication plan; initiatives to raise public awareness of police authorities nationally; the public consultation undertaken throughout Cheshire on the policing priorities; and the various initiatives and engagement undertaken with partners.

The Chairman welcomed the use by the Learning and Skills Improvement service of the Authority's 'Your Policing' publication as a study project for the Workforce Support Diploma.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the report on progress in delivering the Contact Plan, be received;
- (2) the findings of the Confidence Focus Groups be reported to Engagement Committee on 18 May 2010;
- (3) the ongoing findings of the police station audits be reported to Service Improvement Panel, with evidence of Policing Pledge non-compliance be reported to Performance Panel; and
- (4) the proposals to develop a Young Person's Independent Advisory Group, be supported.

#### 49 CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The Deputy Chief Executive presented a report on the arrangements for scrutinising Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and sought the Authority's representation on scrutiny committees in the 4 local authority areas. The report detailed the requirements of the Police and Justice Act 2006 in relation to each local authority establishing a scrutiny committee to review and scrutinise decisions made; the Home Office guidance; and the roles and membership of the scrutiny committees.

In seeking nominations, the Deputy Chief Executive stated that the Member should not be the Partnership Lead Member for that Area as they would not be able to scrutinise the work of the partnership in which they were intrinsically involved. In Cheshire West & Chester, the Partnership lead Member was involved in a current thematic review but would not have a role in a wider review of partnership effectiveness.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the progress in securing Authority representation on the four Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership scrutiny committees, as prescribed by the Home Office and outlined in the Chief Executive's report be welcomed; and

- (2) (a) the following Members be nominated to represent the Authority on the Crime & Disorder scrutiny committees:-

Cheshire East - E Lam  
Halton - R Hodson

- (b) the Deputy Chief Executive seek nominations to represent the Authority on the Cheshire West & Chester and Warrington Crime & Disorder scrutiny committees.

## 50 PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Chief Executive submitted a report on discussions at recent meetings of Local Strategic Partnerships, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Children's Trust meetings attended by Members.

Members discussed the reports and highlighted the red flag which had been given to safeguarding in the recent CAA assessment of Warrington. The Committee requested that this matter be placed on the Authority's risk register to ensure added scrutiny was applied to the role both the Authority and Constabulary played in safeguarding young people in Warrington.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the reports from the lead Members for partnerships be received;
- (2) the actions outlined in paragraph 3 of the Chief Executive's report be progressed;
- (3) the role of the Authority in safeguarding young people in Warrington be added to the Authority's risk register; and
- (4) the Treasurer consider the other risks identified by Members and reflect on them as appropriate in the Authority's risk register.

## 51 COMMUNITIES UNIT: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Communities Unit Manager presented the quarterly report on the key strands of work being undertaken by the Communities Unit, which included the various community engagement activities undertaken; implementation of the PREVENT action plans and the development of the CONTEST strategies; diversity monitoring; activity to combat hate crime; equality and diversity matters; and the continued development of Restorative Justice.

Members also considered the Constabulary's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Strategic Risk assessment which had been circulated for information.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the work of the Communities Unit with regards to the Confidence Agenda, Prevent, Diversity and Restorative Justice be received; and
- (2) the anti-social behaviour strategy and action plan be presented to Engagement Committee on 18 May 2010.

52 PREVENT: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR POLICE AUTHORITIES

The Engagement Manager presented a report on the Association of Police Authorities (APA) Guidance 'Prevent: A Strategic Framework for police authorities' which was launched at the ACPO/APA Conference in November 2009. In considering the report which detailed the statutory duties and the progress made by the Authority in each of the strategic priority areas in the framework, Members requested a further opportunity to discuss in greater detail the Authorities' role and the implications of PREVENT and CONTEST.

It was reported that the four borough councils in Cheshire were currently undertaking a self-assessment of their PREVENT activity and that copies of these assessments would be made available to the Partnership lead members.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the APA Framework be received;
- (2) further consideration of the report on the APA framework be undertaken at the Discussion Day on 26 April 2010 together with a wider debate on the CONTEST agenda; and
- (3) the Chief Constable report to Engagement Committee on 18 May 2009 reviewing PREVENT activity during the last twelve months and consider the actions contained under each priority area in the APA framework.

53 BUDGET 2010/11: COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

The Chief Executive submitted a draft Communication Plan for the purpose of briefing key stakeholders on the budget for 2010/11 as requested by Members at the Policing Objectives and Budget Seminar on 11 January 2010.

*RESOLVED:*

That the communication plan for the 2010/11 budget, be implemented.

54 URGENT BUSINESS  
(There were no items of urgent business)

*Duration of Meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and finished at 11.10am.*

*[Following the meeting, Members received training on partnership working]*