

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2006, be confirmed as a correct record.

26. INDEPENDENT POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

The Commissioner and the Regional Director gave a presentation on the work of the IPCC; the role of the Commissioners; data on investigations nationally and comparisons with most similar forces and the North West region; the improvements being made in the complaints system; the Regional Stakeholder Engagement Strategy; and the aims of the research projects being undertaken.

The Commissioner reported that Constabulary's performance in relation to complaints investigations compared favourably against its most similar forces; that the integrity of the system was good; and that the Professional Standards Department were performing well.

Members raised a number of issues including vexatious complainants; the timescale for investigating complaints; the financial constraints of an investigation; and the need for transparency of the complaints system to which the Commissioner and the Regional Director responded.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

27. INDEPENDENT POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION: COMPLAINTS 2005/06

The Chief Executive submitted a summary of the Independent Police Complaints Commission's (IPCC) report on police complaints statistics for 2005/06. The report detailed a total of 26,268 complaint cases and 40,384 allegations were recorded which were increases of 15% and 16% respectively on 2004/05.

Mr Franklin outlined the reasons for the increases which related to changes associated with the Police Reform Act; extra training within forces; revised recording methods adopted by Professional Standards Departments; greater public awareness and ease of contact to make a complaint.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

28. INDEPENDENT POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION: ANNUAL REPORT AND SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2005/06

A summary of the Independent Police Complaints Commission's (IPCC) Annual Report and Accounts for 2005/06 was circulated for consideration. The Report detailed the work of the IPCC undertaken in 2005/06 and the development of the police complaints system during the period.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

29. INDEPENDENT POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION: REPORT INTO PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF POLICE COMPLAINTS SYSTEM

The Chief Executive submitted a summary and the results of the Independent Police Complaints Commission's (IPCC) Report into public perceptions of the police complaints system.

The IPCC, in February 2006 published the results of a general public survey which focused on community awareness of the IPCC and its complaints process. The survey identified a number of community and minority groups who were less willing to utilise the process and as a result of the findings, the IPCC commissioned a further qualitative study to ascertain and understand why these groups held negative views on making complaints and to identify options how this could be overcome. The summary, conclusion and recommendations from the further study report were circulated.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

30. COMPLAINTS AND MISCONDUCT MATTERS: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Deputy Chief Constable presented the quarterly report on complaints and misconduct matters for the period October to December 2006. It was reported that during the period 159 complainants had made 189 complaints, which equated to an increase of 30.3% in complainants and 5% in complaints, compared with the previous year. There had been 215 complaints made about police officers, 31 about police staff, 3 about PCSOs and 3 about special constables.

The Committee also received detailed information on the various categories of individual complaints; the number of referrals to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC); internal discipline cases; cases referred to the Crown Prosecution Service; complaints outstanding from previous years; statistical analysis of complaints; and key performance indicators relating to complaints which showed an increase in the number of complaints finalised.

Members enquired about the initiative operated in the Northern Area to reduce complaints; the increasing level of complaints relating to incivility and whether officers were involved in the quality of service commitment, to which the Deputy Chief Constable responded.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

31. DIRECTION AND CONTROL COMPLAINTS: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Head of Professional Standards presented a report on direction and control complaints which showed that 53 complaints had been received during October-December 2006 compared to 32 in the same period in the previous year.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

32. 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 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 to the Act in the paragraphs indicated:-

Item	Paragraph
Complaints on or prior to 31 March 2006: Update	(7) Information which is likely to reveal the identity of individuals
Review of Disciplinary Issues	(2) Information which is likely to reveal the identity of individuals

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

33. COMPLAINTS ON OR PRIOR TO 31 MARCH 2006: UPDATE

The Head of Professional Standards, following a request at the last meeting circulated information which detailed the status of the 77 cases recorded on or prior to 31 March 2006.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

34. REVIEW OF DISCIPLINARY ISSUES: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Deputy Chief Constable submitted a report on the number of written warnings and hearings for police officers and disciplines and suspensions of police staff and PCSOs.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Duration of Meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and finished at 11.35am.