



# CHESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY HELD ON TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2005 IN CONFERENCE ROOM 7, CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

*Present:*

P Nurse (Chairman)	J P Findlow
M D Darby (Vice-Chairman)	R Hodson
P J Walker (Vice-Chairman)	C Kirkpatrick
D T Bateman	Ms E Lam
Mrs M Chapman	P Lloyd-Jones
Mrs A Coomer	B Maher
Mrs G A Cousins	Mrs M A Ollerenshaw
Mrs A Doran	Mrs S Proctor
B P Doyle	

*Police Authority Officers:*  
M Sellwood, Clerk & Chief Executive  
Ms L Lunn, Treasurer  
D Taylor, Deputy Clerk  
Miss A Hamilton, Communication & Policy Officer  
M Eaton, Senior Administration Officer

*Constabulary Officers:*  
P Fahy, Chief Constable  
G Shewan, Assistant Chief Constable  
B Simmons, Assistant Chief Officer  
Mrs K Watkins, Director of Performance Development

### 45. MINUTES

*RESOLVED:*

That the Minutes of the special meeting held on 20 October 2005 be confirmed as a correct record.

### 46. CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

The Chief Constable presented his operational report to the Authority which included updates on neighbourhood policing; force performance; development activity; the Eastern Area's pathfinder status; Operation Crackdown; and various Community Action Team initiatives.

The Chief Constable gave an update on the development of the Taking Control policing model and the work being undertaken on the post implementation review. An overview of the Constabulary's performance was provided which showed an 11% increase in overall crime and the third largest increase in the country in bringing offences to justice. The impact of Operation Crackdown, introduced to drive down volume crime and particularly targeting anti-social behaviour, alcohol related crime and vehicle crime, was also reported and that since its introduction, a significant number of people had been arrested for alcohol related offences and a number of operations

had been undertaken involving multi-agency visits to licensed premises to ensure the appropriate sale of alcohol by licensees. The Chief Constable also reported on the significant number of breath tests that had been undertaken as part of the Christmas drink drive campaign.

The Assistant Chief Constable reported on the work of the Incident Management Task Group which was addressing the Constabulary's performance in responding to incidents. It was also reported that the Airwave pilot that was currently operating successfully in Western Area which had changed the access to the radio channels to provide enhanced resilience in local policing operations.

Members noted the report and raised a number of issues including concern that the Airwave Western area pilot could lead to an overemphasis on response policing by NPU officers; the staffing of the NPU teams and concerns over abstractions; the roll out of the safer community model; the training of officers in dealing with drink drive incidents; the continuing increase in violent crime; and the involvement of partners in community policing initiatives, to which the Chief Constable responded.

*RESOLVED:*

That the Chief Constable's report, be noted.

#### 47. VICTIMS CODE OF PRACTICE

The Director of Performance Development introduced a report which set out the requirements of the new Victims Code of Practice and its impact on the Constabulary and its criminal justice partners. One of the most significant measures in the Code of Practice was a statement on what victims could expect to receive from each criminal justice organisation and when they should expect to receive it. It was reported that although the Code would have a significant impact on the Constabulary, no additional funding had been made available and this would need to be found from within existing resources.

Members noted the report and made a number of comments including the need to ensure information was available in formats other than on the internet; working with other agencies to ensure the co-ordination of information; and ensuring victims were not disturbed by excessive contact from agencies, to which the Director of Performance Development responded.

*RESOLVED:*

That the requirements of the Victims Code of Practice, be noted.

#### 48. QUALITY OF SERVICE COMMITMENT: PUBLIC CONTACT

The Director of Performance Development presented a report on the key issues arising from compliance with the Quality of Service Commitment; National Call Handling Standards; and the Victims Code of Practice. The report included a series of options for improvement through the introduction of

communication service standards which had significant resource implications for the Authority, ranging from £0.5 million to in excess of £2 million.

Members noted the report and raised a number of issues including the potential human resource implications of the proposals and the source of financing for introducing the various options, to which the Director of Performance Development responded.

*RESOLVED:*

That the potential resource implications of the Quality of Service Commitment, the National Call Handling Standards and the Victims Code, be noted.

#### 49. IMPLEMENTATION OF A SINGLE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER

The Director of Performance Development presented a report on the introduction of a Single Non-Emergency Number, which included details of the implementation of the national project in conjunction with partner agencies; how the single number would operate. Key questions from the OFCOM consultation on the single number's introduction were highlighted and the Authority's approval to a joint response was sought.

Members noted the report and raised a number of issues including the tariffs applied to the calls; how calls would be routed to the appropriate agency; and lessons to be learnt from the pilot schemes, to which the Director of Performance Development responded.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the proposed response to the OFCOM consultation, as set out in the Chief Constable's report, be approved; and
- (3) a presentation be made to the Organisation & Service Development Panel on 28 March 2006 on the implementation of the Single Non-Emergency Number.

#### 50. DATA QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

The Director of Performance Development presented a report which sought the Authority's approval for funding to undertake a fundamental review of data as part of the IMPACT programme. The report included the background to the proposals which arose from the Bichard Inquiry and the potential costs and funding streams. It was reported that the project potentially had significant resource implications for the Authority and that the limited Government funding made available was required to be used before the end of the financial year.

*RESOLVED:*

That a maximum contribution of £218,000 be committed from reserves to carry out a fundamental review of data as part of the IMPACT programme.

51. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING FUND: ROUNDS 2 & 3

The Chief Constable introduced a report which sought the Authority's approval to bid for funding from the Neighbourhood Policing Fund (NPF) Rounds 2 and 3 for additional Community Support Officers (CSOs). The report detailed the financial implications for the Authority if it was to bid for its full allocation of CSOs and the significant revenue implications of the recruitment of a large number of CSOs in future years.

The Chief Constable reported that the introduction of a large number of CSOs would have a significant impact on policing in Cheshire and he had therefore invited partner agencies to consider whether they would wish to contribute towards the costs of employing additional CSOs which would make a valuable contribution to community safety.

The Treasurer reported that a shortfall in Government funding for the full allocation of additional CSOs could require a 10% increase in Council Tax, and authorities nationally were indicating support for the bidding process without making any commitment on future year's funding.

Members welcomed the report and the introduction of more CSOs but expressed concern about revenue implications in future years should the full allocation of officers be taken and requested that some flexibility be applied to the Authority's application to ensure that it was not over committed. Members raised a number of other issues including the possibility of negotiating a lower figure of CSOs; the need to encourage partnership funding; and the possibility of considering short term contracts, to which the Chief Constable and the Assistant Chief Officer responded.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) a bid for funding from NPF Rounds 2 & 3, as detailed in the report, be approved;
- (2) the final decision on the actual number of CSOs to be recruited in 2006/07 be determined as part of the decision on the 2006/07 budget at the meeting on 14 February 2006; and
- (3) the position be reviewed at the end of 2006/07 and the same decision making process applied to the 2007/08 fund.

52. DIVERSITY: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Chief Constable presented the quarterly report on diversity issues which included details on training and development; the Disability Discrimination Act; updates on progress against both the Constabulary's and Authority's Race

Equality Schemes; the work of the Independent Advisory Group; and details of race crimes and incidents.

Members noted the report and the Authority's lead Member on race and diversity reported on her attendance at the recent national conference for Independent Advisory Group members which had been held in Chester.

*RESOLVED:*

That the quarterly report on diversity, be noted.

#### 53. POLICE STOPS: AUTHORITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Clerk & Chief Executive presented a report and action plan which provided an update on the Authority's responsibility to ensure effective local implementation of the requirement to record police stops, including raising communities' awareness of their rights.

Members noted the report and supported the use of a fair system of police stops as a key intelligence tool for the police and hoped that the community was reassured that effective scrutiny was undertaken by the Authority.

*RESOLVED:*

That the report and action plan, be noted.

#### 54. CHAIRMAN'S APPROVAL

The Clerk & Chief Executive reported that, in accordance with the urgency procedures under Standing Order No.11, the Chairman had been consulted on the disposal of Tarporley Police Station.

*RESOLVED:*

That the action taken by the Chairman, be noted.

#### 55. MEMBERS' ACTIVITY

The Clerk & Chief Executive submitted a report on Members' attendance at recent meetings which included the Association of Police Authorities, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and other meetings to which Members had been appointed by the Authority.

The Chairman reported on his attendance at the recent APA annual conference in Belfast, and Chairman's summit on the restructuring proposals, and a number of Members reported on activity at recent CDRP meetings, together with the key issues from a number of other meetings.

*RESOLVED:*

That the report on Members' activity be noted.

## 56. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES, PANELS AND FORUMS

The Clerk & Chief Executive presented the report which set out the minutes of recent meetings.

The Chairman of the Human Resources Committee expressed concern at the continued decline in performance with regards to sickness absence, and urged the Chief Constable to address the issue without delay.

*RESOLVED:* That

(1) the Minutes of the following meetings be received:-

- Selection Committee – 10 October 2005
- Best Value & Audit Committee – 11 October 2005
- Statutory Purposes Committee – 11 November 2005
- Human Resources Committee – 29 November 2005
- Remuneration Committee – 12 December 2005

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

- Organisation & Service Development Panel – 18 October 2005

Minute 22: Property Disposal programme: Update

That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the actions taken to progress the disposals as outlined in the joint report to the Chief Constable and the Clerk & Chief Executive be supported; and
- (3) a further update report be presented to the Panel on 31 January 2006.

Minute 25: Establishment of a Business Intelligence Unit

That the establishment of a business intelligence unit, as detailed in the Chief Constable's report, be supported.

Minute 27: Airwave: Trial Management of Airwave system occupancy levels and operational policing demands

That the proposed trial of dual Airwave Talk groups, as detailed in the Chief Constable's report, be supported.

- Performance Review Panel – 25 October 2005

Minute 8: Call Management Issues and Action Plan

That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) Mrs M A Ollerenshaw be nominated to attend and observe the work of the Incident Management Task Group, with Mrs S Proctor acting as substitute.

Minute 9: National Crime Recording Standard

That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Clerk & Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman and the Chief Constable, make representations to the Home Office and APA concerning the significant level of resources being used to secure sanction detections as a result of certain incidents being recorded under the NCRS.

Minute 10: Air Support Unit Performance: April – September 2005

That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel reviewing the business case for the use of air support.

Minute 12: Any Other Business: Police Performance Assessment 2004/05

That

- (1) the results of the Police Performance Assessment for 2004/05, be noted; and
- (2) a meeting be sought with Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary to discuss the report.

- Policy & Finance Panel – 1 November 2005

Minute 28: Authority Communication Strategy

That

- (1) the report be noted;

- (2) the Communication Strategy, including the aims, key messages and target audience, be approved;
- (3) the following Members be appointed as lead Member for the Neighbourhood Policing Units listed:-

Western	Chester Inner	Mrs S Proctor
	Chester Outer	B P Doyle
	Winsford	Mrs A Doran
	Northwich	Mrs M Chapman
	Western Rural	Mrs G A Cousins
	Ellesmere Port	D T Bateman & M D Darby
Northern	Runcorn	R Hodson
	Widnes	P Lloyd-Jones
	Warrington West	C Kirkpatrick
	Warrington East	B Maher
	Warrington Central	B Maher & P J Walker
	Warrington South	P J Walker
Eastern	Macclesfield	J P Findlow
	Wilmslow	Ms E Lam
	Knutsford	Mrs M A Ollerenshaw
	Crewe	P Nurse
	Nantwich	P Nurse
	Congleton	Mrs A Coomer

- (4) an evaluation of the Strategy be presented to the Panel on 7 November 2006.

- Policy & Finance Panel – 6 December 2005

Minute 36: Draft Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Council Tax 2006/07

That

- (1) the timetable for setting the budget and council tax for 2006/07, be noted;
- (2) the initial progress in developing the draft budget for 2006/07, be noted;
- (3) the 2006/07 draft budget, based on the budget proposals set out in Table 14 of the joint report, and the associated implications for the Council Tax, be noted;
- (4) further work on developing the budget, including a breakdown in 1% bands between 5% and 9.9% be undertaken;

- (5) an updated draft budget report be presented to the Panel on 24 January 2006;
- (6) budget consultation with Police Forums be undertaken in January 2006; and
- (7) the Chief Constable and the Clerk & Chief Executive make representations to the Home Secretary on the possibility of civilianisation.

Minute 38: Refurbishment Works: Ellesmere Port & Macclesfield Police Stations

That the funding of the refurbishment works to Macclesfield Police Station from the balance of the capital budget for the Taking Control works, be approved.

Minute 40: Draft Policing Objectives 2006/07

That the proposed policing objectives for 2006/07, subject to a minor rewording to Objective 2, be approved for consultation with Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and core representatives on Police Forums.

- (3) the Notes of the following Forum meetings, be received:-
  - Chester – 10 October 2005
  - Vale Royal – 12 October 2005
  - Macclesfield – 17 October 2005
  - Congleton – 18 October 2005
  - Ellesmere Port & Neston – 25 October 2005
  - Crewe – 27 October 2005
  - Warrington – 1 November 2005
  - Halton - 2 November 2005

57. URGENT BUSINESS

In accordance with Standing Order No. 5.3, the Chairman reported that there were three items of urgent business that required consideration by the Authority.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the urgent item of business relating to Police Service Restructuring be considered; and
- (2) the urgent items of business relating to Centralised Custody PFI and Exercise Northern Synergy be considered in Part 2 of the meeting.

58. URGENT BUSINESS: POLICE SERVICE RESTRUCTURING

In accordance with Standing Order No. 5.3, the Chairman was of the opinion that this matter be considered as an item of urgent business as it was necessary for the Authority to formally approve the process for its submission to the Home Secretary on the restructuring proposals.

The Clerk & Chief Executive reported that a special meeting of the Authority had been arranged for 22 December 2005 to agree the submission to the Home Secretary on police restructuring. In light of the agreement by the Association of Police Authorities that no authorities should submit a final business case by 23 December, the Authority was requested to reconsider whether it felt that a special meeting was required or whether the agreement of the interim statement could be delegated to the Restructuring Working Group.

Members agreed that, as the submission being made by 23 December would now only contain an interim statement, together with clarification on a number of issues, the Working Group should consider the submission and advise the Chairman on the most appropriate course of action.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the special meeting of the Authority scheduled for 22 December 2005, be cancelled; and
- (2) the interim submission to the Home Secretary on restructuring be considered by the Restructuring Working Group on 22 December 2005 at 10.00am; and
- (3) the Clerk & Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman, be authorised to approve the Authority's submission, based on the advice of the Restructuring Working Group.

59. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC

*RESOLVED:*

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as applied by the Police Act 1996, 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 to the Act in the paragraphs indicated:-

<i>Item</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>
Chief Constable's Report	(14) Prevention of a crime
Call Management: Introduction of National Call Handling Standards	(1) Industrial Relations
Public Order Training	(8) Contract Estimates

Urgent Business: Centralised Custody PFI – Completion of Construction (9) Contract Terms

Urgent Business: Exercise Northern Synergy (14) Prevention of a crime

60. CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

The 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 report be noted.

61. CALL MANAGEMENT: INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL CALL HANDLING STANDARDS

The Chief Constable submitted a report which provided an update on the impact of the new National Call Handling Standards on the call management capability, which included details of the development of the standards; current resource management issues; and financial implications.

Members noted the report and requested that further information on the proposed options be developed.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the research completed to date and options developed with regard to the introduction of National Call Handling Standards be noted; and
- (2) the Chief Constable further consider the options for meeting the Standard and present to the Authority on 14 February 2006 the preferred option as part of the determination of the 2006/07 budget.

62. PUBLIC ORDER TRAINING

The Assistant Chief Officer presented a report on the options to provide interim public order training facilities following the loss of the current venue at RAF Sealand and sought the Authority's approval to the associated financial implications.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Authority enter into lease negotiations, in relation to Option 2 (1) at a total revenue cost of £46,000, as detailed in the Appendix to the Chief Constable's report; and

- (3) the permanent budget commitment, as set out in the Appendix to the Chief Constable's report, be included in the 2006/07 budget report, with one-off costs being funded from within existing resources.

63. URGENT BUSINESS: CENTRALISED CUSTODY PFI – COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION

In accordance with Standing Order No. 5.3, the Chairman was of the opinion that this matter be considered as an item of urgent business in order that the Authority was updated on the delays to the project and the possible implications.

The Chief Constable presented a report on the delays to the commencement of outsourced custodial services and the opening of the centralised custody suites.

*RESOLVED:*

That the report be noted.

64. URGENT BUSINESS: EXERCISE NORTHERN SYNERGY

In accordance with Standing Order No. 5.3, the Chairman was of the opinion that this matter be considered as an item of urgent business as it was necessary to seek Member nomination prior to the next meeting.

The Assistant Chief Constable reported on Exercise Northern Synergy and sought Member representation to observe the Exercise.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) Member representation on Exercise Northern Synergy be agreed; and
- (2) the Clerk & Chief Executive write to all Members for expressions of interest in observing the Exercise.

Duration of Meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and concluded at 12.40pm