

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on the **30th APRIL 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, Eithne Goode, Bob Hicks, Richard Hobbs, Katherine King, Phillip Morris-Jones, Izzi Seccombe, Ray Sweet and John Vereker

Police: -

Chief Constable Keith Bristow, Chief Superintendent Mak Chishty, Inspector Mike Fawcett and Carl Baldacchino

Police Authority: -

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

1. Welcome to New Member

The Chair welcomed Steve Nicklin to his first meeting of the Authority following his appointment as an Independent Member of the Authority.

2. General
(1) Apologies

An apology was received from Dorrette McAuslan.

The Chair informed Members that Dorrette McAuslan was recovering well from her operation. It was agreed that a card and flowers should be sent to her from the Authority wishing her a speedy recovery.

(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 Meetings held on the 21st February and the 29th March 2007 and Matters Arising
(i) Minutes

Phillip Morris-Jones stated that he did attend the meeting on the 29th March and asked that the minutes be amended accordingly. This was agreed.

It was then Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Police Authority's meetings held on the 21st February and the 29th March 2007 as amended be approved.

(i) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Report of the Diversity and Equality Panel

was considered.

Resolved:-

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

4. New Police Authority Structure

1) Allocation of Members against Areas of Responsibility – Report of the Appointments and Remuneration Committee

was considered.

The Chair paid tribute to the excellent work undertaken by Ian Francis and Phil Robson in developing the Authority's new structure. He also acknowledged that there might be changes to the County Councillor membership on the Authority following the County Council's annual meeting in May.

Eric Wood added that the new structure may involve an increased workload for some or all Authority members and that it was intended to review the situation in 6 months and to ask the Independent Remuneration Panel to meet in November to review the allowances against those workloads.

In response to a question by Richard Hobbs regarding the need to fully engage with our partners, Ian Francis confirmed that he would be meeting with each of the 5 District/Borough Councils in the county to make them aware of the new arrangements. He added that, following a recent meeting of the County Council's Leaders Liaison Group, he had offered to meet with the political groups on the County Council to discuss the aims of the changes.

2) Governance Plan 2007 - 2008

The joint report by Phil Robson and Eric Wood was considered.

Phil Robson introduced the report and thanked the Authority's officers for their help in preparing the Governance Plan.

The Chair commented that he was mindful that Authorities would be inspected later this year and he believed that this Plan would form a good basis for the Authority's future work. He recognised that a great deal more work was necessary to develop the Plan and to ensure that it was 'fit for purpose'.

Eric Wood pointed out that one of the most significant areas of work which must be considered at the earliest opportunity was risk management and the risk assessment process. In addition, a new Code of Conduct was coming into effect as from the 3rd May 2007 and members would require training as soon as possible together with an urgent meeting of the Authority's Standards Committee.

As part of the inspection process, Richard Hobbs suggested that 2 members of the Authority should take the lead role and become contact points for the rest of the Authority. The Chair agreed to look at that suggestion.

In response to a number of points put forward during the discussion, Phil Robson stated that Members needed to ensure that what was proposed under the Plan would help them fulfil their role on the Authority as it was important that every Member felt fully involved in the Authority's work. He was conscious about the workload that individual Members would face and it was important that Members felt able to discuss this either with their Governance Stream Lead or the Chair when they felt that too much was being asked of them.

Eric Wood accepted that there would be increased pressures on the officers of the Authority and this was another reason why it was important that the Authority undertook the risk assessment work at the earliest opportunity. The Chair added that he would be having urgent discussions with John Vereker as Chair of the Audit Panel about this work.

3) Governing Performance in the New Framework

The joint report by Phil Robson and Eric Wood was considered.

Eric Wood introduced the report highlighting the key roles for the Authority and emphasising that this would be a learning process for both the Authority and the Force.

He emphasised the need to ensure that there was a rigorous process in place to monitor performance within the 3 Governance Stream areas. Phil Robson added that there would be tensions between the Authority and the Force which will need to be addressed but the whole process was about working in partnership and trusting each other. Keith Bristow endorsed those comments.

It was then Resolved:-

That the proposals set out in the joint report be endorsed.

5. 150 Forward Programme Update

was considered.

Keith Bristow confirmed that the policing delivered at force level would be through three directorates, although the detail of how these will operate and interact with each other and district and Safer Neighbourhood teams has yet to be determined. The directorates will initially be known as 'Protective Services', 'Resources' and 'Local Policing'.

He added that the following appointments had been made at Director and Deputy Director -

Local Policing will be led by Bill Holland, ACC, with Neil Brunton, Chief Superintendent, as his Deputy.

Protective Services will be led by Lewis Benjamin, ACC, with Steve Burrows, Detective Chief Superintendent, as his Deputy.

Resources will be led by Simon Pameley with Richard Elkin as his Deputy.

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

was considered.

(1) Appointment of Four Independent Members of the Police Authority

(2) Lay Justice Membership of the Police Authority

(3) APAC – Association of Police Authority Clerks

These paragraphs were noted.

(4) Regional Meeting

Eric Wood commented on the main issues discussed at the regional meeting held on the 16th April and in particular the invitation from the Home Office for the region to bid to become a 'Demonstrator Site' involving 2 or more Authorities and Forces where capability and capacity for protective services could be improved through collaboration. The Chair added that the largest Authority in the region had not shown a great interest in this opportunity but further discussions would take place in May.

- (5) Police and Justice Act 2006**
- (6) Violent Crime Reduction Act: Alcohol Reduction Zones**
- (7) Police Authority Inspection**
- (8) Governance Plan**

These paragraphs were noted.

(9) People

Eric Wood reported that Claire Thomas, the Authority's Policy and Performance Officer, was expected a baby in November. All Members offered Claire their congratulations.

7. The General Report of the Chief Constable

The report by the Chief Constable was considered.

Keith Bristow thanked the Authority for the support they had shown to PC Pete Doherty, Chief Inspector Chris Wadsworth and Sgt Mandy Crust at their last meeting. It was much appreciated.

The Chair informed the Members that, as part of the 150 celebrations, he intended to host a reception on Sunday 15 July to which all Authority members and partners would be invited. The invitation would be extended to colleagues from Derbyshire who were also celebrating 150 years, Staffordshire, West Mercia and West Midlands. Details would be issued at a later date.

8. Urgent Business

None.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the full Authority will be on Wednesday 23rd May 2007 at 2.15pm.

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

11. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21st February 2007 and Matters Arising (1) Minutes

Resolved: -

That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 21st February 2007 be approved.

(2) Matter Arising

Minute 21 – Report of the Physical Resources Panel

Izzi Seccombe gave an update on the progress of the planning application currently being considered by Warwick District Council.

12. External Partnerships, Protective Services and Business Improvement – Report of the Governance Stream Lead

was considered.

The Authority considered a range of issues highlighted in the report particularly around performance issues.

13. Operational Updates

The report by the Chief Constable was noted.

12. Warwickshire Justice Centre Programme

The report of the Chief Constable was noted.

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Chair of the Authority

The meeting closed at 6.10pm