

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on the **17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2007**.

**Present:-**

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

**Independent Members:-**

Dorrette McAuslan, 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.

**Police: -**

Chief Constable Keith Bristow, Deputy Chief Constable Andy Parker, Assistant Chief Constable Bill Holland, Assistant Chief Constable Lewis Benjamin, Simon Pameley, Cathy Ward and Julie Wedgebury.

**Police Authority: -**

Eric Wood, Tony Brown, Neil Gulliver, Sian Stroud, Steve Baldwin and Debbie Mullis.

**In Attendance:-**

Richard Lyttle and Vaughan Jones (UNISON).

**1. Chair's Announcements**

The Chair confirmed that the meeting would adjourn at 12.30pm for the Christmas lunch.

The Chair reminded Members of the recent announcement of the police officers pay award and that he was unhappy with the Home Secretary's decision to implement the award with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2007. This had resulted in lot of goodwill being lost.

**2. General  
(1) Apologies**

An apology was received from Dave Clarke.

## **(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

John Rennie declared a personal interest as President of the Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch Association.

Dorrette McAuslan declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 14 and that she would leave the meeting when that item was discussed.

Eithne Goode declared a personal interest in Agenda item 14 as member of Warwick District Council.

All County Councillors present at the meeting declared a prejudicial interest in relating to the fire at Atherstone-on-Stour which may be discussed later in the meeting. They also confirmed that they would leave the meeting at that time.

## **(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007 and Matters Arising**

Resolved:-

***That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007 be approved.***

There were no matters arising.

### **3. 150 Forward Programme**

The report by the Chief Constable was noted.

### **4. Report of the Audit Panel**

was considered.

In introducing the report, John Vereker stated that the Panel were satisfied that an effective process had now been put in place to ensure that the finalising of the accounts for 2007/08 and the audit of those accounts by the Audit Commission would be completed within the required timescale. The Panel were also keen to work towards the Authority receiving an assessment rating of 3 or 4.

**Phil Robson took the Chair for Agenda item 5.**

### **5. External Partnerships, Protective Services and Business Improvement (1) Report of the Governance Stream Lead**

was considered.

In introducing the report, Phil Robson confirmed that the regional protocol for strategic partnerships to deliver support services and policing with other Police Authorities had been agreed at a regional meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> December.

With regard to future HMIC reports, he confirmed that all reports would be referred to the Audit Panel to ensure that the governance implications and actions are co-ordinated.

With regard to regional collaboration, several Members queried whether the withdrawal from CMPG had been successful and the current situation with regard to other areas of collaboration. Keith Bristow replied that it had been a significant decision by the Authority to withdraw from CMPG and had not been without its problems. However, morale amongst the traffic officers concerned was now extremely high and they had made a fantastic impact on the recent progress of the Force. He also briefly explained how the 4 forces in the region were working together on a number of collaborative initiatives. Phil Robson then agreed that a presentation should be given at the Authority's 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008 meeting.

Phil Blundell commented that the review of the Authority's new structure was now likely to be completed in the Spring 2008.

## **(2) Report of the Lead for Diversity and Staff Development**

was considered.

Dorrette McAuslan introduced the report and commented in particular on the continuing problem of appointing police officers from the African Caribbean community and the development of the national information leaflet on stop and search, Know Your Rights.

Bill Holland went on to explain the work which was currently ongoing within the Force to provide greater clarity around the use of stop and search and, where anomalies arose, to identify the problem and deal with it. He added that he was aware of the new credit card-size booklet being produced by the APA but could not at this stage identify funds which could be used to supply officers with the booklet to distribute to the community.

With regard to domestic abuse, Katherine King fully supported the media campaign which was currently ongoing to encourage victims to report incidents to the police. Keith Bristow pointed out that the Force had been recognised by HMIC for the work they were doing around domestic abuse and the importance of prevention. Dorrette McAuslan asked that Lewis Benjamin be invited to attend a future meeting of the Diversity and Equality Panel to explain in more detail the work the Force was doing in relation to domestic abuse.

## **(3) Report of the Lead for Human Resources**

was considered.

Mike Edwards commented on the excellent support the Force had received from Alison Naylor and that it was intended to submit a proposal to the Resources Panel with a view to retaining her services beyond March 2008. He

also commended the work of Mak Chishty who had taken over the role of Assistant Director of Resources. Keith Bristow supported Mike Edwards' comments and pointed out that the Authority would need to consider whether the Force need to appoint a Strategic Advisor or a part-time HR Director.

## **6. General Report of the Chief Executive**

was considered.

### **(1) Independent Members Selection Process 2007/08**

Resolved:-

***That, subject to the new Regulations being published by February 2008, the Chief Executive be authorised to proceed with the appointment process for independent members as soon as possible as proposed in paragraph 1 of the Chief Executive's report.***

### **(2) Crime and Disorder in Warwickshire – Effective Partnerships**

Eric Wood commented on the outcomes from the Conference held on the 30<sup>th</sup> November and added that it was intended to hold a follow-up event in the New Year.

### **(3) Review of the APA**

Eric Wood commented that there appeared to be a fine balance emerging between a central organisation based in London and a more inclusive regional arrangement. The latter having clear implications for the Authority and the Force.

Richard Hobbs expressed serious concerns about the proposal to introduce virtual networks and the balance of memberships on the policy groups which could become dominated by the urban authorities.

The Chair stated that there were tensions within the APA between those members who see the value of being centrally based in London with the opportunity to react quickly and effectively to national developments and those members who favour a regional arrangement. He did have some sympathy with the latter option. The final decision on the future structure of the APA would be made at the Plenary meeting in January 2008.

Eric Wood confirmed that he would respond to the review on behalf of the Authority and circulate a copy of that response to all members of the Authority.

### **(4) Provisional Grant Settlement**

### **(5) Independent Review of Policing/Green Paper**

### **(6) Police Officer Pay**

These paragraphs were noted.

## **7. General Report of the Chief Constable**

was considered.

In response to comments by Phillip Morris-Jones, Keith Bristow and Bill Holland confirmed that the Force fully supported the role of the PCSOs and that all officers would receive appropriate training in the new powers.

John Rennie referred to the Forced Marriages and Honour Crime Conference and congratulated the Force on their contribution and the leading role they are taking on this issue.

In response to a question by Bob Hicks, Bill Holland confirmed that a report of the first year of operation on the Safer Neighbourhood Teams would be submitted to the next meeting of the Community Engagement and Consultation Panel.

## **8. Urgent Business**

None.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the full Authority will be on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008 at 4.00pm.

## **10. 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.***

## **11. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007 and Matters Arising**

Resolved:-

***That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007 be approved.***

There were no matters arising.

## **12. Police Performance**

The report by the Chief Constable was considered.

In presenting the report, Keith Bristow applauded the work of Bill Holland and Neil Brunton in relation to improvements in Community Confidence in the Force.

**13. Operational Updates**

The report by the Chief Constable was noted.

**At this juncture, Dorrette McAuslan left the meeting having earlier declared a prejudicial interest in the next item.**

**14. Warwickshire Justice Centre Programme**

The report of the Senior Responsible Officer was considered and Members were updated on the progress of the project.

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

was considered.

Izzi Seccombe introduced the report and explained that a joint Force and Authority Estates Group had been established with a view to producing a blueprint for the future.

**16. Planning – Proposed Development at Police Headquarters**

Consideration of this matter was withdrawn.

**17. Presentation on ‘Holistic Policing’**

The Authority received a presentation by ACC Lewis Benjamin on the issue of ‘Holistic Policing’.

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Chair of the Authority

The meeting closed at 3.15pm