



CHESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2008 IN CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

Present: M Chapman, Chairman R McNeil
S Proctor, Vice-Chairman B Maher
M Darby T Savage
A Doran

Also in attendance: D Bateman and M Ollerenshaw
K Brown, S Taunton and D Woolliscroft, Custody Visiting Scheme

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

Apologies: E Lam and P Nurse

29. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 August 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

30. CHESHIRE CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME: MID-YEAR REPORT

The Chief Executive submitted the mid-year custody visiting statistics for 2008/09 and reported that 147 visits had been made compared to 139 during 2007/08 with 1165 persons being detained at the time of the visits. Of the 762 detainees selected and available to be seen, 730 (95.8%) consented to a visit, compared to 725 (94.8%) in 2007/08. Of the detainees seen, 374 (51.2%) raised issues relating to drinks/meals, medical issues, bedding and requests to use the telephone. There were no significant issues raised during the period.

The Chairman welcomed the Convenors of the Eastern, Northern and Western Custody Visitor Panels, who each presented their reports and visiting statistics for the period April to September 2008. The Convenors highlighted a number of issues which included the continued increase in the acceptance rate to receive visits; the length of time some detainees were held in custody; the availability of drinking water in cells; cleanliness in the custody suites; and the viewing of CCTV footage to which the Acting Deputy Chief Constable responded. Members discussed various matters arising from the reports. The Chairman submitted a report on her attendance at the successful North West Regional Independent Custody Visitors Conference on 11 October 2008 in Bolton.

The Chairman thanked the Convenors for their attendance at the meeting and for the valuable service they provided in reassuring the local community that the correct procedures were being adhered to by the Police.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

31. MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES: ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUNG WHITE MALES FROM AREAS OF DEPRIVATION

The Assistant Chief Constable submitted a report which further explored the issues raised by the Chairman in her report to the Committee on 13 May 2008.

The report detailed the work being undertaken by the Constabulary and other partners to address the challenges raised in the original report which included ensuring not to discriminate against this group, staff training; the promotion of equality and access to employment; better engagement; and whether an accountability framework existed to deal with young white males from deprived areas.

In considering the report, Members raised a number of issues including the impact in Cheshire; the involvement of the new unitary authorities; and the need for more consultation and involvement with Connexions.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the following recommendations in the Assistant Chief Constable's report, be supported:-
 - (a) a review of the future role and status of the Diversity Advisory Unit.
 - (b) further research to clarify the size, nature and needs of the group of people under consideration.
 - (c) the work be co-ordinated by a working group reporting to the Joint Strategic Children and Young People's Group; and
- (3) a further report be submitted to the Committee following completion of the actions outlined in the Assistant Chief Constable's report.

32. CHANGE IN ORDER OF AGENDA

The Chairman requested that due to the relevance of the next item that the order of the agenda be varied to enable item 11 "Safer & Stronger Communities: Quarterly Report" to be considered earlier in the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the order of the agenda be varied.

33. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Head of the Safer & Stronger Communities Unit presented the quarterly report on the key strands of work being undertaken in the Unit, which included community engagement activity, licensing, supporting PCSOs, tackling alcohol, anti-social behaviour and hate crime, wildlife and environment issues, and the development of CO-STAR system.

In considering the report, the Chairman requested whether future reports could focus on fewer strategic issues and Members discussed with the Acting Deputy Chief Constable the work of the Safer Schools Partnerships; the need for corporacy across the force with regard to the naming of consultative meetings; and the Unit's work programme.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

34. ROLE OF MEMBERS IN ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the review of 'Have Your Say' (HYS) meetings and the role of Members in partnership working.

Members discussed the various methods of public consultation currently undertaken; the success of the Constabulary's community action meetings in resolving local issues; the frequency of HYS meetings and the draft programme for 2009/10; and the Authority's future role in partnership working with the new unitary authorities from April 2009.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received;
- (2) the annual review of the operation of 'Have Your Say' meetings, be noted;
- (3) the reduction of 'Have Your Say' meetings to three cycles per year with two in each Area, be approved and the Chief Executive be authorised to make the necessary arrangements in relation to the meetings;
- (4) the proposals detailed in the Chief Executive's report in respect of partnership working and Lead Members from 1 April 2009, be approved; and
- (5) the Authority be recommended to approve the proposed change in the Scheme of Allowances as outlined in the report, and the Chief Executive be authorised to implement the changes, with effect from 1 April 2009.

35. HAVE YOUR SAY: JANUARY 2009

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the issues to be considered at the January cycle of Have Your Say meetings which included information about the Policing Pledge; policing priorities and budget.

RESOLVED:

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

36. DRAFT 'YOUR POLICING'

The Chief Executive circulated a draft version of the January 2009 edition of "Your Policing" which was to be circulated to every house in the force area.

In discussing the draft, Members raised a number of issues relating to the format and the inclusion of Member contact details. The Chief Executive outlined the need for persons in public office to be contactable by the public.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the draft "Your Policing" be approved;
- (2) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman, be authorised to finalise "Your Policing" and make the necessary arrangements to publish and distribute the publication by the end of January 2009; and
- (3) the Authority be recommended to re-affirm its policy that details of Members address and home telephone numbers be published on the website and in the appropriate Authority publications.

37. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIPS: APA SELF ASSESSMENT

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the completion of the APA self assessment matrix in relation to crime and disorder partnership working. The Committee considered the assessment which would be used to help inform the overall Authority self-assessment process and contribute to the preparations for the inspection of the Authority in 2009/10 and the development of future Business Plans.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the completed self-assessment matrix in respect of the APA guidance document 'Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships: The Role of the Authority' and the actions contained in the matrix, be approved; and
- (2) an update report on the actions be submitted to the Committee on 12 May 2009.

38. 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.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

39. 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.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the results of the business crime survey be reported to Engagement Committee on 10 February 2009;
- (3) the findings and recommendations for change from the Youth Conference be reported to Engagement Committee on 10 February 2009; and
- (4) a Youth Conference be held in 2010.

40. CONSTABULARY PUBLIC CONTACT STRATEGY

The Head of Corporate Communications presented an update on the Constabulary's Contact strategy and in particular progress on the workstreams identified in April 2008.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Duration of Meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and finished at 11.37am.