

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on the **31st OCTOBER 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, Phillip Morris-Jones, Izzi Seccombe and John Vereker.

Police: -

Chief Constable Keith Bristow, Assistant Chief Constable Bill Holland, Simon Pamey, Carl Baldacchino, Derek Kitchen and Cathy Ward.

Police Authority: -

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

In Attendance:-

John Burbeck, Richard Lyttle and Detective Chief Superintendent Ken Lawrence.

It was agreed to deal with Agenda item 3(2) first.

3. General

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

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

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

The Chair declared a personal interest in Agenda item 17 and took no part in the debate.

1. Exclusion of Members of the Public

Resolved: -

That the members of the public be excluded from the meeting for agenda item 2 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.

2. Warwickshire Justice Centre Programme

The report by the Senior Responsible Officer was considered.

The Authority were reminded of the history to this project and the decisions which had already been taken by the Authority. They were then updated on the current situation and how the project might be progressed.

The Authority agreed a number of recommendations relating to the progression of this issue but no further decision would be made until the Authority's meeting on the 21st November.

The Chair closed this part of the meeting and the meeting reopened in open session.

The Chair welcomed Detective Chief Superintendent Ken Lawrence.

The Chair reminded Members that this was an opportunity to recognise the outstanding work of Ken Lawrence and his team in handling the M40 murder inquiry.

Phil Robson led the thanks on behalf of the Authority and commented that the Authority could take some pride in this success as it was as a result of making more resources available that had given the Force the opportunity to be able to respond to this incident so quickly and effectively.

Ken Lawrence then thanked the Authority for their support.

3. General

(1) Apologies

An apology was received from Katherine King.

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

This item was dealt with earlier.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 26th September 2007 and Matters Arising

It was noted that Dorrette McAuslan had been omitted from the list of attendees for the meeting on the 26th September. It was agreed that this should be amended.

Councillor Vereker suggested that the wording in the first paragraph of Agenda item 21 should be amended as follows:-

'In introducing the report, John Vereker congratulated Tony Brown for leading the Panel's excellent work in producing the Risk Register. He added that it was now essential that the Authority Members regularly review the Register to ensure that it is properly maintained.'

It was then Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 26th September 2007 as amended be approved.

There were no matters arising.

4. Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2007/08

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

Resolved:-

That approval be given to the release of funding for the remainder of the annual vehicle replacement programme 2007/08 totalling £317,000.

5. Contract Standing Orders

The report by the Chief Executive was considered.

Dorrette McAuslan questioned whether the new Contract Standing Orders took into account the new rules around procurement which had been introduced as part of the Race Relations Act. Eric Wood pointed out that there were still some issues to be resolved with the Contract Standing Orders and suggested that the issue of ethical procurement should be picked up as part of that process by the Audit Panel.

It was noted that Members of the Authority had been involved in the development of the Contract Standing Orders prior to their submission to this meeting.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Police Authority approves and adopts the Contract Standing Orders subject to any minor amendments that the Monitoring Officer and Treasurer reasonably require, in consultation with the Stream Lead for Resources and Standards and the Audit Panel.

6 150 Forward Programme Update

The report by the Chief Constable was noted.

7. Report of the Standards Committee

was considered.

In presenting the report on behalf of the Committee's Chair, Alan Woodward pointed out that the Committee had questioned the existence of a Code for the Authority's and the Force's officers and that further consideration be given to this issue. He added that, as far as the Force's Senior Officers were concerned, he understood that such a Code already existed.

At this juncture, the Vice Chair of the Authority took the chair for consideration of Agenda item 8.

8. Warwickshire Partnerships and Local Policing (1) Report of the Governance Stream Lead

was considered.

After Ian Francis had introduced the report, Keith Bristow pointed out that the Force was unlikely to meet all the targets under LPSA2 although current performance had been significant. With regard to the targets for future years, it was essential that the control of terrorism should be included in the targets and he was very keen to get the other agencies on board in this area.

Ian Francis then commented on the apparent confusion around the role of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships which appeared to be a national problem rather than just affecting Warwickshire. Following discussions with the GOWM, arrangements were now in hand to hold a countywide seminar on the 30th November which would provide an opportunity for key partners in community safety to consider issues of performance, the new national standards and the future development of CDRPs in the county.

(2) Report of the District Partnership Leads

was considered.

At the invitation of the Chair, the District Partnerships Leads present at the meeting highlighted the key issues in their report for the attention of the Authority.

Whilst the PACT meetings appeared to be developing at varying rates in most parts of the county, it was noted with concern that this was not the case in Warwick District where the Members were not aware of any progress being made.

It was noted that the Safer Neighbourhoods website was currently being overhauled and would, in future, provide more detailed up-to-date information.

Bill Holland commented that it was now a year since the Safer Neighbourhood Teams were introduced and that feedback he had received had been very positive although there was still a great deal of work to be done.

The meeting adjourned from 4.00pm to 4.15pm

(3) Report of the Voluntary Services Lead

was noted.

(4) Report of the Community Engagement and Consultation Panel

was noted.

(5) APA Neighbourhood Policing Policy Group

The report by Richard Hobbs was noted.

(6) Warwickshire Criminal Justice Board and APA Criminal Justice System Task Group

The report by the LCJB Link Member was noted.

(7) Customer Satisfaction

The report by the Chief Constable was considered.

Keith Bristow and Bill Holland commented on the need to improve the Force's customer satisfaction levels particularly with regard to the Communications Centre and drew Members attention to the Improvement Plan which had been developed.

It was noted that a Public Contact Strategy Board had been established on which Ian Francis would represent the Police Authority.

(8) Police Performance

The report by the Chief Constable was considered.

Keith Bristow commented that the Force had been performing exceptionally well in most areas of policing which had resulted in 2,000 less victims, 200 fewer domestic burglaries and 1,000 less injuries. He recognised however that the

Force needed to do better on Community Confidence and Serious Violent Crime and both these issues were being addressed.

Bill Holland added that a Violence Reduction Seminar was currently taking place at Force HQ and it was intended that the outcomes from that seminar would include how the Force and its partners propose to address violent crime.

Ian Francis congratulated the Force on their superb performance to date. He also referred to the work of Junaid Gharda and his team for producing excellent analytical information to support performance levels. He suggested that Junaid Gharda to give a similar presentation to the Authority to that given to the Force's Management Board and Executive Board.

9. Independent Review of Policing

The report of the Chief Executive was considered.

Eric Wood introduced the report and stressed that the key issues centred around Recommendation C in the Appendix to his report. All Police Authorities needed to be able to strongly demonstrate the added value that they bring to policing. The Chair commented that Warwickshire would respond to the local accountability element of the Review and invited any Member to let Eric Wood know of any key issues which they felt should be included in that response.

The Chair added that, together with Eric Wood, Fionnuala Gill, APA and John Graham, Police Foundation and a member of the Review of Policing Team, he would be visiting Northern Ireland in November to look at the role of the Northern Ireland Policing Board and, in particular, how it works with local communities.

10. General Report of the Chief Constable

was noted.

11. General Report of the Chief Executive

was considered.

- (1) Regional Meeting – 15 October 2007**
- (2) Independent Members Selection Process 2007/08**

These paragraphs were noted.

(3) Police Authority Structure

Resolved:-

That approval be given to the establishment of a Resources Panel.

- (4) 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and Pre-Budget Report
- (5) Consultation Paper – Local Government Finance Formula Grant Distribution
- (6) Police Data Quality 2006/07

These paragraphs were noted.

(7) Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007

Eric Wood stated that he intended to meet with Phil Robson and Mike Edwards to review the Authority's health and safety responsibilities.

12. Urgent Business

None.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the full Authority will be on Wednesday 21st November 2007 at 10.00am.

14. 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.

15. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 26th September 2007 and Matters Arising

The Authority was reminded of the amendment which had been agreed earlier with regard to Agenda item 21.

It was then Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 26th September 2007 as amended earlier be approved.

There were no matters arising.

16. Operational Update

In considering the Chief Constable's report, the Authority acknowledged the work of the Police Officers in the successful completion of a number of operations.

At this juncture, the Chair left the meeting and the Vice Chair took over the meeting.

17. Supplementary Report of the Chief Executive

was considered.

After the Authority had considered both the Force and Authority perspective in this issue, it was agreed that a small group of Members together with an independent person should consider the matter further.

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Chair of the Authority

The meeting closed at 5.45pm