



Cheshire Police Authority - Engagement Committee

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2009 IN
CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

Present:

M Chapman, Chairman	R McNeil
S Proctor, Vice-Chairman	B Maher
M Darby	P Nurse
A Doran	T Savage
E Lam	

Also in attendance: A Bradley

<i>Authority Officers:</i>	<i>Constabulary Officers:</i>
M Sellwood, Chief Executive	D Baines, Assistant Chief Constable
A Collins, Engagement Manager	J Roberts, Head of Safer & Stronger Communities
M Eaton, Member Services Manager	B Cowling, Head of Corporate Communications

41. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

42. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Head of the Safer & Stronger Communities Unit presented the quarterly report on the key strands of work currently being undertaken. The report detailed the development of the Safer Schools Partnerships; the role of PCSOs; consultation with mental health groups; the 10th anniversary of Crimebeat; the work of the Diversity Unit; and engagement within the communities of the 19 Neighbourhood Policing Units.

The Chief Executive commented on discussions with the Chief Constable regarding the need for an appropriate programme to promote the work of PCSOs and work with partners to ensure funding streams were maintained.

In considering the report, Members discussed with the Assistant Chief Constable, a number of issues including the frequency of CAMs, the early identification of crime trends from community activity and how the Constabulary addressed these; and the impact of the current economic climate on future media coverage.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

43. POLICE AUTHORITY CONTACT PLAN: QUARTERLY UPDATE

The Chief Executive submitted the quarterly update on actions taken to progress the Authority's Contact Plan. The report outlined details of media coverage and website access; communication and engagement with various groups; and consultation with the public on the 2009/10 policing objectives.

Members discussed a number of issues arising from the report including the dissemination of information via newsletters of local community groups, parish council's and churches; and the cost to the public of the Constabulary's 0845 telephone number.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the draft 2009/10 Contact Plan be submitted to Engagement Committee on 12 May 2009.

44. POLICING PRIORITIES CONSULTATION: VALUE FOR MONEY

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the costs and benefits of the public consultation on policing priorities which informed the policing objectives for 2009/10 and made suggestions for future consultation.

The Engagement Manager added that as the Authority had agreed to be the lead for community engagement and reassurance for the East and West Cheshire CDRPs. Future surveys would include questions about how the public can influence decisions about anti-social behaviour by the local council and police and whether people feel they can influence decisions in their locality.

Members discussed the effectiveness and costs of the various methods of consultation undertaken this year.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) postal surveys continue to be sent to the 'Have Your Say' mailing list, Custody Visitors, Councillors, partners, representatives of diverse groups, the Authority's Young People's Panel, the Constabulary's Citizen's Panel and the business community;
- (3) questions about National Indicators 4 and 21 be included in future surveys; and
- (4) the feasibility of carrying out a road show using the exhibition vehicle to consult about policing priorities to inform the Chief Constable's objectives for 2010/11, be explored.

45. PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY

The Chief Executive submitted a report on discussions at recent meetings of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) and other partnership

meetings attended by Members.

In considering the report, Members enquired about the powers of PCSOs to issue fixed penalty notices and whether there was any income generated for the Constabulary and the need for corporacy throughout the force area; and the level of service provided by the local authorities in discharging their duty in relation to stray dogs.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Chief Executive clarify the powers of PCSOs.

46. SPEAK OUT: YOUTH CONFERENCE

The Engagement Manager reported on the findings and recommendations from the 'Speak Out' Youth Conference held on 3 November 2008, which was attended by 89 young people from a broad cross-section of communities.

Members discussed the positive feedback received and commented on the success of the event.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the DVD, which was jointly developed by Cheshire Youth Parliament and the Constabulary's Learning & Development Department, about how to engage with young people be used as part of the Constable probationer training programme;
- (3) the Chief Constable be asked to consider developing improved information for young people about how and when to contact the police;
- (4) the Chief Constable ensure that there is corporate support for schools based officers to develop information packages for delivery in schools which address the issues raised at the Youth Conference;
- (5) the Chief Constable consider establishing a network of volunteer young people to help develop web based communication;
- (6) the Chief Constable consider developing an award scheme for young people who have made a positive contribution in their community; and
- (7) the Authority establish a Young People's Panel to inform future consultation exercises.

47. BUSINESS CRIME SURVEY: RESULTS

The Engagement Manager presented a report on the results from the business crime survey and made recommendations for further engagement activity. The report outlined the methodology; the key findings; the respondent's experience of crime; and the satisfaction levels with the Constabulary's response.

Members considered the results which showed that 75% of the 192 businesses who responded to the survey in Cheshire were confident that the police were dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour issues; 64.8% found it easy to contact the police, 53.4% were happy with the response time; 56.2% stated that their crime/incident was investigated, 46% were happy with the feedback they received from the police, and 56% knew who to talk to about their crime/incident.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the findings of the survey are shared with the Chambers of Commerce at a meeting on 12 February 2009 and the resulting discussions be used to inform future engagement activity;
- (3) the findings of the survey be shared with Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in the policing area to inform their community strategies; and
- (4) the Authority conduct further focus groups with Cheshire businesses to explore the findings in more depth and inform future activity about how to influence confidence and satisfaction.

48. DRAFT COUNCIL TAX LEAFLET 2009/10

The Chief Executive circulated a draft version of the Council Tax leaflet which was to be circulated to every household in the area during March 2009.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposed layout and design of the leaflet, subject to the comments made by Members, be agreed; and
- (2) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman, be authorised to approve the final council tax leaflet for 2009/10.

49. 'HAVE YOUR SAY' MEETINGS: MAY 2009

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the issues to be considered at the May cycle of 'Have Your Say' meetings which included circulating details on the provision of local crime information/statistics for neighbourhood policing; a presentation on Customer Service Desks; and how the Force Operations Department supported local policing.

RESOLVED:

That the agenda for the May cycle of 'Have Your Say' meetings as outlined in the Chief Executive's report, be approved.

Duration of Meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and finished at 11.45am.