

Warwickshire Police Authority – 24 September

Report of the Chief Executive

Summary

This report draws a number of issues to Members' attention.

Recommendation

That the Authority discusses the issues contained in the report.

1. Dates of Meetings – September 2008 to September 2009

I attach as **Appendix 1** a programme of dates for the period September 2008 to September 2009. The Authority are asked to agree these dates which replace any previous timetables.

2. Regional Meeting – 9th September 2008

A meeting of the 'West Midlands Regional Group of Police Authorities' Chairs' was held at Leek Wootton on the 9th September 2008. Ian Francis, Phil Robson and Steve Nicklin were in attendance on behalf of Warwickshire Police Authority.

The meeting considered a number of issues:-

- (a) **Counter Terrorism.** ACC Anil Patani attended to give a detailed briefing to the Group on both the Prevent agenda and the CONTEST strategy. Members were asked to contribute on how their own Authority received briefings on all aspects of counter terrorism. Consideration was also given to how the CDRPs contribute to the Prevent agenda. An excellent report by Sir Paul Scott-Lee, Chief Constable of West Midlands Police on the progress of the West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit was also considered.
- (b) **Green Paper on Policing.** Members were updated on recent events which had taken place under the consultation process for the Green Paper and on how each Authority would be responding. The regional secretariat has arranged a regional meeting to be held at the offices of West Mercia Police Authority in Shrewsbury on Friday 26 September 2008 commencing at 10am. This will provide an opportunity, amongst other things, to discuss the Green Paper
- (c) **New APA Structure and Regional Policy Networks.** Members and officers have now been allocated to the four policy networks and also a diversity lead has been chosen from each Authority. A copy of the full list of Members and Officers is attached at **Appendix 2**. The Regional Meeting was made aware that the names of the Warwickshire representatives would need to be ratified by the Authority at their meeting on the 24th September. I would therefore ask the Authority to ratify the names of the representatives as set out.

As mentioned above, there will be a regional meeting on the 26th September at which there will be discussion on how the regional networks will operate and to decide who will

represent the region at the initial meetings of each of the APA Networks. These appointments will be made on a one-off basis prior to the first formal meeting of each of the Regional Networks later in the year. At the first formal meeting of the Regional Networks, the respective Chairs and Regional Representatives will be appointed.

I am aware that a number of Members put forward to serve on the Regional Networks are unable to attend on the 26th September but it would be helpful if they were to indicate whether they would be willing to be put forward to represent the region at the first APA Network meetings. The dates of the APA meetings are as follows:-

People Network	16 th October 2008 at 11.00am
Corporate/Business Network	8 th October 2008 at 2.30pm
Citizen Focus and Partnership Network	To be confirmed
Strategic Policing and Policy Network	30 th September 2008 at 11.00am

- (d) **Forthcoming Regional Meetings.** The next meeting of Chief Executives, Chairs and Vice Chairs will be held on the 2nd December 2008 at 10am in Worcester and the next meeting of Chief Constables, Chairs and Chief Executives will be held on the 11th December 2007 at 2.30pm in Birmingham.

3. ACPO-APA International Policing Exhibition & Summer Conference 2009

I can now confirm that this Conference will now be held between the 7th and 9th July 2009. The timing of the Conference has been put back in 2009 in view of the Government's proposal to hold the European Parliament and County Council elections on the 4th June 2009.

4. Green Paper

The outcomes of the seminar held on the 15th September 2008 are now being incorporated into a draft Authority/Force response to the consultation on the Green Paper. Mark Richards is leading on the preparation of the draft response and will liaise with closely with Sue Howl. It is intended that a draft will be circulated to all Members on the 1st October, 208 and any final comments invited.

I suggest that the final response is agreed by the Chair of the Authority in consultation with the Chief Executive.

5. Constitution of the Authority

The revised Governance Framework contains issues which will need to be incorporated into the Constitution – such as the power of Members to take independent decisions, such as the Appointment process on page 6. Such powers are found in the Local Government Act 1972, Section 107 (as inserted by Section 3 of the Police and Justice Act 2006) where Section 107(3B) allows powers in Section 101 (the power to delegate to individual officers) to be delegated to Members of the Police Authority.

The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer will review the Constitution and ensure the necessary powers required by the Governance Framework are built into our Constitution.

6. Independent Review of Member Allowances

I recommend that the Authority agree to the setting up of an Independent Review of Member Allowances, to be completed by the middle of January, 2009. The Chief Executive, in

consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair (1), will progress this review as a matter of urgency, including setting the terms of reference, appointing independent reviewers and taking any other necessary steps as appropriate.

7. Communications

One of the key learning points to emerge from the Authority meeting in July was the need to improve communications within the Authority. In particular I think the communication between streams and the Steering Group need to be improved. As a minimum I think it would be a useful first step for the Chair to circulate a fortnightly briefing sheet giving an overview of events and issues.

On the broader issue it would be helpful if the Chief Executive, Chair, Vice Chair (1) and the Lead for Information Management and Communications could meet to discuss a communication strategy both within the Authority, with our partner Councils and stakeholder groups and the public.

Finally

8. Alan Woodward JP

On behalf of the Officers of the Authority and myself we would like to place on record our appreciation of the support and advice given over the years by Alan. He has served the Police Authority with distinction and his record is exemplary. We wish Alan well for the future and trust he has a peaceful and fulfilling retirement.

9. Personal

I would like to place on record my personal appreciation to all Members of the Authority for affording me the privilege of working with you as Chief Executive.

I would also like to thank my colleagues from the Authority for their support and Greta Needham and Dave Clarke for their wise advice and guidance.

I have found my time with the Authority both personally and professionally enriching. It has been a genuine pleasure to see how the Authority has developed into the strong and effective organisation it now is as a result of a dedicated group of Members and Officers. In particular I am grateful to Keith Bristow and the ACPO team for their outstanding leadership of the Force, for the honest and open dialogue we have engaged in and for enabling me to see at first hand what the epitome of professional leadership in policing should look like.

All in all – thank you. I will reflect upon my time with the Authority with pride and great affection.

I wish my successor, Sue Howl, every success and happiness in the future.

Enquiries: about this report should be made to Neil Gulliver on 01926 412322

Background Papers: As attached where appropriate

ERIC WOOD
Chief Executive