



CHESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2008 IN CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

Present:

P Nurse	R Hodson
D T Bateman	E Lam
A Bradley	B Maher
D Cargill	C Oliver
M Chapman	S Proctor
G A Cousins	T Savage
M D Darby	
A Doran	

Police Authority Officers:

M Sellwood, Chief Executive
L Lunn, Treasurer
M Eaton, Member Services Manager

Constabulary Officers:

G Gerrard, Acting Chief Constable
G Shewan, Assistant Chief Constable
B Simmons, Assistant Chief Officer

Apologies: J P Findlow, C Kirkpatrick and M A Ollerenshaw

51. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

52. AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP

The Chief Executive reported on the change in membership of the Authority, following the recent selection process for independent members.

The Chairman advised that Chris Kirkpatrick would cease to be a Member on 24 October 2008, and expressed appreciation for his contribution to the work of the Authority.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the appointment of M Chapman (Lay Justice member), M Darby and M Ollerenshaw as Independent Members of the Police Authority with effect from 1 October 2008, be noted;
- (2) the appointment of R McNeil as an Independent Member of the Police Authority with effect from 25 October 2008, be noted;

- (3) R McNeil be appointed to serve on the Engagement Committee, Staff Committee and Performance Panel; and
- (4) the Chairman write to C Kirkpatrick outlining the Authority's appreciation for his contribution to the work of the Authority.

53. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS AND A SUMMARY FROM THE 'HAVE YOUR SAY' MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Minutes of the following meetings be received:-
 - Engagement Committee – 26 August 2008
 - Remuneration Committee – 26 August 2008
 - Staff Committee – 2 September 2008
 - Audit Committee – 18 September 2008
 - Service Improvement Panel – 15 July and 9 September 2008
 - Performance Panel – 19 August 2008
- (2) the Minutes of the Finance Panel on 16 September 2008 be received, subject to an amendment of the resolution in Minute 18 - Financial Performance: First Quarter Review 2008/09 from 'underspend' to read 'overspend', and the recommendations from the specific minutes listed below, be adopted:-
 - Minute 20, Review of Capital Expenditure and Financing 2008/09
 - Minute 21, Earmarked Capital Reserve
 - Minute 24, Review of Members' Mileage and Subsistence Rates
- (3) the summary of issues raised at the last cycle of 'Have Your Say' meetings be noted.

54. ACTING CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

The Acting Chief Constable presented his quarterly report which showed a reduction in the total number of recorded crimes, with decreases across all the main crime areas except domestic burglary, for the period July to August 2008. The report outlined the work and operations undertaken within the Areas; performance details; criminal justice issues; progress in collaboration activities; force developments in relation to Quest, mobile data and custody; and staff achievements.

The Acting Chief Constable reported on a number of issues including the increase in the workload of the Force Major Incident Team; the positive feedback received in relation to the policing of Creamfields; the improved performance in call handling; and that Cheshire had the highest level of public confidence in the local criminal justice system in the country.

Members in welcoming the positive and comprehensive report and the increase in the detection rate, raised a number of issues including the positive work by NPU officers to engage with young people; the use of the police budget to support the statutory responsibilities of other public services; the success of the

Constabulary's Open Day; the partnership working involved in the 'Streetsafe' initiative; and the recent visit by the Minister for Policing, Rt Hon Tony McNulty MP to the Western Area, to which the Acting Chief Constable responded.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

55. POLICING GREEN PAPER: DRAFT RESPONSE

The Chief Executive presented the draft response to the Home Office Green Paper on Policing. Members had previously discussed the Green Paper at the Discussion Day on 11 August 2008, and their initial comments had been incorporated into the draft response.

The Authority recognised the consultation which had taken place in developing the response and commented on a number of possible issues for inclusion in the response.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the comments expressed by Members be considered and the Chief Executive be authorised to finalise the response to the Green Paper, and submit it to the Home Office by 10 October 2008.

56. CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER SHADOW COUNCIL – CONSULTATION ON AREA/NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING BOUNDARIES

The Assistant Chief Constable presented a report which outlined initial views on the Cheshire West and Chester Shadow Council consultation on area/neighbourhood working boundaries.

Members discussed in detail the options with the Acting Chief Constable and welcomed and supported the principle of improved service delivery and public engagement through area/neighbourhood working. Members sought further clarification on the proposed role and membership of the Area Programme Boards, in particular the role of local elected members. The Authority considered that neighbourhood working based on medium layer super output areas most supported the policing philosophy and model in Cheshire.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of the report, be noted;
- (2) Cheshire West and Chester Shadow Council be advised that
 - (a) area/neighbourhood working based on medium super output areas most closely conforms and complements the policing philosophy and model in Cheshire; and

- (b) the proposals for area/neighbourhood working need further clarification and detail, including the role and involvement of local members in the proposed Area Boards, before a decision can be reached on the most appropriate option.

57. DIVERSITY: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Chief Constable presented the quarterly report on diversity issues which included details of community engagement; the progress against the actions contained in the Constabulary and Authority Race; Disability; and Gender Equality Schemes; the work of the staff networks; training; recruitment/employment; national involvement; and a summary of race crimes and incidents.

The Acting Chief Constable reported that the structure and management arrangements for the Diversity Advisory Unit were being reviewed.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the quarterly report on the activities of the Diversity Advisory Unit be considered at Engagement Committee along with quarterly report on the Safer and Stronger Communities Unit; and
- (3) the Acting Chief Constable review the format and content of his quarterly report on policing activities to the Authority and include a section on any exceptional/strategic issues in relation to diversity.

58. HEALTH & SAFETY: ANNUAL REPORT

The Acting Chief Constable submitted a report on the annual progress and developments in health and safety during 2007/08. The report detailed changes in legislation; the HSE inspection; training; health initiatives and awards.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

59. POLICE AUTHORITY INSPECTION: UPDATE

The Chief Executive presented a report on the progress towards the roll out of the police authority inspection programme and sought approval to establishing a working group to oversee the process.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the progress in developing the police authority inspection process, be noted; and
- (2) a working group comprising the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chairmen of Committees and Panels be established to consider issues arising from the police authority inspection process.

60. REVIEW OF THE MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

The Chief Executive submitted a report which reviewed the Members' Scheme of Allowances. The changes proposed related to the allowances for the external independent members of the Standards Committee, the Misconduct Panel and the Selection Panel.

RESOLVED:

That the amended scheme of allowances, as detailed in the Chief Executive's report, be approved with effect from 1 April 2008.

61. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2009/10

The Chief Executive submitted the draft programme of meetings for 2009/10 for consideration.

RESOLVED:

That the amended programme of meetings for 2009/10, as attached to these Minutes, be approved.

62. MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

The Chief Executive invited Members to nominate representatives to a number of outside bodies and internal groups.

RESOLVED:

That the following Members be appointed as the Authority's representatives on the outside bodies and internal groups listed below:-

Cheshire Police Museum Trust	- M Darby
Programme Board: Sustaining and Improving	- R McNeil
Halton substitute CDRP representative	- R Hodson
Lead Member - Warrington West NPU	- C Oliver
Transforming Business Services	- R McNeil
Lead Member - Environment	- M Darby

63. MEMBERS' ACTIVITY

The Chief Executive submitted a report which contained Members reports following their attendance at recent meetings, which included the North West Regional Meeting of Chairmen, Chief Constables and Chief Executives; the APA; and national conferences.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

64. CHAIRMAN'S APPROVALS

The Chief Executive reported that in accordance with the urgency procedures under Standing Order No.11, the Chairman had been consulted and approved the allocation of up to £75,000 additional funding to support the data storage project; and the appointment of Graeme Gerrard as Acting Chief Constable and David Baines as Acting Deputy Chief Constable until the new Chief Constable takes up the post.

RESOLVED:

That the action taken by the Chairman, be noted.

65. URGENT BUSINESS

In accordance with Standing Order 5.3, the Chairman was of the opinion that the following two matters (Minutes 66 and 67) be considered as matters of urgent business as it was necessary for the Authority to consider the matters before the next meeting in December 2008.

66. HMIC INSPECTION REPORT: NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING & CITIZEN FOCUS POLICING

The Chief Executive circulated the HMIC report on the outcome of the inspection of neighbourhood policing and citizen focus undertaken in June 2008. Members noted that the Constabulary had been assessed to have 'met the standard' in terms of both neighbourhood policing and citizen focus.

RESOLVED:

That the HMIC inspection report on neighbourhood policing and citizen focus, be received.

67. CHIEF OFFICER GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

The Chief Executive submitted a report to amend the Authority's Standing Orders relating to the Powers of Officers to enable the Chief Executive to take the appropriate action to resolve grievances against the Chief Constable.

RESOLVED:

That the proposals for resolving a grievance against the Chief Constable as detailed in the Chief Executive's report, be approved and Standing Orders relating to the Powers of Officers, be amended accordingly.

66. 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 paragraphs indicated:-

<i>Item</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>
Policing Area	(4 & 7) Information relating to labour relations and the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

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

67. POLICING AREA

The Chief Executive reported on Halton Borough Council's ambition in relation to the Liverpool city region business case and the potential policing implications.

The Authority discussed the report and considered the views expressed by Mr Cargill. Members acknowledged that Halton was an integral part of the Cheshire policing area and discussed the proposed content of the response to the Borough Council.

RESOLVED:

That the Chief Executive write to Halton Borough Council advising of the Authority's views on the Council's letter to Department of Communities and Local Government dated 2 September 2008, as expressed at the meeting.

Duration of meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and finished at 12.10am.

**DRAFT POLICE AUTHORITY MEETINGS TIMETABLE 2009/10
(up to and including the Annual Meeting in 2010)**

Meeting	Date	2009									2010			
		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Police Authority		7 AGM		30			29			15		23 £		13 AGM
Engagement			12			25			3			9		
Staff			19				1		24				2	
Audit				30 pm			22			1			23	
Service Improvement				9			8				5		30	
Performance		21		23		18		20		22		16		
Finance		14*		16			15		10	8	26			
Discussion Day (Monday)		27			20			26			25			
Area Visits (Friday am)							4E 18N	2W					5E 19N	16W
HQ Visits (Wednesday pm)			20A	10B	15C			14D	4E					
Annual Conferences				LGA 30/6-3/7 ACPO 7-9/7						APA <i>end</i>				

KEY –

* PROVISIONAL DATE

AREA VISITS E = EASTERN, N = NORTHERN, W = WESTERN

HQ VISITS A = UNIFORM OPERATIONS, B = CRIME OPERATIONS, C = INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, D = PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT, E = HR & TRAINING