

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICE AUTHORITY HELD ON TUESDAY
30 JUNE 2009 IN CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD**

Present: M Ollerenshaw, Chairman
D Cargill
M Chapman
M Darby
A Doran
J Ebo

R Hodson
E Lam
B Maher
C Oliver
T Savage
A Walmsley

Police Authority Officers:
M Sellwood, Chief Executive
L Lunn, Treasurer
M Eaton, Member Services
Manager

Constabulary Officers:
D Whatton, Chief Constable
B Simmons, Assistant Chief Officer
K Watkins, Director of Performance
Development

Apologies: A Arnold, D Bateman, J P Findlow, R McNeil and B Silvester

30 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

31 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES, PANELS AND A SUMMARY OF HAVE YOUR SAY MEETINGS

RESOLVED:

- (1) the Minutes of the following meetings be received and the recommendations from the specific Minutes listed below, be adopted:-

Selection Committee – (i) 7 April, (ii) 29 May and (iii) 17 June 2009

Engagement Committee – 12 May 2009

Staff Committee – 19 May 2009

Performance Panel – (i) 21 April and (ii) 23 June 2009

Police Authority Improvement Panel – 14 May 2009

Service Improvement Panel – 9 June 2009

Finance Panel – 16 June 2009

- Minute 2: Provisional Capital Outturn 2008/09
- Minute 3: Provisional Revenue Outturn 2008/09
- Minute 8: Insurance and Banking Re-tendering

- (2) the summary of issues raised at the last cycle of 'Have Your Say' meetings, be noted.

32 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

The Chief Constable presented the operational report which showed a reduction in the total number of recorded crimes, with decreases across all the main crime areas except serious acquisitive crime and domestic burglary and incidents of anti-social behaviour, for the period April to May 2009. The report outlined the work and a number of successful operations undertaken by the Neighbourhood Policing Units and Crime Teams across the Constabulary.

The Assistant Chief Officer reported on the award of the national Ferrers Trophy to Special Inspector Kevin Hardy of the Eastern Area for his outstanding achievement and commitment to neighbourhood policing. This was the third consecutive year that a member of the Special Constabulary in Cheshire had received the award.

The Authority discussed with the Chief Constable a number of issues including the positive work being undertaken by the Warrington Central NPU and that it was one of ten NPUs throughout the country to be awarded exemplar status. Members also commented on the need to motivate people to attend community meetings; the process of informing parents about their child's anti-social behaviour; community concerns about cautioning policy and sentencing; the increase in anti-social behaviour; and the way drug seizures are valued. In responding to the issues, the Chief Constable agreed to review the content of the report to show examples of police action in response to community concerns/priorities. It was reported that drugs were valued by weight against a national pricing policy set by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

33 CONFIDENCE STRATEGY

The Chief Constable submitted the draft Confidence Strategy and sought agreement to the governance and financing of the implementation of the Strategy. Performance Panel on 21 April 2009 (Minute 7) had considered a report on the national and local strategic drivers for improving public confidence which had informed the development of the Strategy. Members also had before them a letter from the Home Office Neighbourhood Crime & Justice Group on research commissioned by the Home Office showing the connection between the public feeling informed about policing and their confidence in the service.

The Superintendent, Strategic Partnerships reported that the Strategy aimed to maximise the ability of the Constabulary and the Authority to facilitate sustained improvements in public confidence in policing in Cheshire; achieve the single national police confidence target and other confidence-related targets whether internal or in conjunction with partners. The Strategy set out the context, particularly in relation to how confidence was co-ordinated with the organisations objectives, values and principles and described the methodology and implementation process to achieve the aims. Implementation of the Strategy would be governed through the Public Safety Programme Board.

Members in considering the comprehensive and cohesive Strategy, discussed with the Chief Constable issues relating to the timescales for implementation and the financing; the need to communicate the Strategy in a simple but effective way to

staff and the public; measures of success; advocacy and clear officer training and improved supervision to ensure the correct messages to the public were being delivered by officers; and the need to enhance internal staff confidence in the delivery of policing services. Members expressed concern about the Government's unrealistic view of communities and what they wanted.

The Chief Constable agreed with the comments expressed by Members and commented on the need to communicate in a more simple form with staff to ensure the promotion of positive messages to stress their key role in improving confidence. The Discussion Day on 20 July 2009 would receive a briefing on the actions to deliver the policing principles.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted and the Confidence Strategy be endorsed;
- (2) the proposed governance and finance arrangements as set out in the Chief Constable's report, be approved; and
- (3) the Public Safety Programme Board be authorised to incur up to £934,000 on implementing the Confidence Strategy in 2009/10 subject to consultation with the Treasurer, as agreed at Finance Panel on 16 June 2009 (Minute 3), with updates included in the quarterly financial monitoring reports.

34 HOME OFFICE CONSULTATION: "KEEPING THE RIGHT PEOPLE ON THE DNA DATABASE"

The Chief Executive reported on the Home Office consultation document "Keeping the right people on the DNA database". The consultation set out the Government's proposals for the future retention, destruction and governance of DNA and fingerprints following the ruling by the European Court of Human Rights in December 2008. The Chief Constable supported the proposals which were considered proportionate and balanced the rights of individuals against the need to protect society.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Chief Constable's comments on the Government's proposals in relation to the DNA database, as detailed in the report, be supported; and
- (3) the Chief Executive be authorised to respond to the Home Office and APA, following consultation with the Chairman.

35 HEALTH & SAFETY: ANNUAL REPORT

The Chief Constable submitted the annual report on progress and developments in health and safety matters during 2008/09. The report outlined changes in legislation; training; and injury reporting and investigation. The Authority Lead Member had attended the Health & Safety Strategic Steering Group and was satisfied with the progress being made in implementing the action plan following the HSE inspection report in 2008.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

36 STOPS AND STOP SEARCH: ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09

The Chief Constable submitted the stops and stop search data for 2008/09, which showed that 56,446 stops were conducted, a 24.12% decrease compared to 2007/08. The decrease was due to several contributory factors including national changes in procedures and the introduction of mobile data. The number of stop searches had increased by 1.3% to 8,351.

The Authority was reassured that the data was reviewed in detail on a quarterly basis by the Diversity Monitoring Review Group which included the Authority's two Lead Members for diversity and had found that there was no disproportionality in the number of stops and stop searches of people from white or BME groups.

RESOLVED:

That the annual Stops and Stop Search data for 2008/09, be noted.

37 EXTERNAL FUNDING: ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09

The Chief Constable submitted a report on the income generated in 2008/09. The report detailed the funding secured through the various income categories including grants, joint partnership arrangements, fees and charges, and sponsorship, gifts and loans and information on some of the organisations that had provided sponsorship during the year.

RESOLVED:

That the report on external funding in 2008/09, be received.

38 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION: ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09

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 2008/09. During the period the Constabulary had received 613 requests of which 237 were refused and the Authority had received seven requests and one was refused.

RESOLVED:

That the annual report on requests under the Freedom of Information Act for 2008/09, be received.

39 CHESHIRE SAFER ROADS PARTNERSHIP: ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09

The Manager of the Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership presented the annual report for 2008/09. The report included details of the agencies involved; the activities and initiatives undertaken during the year; the casualty reduction results; and the finances of the Partnership. It was reported that the number of people killed and seriously injured as a result of vehicle collisions continued to reduce year on year and was continuing to achieve the 40% reduction target set by the Government.

Members in considering the report, welcomed the significant progress made in reducing the number of casualties in Cheshire.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

40 CHESHIRE POLICE DOG WELFARE INSPECTION SCHEME: ANNUAL REPORT

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

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

41 ROLE OF VICE-CHAIRMEN

The Chief Executive presented a report on the lead roles agreed for the Vice-Chairmen of Committees and Panels following consideration at the Discussion Day on 27 April 2009.

RESOLVED:

That the role of Vice-Chairmen, as set out in the Chief Executive's report, be noted.

42 MEMBERS' ACTIVITY

The Chief Executive submitted a report which contained Members' reports following their attendance at recent meetings, which included meetings of the APA; North West Chairmen, Chief Executives and Chief Constables; the Cheshire Museum Trust, North West Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Network, Criminal Justice Board Consultative Group; Health and Safety Steering Group; and seminars on protective services and collaboration, and the future HMIC inspection of the police workforce.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

43 CHAIRMAN'S APPROVAL

The Chief Executive reported that in accordance with the urgency procedures under Standing Order No.11, the Chairman had been consulted and approved the recording of a complaint relating to the operational management of the Force by the Deputy Chief Constable as a direction and control complaint and had been finalised.

RESOLVED:

That the action taken by the Chairman, be noted.

- 44 URGENT BUSINESS
(There were no items of urgent business)

- 45 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 item of business listed below on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act in the paragraph indicated:-

<i>Item</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>
Annual Report on Civil Claims 2008/09	(5) Information relating to legal advice/proceedings

PART 2 – MATTER CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

- 46 CIVIL AND OTHER CLAIMS: ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09

The Chief Constable submitted the annual report on civil claims and personal injury and employment tribunal claims. The report contained information on the claims processed and settled during the year.

Members asked how the level of claims compared with comparable forces and the apparent high costs associated with low level claim awards. The Assistant Chief Officer agreed to respond in writing to the issues raised and ensure comparative data was included in future reports.

RESOLVED:

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

Duration of meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and finished at 11.25am.