

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on the **23<sup>rd</sup> MAY 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:-**

Eithne Goode, Bob Hicks, Richard Hobbs, Phillip Morris-Jones, Izzi Seccombe and John Vereker

**Police: -**

Chief Constable Keith Bristow, Deputy Chief Constable Andy Parker, Assistant Chief Constable Lewis Benjamin, Assistant Chief Constable Bill Holland, Simon Pameley and Carl Baldacchino

**Police Authority: -**

Eric Wood, Dave Clarke, Tony Brown and Neil Gulliver.

**1. Election of Chair**

Richard Hobbs, seconded by Ian Francis, moved and it was Resolved:-

***That Philip Blundell be elected Chair of Warwickshire Police Authority in accordance with Standing Order 3.5.***

**2. Election of Vice Chair**

John Rennie, seconded by Alan Woodward, moved and it was Resolved:-

***That Ian Francis be elected Vice Chair of Warwickshire Police Authority in accordance with Standing Order 3.5.***

**3. General**

**(1) Apologies**

were received from Chris Davis, Katherine King and Ray Sweet.

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

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

Phil Robson declared a personal interest as Chair of the Strategic Advisory Board for Sharecare: Ryogens which is a software product which helps practitioners identify and share information about vulnerable children.

## **(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007 and Matters Arising** **(i) Minutes**

Resolved:-

***That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007 be approved.***

### **(i) Matters Arising**

#### **(a) Minute 4(2) – New Police Authority Structure - Governance Plan 2007-2008**

John Vereker stated that, at their meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> June, the Audit Panel would be holding a workshop to look at the risk assessment process.

The Chair commented that he proposed to defer consideration of Richard Hobbs' suggestion that 2 members should take a lead role in the inspection process until the format for that process was known.

#### **(b) Minute 6(4) – General Report of the Chief Executive – Regional Meeting**

Eric Wood reported that there appeared to be agreement between the 4 Authorities in the region to proceed with a bid for a demonstrator site and that, together with his colleagues for the other 3 Authorities, would be meeting with HMI Kate Flannery to discuss the bid. Keith Bristow added that the bid was supported by the 4 Chief Constables in the region.

Ian Francis then presented the reports referred to under Agenda items 4 to 6.

## **4. Safeguarding Children Lead Report**

was considered.

A lengthy debate ensued on this report during which the following comments/observations were made:-

- John Rennie pointed out that there appeared to be a need to give a higher profile to partnership working within the Action Plan.
- Alan Woodward referred to item 2(e) in the Action Plan and confirmed that the Professional Standards Committee had oversight of all

complaints but it did not differentiate between children and adults. The Chair accepted that the item may need to slightly re-worded to take those comments into account.

- Richard Hobbs commented that the Community Engagement and Consultation Panel would need to re-visit the community engagement strategy.
- Eric Wood pointed out that it would now be appropriate for the Authority to review the protocol for Children and Young People to which the Authority signed up several years ago.
- John Rennie and Izzi Seccombe were very supportive of establishing an IAG for Young People.
- Bill Holland reported that the Force were working closely with the PCT and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council to help break the cycle of re-offending among young people in the area. If the project was successful, it was hoped to extend it to other parts of the county.

## **5. Report of the Community Engagement and Consultation Panel**

was considered.

With regard to paragraph 2 of the report, John Rennie paid tribute to the excellent and invaluable work done by Peter Guillaume who manages the Force's Business Crime Prevention Team.

## **6. Warwickshire Partnerships and Local Policing – Report of the Governance Stream Lead**

was considered.

Ian Francis introduced the report and stressed the important role to be played by the District Leads on the local agenda but recognised equally that they would need to be well supported by the rest of the Authority.

The Chair added that it was important to recognise the growing importance of the PACT meetings which will be able to feed into the district level meetings. The success of the PACTs depends largely on the enthusiasm of the local elected members.

Alan Woodward commented that he recently attended his first meeting of the Local Criminal Justice Board as the Authority's representative and he felt that the effectiveness of the Board was limited by the lack of any representatives from HM Courts Service. The Chair asked him to pursue this point but if he was unsuccessful, to report back to the Authority and it would be picked up on a more formal basis.

## **7. District Crime Performance**

The Chief Constable's report was considered.

In presenting the performance data, Bill Holland highlighted several issues and responded to Members' questions as follows:-

- Serious violent crime had seen an overall increase of 32% in April. This included an increase in the level of recorded domestic violence incidents. Action plans were now being put in place for each District based on local knowledge to address this issue. The action plans will be centred on town centres and drink related incidents.
- Domestic burglaries were a serious problem in Nuneaton and Bedworth which had seen a 100% increase on the year to date. An operation was now in place to address the problem.
- It was recognised that burglaries were in the main down to a smaller number of persistent offenders.
- The new performance management system operated by the Force now meant that they were able to monitor the performance of the 31 Safer Neighbourhood Teams on a daily basis.
- Performance on Vehicle Crime and Criminal Damage had shown clear improvements.
- There was no apparent effect on the level of violent crime as a result of the longer opening hours for licensed premises.

In response to comments by Phillip Morris-Jones regarding the effectiveness of Neighbourhood Watch in helping to prevent domestic burglary, the Chair agreed that the Authority should receive a report on the success of Neighbourhood Watch at a future meeting.

## **8. Local Policing and Safer Neighbourhoods**

The report by the Chief Constable was considered.

In introducing the report, Bill Holland commented that the introduction of the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams had been very successful to date and that the use of mobile stations in the south of the county had been well received by the public.

## **9. Local Policing Plan 2007/08 (Policing & Best Value Performance Plan)**

The Chief Constable's report was considered.

Resolved:-

***That approval be given to the final draft of the Local Policing Plan 2007/08.***

Richard Hobbs suggested that extracts from the Plan should be included in the meeting papers for the various Panels and Committees of the Authority as an aide memoire. This was agreed.

The Chair placed on record the Authority's thanks to Chris Davis, Chief Superintendent Mak Chishty and Mark Richards for their work in preparing the Plan.

The Chair then agreed to deal with the following additional item which had been circulated at the meeting.

**Additional Item  
Capital Programme 2007/2008**

The report by the Director of Resources was considered.

Simon Pameley reported that he had discussed the issues in the report with John Rennie and Izzi Seccombe prior to the meeting and they supported the recommendations. Mike Edwards added that he had closely scrutinised the NSPIS HR upgrade project and believed that the proposed expenditure was justified.

It was then Resolved:-

***That approval be given to the capital programme 2007/2008 of £9.713m which included an estimated £5.481m worth of projects and associated funding brought forward from 2006/2007 and to the release of £65,000 from the citizen focus project to the NSPIS HR update project/***

**10. Report of the Voluntary Services Lead**

was noted.

**11. 150 Forward Programme Update**

The Chief Constable's report was noted.

**12. New Code of Conduct for Members**

The Chief Executive's report was considered.

Eric Wood stated that he understood that the County Council would be organising a further training session on the new Code of Conduct in the near future to which Authority members would be invited.

It was then Resolved:-

***That the new Code of Conduct as set out in the Appendix to the Chief Executive's report be adopted.***

**13. General Report of the Chief Constable**

was considered.

Keith Bristow reported that the Hawker family were continuing to receive support from the Force who in turn were under some pressure to intervene in the case and to send officers to Japan to help in the investigation into Lindsay

Hawker's murder. He added that he would keep the Authority up-t-date with developments.

In the case of the disappearance of Madeleine McCann, the Force were managing calls on behalf of the British police either requesting or providing information in this case.

He commented that the Force had recently dealt with 4 suspicious deaths and 2 fatal accidents, none of which had led to murder cases. However, he felt it highlighted the pressures the Force might face had one or more of these incidents developed into murder cases.

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

was considered.

##### **(1) Police Authority Representation on APA Bodies**

It was generally agreed that any consideration of the Authority's representatives on the APA bodies should be deferred until the APA had completed the review of its future role and structure.

However, it was agreed that Dorrette McAuslan should replace Alan Woodward on the Training Network and that Alan Woodward should replace Phil Robson on the CJS Task Group. In addition Neil Gulliver would take over the officer role from Claire Thomas on the Community Engagement Network.

##### **(2) Review of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984: Public Consultation**

##### **(3) Governance**

##### **(4) County Council – Cabinet Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007**

##### **(5) ACPO – Policy Leads**

These paragraphs were noted.

##### **(6) Vulnerable People**

It was agreed that the report considered by the County Council's Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be referred to the Community Engagement and Consultation Panel for further consideration.

##### **(7) Administrative Support for Warwickshire Against Crime and Crimestoppers**

John Rennie thanked Tony Brown and Neil Gulliver for the support they had given.

#### **15. APA Neighbourhood Policing Policy Group**

The report by Richard Hobbs was noted.

**16. Urgent Business**  
**Location of Police Authority meetings**

The Chair requested Members' views on the idea of holding Authority meetings in different parts of the county which could be a way of improving the visibility of the Authority to the public and to encourage them to attend meetings to see the role that it undertakes. It was agreed that this suggestion should be looked at further.

**Custody Visiting**

Ian Francis reported that, on behalf of the Authority, he had taken the decision to request one of the Authority's Custody Visitors to resign following allegations of unbecoming behaviour whilst that person was undertaking their duties as a Custody Visitor.

**17. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the full Authority will be on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at 4.00pm.

**18. 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.***

**19. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007 and Matters Arising**  
**(1) Minutes**

Phil Robson pointed out that, in the final bullet point under Minute 12, the words 'had been received' should be inserted after the word 'Board'. This was accepted.

It was then Resolved: -

***That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007 be approved as amended..***

There were no matters arising.

.....  
Chair of the Authority

The meeting closed at 5.05 pm