

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 10 JUNE 2010 IN THE POLICE AUTHORITY  
CONFERENCE ROOM, CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD**

*Present:* D Cargill  
B Maher  
H Mawdsley  
T Savage  
H Waller  
D Willetts

*Authority Officer:*  
D Taylor, Deputy Chief Executive

*Apology for absence: E Lam*

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

The Deputy Chief Executive invited nominations for the appointment of Chairman. Helen Waller was nominated and seconded. No other nominations were received.

*RESOLVED:*

That H Waller be appointed Chairman of the Committee for the forthcoming year.

(H Waller in the Chair)

2. MINUTES

*RESOLVED:*

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

3. ACTIVITY REPORT

The Deputy Chief Executive introduced the report which provided an update on the key standards issues since the last meeting of the Committee, including the proposals for training at both an Authority and regional level; the outcome of the police authority inspection process; the publication of the register of Members' interests, together with a number of Standards for England issues and research work.

Members discussed a number of areas on which the Authority training on 13 July could focus, including a scenario based exercise. In relation to the holding of a training session with other police authorities in the region, whilst Members recognised the value of sharing good practice, they were also conscious of the costs that such events could incur, and suggested that in the first instance, an approach be made to authorities in the local area, such as the Fire Authority, to see if there was an appetite for a joint training session.

Members also discussed the publication of the Register of Members' Interests following the recent compliance report into the Authority's publication scheme, which had suggested greater access to the register. Members acknowledged that many authorities allowed free, unrestricted access to the registers and supported the publication of the full register on the Authority's website.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the Police Authority training session on standards to be held on 13 July 2010 include topics on the Code of Conduct and register of interests;
- (2) other authorities in Cheshire be approached to ascertain their interest in joint training on standards issues;
- (3) the Authority be recommended to publish the full register of Members' interests; and
- (4) the outcome of the studies on the local standards framework; impact of standards committees; and comparison of standards frameworks, be noted.

#### 4. MEMBERS ATTENDANCE & ACTIVITY: ANNUAL REPORT

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on Members' attendance at various Authority meetings and events during 2009/10, in line with the enhanced role of the Committee to monitor Members compliance with regards to attendance.

Members discussed the report and in particular the attendance at mandatory training sessions. The Committee emphasised the need to make the availability of training, and in particularly the mandatory modules, as easy as possible for Members, and queried whether it was possible to explore other ways of training members, such as through e-learning modules, to ensure greater access to training. Members also encouraged the hosting of training events on the same dates as scheduled meetings in order that Members would have a better opportunity to attend the events and avoid other clashes in their diaries.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the annual attendance by members be noted; and
- (2) the Authority be encouraged to ensure access to training is improved, through the use of different delivery methods, and wherever possible, mandatory training be held on dates with previously scheduled events.

#### 5. MEMBERS ALLOWANCES & EXPENSES: ANNUAL REPORT

The Deputy Chief Executive introduced the annual report on the payment of allowances and expenses to Members of the Authority and Standards Committee. The report also outlined the terms of reference of the ongoing review of Members Allowances and sought a view on the use of first class train travel.

Members noted the annual report and agreed that the presumption in the Members allowances scheme in relation to travel by train must be by standard class, and that requests for first class travel should be reviewed on a case by case basis and only permitted where there was a specific business case to do so.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the allowances and expenses claimed during 2009/10, be noted;
- (2) the ongoing review of the members Allowances Scheme, be noted; and
- (3) the Authority be recommended to adopt the use of standard class travel as the preferred rate in the Members Allowances Scheme.

6. MEMBERS ATTENDANCE: COMPLIANCE WITH THE SCHEME

*D Cargill and B Maher left the meeting for consideration of this item.*

The Deputy Chief Executive introduced the report detailing Members attendance, following the recommendation by the Authority on 13 April 2010 (Minute 17). The report detailed that five Members had not fully met the attendance criteria, as defined in the Members Allowances Scheme, in that they had not attend the required amount of 'out of area' Have Your Say meetings. The five members involved were all invited to offer their views on this matter which were shared with the Committee.

The Committee considered the report and reflected on, and accepted, the strong mitigating comments made by Members. They also considered the role of the Have Your Say meetings and recognised that attendance by Members was not a significant element of those meetings, in that they were not required to take an active part in the meeting itself.

The Committee recognised the heavy workload and competing time commitments that all Members of the Authority had. It also recognised the difficulties presented to Members who had to balance local authority commitments with their role on the Authority, and further acknowledged that the role of the Authority itself had grown in recent years, bringing with it a greater commitment on all Members' time.

*RESOLVED:*

That the Authority on 13 July 2010 be recommended to note the attendance report and that no further action be taken in respect of this matter.

*Duration of Meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and concluded at 10.35am.*