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# Cheshire Police Authority - Engagement Committee

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 18 MAY 2010 IN CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

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

*Also in attendance:* A Doran and A Walmsley  
K Brown and B Hodgson, Convenors of Custody Visitor Panels

*Authority Officers:*  
D Taylor, Deputy Chief Executive  
A Collins, Engagement Manager  
M Eaton, Member Services Manager  
*Constabulary Officers:*  
I Wiggett, Temporary Assistant Chief Constable  
Supt D Bertenshaw, Strategic Partnerships  
J Roberts, Communities Unit Manager  
B Cowling, Head of Corporate Communications

*Apologies:* B Silvester,  
S Taunton, Convenor, Western Panel

## 1 MINUTES

The Committee was updated on progress in relation to the following Minutes:-

Minute 45: Identification and response to Neighbourhood Priorities

Members confirmed that they were undertaking reality testing of the local priority setting process as part of their regular NPU Inspector liaison meetings.

Minute 48: Police Authority Contact Plan: Quarterly Report

The Engagement Manager reported that work was in progress in the development of the Young Persons Independent Advisory Group.

*RESOLVED:*

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2010, be confirmed as a correct record.

## 2 CHESHIRE CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME: ANNUAL REPORT

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the 2009/10 annual report for the Custody Visiting Scheme. It was reported that 290 visits had been made compared to 293 in 2008/09. Of the 1451 detainees selected and available to be seen, 1390 (95.8%) consented to a visit, compared to 95.1% in 2008/09. Of the detainees seen, 707 (47.4%) raised issues relating to medical issues,

food/drink, information about their release, requests for additional bedding and telephone calls. There were no significant issues raised during the year.

The Chairman welcomed the Convenors of the Eastern and Northern Custody Visitor Panels, who presented their reports and visiting statistics for the period October 2009 to March 2010. Members in considering the visiting statistics, discussed a number of issues arising from the reports.

The Deputy Chief Executive also reported on the Annual Custody Visitors Training Seminar held in March 2010; provided an update on progress of the 2010 recruitment programme for new custody visitors; and the arrangements for the North West Regional Custody Visitor Conference on 18 September 2010.

The Chairman thanked the Convenors for their attendance and constructive comments.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the annual report on the Custody Visiting Scheme be received;
- (2) the progress of the recruitment programme be supported; and
- (3) the arrangements for the North West Regional Conference on 18 September 2010 be supported, and D Cargill, A Doran and T Savage be nominated to attend.

### 3 HMIP/HMIC EXPECTATIONS FOR POLICE CUSTODY

The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable reported on the implications of the recent Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary publication "Expectations for police custody – criteria for assessing the treatment and conditions for detainees in police custody".

The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable advised that whilst the operation of the Custody Suites was held as an example of best practice and good standard, there were a number of areas of working practices which were not fully supported by policies and procedures and that work was being undertaken in order to achieve full compliance.

Members expressed concern that there could be a delay in compliance with the assessment criteria and asked that an analysis be undertaken to highlight where the gaps were.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the Constabulary's position in relation to the assessment criteria set out in the Expectations document, be accepted;
- (2) a report identifying the work required to comply with the assessment criteria be submitted to the Committee on 17 August 2010; and
- (3) a period of six months for the necessary policies and procedures to be updated within custody to ensure full compliance against the assessment criteria, be agreed and progress reported to the Committee on 2 November 2010.

#### 4 PUBLIC MEETINGS 2010/11: FORMAT

The Deputy Chief Executive presented a report on the new structure and format of the Authority's public meetings in 2010/11. The report outlined the plans for launching the 'Police Question Time' meetings in order to encourage greater involvement from the public; arrangements for publicity; the role of the facilitator; the involvement of other partners and agencies; the process for the submission of questions from the public; the provision of feedback; and the associated risks. Members were also circulated with a number of options for the artwork which would feature on all related publicity material.

The Deputy Chief Executive reported that feedback would be sought from all those circulated with the meeting information and that it was important when evaluating the effectiveness of the new format that the outputs, rather than attendance, were seen as the key success factors.

Members supported the proposed new format and discussed with the Deputy Chief Executive and the Engagement Manager a number of issues relating to the proposed format of the meeting; the arrangements for delivery of key messages to the public; the costs incurred; and considered the various options for the branding of the meetings.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the proposals for the structure and format of 'Police Question Time' meetings as detailed in the Chief Executive's report, be supported;
- (2) the role of the 'facilitator' as outlined in the Chief Executive's report, be agreed;
- (3) the Chief Executive be authorised to take the necessary action to implement the new arrangements; and
- (4) option 1 of the artwork for the branding of the meeting, be approved.

#### 5 LOCAL POLICING SUMMARY 2010/11: 'YOUR POLICING'

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the proposals for the production of the 'Your Policing' magazine which would form the statutory local policing summary, and would be distributed in phases to all households in the Authority area. The magazine would feature the work undertaken by the Constabulary and Authority; publicise the Authority's priorities for 2010/11; how the Constabulary met the 2009/10 local and national priorities; and contact details of local NPUs.

In considering the draft version, Members made a number of comments about the format and expressed concern that the version submitted to them at the meeting was still very much in draft format and requested that urgent consideration be given to reviewing the production and editorial process to ensure that Members were presented with a final draft at the meeting in future.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) a revised draft be prepared in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and circulated to the Authority for comments by 1 June 2010;
- (2) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Authority's Chairman and Vice-Chairman and the Chairman of Engagement Committee be authorised to finalise 'Your Policing' and make the necessary arrangements for its publication and distribution in July 2010; and
- (3) the Chief Executive and Chief Constable review the process for producing the local policing summary in future years to ensure that members are presented with a final draft of the summary at the Engagement Committee each May

## 6 COMMUNITY CONTACT PLAN 2010-13: QUARTERLY UPDATE

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the quarterly update on community engagement activity undertaken since the last meeting which included public consultation on the policing priorities; the production and distribution of an easy read summary of the Equality Scheme; and the various initiatives and engagement undertaken with partners and community groups. The report also outlined the requirements of new legislation on the Authority in obtaining the views of the community on policing.

The Committee also considered the Authority's Contact Plan 2010–13, which outlined how the Authority would communicate and consult with the public and engage with partners, key stakeholders, communities and individuals.

The Deputy Chief Executive reported that the Plan primarily focused on delivering actions during 2010/11 and recommended that the Plan be amended to a one-year plan to reflect this. The Contact Plan was linked closely to the Authority's Business Plan, which looked at a three year period and would pick up the more long term strategic engagement issues.

Members discussed the content of the draft three year Contact Plan and in particular, the methods of contact and achievements which mainly related to 2010/11 and suggested that the Plan be amended to become a one year Plan.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the report on the outcome of community engagement activity, be received;
- (2) the Authority's Community Contact Plan be amended to a one year plan for 2010/11; and
- (3) the long term strategic engagement issues be built into the Authority's 2010-13 business planning process.

## 7 CONSTABULARY COMMUNICATION STRATEGY: 2010/11

The Head of Corporate Communications presented the Constabulary's Communication Strategy 2010/11 which had been developed to improve the quality of consultation between the public and the police, in order to increase

public confidence in policing, reassure local communities and maintain public involvement with the criminal justice system.

In considering the Strategy, Members discussed with the Temporary Assistant Chief Constable and Head of Corporate Communications the raising of the public's expectations and whether the Constabulary were confident that they could be met; and problems associated with the distribution of information to support neighbourhood policing. In particular, Members expressed some concern over the affordability of the Strategy and whether in the current economic climate the achievement of the Strategy was realistic.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the Constabulary's Communication Strategy 2010/11 be supported; and
- (2) a report on progress against the Strategy including affordability be presented to the Committee on 2 November 2010.

## 8 SCHOOLS BASED OFFICERS: UPDATE

The Communities Unit Manager presented an update on the progress of Schools Based Officers (SBO) within the concept of the Safer Schools Partnerships.

Members noted the report and welcomed the positive impact that SBOs were having in the schools in which they were based and urged the retention of the officers through the Transforming Policing Project.

Members discussed with the Manager the capturing of data to ensure a consistent approach was adopted; the local perception of having a SBO within a school; and the selection criteria for schools.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the model of Safer Schools Partnerships including the use of School Based officers, as adopted by Cheshire be endorsed;
- (2) the Committee underline its support for the continuation of the model through the ongoing work of the Transforming Policing Project; and
- (3) a further report on progress be submitted to the Committee in May 2011.

## 9 PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Chief Executive submitted a report on discussions at recent meetings of Local Strategic Partnerships, Community Safety Partnerships and Children's Trust meetings attended by Members, together with an outline of the Safe & Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the reports from the lead Members for partnerships be received;

- (2) the actions outlined in paragraph 10 of the Chief Executive's report be progressed; and
- (3) the Treasurer consider the other risks identified by Members and reflect on them as appropriate in the Authority's risk register.

## 10 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; the continued development of restorative justice; diversity monitoring; activity to combat hate crime; and equality and diversity matters, including the Equality Act 2010.

In considering the report, Members reviewed the diversity monitoring data and discussed with the Temporary Assistant Chief Constable the background and reason for the apparent disparity in the level of stops within the Eastern Area.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the work of the Communities Unit during the last quarter, be noted;
- (2) the outcome of the Equalities & Human Rights Commission's 'Stop & think' report, be noted;
- (3) updates on the impact of the Equality Act 2010 be reported to the Committee as appropriate; and
- (4) the apparent disparity in the level of stops within the Eastern Area be noted, with a detailed explanation being submitted to the Committee on 17 August 2010, if the disparity continued.

## 11 STRATEGIC RESPONSE TO ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR: UPDATE

The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable presented an update on the Constabulary's strategic response to anti-social behaviour (ASB). The report detailed strategic developments including the progress of a shared ASB case management database with key partners; the adoption of a risk management approach; the development of an enforcement protocol for anti-social behaviour orders on conviction; and the internal developments within the Constabulary.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the Community Safety and Justice Commission's strategic response to anti-social behaviour, be supported; and
- (2) lead Authority Members for Partnerships be encouraged to promote the positive multi-agency approach being taken to address anti-social behaviour within local partnerships.

## 12 PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM: ANNUAL REPORT

The Communities Unit Manager provided a report on progress over the past twelve months in delivering the PREVENT agenda.

In considering the report Members discussed the Authority's role and the need to have strategic oversight to identify any gaps and associated risks and how both the Authority and Constabulary could address these.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the annual update on PREVENT be noted and supported; and
- (2) a report be presented to the Committee on 2 November 2010, highlighting the current risks and gaps in PREVENT activity against the criteria set out in the ACPO National Development Plan and Strategic Framework for Police Authorities, together with a summary of the work required to address those gaps.

13 ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE: COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2010/11

The Chairman presented the Engagement Committee work plan for 2010/11 which had been developed as part of the Authority's ongoing self-improvement programme. The work plan was linked to the Authority's business plan, and aimed to address key issues highlighted in the Inspection Report and contribute to the ongoing development of the Authority.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the Committee work plan for 2010-11 be approved; and
- (2) a report on progress against the work plan be submitted to each meeting of the Committee.

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

*Duration of Meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and finished at 11.38am.*

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