

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on the **21st FEBRUARY 2007**.

Present:-

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

Independent Members:-

Brian Lowe, Dorrette McAuslan 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, Assistant Chief Constable Lewis Benjamin, Assistant Chief Constable Bill Holland, Inspector Mike Fawcett, Simon Pameley, Richard Elkin, Phil Wheelhouse and Carl Baldacchino

Police Authority: -

Eric Wood, Dave Clarke, Greta Needham, Tony Brown, Neil Gulliver, Claire Thomas, Oliver Winters and Michael Furness.

John Cotterill and Dave Rigg (Audit Commission) attended for Agenda item 4(1).

Prior to the start of the meeting, a presentation was made by Mike Edwards, Chair of the Human Resources Panel, to Chief Inspector Chris Wadsworth in recognition of her award as National Police Woman of the Year and to Sergeant Mandy Crust who had been recognised by the British Association of Women in Policing.

1. General
(1) Apologies

An apology was received from John Rennie.

The Chair informed Members that this would be the final meeting of the Authority for Brian Lowe who would be retiring as an Independent Member of the Authority on the 31st March 2007. On behalf of the Authority, Ian Francis paid tribute to his dedication and commitment to the Authority since 1999 and, in particular, the enormous contribution he had made to NeighbourhoodWatch and to the Independent Custody Visiting and Animal Welfare Schemes.

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Brian Lowe declared a personal interest as a member of Warwickshire NeighbourhoodWatch and Crimestoppers.

Izzi Seccombe declared a personal interest as Chair of the Children and Young People Block of the Warwickshire Local Area Agreement.

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

Keith Bristow pointed out that under Minute 10, the Working Group, prior to the Authority's December 2006 meeting, had already chosen the two charities they would support, namely Victims Support and the Warwickshire Air Ambulance. It was agreed to amend the minutes accordingly.

It was then Resolved:-

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

(i) Matters Arising **Minute 4 – Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2006/07**

Dorrette McAuslan queried why funding for the G6 meeting had not been provided before the event and why the Authority was unlikely to be refunded their costs in full.

Keith Bristow explained that the request to host the G6 meeting had been received at short notice. The costs to Warwickshire had now been properly collated and a final costing submitted to the Home Office who had already given a commitment to meet the majority of the costs involved.

(4) Request for Discussion of En Bloc Items

It was agreed that Agenda items 10 and 14 would be discussed under Part A of the agenda before a decision was taken.

2. Transitional Costs for Programme 150 Forward

The report of the Chief Constable was considered.

Keith Bristow reminded the Authority that they gave him a mandate at their last meeting to design a new 'affordable, acceptable and sustainable' Force for implementation by April 2008. He explained that in order to achieve that aim it was necessary to commit resources heavily at the start of the financial year and then to manage down the costs during the year to bring the service back within budget by the end of the 2007/08 financial year. By investing in protective

services, it was hoped that the neighbourhood policing teams could be protected from abstractions wherever possible.

The Chair stressed that the programme would be the subject of strong scrutiny throughout the process and that the Authority would have full involvement in that process.

It was then Resolved:-

That approval be given to the transitional costs detailed in the Chief Constable's report.

3. Police Authority Governance Framework – Towards a New Structure 'Form Follows Function'

The report by Phil Robson and Ian Francis was considered.

After introductory comments by Phil Robson, the Chair informed the Members that the new structure had been shown to Louise Dominian and Richard Clarke from the Home Office earlier in the week and they were very enthusiastic about this new way of working. It had also been welcomed by HMIC who would be inspecting all authorities in conjunction with the Audit Commission.

It was then Resolved:-

- 1) That the Police Authority meets a minimum of 9 times a year.***
- 2) That the Police Authority meetings are held at 10.00am except where they are scheduled for a Monday when they will be held at 4.00pm.***
- 3) That the Urgency Committee be disbanded.***
- 4) That approval be given to a streamlined appointments procedure in order to establish the new structure quickly and effectively.***
- 5) That the Chair of the Audit Panel be a County Councillor member of the Authority who has no lead responsibility for financial or performance issues***
- 6) That up to 2 additional County Councillor members be appointed to the Audit Panel.***
- 7) That the lead for diversity be normally co-opted onto the Appointments and Remuneration Committee to ensure activity fits with the Authority policies to promote diversity within the organisation.***
- 8) That the Warwickshire Governance Stream Lead be appointed from the independent membership of the Authority to avoid potential conflict of interest at the Warwickshire Public Service Board.***
- 9) That, given the community answerability nature of the Local Scrutiny Lead role, approval be given to this position being taken by a County Councillor member.***
- 10) That the District Partnership Leads should be County Councillor members or, if this is not possible, independent members resident in the relevant District.***

- 11) *That the Deputy Lead for Financial Planning be a County Councillor member if the Resources and Standards Governance Stream Lead is an independent member.*
- 12) *That the Appointments and Remuneration Committee ensure that the Lead role for Member Development is allocated to an appropriate member and given the support required to deliver the Governance Principle – ‘Developing the capacity and capability of the governing body to be effective’.*
- 13) *That the new structure comes into effect from the 1st May 2007 with the opportunity to revise appointments following the Annual Meeting of the Authority on the 23rd May 2007 at which the Chair and Vice Chair will be elected.*
- 14) *That the Governance Stream Leads keep the accountabilities and workload of members under review so that amendments can be made as the Authority’s experience of implementation grows.*
- 15) *That the Independent Remuneration Panel be convened in November 2007 to review the basis for the allowances and to make recommendations to the Authority in February 2008 for implementation from April 2008.*

The Chair then proposed the following points of procedure which were unanimously agreed:-

- 1) The Chief Executive will contact individual Members and invite them to express their interest in particular positions within the new structure.
- 2) The Appointments and Remuneration Committee comprising of the Chair, Vice Chair and a representative from each of the political parties represented on the Authority will make a first attempt at filling all the posts. Phil Robson would also attend meetings of the Committee in a monitoring role but would not have a vote.
- 3) There will then be a period of negotiation at the end of which it is hoped that all Members will be happy with the role they have been allocated and all the positions can be ratified by the Appointments and Remuneration Committee.
- 4) If however any Member(s) is unhappy with their position, a meeting of the Authority will be called to resolve the matter.

4. Financial Reports

1) Annual Audit Letter 2005/06

was noted.

2) Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2007/08

The report by the Treasurer to the Authority was considered.

Resolved:-

That approval be given to the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy for 2007/08.

3) Reserves and Balances Policy

The joint report by the Director of Resources and the Treasurer to the Authority was considered.

Resolved:-

That approval be given to the recommendations set out in the joint report.

- 4) Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2006/2007**
- 5) Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2006/2007**

The joint reports of the Chief Constable, the Chief Executive to the Authority and the Treasurer to the Authority were noted.

6) Capital Programme 2007/2008 to 2011/2012 and Prudential Indicators 2007/08

The joint report by the Chief Constable, the Chief Executive to the Authority and Treasurer to the Authority was considered.

Resolved:-

That the Authority-

- (i) notes the capital grant for 2007/2008 and estimates for future years;***
- (ii) approves the capital programme for 2006/2007 of £0.624 million;***
- (iii) approves the indicative capital programme from 2007/2008 to 2011/2012;***
- (iv) approves the level of borrowing of £3 million for 2007/2008;***
- (v) approves the indicative level of borrowing from 2007/2008 to 2011/2012;***
- (vi) approves the prudential indicators, as set out in Appendix 4 to the joint report including that the authorised limit determined for 2007/08 of £25.741million will be the statutory limit determined under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003***
- (vii) notes the Treasurer's Statement set out in Section 8 of the joint report***

7) Revenue Budget 2006/2007

The joint report by the Chief Constable, Treasurer to the Authority and the Chief Executive to the Authority was considered.

Izzi Seccombe, seconded by Bob Hicks, moved and it was Resolved:-

- (i) That approval be given to a budget requirement for the general expenses of the Police Authority for the year ending 31st March 2008 of £81,449,000.00***

- (ii) ***That the basic amount of the Council tax for a Band D property, for the year ending 31st March 2008 be calculated as follows:-***

	£
<i>Budget Requirement</i>	<i>81,449,000.00</i>
<i>Less Police Grant -</i>	<i>32,748,367.00</i>
<i>Less Revenue Support Grant</i>	<i>- 2,888,904.00</i>
<i>Less Redistribution of Non Domestic Rates</i>	<i>- 17,214,239.00</i>
<i>Less Council Tax Surplus on Collection</i>	<i>- 4,817.00</i>
<i>Divided by the aggregate Council Tax Base for the County area</i>	<i>195,977.10</i>
<i>Basic amount of the Council Tax (Band D)</i>	<i>145.8980</i>

- (iii) ***That approval be given to increase the Council Tax by 4.9968% and amounts for each category of property be as follows:-***

	£
<i>Band A</i>	<i>97.2654</i>
<i>Band B</i>	<i>113.4762</i>
<i>Band C</i>	<i>129.6871</i>
<i>Band D</i>	<i>145.8980</i>
<i>Band E</i>	<i>178.3198</i>
<i>Band F</i>	<i>210.7416</i>
<i>Band G</i>	<i>243.1634</i>
<i>Band H</i>	<i>291.7961</i>

- (iv) ***That the Clerk to the Authority issue 2007/2008 precepts on the Warwickshire billing authorities as follows:-***

<i>North Warwickshire Borough Council</i>	<i>3,058,778.48</i>
<i>Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council</i>	<i>5,584,393.03</i>
<i>Rugby Borough Council</i>	<i>4,957,248.89</i>
<i>Stratford-on-Avon District Council</i>	<i>7,466,565.17</i>
<i>Warwick District Council</i>	<i>7,525,687.43</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>28,592,673.00</i>

- (v) ***That officers be instructed to comply with the prescriptive legal duties placed upon the Authority and the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer to the Authority be asked to advise of any instances in which he considers that the implementation of policies should be amended to ensure compliance with requirements.***

- (vi) ***That all officers be instructed to exercise tight budgetary control in all cost centres. No overspending of the aggregate 2007/2008 budget will be authorised and caution will be exercised in entering into expenditure which creates additional commitments in future***

years. The Authority will be kept fully informed throughout the year.

- (vii) That in accordance with Financial Standing Orders (Para 2.6 of the Cost Centre Managers Charter) officers are allowed, unless determined otherwise, to carry forward a percentage of any predicted underspends for the total of the cost centres under their control. The percentage to be applied in 2007/2008 is 100% of the predicted underspend as at the end of December 2007.*
- (viii) That officers be instructed to continue to make every effort to secure savings and improvements through securing value for money in order to meet the efficiency improvement targets set by the Home Secretary and to maximise the resources available for investment in front-line policing.*
- (ix) That the Service Developments totalling £0.168m be set aside for allocation during 2007/2008 following agreement of an action plan by the Chief Officers Group for the implementation of the proposals and the Authority's Finance and Audit Panel be kept updated on progress.*
- (x) That the following statement from the Treasurer be noted:-*

In proposing this recommendation, the Chair has consulted with the Treasurer to the Police Authority. In overall terms the Treasurer is of the view that this budget has been prepared on realistic assumptions and that it represents a robust budget.

The budget does however include £3.9m of on-going allocations that have been funded from one-off resources. The Authority needs to be mindful of this and note that permanent funding will need to be identified as part of future budget resolutions.

In addition to considering the robustness of the budget the Treasurer has considered the adequacy of the level of reserves and is of the opinion that the reserves position, as outlined in the Revenue Budget 2007/2008 are adequate.

8) Efficiency Plan 2007/08

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

Resolved:-

That authority be delegated to the Director of Resources and the Treasurer to the Authority to sign-off the final Efficiency Plan 2007/08 for submission to the Home Office.

5. Report of the Finance and Audit Panel

was considered.

(1) Review of Fees and Charges 2007/08

After several members had emphasised the need to work closely with the District Councils as licensing authorities to ensure that police costs are taken into account when issuing licences for public events, it was Resolved:-

That authority notes the Statutory and Nationally Agreed Charges and approves the Private and Special Duty Rates.

(2) Risk Management

This paragraph was noted.

6. General Report of the Chief Executive to the Police Authority

was considered.

(1) Independent and Lay Justice Member Appointments

Eric Wood reported that the shortlist was likely to be released by the Home Office on the 6th March. It was therefore proposed that the interviews for the shortlisted candidates would take place on the 23rd March followed by a special meeting of the County Council and Lay Justice Members of the Authority on the 27th March.

(2) Race Equality Seminar

All members were strongly urged to attend the seminar to be held on the 21st March 2007.

(3) Two Tier Working

Resolved:-

That the Police Authority endorses the proposal for enhanced two tier working and expresses a commitment to the development of closer partnership working with partner agencies as set out in paragraph 3 of the Chief Executive's report.

(4) County Council and Police Authority Engagement

Resolved:-

That the Police Authority endorses the proposed arrangements for future engagement between the County Council and the Authority as set out in

paragraph 4 of the Chief Executive's report, subject to the detail being confirmed by the Chair of the Authority.

(5) The Warwickshire Local Area Agreement (LAA)

Resolved:-

That the Police Authority endorses the draft Warwickshire Local Area Agreement as set out in Appendix 2 to the Chief Executive's report.

(6) Consultation on New Code of Conduct

This paragraph was noted.

Eric Wood confirmed that he would liaise closely with the County Council regarding responding to the consultation and would call a meeting of the Police Authority Standards Committee if that were appropriate.

(7) APA Children and Youth Issues Working Group

Resolved:-

That Katherine King and Claire Thomas attend the APA seminar to be held on the 3rd April 2007 as referred to in paragraph 7 of the Chief Executive's report.

(8) Governance Plan

This paragraph was noted.

(9) Regional Chairs Meeting

The Chair reported that a meeting of the region's Chairs, Chief Constables and Chief Executives had been held yesterday when it was decided that that body should be put on a more formal basis with set meeting dates, terms of reference and the ability to undertake a governance role.

(10) Best Value Performance Plan

(11) Police Authority Staff Accommodation

(12) Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill

(13) Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006

These paragraphs were noted.

7. The Local Policing Plan 2007/08 (Policing and Best Value Performance Plan)

The report by the Chief Constable was noted.

Resolved:-

- (1) That the content of the Local Policing Plan 2007/08 be approved.***
- (2) That the Authority acknowledges the work outstanding to complete the Local Policing Plan 2007/08 and agrees that responsibility for approving this work be delegated to Chris Davis.***
- (3) That the other activity currently underway to publicise the contents of the Local Policing Plan 2007/08 and the work of the 150 forward programme be noted.***

8. Operational Performance Review

The report of the Chief Constable was considered.

In presenting his report, Keith Bristow commented that he felt that overall the Force must improve on its performance particularly around recorded crime. However he did report that for January 2007, the level of detected crime has risen to 27%, 2% above target. He pointed out that as the 150 Forward programme progressed, the Force would not be able to deliver in all areas of crime and they needed guidance from the Authority on which areas they and the communities of Warwickshire wanted the Force to concentrate on.

At this juncture with the time at 12.45pm, the Chair adjourned the meeting to enable a presentation to be made to PC Pete Doherty and his partner, Tracey in recognition of the Authority's support to them following PC Doherty's serious injuries sustained whilst on duty.

Members were asked to reconvene at 1.45pm

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

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

Dorrette McAuslan

Dorrette McAuslan attended a recent meeting of the Kenilworth Road Liaison Group in respect of the local Probation Hostel. She was impressed by the level of tolerance shown by the local residents particularly in the light of the problems around parking on the pavements outside the hostel and the change in the category of offenders sent to the hostel.

The Chair welcomed the report but pointed out that, under the new structure for the Authority, local issues such as these should be picked up by the Community Engagement Panel for onward reporting to the Authority where appropriate.

Richard Hobbs

Richard Hobbs recently attended a meeting in London on 'Crime Hot Spots' and how they can be identified and dealt with. The meeting was looking at the idea of setting up a risk register for all areas of public safety, not those just relating to criminal offences.

Brian Lowe

Brian Lowe reported that he recently attended a meeting of the Nuneaton & Bedworth Old Peoples Forum. He would continue to attend these meetings but would not be able to represent the Authority and he urged that a replacement be found to represent the Authority.

10. Celebration of 150 Years of Policing in Warwickshire

The report of the Chief Constable was considered.

Brian Lowe asked that Warwickshire NeighbourhoodWatch be involved in the celebration events taking place in July. John Vereker agreed to bring the request to the attention of the Steering Group.

- 11. General Report of the Chief Constable**
- 12. Report of the Professional Standards Committee**
- 13. Report of the Performance Management Group**
- 14. Report of the Community Engagement Panel**
- 15. Report of the Human Resources Panel**

were noted.

16. Any Other Items

None.

17. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the full Authority will be on Monday 30th April 2007 at 4.00pm.

18. 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.

19. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th December 2006 and Matters Arising

Resolved: -

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

There were no matters arising.

20. Warwickshire Justice Centre Programme

The report of the Chief Constable was considered.

Izzi Seccombe stated that there had been a number of significant changes to the project and that she had asked the Chair to convene a meeting of the Chairs Panel at the end of March to bring them up-to-date with developments.

21. Report of the Physical Resources Panel

was considered.

Izzi Seccombe updated the Authority on the progress of the planning application in respect of the development of the Headquarters site.

Keith Bristow added that, despite recent press articles, the Force were not looking at any other sites for the Headquarters base.

22. Report of the Diversity and Equality Panel

was considered.

Dorrette McAuslan introduced the report and highlighted the Panel's concerns around the use of Stops and Stop/Search.

Two years ago, the Authority carried out an extensive campaign to explain to the public why Stops and Stop/Search were being introduced and she felt that this campaign should be reintroduced to remind the public of the aims of this police power.

23. Northern and Southern Area Summaries

The report by the Chief Constable was considered.

In introducing the report, Keith Bristow updated Members on a number of trials relating to serious crimes which had been brought to a successful conclusion.

24. Central Motorway Patrol Group

The report by the Chief Constable on the future of the Central Motorway Patrol Group was considered by the Authority and they endorsed the proposal contained in that report.

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Chair of the Authority

The meeting closed at 3.00pm