

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on the **23rd JULY 2007**.

Present:-

Philip Blundell (Independent Member)(**Chair**)
Ian Francis (Lay Justice Member)(**Vice Chair**)

Independent Members:-

Steve Nicklin, John Rennie and Phil Robson

Lay Justice Members:-

Mike Edwards and Alan Woodward

County Councillors:-

Chris Davis, Anne Forwood, Eithne Goode, Bob Hicks, Richard Hobbs, Katherine King, Phillip Morris-Jones, Izzi Seccombe and John Vereker

By Invitation:-

County Councillors Alan Farnell, Tim Naylor, Bob Stevens and June Tandy.

Police: -

Chief Constable Keith Bristow, Deputy Chief Constable Andy Parker, Assistant Chief Constable Lewis Benjamin, Simon Pameley, Chief Superintendent Paul Mason-Brown, Chief Superintendent Neil Brunton, Superintendent Mak Chishty, Chief Inspector Chris Ward, Inspector Mike Fawcett, Richard Elkin and Carl Baldacchino

Police Authority: -

Eric Wood, Oliver Winters, Tony Brown, Neil Gulliver, Claire Thomas, Sian Stroud and Julie Brown.

1. General
(1) Apologies

An apology was received from Dorrette McAuslan.

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

John Rennie declared a personal interest as a member of Warwickshire NeighbourhoodWatch and Crimestoppers.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 28th June 2007 and Matters Arising

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 28th June 2007 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

2. 150 Forward Blueprint – Report by the Chief Constable

was considered.

Resolved:-

Keith Bristow presented the report and explained how the new police service would operate and deliver protection for communities in the county. He stressed that there would be a number of challenges to be overcome in achieving this aim not least the budgetary implications.

The Chair then invited the Members to raise any questions on the proposals during which the following issues were highlighted:-

- The abstraction of local officers was a key issue for the communities. Keith Bristow confirmed that the new structure would reduce the likelihood of officers being abstracted from the Safer Neighbourhood Teams but he could not guarantee that this would never happen.
- The role of the Special Constabulary. Keith Bristow confirmed that the Force needed to be innovative about the recruitment and use of volunteers. There was an opportunity to use people with specific skills in investigative work in the areas of finance or IT rather than using them in the traditional manner.
- The need to ensure that Police Staff are valued as much as the Police Officers.
- With regard to the Force's counter terrorism and protective services capabilities, Keith Bristow stressed that strong collaborative arrangements were already in place with neighbouring Forces and nationally.
- The Chair confirmed that he and the Chief Constable would be happy to talk to the Staff Associations to discuss the proposals.

That the Police Authority –

- (1) endorses Section 1 and 2 of the Chief Constable's Report on 150 forward: 'The foundations of a new police service for Warwickshire'; and, 'A new police service for Warwickshire'.***
- (2) agrees the need to rebalance Warwickshire Police's workforce incrementally and, subject to ongoing review, to ensure that***

opportunities and risks are appropriately managed and will continually confront and challenge as the proposed changes develop.

- (3) *requests a further report to scope and analyse the budgetary implications of the proposed changes with particular focus upon a consideration of operational risks set against resource levels available in order to make appropriate decisions and investment choices.*
- (4) *endorses the Chief Constable's proposal not to implement the following recommendations but to keep them under review:-*
- (i) Conversion of PCSO posts for administrative support to SNTs and the disestablishment of PCSO posts to offset any funding shortfall. (Part of Recommendation 1)*
 - (ii) Police staff support in Response Teams. (Part of Recommendation 2)*
 - (iii) Conversion of police officer posts to police staff posts within the Custody Officer role. (Part of Recommendation 9)*
 - (iv) Additional investment into business improvement review. (Part of Recommendation: 47)*

The Chair then thanked Paul Mason-Brown and his team for their invaluable work in preparing the Blueprint.

3. Resources and Standards

(1) Report of the Governance Stream Lead

was noted.

(2) Finance Reports

(i) Treasury Management Outturn Report 2006/07

The report of the Treasurer to the Police Authority was noted.

(ii) Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2007/08

The report of the Treasurer to the Police Authority & the Director of Resources was noted.

(iii) Financial Management Report 2007/08

The report of the Treasurer to the Police Authority & the Director of Resources was considered.

In noting the report, several members commented on the new format for the report and asked that consideration be given to changing the colours used,

adding an additional column to show the percentage of the budget used to date under each main heading and a further column to show the level of expenditure against the annual budget allocation for each area.

(3) Report of the Professional Standards Committee

was considered.

Alan Woodward reported that he had discussed with the Head of Professional Standards whether it was possible to extract data on the number of complaints against police officers which had been made by or on behalf of children. He understood that this could possibly be done although it may be difficult to extract the information where an adult had lodged a complaint on behalf of a child.

4. Report of the Audit Panel

was considered.

John Vereker reported that the majority of the recommendations highlighted in the Internal Audit report for 2006/07 had now been actioned.

In response to comments by Bob Hicks, John Rennie confirmed that significant work had been undertaken to deal with the high number of requests from exemption from Contract Standing Orders. John Vereker also confirmed that Contract Standing Orders were now in the process of being rewritten.

5. General Report of the Chief Executive

was considered.

(1) Commitment to Children and Young People – The Obligations of Police Authorities

(2) APA/MPA Community Engagement on Counter Terrorism Seminar

These paragraphs were noted.

(3) Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Reform Programme

Eric Wood confirmed that the Authority's role in the reform of the CDRPs would be dealt with by the Community Engagement & Consultation Panel on behalf of the Authority. The Panel would report regularly to the Authority on developments.

Richard Hobbs commented that, together with Neil Gulliver, he recently attended a conference on this issue organised by the Association of County Councils which was extremely informative about the reform programme.

(4) Review of Policing

This paragraph was noted.

The Chair commented that he had been appointed as the APA lead on the third strand of Sir Ronnie Flanagan's review around local accountability and would welcome any comments or suggestions members may have on this part of the review.

Eric Wood then informed the Authority that Phil Blundell had been elected as Vice Chair of the APA.

6. General Report of the Chief Constable

was noted.

7. Management of Organisational Change, Redundancy and Early Retirement Policy

The report of the Chief Executive to the Police Authority and the Director of Resources was considered.

Resolved:-

That approval be given to the Management of Organisational Change, Redundancy and Early Retirement Policy.

8. Single Non-Emergency Number

The report by the Chief Constable was considered.

Resolved:-

That the Force be authorised to move to a position where it only publishes and operates one number for all non-emergency calls and that £25,000 be allocated for a PR and marketing campaign.

9. Report of the Appointments and Remuneration Committee

was noted.

10. Urgent Business

None.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the full Authority will be on Wednesday 26th September 2007 at 10.00am.

12. 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 and 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

13. 150 Forward

There were no further issues to be considered.

14. Supplementary Report of the Governance Stream Lead – Property Development Plan Update

was noted.

15. 3 Barrowfield Lane, Kenilworth

The report of the Chief Executive to the Police Authority relating to the sale of the property was considered.

16. Operational Update

The report of the Chief Constable on the Force performance for the first quarter of 2007/08 which showed that overall the Force was performing well was considered together with the quarterly performance review report which was circulated at the meeting.

The Chief Constable's report on Operational Update was noted.

17. Warwickshire Justice Centre Programme

The report of the Chief Constable was noted.

18. Counter Terrorism/Domestic Violence

The Authority received a presentation by ACC Lewis Benjamin.

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Chair of the Authority

The meeting closed at 7.00 pm