

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on the **13th DECEMBER 2006**.

Present:-

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

Independent Members:-

Brian Lowe, John Rennie and Phil Robson

Lay Justice Members:-

Mike Edwards and Alan Woodward

County Councillors:-

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

Police: -

Chief Constable Keith Bristow, Deputy Chief Constable Andy Parker, Assistant Chief Constable Lewis Benjamin, Assistant Chief Constable Bill Holland, Chief Superintendent Nick Croft, Superintendent Mak Chishty, Inspector Mike Fawcett, Simon Pameley, Richard Elkin, Phil Wheelhouse and Carl Baldacchino

Police Authority: -

Eric Wood, Dave Clarke, Tony Brown, Neil Gulliver, Claire Thomas and Julie Brown.

1. General

(1) Apologies

An apology was received from Dorrette McAuslan.

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

John Rennie and Brian Lowe declared personal interests as members of Warwickshire NeighbourhoodWatch and Crimestoppers.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th September 2006 and Matters Arising
(i) Minutes

It was noted that, in error, Mota Singh and not Bob Hicks had been included in the attendance list.

It was then Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 13th September 2006 as amended be approved.

(i) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

(4) Request for Discussion of En Bloc Items

It was agreed that Agenda items 11, 12, 13 and 15 would be discussed under Part A of the agenda before a decision was taken.

2. Setting the Future Direction of Warwickshire Police (Moving Forward)

The report of the Chief Constable together with supporting papers was considered at the meeting.

Keith Bristow and his ACPO team gave a detailed presentation on the programme of work to develop the future direction of Warwickshire Police and the proposals for proceeding into Phase 2 to design a new Force.

After the Officers had responded to a range of questions by the Members, it was Resolved:-

- 1) That the recommendations set out on pages 133 to 137 of the report "Setting the Future Direction of Warwickshire Police" be supported.***
- 2) That the Chief Constable proceeds with Phase 2: Designing a New Force and that the name for Phase 2 to be '150 Forward'.***
- 3) That the outline Programme Managing structure be carried out.***
- 4) That the Chief Constable proceeds with implementing the immediate actions in relation to Local Policing, Service Delivery and Protective Services.***
- 5) That the Support Services Review be undertaken.***

3. Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2006/07

The report of the Chief Constable, Treasurer to the Police Authority & Clerk to the Police Authority was noted.

At this juncture, the Chair then informed the meeting that Nick Croft would be leaving the Force to join West Midlands Police. On behalf of the Authority he thanked him for all his excellent work and wished him every success for the future.

4. Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2006/07

The report by the Chief Constable, Treasurer to the Authority and Clerk to the Police Authority was considered.

After Simon Pameley had highlighted the main issue in the report, Chris Davis questioned whether the Force would be able to recover the cost of policing the G6 meeting from the Home Office. Lewis Benjamin confirmed that he was still in discussions with the Home Office and that it was likely that the Force would be refunded a significant proportion of the final costs. Keith Bristow added that the Home Office had given that commitment in writing.

In response to a question from Phillip Morris-Jones, Bill Holland confirmed that arrangements were being looked at to ensure that the PCSOs were provided with transport to get them to the rural areas of the county.

It was then Resolved:-

That approval be given to the unallocated savings identified in paragraph 4.8 of the joint report amounting to £782,000 be earmarked to assist the change management programme and the 2007/2008 budget setting process.

It was then agreed to deal with Agenda item 26.

26. Future Structure of the Police Authority

Phil Robson gave a detailed presentation to the Authority on developing the governance framework and proposals for a new structure for the Authority.

At the end of the presentation, John Rennie complimented both Phil Robson and Ian Francis for the detailed work that had gone into the proposals and made the following points:-

- That the number of Authority meetings should be reduced to 8 per year.
- Need to give consideration to the extra workload being placed on members and, in particular, the Authority's officers.
- In the light of the increased workload being placed on the Chair arising from his national responsibilities, he proposed that consideration should be given to the Authority electing two Vice Chairs.

After further comments by Members, it was agreed that Phil Robson and Ian Francis should continue to work on developing the governance framework and proposals for a new Authority structure with a view to a further report being considered at the Authority's February 2007 meeting or earlier if it was considered appropriate.

A copy of a report detailing the proposals set out in the presentation was circulated and Members were requested to provide any feedback direct to Phil Robson or Ian Francis.

The meeting adjourned for lunch from 1.00pm to 2.30pm

5. General Report of the Clerk to the Authority

was considered.

(1) Independent and Lay Justice Member Appointments

Resolved:-

That a small committee consisting of 3 County Councillors and 2 Lay Justices (Eithne Goode, Ray Sweet, John Vereker, Mike Edwards and Alan Woodward) be appointed to interview the eight candidates on the shortlist approved by the Home Secretary and to recommend the appointment of 4 individuals to serve as independent members of the Authority for consideration and approval at a meeting of all County Council and Lay Justice members of the Authority.

Members were reminded that the interviews would be held on the 15th February 2007.

(2) Police and Justice Act 2006

Resolved:-

That the Clerk to the Police Authority be renamed 'Chief Executive' with immediate effect.

(3) Police Reform

This paragraph was noted.

(4) Police Authority Guidance: Children and Young People

Resolved:-

That Katherine King be appointed as the Authority's Lead Member on 'Every Child Matters'.

(5) Code of Conduct

(6) Audit Commission – Police Use of Resources – Evaluation 2006

(7) Provisional Funding Assessment for 2007/08

(8) Police Performance Assessments 2006

These paragraphs were noted.

(9) 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' – The Local Government White Paper

The Chair thanked Andy Parker for his excellent work in leading on the 'Safer Communities' block of the LAA.

(10)Independent Auditor's Report

This paragraph was noted.

(11) G6 and G8

Resolved:-

That the Police Authority place on record their congratulations to the Force for their excellent work in policing the G6 meeting and to Keith Bristow following his appointment as Chair of the Law Enforcement Group of the G8 Group of Nations.

6. Building Safer Neighbourhoods Together

The report by the Chief Constable was noted.

7. Members Update on Activities since the Authority's last meeting

The Chair explained that this was an opportunity for Members to inform their colleagues about occasions when they had been representing the Authority at events etc both locally and nationally:

Eithne Goode

Eithne Goode reported on the recent AJM of Custody Visiting which she attended as the Lead member for the Southern Area. At that meeting serious concerns were expressed about the apparent lack of training being provided to custody visitors and that there seemed to be a feeling that they were not given much importance within the Authority. She added that there should be closer links with the Community Engagement Panel who were responsible for managing this part of the Authority's work.

Ian Francis commented that he chaired the AJM and supported the comments made by Eithne Goode. He stated that the Authority should be very proud of the work undertaken by the custody visitors.

The Chair asked Claire Thomas to take on board the comments made.

Richard Hobbs

Richard Hobbs reported that Victims Support was currently set up on a county basis but he understood that the Government proposed to introduce a single national body to replace the current structure which he felt would be less effective. The Authority would need to keep an eye on developments in this area.

8. Operational Performance Review

The report of the Chief Constable was considered.

Andy Parker introduced the report and highlighted the key areas where the Force was looking to achieve significant improvements in performance over the coming months. He pointed out that in November alone there had been a 25% reduction in vehicle crime compared with November 2005 although he accepted that there was still a lot more work to be done. The Force was now working more closely with its partners providing daily updates on data and had also set up Operations Romsey and Chester in the Northern and Southern BCUs respectively with the aim of improving performance across all areas of crime.

9. Report of the Diversity and Equality Panel

was considered.

Resolved:-

That the Disability Equality Schemes for Warwickshire Police and Warwickshire Police Authority be endorsed.

John Rennie commented that he was aware that there was some disquiet about the Government's proposal to group the different diversity strands into one group. He felt that this could lead to problems and the situation needed to be kept under review.

10. Celebration of 150 Years of Policing in Warwickshire

The report of the Chief Constable was considered.

In response to a question from John Rennie, Keith Bristow confirmed that no decision had yet been made regarding the charities to be supported as part of the celebrations.

11. Domestic Violence

The report of the Chief Constable was considered.

Members commented on the value of the support services for victims of domestic violence and the need for greater support to be given by local authority agencies. Keith Bristow confirmed that the Force were already looking at this area of work.

12. General Report of the Chief Constable

was noted.

13. Report of the Professional Standards Committee

was considered.

John Rennie questioned whether it would be possible to divide the data on complaints against police officers between those people who had been arrested and those who had not. Alan Woodward thought that this could be done and agreed to talk to the officers concerned.

14. Report of the Performance Management Group

was noted.

15. Report of the Business Improvement Panel

was considered.

Phil Robson commented on the transition of the Panel into the Business Improvement Board and thanked the members of the Panel and Claire Thomas for their support. He then commented that the work of the Board would have significant HR implications and it seemed appropriate that Mike Edwards should be the Authority's second member on the Board in view of his role as Chair of the Human Resources Panel.

It was then Resolved:-

That Mike Edwards and Phil Robson be appointed as the Authority's representatives on the Business Improvement Board.

16. Report of the Community Engagement Panel

17. Report of the Human Resources Panel

were noted.

18. Report of the Finance and Audit Panel

Resolved:-

That the Authority endorses the action of the Finance and Audit Panel in delegating to the Assistant Chief Constable (Territorial Operations) authority to make a bid to the Home Office for an additional 15 PCSOs by the 19th October 2006 as detailed in paragraph 1 of the report.

19. Any Other Items

None.

20. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the full Authority will be on Wednesday 21st February, 2007 at 10.00 am.

21. Reports containing Exempt Information

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, 2, 4 and 7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

22. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th September 2006 and Matters Arising

Resolved: -

That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 13th September 2006 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

23. Warwickshire Justice Centre Programme

The report of the Chief Constable was noted.

24. Operational Update

The report by the Chief Constable together with the report originally submitted to the Authority's 13th September 2006 meeting were considered and noted.

25. Vision for the Police Service

The report by the Clerk to the Authority was considered. Members were reminded that if they wish to comment on the Home Office document, they should let Eric Wood know by the 20th December.

26. Future Structure of the Police Authority

This item was dealt with earlier.

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Chair of the Authority

The meeting closed at 3.20pm