

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on **19 APRIL 2010**

Present:-

Ian Francis (Independent Member) (**Chair**)
Phil Robson (Independent Member) (**Vice Chair**)
John Vereker (County Councillor) (**Vice Chair**)

Independent Members:-

Mike Edwards, Bob Malloy, Dorrette McAuslan, Steve Nicklin, Angela O'Boyle and Clive Parsons

County Councillors:-

Chris Davis, Carol Fox, Eithne Goode, Bob Hicks, Richard Hobbs, Frank McCarney, Phillip Morris-Jones and Izzi Seccombe.

Police:-

Chief Constable Keith Bristow, Deputy Chief Constable Andy Parker, Assistant Chief Constable Bill Holland, Assistant Chief Constable Lewis Benjamin, Chief Supt Richard Sear, Chief Supt Steve Burrows, Wayne Parkes, Supt Adrian McGee, Supt Chris Ward, Carl Baldacchino and Paul Anderson. Emma Wolfe attended for Agenda Item 16.

Police Authority:-

Neil Gulliver, Dave Clarke, John Betts, Debbie Mullis, Sian Stroud and John McPhail

Others:-

Simon Payne (Police Federation), Lee Bowers and Vaughn Jones (UNISON), John Burbeck and Richard Lyttle attended for Agenda Item 2.

1. Chair's Announcements

The Chair welcomed Chris Davis back to the Authority.

2. Apologies

None.

3. Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 22nd February 2010 and Matters Arising

(i) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 22 February 2010 be approved

There were no matters arising

5. Protective Services, Standards and Planning – Report by Governance Stream Lead

Phil Robson introduced the report and drew Members' attention to the significant risks for protective services arising from 150plus and the Papal visit. He then invited the Lead Members in the Governance Stream to present the following reports:-

Appendix 1 – Report on Protecting Vulnerable People

Angela O'Boyle highlighted the key developments around safeguarding vulnerable adults and stressed that partnerships with other agencies appeared to be working well. In response to a question by Richard Hobbs, she confirmed that the issue of housing for recovering drug addicts was being addressed to some degree but this was an issue which required further work.

Appendix 2 – Report of the Safeguarding Children Lead

In presenting the report, Angela O'Boyle highlighted the implementation of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre Plan and the success of the Safer Schools Partnership.

In response to a question by the Chair, Izzi Seccombe confirmed that the Cyber Sentinel software package which provided protection against issues such as cyber-bullying and chat room predators was available free to all schools but was also available commercially to others.

Keith Bristow emphasised the importance of the ACPO Child Protection Delivery Plan and the need to promote this area of work as part of local policing.

Appendix 3 – Report of the Professional Standards Committee

In introducing the report, Mike Edwards expressed his concern about the increasing number of complaints against police officers and stressed the importance of looking at the detail behind the complaints to find out the reason why this was happening. He proposed to discuss this issue further with the Professional Standards Committee at their next meeting. Andy Parker commented that he would ask the Head of Professional Standards to do some analysis work before that meeting.

Steve Nicklin commented that the number of local resolutions had fallen to which Mike Edwards replied that this would be looked at by the Committee. He did add that ultimately the decision whether a complaint was dealt with locally rested with the complainant.

Appendix 4 – Report of the Lead Member for Member Development

Dorrette McAuslan presented the report and stressed the need for the Authority to have a structured training programme for Members and for Members to attend at least 70% of the sessions.

During the ensuing discussion, the following points were highlighted:-

- Training events were targeted at all Members not just new ones.

- It was recognised that some Members may have undertaken training in certain areas elsewhere which could be regarded as completed but this would not always be the case. Each case would need to be judged on its own merit depending on the nature of the training etc.
- Responsibility for managing training rests with Dorrette McAuslan as Lead Member and Debbie Mullis as the Authority's Officer. Responsibility for the budget rests with Neil Gulliver, Assistant Chief Executive.
- Opportunities to share training with partners, locally and regionally, will be explored to keep costs down.
- Members need to bear in mind that the development of Members is one of the six key principles of governance.
- Need to ensure that the training programme includes a description of each of the events and what is expected to be achieved from them.

It was then Resolved:-

That approval be given to the Attendance Procedure as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

Appendix 5 – Regional Strategic Policing Policy Group Meeting

This item was noted.

5. ACC Lewis Benjamin

At this juncture, the Chair took the opportunity to congratulate Lewis Benjamin on his appointment as ACPO National Co-Ordinator for Serious Organised Crime, to thank him very sincerely for all his hard work on behalf of Warwickshire Police and to wish him every success in the future.

Lewis Benjamin replied that he appreciated the opportunity to take up this secondment and thanked the Authority for giving him his opportunity with Warwickshire in 2006. Warwickshire was recognised as being a very good Force and thanks should go to the Authority for its valuable support along the way.

6. Local Employment Targets for Under-Represented Groups in Warwickshire Police

The Chair stated it had been decided that this report should be withdrawn to allow further work to be undertaken and then brought back to a future meeting of the Authority.

7. General Report of the Chief Constable

In presenting the report, Keith Bristow added that he had been approached by the Police Commissioner for the Grand Cayman Islands for support in dealing with some serious crime issues on the islands. As a result he had put together a team of 14 officers from the region including 3 Warwickshire officers and they would be leaving shortly subject to the current air travel problems.

With regard to performance, he stated that the Force had had an exceptional year meeting all but one of their targets and this was due largely to the commitment of all officers and staff of the Force. The Chair responded by congratulating the Force on behalf of the Authority and asked that the Authority's thanks be forwarded on to them.

In response to a question by Izzi Seccombe about comparing Warwickshire's performance against its most similar forces, Keith Bristow and Andy Parker pointed out that, although this was a good comparator, the Force and the Authority had decided not to stick rigidly to achieving progress against targets such as MSF but to set targets which measured how well the Force was protecting its communities from harm.

8. Report of the Acting Chief Executive

(1) Procedural Standing Orders

Resolved:-

That approval be given to the suggested amendment to paragraph 3.5 of the Authority's Procedural Standing Orders.

(2) New Police Authority Regulations

This paragraph was noted.

(3) Police Authority Inspection

The Chair stated that he proposed to call a meeting of the Members on the Steering Group as soon as possible after the draft report was made available on 4th May 2010. He would also ensure that every Member of the Authority received a copy of the draft report.

9. Any Urgent Business

Section 95 Reports

Dorrette McAuslan referred to the reporting of some level of disproportionality around Stops, particularly in the Warwick District area and wanted confirmation that this issue was being addressed and under regular review.

Bill Holland confirmed that there had been a 66% increase in the number of Stops in 2009 compared with the previous year and this had been driven largely by improvements in local policing and the introduction of policing priority areas. This had been particularly true in the Rugby Borough and Warwick District areas. He added that all Section 95 data was closely monitored by the Force and was available to the District Commanders who in turn should share this with the District Leads.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Police Authority will be the AGM on Wednesday 26th May 2010 at 10am.

11. Exclusion of Members of the Public

Resolved

That the members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the following agenda items on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure

of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 3, 4 and 7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

12. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 22nd February 2010 and Matters Arising

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 22nd February 2010 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

13. Report of the Appointments and Remuneration Committee

The Authority considered the personnel issues highlighted in the report.

The meeting adjourned from 11.25am to 11.40am.

14. Taser Deployment

Bill Holland introduced the report and briefly explained the Force position around the use of Taser.

15. Exempt Report of the Protective Services, Standards and Planning Governance Stream Lead

The report together with the various appendices was noted.

16. Harm Analysis Intelligence

The Authority received a detailed presentation from Emma Wolfe on the role of the Harm Analysis Intelligence Group.

17. 150plus Programme Report

Chris Ward gave a detailed presentation on the progress to date of the 150plus project and also highlighted how the project would progress further. This was followed by an open debate during which a range of issues were considered and approval given to the approach outlined in the report.

It was then agreed to deal with Agenda Item 21.

21. Warwickshire Justice Centre

The Authority agreed to the awarding of a contract as specified in the report by the Senior Responsible Officer.

18. Force Performance

The report by the Chief Constable together with the current dashboard circulated at the meeting were noted.

19. Service Reviews

The report by the Deputy Chief Constable was noted.

20. Operational Updates

Keith Bristow introduced the report and made reference in particular to the fantastic work done by officers in relation to two operations.

21. Other Business

At this juncture, the Chair invited the Staff Associations to comment on the debate around 150plus and to offer any views they had on the project to date.

22. Operation Westbere

The exempt minute of the discussion by the Independent Members of the Authority's 22nd February 2010 meeting was accepted together with a further report by the Chief Constable.

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Chair of the Authority

Meeting closed at 1.30pm.