



# Cheshire Police Authority - Service Improvement Panel

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 JANUARY 2010 IN CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD.

*Present:* R Hodson, Chairman                      P Findlow  
              D Bateman                                    R McNeil  
              M Darby                                        B Silvester

*Also in attendance:* D Cargill, M Chapman, J Ebo, T Savage and A Walmsley

<i>Authority Officer:</i>	<i>Constabulary Officers:</i>
M Sellwood, Chief Executive	B Simmons, Assistant Chief Officer
M Eaton, Member Services Manager	I Wiggett, Temporary Assistant Chief Constable
L Lunn, Treasurer	K Watkins, Director of Performance Development
	N Brown, Director of Business Change & IT Services

*Apologies:* A Arnold, A Doran and M Ollerenshaw

### 19        MINUTES

The Chairman updated the Committee on issues arising from the following Minutes, since the last meeting:-

#### Minute10 (5) – Custody Transport Project: Update

The outcome of the post implementation review of custody transport was included on the agenda for this Panel meeting, as opposed to the meeting on 30 March 2010.

#### Minute 11 (2) – Management of the custody function: Intention to decentralise

Due to the Chief Constable's decision not to proceed with the proposal to decentralise the management of the custody function, a report was not submitted to the Authority on 15 December 2009.

#### *RESOLVED:*

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

### 20        NORTH WEST REGION COLLABORATION ACTIVITIES: UPDATE

The Director of Performance Development presented an update on the collaborative activities being undertaken across the North West region. The report detailed collaboration activity in relation to the regional serious & organised crime unit; regional motorway unit; firearms; criminal justice; counter terrorism and legal services.

The Panel discussed the content and weaknesses of the report, in particular Members asked what constituted good performance in relation to collaboration and the need for clear performance and value for money measures to be developed. The Panel re-affirmed its support for collaboration both within the region and elsewhere and noted the work being undertaken by Chief Constables in the region to review activity and develop future proposals.

*RECOMMENDED:* That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Lead Authority for the Regional Serious & Organised Crime Unit be asked to ensure that an annual report is produced on the work of the Unit; and
- (3) the North West Joint Committee for Collaboration be asked to ensure appropriate performance and value for money measures are developed for collaborative activities in the region.

## 21 CUSTODY TRANSPORT: EMERGING IMPACT OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable presented a report on the changes to the Constabulary's prisoner transport arrangements. The report detailed the background to the changes; the impact of implementing an in-house service; arrest rates; incident response times; waiting times for booking-in detainees; handover of detainees; and dealing with adverse incidents.

Members discussed a number of issues with the Temporary Assistant Chief Constable including comparable waiting times with other forces; the anticipated savings; the variance in response times; and the need for additional training to improve the quality of handovers and mitigate any risks.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the efficiency savings identified in the report, be included in the Efficiency Plan;
- (2) the effective delivery of additional training about detainee searching and handling, be monitored by the Chief Constable;
- (3) a further report on the implementation of the new custody transport arrangements including the potential to increase productivity by reducing waiting times, be submitted to the Panel on 1 June 2010; and
- (4) the remainder of the report be noted.

## 22 OPERATIONS TRAINING PROJECT (TACTICAL TRAINING CENTRE): UPDATE

The Assistant Chief Officer presented a report on the progress of the construction of the Tactical Training Centre at the rear of Constabulary Headquarters, which was due for completion in early April 2010. The report

detailed the background and reasons for the delays in the project; the current timescales and work plan for completion; financial implications and legal risks; quality control of the construction; and media interest.

*RECOMMENDED:* That

- (1) the additional capital costs of £1.015m against the original 2009/10 capital programme, and their financing be addressed in 2009/10 three quarter year review of capital expenditure to be considered by Finance Panel on 26 January 2010; and
- (2) the ongoing additional revenue costs of £108,000 be included in the 2010/11 budget proposals together with income targets of £50,000 in 2010/11, and a further £50,000 in 2011/12; and
- (3) the remainder of the report, be noted.

## 23 SAFE PLACE PROJECT: UPDATE

The Assistant Chief Officer presented an update on the development of Safe Place Cheshire to be located at Leighton Hospital, Crewe. The report outlined issues relating to governance; collaboration opportunities; location, lease arrangements and design; staffing; interim solution arrangements; financial implications; and timescales.

Members in considering the report, noted that 50 of the 56 sub-elements contained in the newly published Revised National Service Guide - a Resource for Delivering Sexual Assault Referral Centres, would be met on completion of the Centre. The outstanding elements were primarily the response of the Primary Care Trusts.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the progress made in the development of the Safe Place Centre as detailed in the Chief Constable's report, be noted; and
- (2) the risks identified in relation to Cheshire not meeting all sub-elements detailed in the Revised National Service Guide – A Resource for Delivering Sexual Assault Referral Centres, upon implementation of Safe Place Cheshire, be noted.

## 24 MOBILE DATA: POST IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW

The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable presented a report on the implementation of mobile data terminals which included usage levels, realisation of benefits and lessons learned.

Members considered the report and discussed at length with the Temporary Assistant Chief Constable a number of issues including the proposals for meeting the shortfall in savings; the need to realise the benefits contained in the original business case; the cost of the software licences; value for money matters; the reason for reluctance by staff to use the terminals; and chief officer responsibility for ensuring the effective implementation of mobile data.

*RECOMMENDED:* That

- (1) the progress being made to improve the usage of mobile data and to develop increased functionality, as outlined in the Chief Constable's report, be noted;
- (2) it be noted with concern that the original business case has not proved to be fully realisable, and the continued activity to address under-use and to realise business benefits be progressed by the Chief Constable as a priority; and
- (3) an update on the realisation of business benefits be submitted to the Panel on 14 September 2010.

## 25 LOCAL AUTHORITY CARBON MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The Director of Performance Development presented a report on the Local Authority Carbon Management programme and the Carbon Reduction Commitment. The report detailed the Government's climate change objectives; the action being taken by the Authority and Constabulary to save energy, reduce carbon and adapt to climate change; and the financial savings this would realise.

The Panel also considered the Constabulary's Environmental Management Strategy which detailed the strategic environmental objectives of the Constabulary and demonstrated the commitment to minimising the Force's impact on the environment and implement best practice whilst supporting operational objectives. The Chief Executive advised that the five year target to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 32% would be incorporated into the Policing Plan.

*RECOMMENDED:* That

- (1) the Constabulary's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and creating a greener environment for staff and for the people of Cheshire, be welcomed and supported;
- (2) the Constabulary's Environmental Management Strategy, be supported; and
- (3) the five year target to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 32%; be agreed.

## 26 POLICE STATION AUDIT: ESTATE ISSUES

The Director of Performance Development reported that as part of the Government's confidence in policing agenda, the Constabulary and the Authority had undertaken an audit of the public access and service provided in 18 police stations.

The Panel discussed with the Director the audit's findings which made a number of recommendations relating to the estate particularly focusing on signage; the displaying of relevant and up-to-date information on internal and external notice boards; parking for disabled visitors; internal and external decoration; and cleanliness.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) a report be presented to the Panel on 14 September 2010 on the Constabulary's progress in addressing the recommendations contained in the police station audit report.

27 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Director of Business Change and IT Services presented a report on the work of the three business development programmes – Public Safety; Sustaining and Improvement; and Transforming Business Services. The report also introduced proposals to change the governance structures within the Constabulary which would be reported in more detail to the Authority on 23 February 2010.

*RESOLVED:*

That the report be noted.

28 ANY OTHER BUSINESS: DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS LAND, WINSFORD

The Assistant Chief Officer gave an oral report on the proposed sale of surplus land located off Collingham Way near to Winsford Police Station. It was reported that the land would be used to provide two additional parking places for a retail development on adjacent land and did not have any operational or long term development value to the Authority.

*RECOMMENDED:*

That the proposed sale of surplus land off Collingham Way, Winsford be supported in principle, subject to the Chief Executive being satisfied about the valuation of the land prior to the sale.

29 INFORMATION SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY (ISIS)

The Director of Business Change and IT Services gave a presentation on the development of the ISIS programme which aimed to improve efficiency and deliver improvements to frontline officers and the public.

Members received a briefing on the background to the programme; the progress made in Cheshire and in the region; and the national and local challenges. Members discussed a number of issues relating to the programme with the Director.

*RESOLVED:*

That the content of the ISIS presentation, be noted.

*Duration of meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.55am and finished at 12.50pm.*