



CHESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2006 IN THE POLICE AUTHORITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

Present: P Nurse (Chairman) J P Findlow
M D Darby (Vice-Chairman) R Giltrap
P J Walker (Vice-Chairman) R Hodson
D T Bateman C Kirkpatrick
D Cargill Ms E Lam
Mrs M Chapman B Maher
Mrs A Coomer Mrs M A Ollerenshaw
Mrs A Doran Mrs S Proctor

Police Authority Officers: M Sellwood, Clerk & Chief Executive
Ms L Lunn, Treasurer
D Taylor, Deputy Clerk
M Eaton, Senior Administration Officer

Constabulary Officers: G Gerrard, Acting Chief Constable
Mrs K Watkins, Director of
Performance Development

Apologies: Mrs G A Cousins

80. ADRIAN SCOTT

The Chairman made a presentation to Adrian Scott, who had recently retired from the Special Constabulary after 25 years of service, including 13 years as Commandant. The Chairman gave a summary of Mr Scott's career, including the many highlights which Mr Scott had experienced during his time with the Special Constabulary. Mr Scott thanked both the Chairman and the Police Authority for their support and introduced Helen Clews, the new Chief Officer of the Special Constabulary.

81. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2006 be confirmed as a correct record.

82. ACTING CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

The Acting Chief Constable presented his operational report which gave an overview of performance for the period September to November 2006, which had seen a 5% decrease in the level of overall crime compared to

the comparable period the previous year. It was also reported that there had been a decrease of 10% in violent crime, 8% decrease in knife crime, and a 4% decrease in domestic burglary.

The Acting Chief Constable reported on a number of other operations and initiatives, including a proactive police operation to deal with anti-social behaviour and other low level crime on the run up to, and including, Hallowe'en; the ArcAngel initiative, which was targeting violent crime and in particular its link to alcohol; reported on the continuing dissatisfaction with the performance in the citizen focus domain, and the action to address the issue; and a number of successful operations against prolific burglars in the Eastern Area.

Members noted the report and welcomed the reduction in a number of crime areas and raised a series of issues including the number of registered sex offenders in Cheshire, and the resources put in place to cope with this demand; congratulated the Constabulary on the positive work it had undertaken during the Halloween period; and expressed concern in the significant increase in the number of alcohol outlets in towns across the area, which inevitably contributed to the increase in alcohol related violent crime, to which the Acting Chief Constable responded.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Acting Chief Constable be noted.

83. DIVERSITY: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Acting Chief Constable presented the quarterly update on diversity issues. The report detailed the wide range of work on diversity issues being undertaken by the Constabulary, including the development of the Disability and Gender Equality Schemes; training and development; the outcome of the staff survey; national involvement in race and diversity; the work of the Cheshire Women's Network; and progress against the Constabulary's Race Equality Scheme.

Members welcomed the report and raised a number of issues, including the concern highlighted in the annual staff survey at the growing number of people in the Constabulary who had no confidence in the grievance procedure; the Springboard Programme being undertaken as part of the Cheshire Women's Network; and the positive work being undertaken to promote the Gender Agenda.

RESOLVED:

That the quarterly update on diversity, be noted.

84. POLICE AUTHORITY RACE EQUALITY SCHEME

The Clerk & Chief Executive presented the updated Race Equality Scheme Action Plan for approval. Following consideration of the Action Plan by the Authority on 26 September 2006 (Minute 48), an updated Plan was submitted to the Independent Advisory Group for assessment, the outcome of which resulted in an 'A' grade, in recognition that the necessary procedures were in place.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the revised Race Equality Scheme's Action Plan, as contained in the Appendix to the Clerk & Chief Executive's report, be approved; and
- (2) the IAG's assessment of the Scheme, be noted.

85. POLICE & JUSTICE ACT 2006

The Clerk & Chief Executive reported on the key provisions of the Police & Justice Act, which had received Royal Assent in November 2006. The report set out the key provisions of the Act, including those which directly impacted on police authorities.

Members noted the report and welcomed the positive outcome of the Act and the strengthening of police authorities' roles in a number of areas, including securing co-operation with other forces; promoting diversity within the Force and Authority; and overseeing compliance with Human Rights Legislation.

The Authority discussed the proposals for community call for action, which could see local authorities holding local police commanders to account for performance in specific areas; the need for joined up consultation with the public on anti-social behaviour issues; and the proposals for the delegation of police authorities' duties.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the provisions in the Police & Justice Act as they relate to the roles and functions of the Police Authority be noted; and
- (2) the Clerk & Chief Executive implement the provisions as appropriate.

86. LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER

The Clerk & Chief Executive submitted a report which advised on the key issues for police authorities arising out of the Local Government White Paper, which included three year funding; provision of information on local

services; partnership action; Local Authority leadership on community safety; and community call for action.

Members noted the report and wished to reserve comment until the outcome of the Lyon's Review was known.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

87. INDEPENDENT MEMBER SELECTION PANEL: PROCESS ADOPTED

The Chairman reported that this item had been placed on the Agenda at the request of Mr Paul Findlow.

Mr Findlow enquired about the process which had been adopted for the recent Independent Member selection process.

The Chairman responded that the Home Office guidance on the selection process had been followed by the Selection Panel and that the assessments had been made purely on the basis of the six key qualities that a member should have. The Chairman also reminded Mr Findlow of the membership of the Selection Panel.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

88. MEMBERS' ACTIVITY

The Clerk & Chief Executive submitted a report on the attendance by Members at recent meetings of the Association of Police Authorities, Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships and other bodies to which they were appointed by the Authority. A further report was also circulated which reported on the recent APA Annual Conference attended by the Chairman and both Vice Chairmen, together with other meetings Members had recently attended.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

89. CHAIRMAN'S APPROVAL

The Clerk & Chief Executive reported that in accordance with the Urgency Procedure under Standing Order No. 11, the Vice Chairman had been consulted on the Firearms and Public Order Training Project.

RESOLVED:

That the action taken by the Vice-Chairman be noted.

90. COMMITTEES, PANELS AND FORUMS

RESOLVED: That

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

- Statutory Purposes Committee: 14 November 2006
- Human Resources Committee: 28 November 2006
- Organisation & Service Development Panel: 3 October 2006

Minute 26: Community Support Officers

Minute 29: Force Operation Department: Outcome of Taking Control Review

Minute 30: Firearms & Public Order Training Project: Design and Cost Update

- Performance Review Panel: 24 October 2006

Minute 33: Members Role in Performance Reviews

- Policy & Finance Panel: 7 November 2006

Minute 38: Mid Year Review of Financial Performance 2006/07

Minute 39: Mid Year Review of Capital Expenditure and Financing 2006/07

Minute 40: Budget development 2007/08

Minute 42: Resource Allocation Model: Update

Minute 43: Police Community Support Officers Project: Update

Minute 44: National Management Information System (NMIS): Update

Minute 45: Future Regulation of the Forensic Science Market: Consultation

Minute 47: Treasurer to the Police Authority

Minute 50: Dates of Meetings: Audit Committee

- Policy & Finance Panel: 5 December 2006

Minute 59: Procurement Cards

Minute 60: Planning Arrangements 2007/08

Minute 61: Policing Plan 2007/08

(2) the summary of business considered at the last cycle of Forum meetings, be noted.

91. URGENT BUSINESS: APA/ACPO VISION FOR FUTURE FUNDING OF THE POLICE SERVICE

In accordance with Standing Order 5.3, the Chairman was of the opinion that this matter be considered as a matter of urgency as it was necessary to bring the document to the attention of Members in the run up to the budget setting process.

The Clerk & Chief Executive submitted a report on the development of the joint Association of Police Authorities and Association of Chief Police Officers' vision on the future funding of the police service, which was aimed to achieve the best possible funding outcome for the police service from the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

92. URGENT BUSINESS: GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT STRUCTURES

In accordance with Standing Order 5.3, the Chairman was of the opinion that this matter be considered as a matter of urgency, as it was necessary to agree the outcome of the discussions at the Members' Seminar on 8 December 2006, to enable the changes to be implemented on 1 March 2007.

The Clerk & Chief Executive submitted a report which set out the outcome of the discussions at the Seminar on 8 December 2006, which included the mission, vision and aims of the Authority; the revised governance structure with an emphasis of re-focusing the Authority on strategic scrutiny and effective engagement; support structures; the financial implications; and Members' activity and allowances.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Chief Executive refine the proposed mission, vision and aims of the Authority in the light of Members' comments, and submit a report to the Authority on 20 February 2007;
- (2) the Chief Executive refine the proposed Governance structure in further consultation with Members and submit a report to the Authority on 20 February 2007, for adoption and implementation on 1 April 2007;
- (3) the revised support structures be approved and implemented on 1 March 2007;
- (4) the Treasurer review the Authority's budget and consider the budget options for dealing with the predicted over-spend on support

services (printing, postage, advertising, conferences) and submit a report to Policy & Finance Panel on 23 January 2007; and

- (5) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman, undertake a survey of Member activity and commission an independent review of the Members' Allowance Scheme for report to the Authority in 2007.

93. URGENT BUSINESS: EXPANSION OF AUTOMATIC NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION (ANPR) CAPABILITY

In accordance with Standing Order 5.3, the Chairman was of the opinion that this matter be considered as a matter of urgency as it was necessary to agree the supplementary capital estimate to ensure that the project proceeded without delay.

RESOLVED:

That the item of urgent business relating to the expansion of the automatic number plate recognition capability be considered in Part 2 of the agenda.

94. 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 items of business listed below on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act in the paragraphs indicated:-

<i>Item</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>
Expansion of Automatic Number Plate Recognition Capability	(3) Financial or business affairs
Acting Chief Constable's Report	(7) Prevention, Investigation or Prosecution of Crime

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

95. URGENT BUSINESS: EXPANSION OF AUTOMATIC NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION (ANPR) CAPABILITY

The Acting Chief Constable reported on a successful bid to extend the Force ANPR capability and sought approval for funding from the supplementary capital estimate.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) a supplementary capital estimate of £513,000 for the extension of the ANPR capability to be funded by Home Office Grant be approved; and
- (3) the addition of Revenue implications outlined in the appendix to the Acting Chief Constable's Report be contained within the existing budget.

96. ACTING CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

The Acting Chief Constable presented the second part of his operational report, which included updates on a number of incidents and new and ongoing investigations which the Constabulary was undertaking.

RESOLVED:

That the Acting Chief Constable's report be noted.

Duration of meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and concluded at 11.05am