

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on the **26th SEPTEMBER 2007**.

Present:-

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

Independent Members:-

Steve Nicklin and Phil Robson

Lay Justice Members:-

Mike Edwards and Alan Woodward

County Councillors:-

Chris Davis, Anne Forwood, Eithne Goode, Richard Hobbs, Katherine King, Phillip Morris-Jones, Izzi Seccombe and John Vereker.

Police: -

Chief Constable Keith Bristow, Deputy Chief Constable Andy Parker, Assistant Chief Constables Lewis Benjamin and Bill Holland, Simon Pameley, Chief Superintendent Steve Burrows, Richard Elkin, Phil Wheelhouse and Cathy Ward.

Police Authority: -

Eric Wood, Oliver Winters, Tony Brown, Neil Gulliver, Claire Thomas, Sian Stroud, Debbie Mullis and Dave Gormal.

1. Chair's Announcements

The Chair welcomed Debbie Mullis and Dave Gormal to their first meeting of the Authority.

**2. General
(1) Apologies**

were received from Bob Hicks and John Rennie.

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

John Vereker declared a personal interest as a Trustee of the Overslade Community Association, Rugby.

Richard Hobbs declared a personal interest as a Member of Victims Support.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 23rd July 2007 and Matters Arising

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 23rd July 2007 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

3. 150 Forward Programme Update

The report by the Chief Constable was considered.

The Chair and Chris Davis commented on the abstraction of officers from the Safer Neighbourhood Teams to support major investigations and the perception that this would not happen under the new arrangements. Keith Bristow replied that, whilst he would do everything he could to avoid abstractions from the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, he could not guarantee that this would not happen.

4. Report of the Audit Panel

was considered.

John Vereker pointed out that the Panel were still pursuing the possibility of obtaining a reduction in the level of fees being charged by the external auditors for 2007/08. He also confirmed that the Authority did have a Gifts and Hospitality Register and reminded Members of the need to inform the Chief Executive should they receive any gifts or hospitality in their capacity as Police Authority Members.

5. Capital Programme 2007/08 – 2010/11

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

6. Consultation Paper – Local Government Finance Formula Grant Distribution

The report by the Treasurer to the Police Authority was considered.

Resolved:-

That approval be given to the response to the consultation paper "Local Government Finance Formula Grant Distribution" as set out in the Appendix to the Treasurer's report for submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

7. Medium Term Financial Plan 2007/08 – 2011/12

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

The Chair reminded Members that this item would be considered at the budget seminar tomorrow morning and urged them to attend if they were able.

8. Presentation on Protective Services

The Authority received a presentation by Assistant Chief Constable Lewis Benjamin, Chief Superintendent Steve Burrows and Phil Robson on the management and governance around Investing in Protective Services.

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

was considered.

In response to a question by John Vereker on the concerns around the Communications Centre and user satisfaction, Phil Robson confirmed that together with Ian Francis, he had met with Chief Superintendent Neil Brunton and Chief Inspector Andy Johnson to discuss a range of issues relating to user satisfaction and public perception. He was aware that a great deal of work was being done to address this issue and in particular the problems around the Communications Centre. Keith Bristow pointed out that any problems around the Communications Centre should not be addressed in isolation. It was important to ensure that all systems relating to user satisfaction were working effectively.

(2) Member Training and Development

The joint report of the Lead for Member Development and the Chief Executive was considered.

The Chair reminded Members that the Authority had agreed to review the new structure at the end of 2007 and he intended to use the outcomes of his discussions with individual members to form the basis of that review.

Eric Wood confirmed that the interviews would take place between the 13th and 16th November and Members would be contacted shortly about their availability.

It was then Resolved:-

(1) That approval be given to the proposed approach to an annual personal development review for Members of the Authority as set out in the Appendix to the Treasurer's report for submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

(2) That the report be referred to the Standards Committee for comment and for consideration as to how the personal development review for the Chair of the Authority should be undertaken.

(3) Learning and Development Costed Training Plan

The report of the Lead for Diversity and Staff Development and the Deputy Director of Resources was considered.

Resolved:-

That the Authority's Lead for Diversity and Staff Development continues to monitor the progress of the Force's Costed Training Plan for 2007/08 and to report back to future meetings of the Authority on an exception basis.

(4) Report of the Diversity and Equality Panel

was considered.

After Dorrette McAuslan had explained the aims of the Warwickshire Police/Commonwealth Exchange proposal, she moved that the words 'subject to the budgetary process and agreed spending priorities' should be inserted after the word 'principle' in the second recommendation. Katherine King seconded that proposal.

After several Members and Officers had expressed their support for an initiative which would hopefully encourage more people from the African-Caribbean community to join the Force, it was Resolved:-

That the Authority :-

- (i) ratifies the amended Race Equality Scheme as set out in Appendix 1 of the report***
- (ii) approves in principle, subject to the budgetary process and agreed spending priorities, the proposed Warwickshire Police/Commonwealth Exchange Scheme***
- (iii) ratifies the relevance ratings that have been allocated to each of the Authority's functions and policies in its Disability Equality Scheme as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.***

10. Annual Report 2006/07

The report of the Chief Constable was considered.

The Chair suggested that a brief two page summary of the Annual Report should be produced which could be circulated to a wide audience to promote the successes of the Force during 2006/07. Keith Bristow agreed to look into this suggestion.

It was then Resolved:-

That approval be given to the draft Annual Report 2006/07 and to the publication plan.

11. General Report of the Chief Constable

was noted.

12. General Report of the Chief Executive

was considered.

(1) Regional Meeting – 27 July 2007

Eric Wood reported that, together with his colleagues in Staffordshire and West Midlands, a draft governance paper had been produced which would enable governance of the Counter Terrorism Unit to be undertaken at a regional level. This paper would be considered at the Regional Meeting on the 15th October and, if approved, would be brought to this Authority's next meeting on the 31st October 2007.

Phil Robson commented on the successful visit to the Counter Terrorism Unit on the 24th September where officers were quite happy to explain their role and recognised the need to engage with the Police Authorities in the region. It was hoped to arrange a seminar for all members of the 4 Authorities in the region to consider the causes of terrorism rather than the consequences. There was a strong emphasis on the need to address the 'prevent' rather than the 'pursue' agenda.

Lewis Benjamin added that, whilst the Force were working closely with the Counter Terrorism Unit, Warwickshire needed to be in a position to respond to a terrorist incident without relying on support from the West Midlands Force which might not always be in a position to do so.

(2) Inter-Authority/Force Collaboration

This paragraph was noted.

(3) Dates of Meetings April 2008 – April 2009

Resolved:-

That approval be given to the timetable of meetings for April 2008 to April 2009 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

(4) Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill

(5) Home Office – 'Cutting Crime: A New Partnership'

(6) The Review of Policing – Interim Report

These paragraphs were noted.

(7) Appointment of Independent Members/Lay Justice Membership of the Authority

Eric Wood confirmed that the Authority still awaited guidance from the Home Office regarding the appointment process but that, if this was not forthcoming in the next few weeks, the Authority would need to go ahead with the process to appoint a successor to John Rennie.

(8) Publication of the Police Performance Assessments for 2006/07

(9) APA Consultation on Benchmarking Methodology

(10) Consultation on Proposed Indicators of Police Efficiency

These paragraphs were noted.

13. Urgent Business

None.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the full Authority will be on Wednesday 31st October 2007 at 2.15pm.

15. 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.

16. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 23rd July 2007 and Matters Arising

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 23rd July 2007 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

17. Force Performance

The report of the Chief Constable was considered.

Keith Bristow introduced the report and commented that whilst the Force had shown significant progress in its performance levels, there were still areas for improvement.

In response to a comment by John Vereker, Eric Wood stated that it would be appropriate, when considering local performance, the County Council's Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee should invite the Chair of the relevant CDRP. If the Committee felt that an officer should also be invited, that invitation should be made through the Chief Constable.

18. Operational Update

The report of the Chief Constable was noted.

19. Report of the Lead Member for Human Resources

was considered. Mike Edwards presented the report and highlighted a number of key issues affecting the Force.

20. 3 Barrowfield Lane, Kenilworth

In considering the report of the Chief Executive, the Police Authority gave approval to the acceptance of the highest offer for the purchase of this property.

21. Supplementary Report of the Audit Panel

was considered.

In introducing the report, John Vereker congratulated Tony Brown for his excellent work in producing the Risk Register. He added that it was now essential that the Authority ensures that the Register is properly maintained.

The Police Authority Risk Register together with the policy and guidance documents on risk management were approved.

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Chair of the Authority

The meeting closed at 12.55pm