

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on the **29th October 2008**.

Present:-

Ian Francis (Independent Member)(**Chair**)
Phil Robson (Independent Member)(**Vice Chair**)

Independent Members:-

Mike Edwards, Angela O'Boyle, Dorrette McAuslan and Clive Parsons

County Councillors:-

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

Police: -

Chief Constable Keith Bristow, Deputy Chief Constable Andy Parker, Assistant Chief Constable Bill Holland, Assistant Chief Constable Lewis Benjamin, Chief Supt Neil Brunton, Chief Supt Richard Sear, Carl Baldicchino and Catherine Ward.

Police Authority: -

Sue Howl, Neil Gulliver, Dave Clarke, Tony Brown, Sian Stroud, Debbie Mullis and Steve Baldwin.

In Attendance:-

Lee Bowers (UNISON).

1. Chair's Announcements

The Chair welcomed Clive Parsons to his first meeting of the Authority. He also welcomed back Sian Stroud following maternity leave.

2. General

(1) Apologies

were received from Phil Blundell, Steve Nicklin, Simon Pameley and Simon Payne (Police Federation).

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 24th September 2008 and Matters Arising
(i) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 24th September 2008 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

3. Police Authority Governance Framework

The report by the Chief Executive was considered.

Resolved:-

That the Governance Framework be approved for publication as Version 3.

4. Annual Report 2007/08

The joint report by the Chief Executive and the Chief Constable was considered.

Chris Davis and Mike Edwards commented on the report which they hoped Members would find very readable and informative. They also commented on the excellent work of Mark Richards in developing the report.

Following comments by the Chair and John Vereker, Richard Sear confirmed that the Force were looking at options to ensure that the report received as wide a circulation as possible.

It was then Resolved:-

That approval be given to the draft Annual Report for 2007/08 and that Mike Edwards and Chris Davis be authorised to 'sign-off' the final version on behalf of the Police Authority. Approval also be given to the publication plan.

5. Resources – Report of the Resources Panel and Governance Stream Lead

was considered.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in paragraph 2 of the report be endorsed.

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

was considered.

In presenting his report, the Chair referred to tentative start made to the APA regional network arrangements but felt encouraged by the commitment shown across the region for the 4 authorities to work together. Dorrette McAuslan echoed those comments but expressed concern about the way diversity issues would be addressed. She had requested a meeting of the 4 regional leads on diversity to consider a way forward. The Chair added that he felt that there was no reason why Warwickshire could not take the lead on diversity issues.

Richard Hobbs commented that there was some confusion around the relationship between the Authority and the CDRPs and this needed to be clarified. Lewis Benjamin stated that the Force were currently looking at the role of the CDRPs and how they work with the Force. The Chair welcomed that initiative and asked that the District Leads be included in that process.

(2) Report of the District Partnership Leads

was considered.

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

John Vereker commented that there was a lack of an audit trail on issues raised at locality meetings. He suggested that the Authority should have sight of all minutes/notes from those meetings to ensure that all policing issues are picked up and responded to effectively. This should form an important part of the Authority's consultation process. It was agreed that this issue would be addressed by the Authority's officers as part of the review of consultation arrangements which would be considered by the Community Engagement and Consultation Panel.

(3) Report of the Voluntary Services Lead

was considered.

Phillip Morris-Jones introduced the report and highlighted a number of key issues particularly around the recruitment of more Specials and the need to give greater recognition of the role they play within the Force and communities.

Dorrette McAuslan expressed some concern about the low level of recruitment of Special from the BME communities and hoped that this might be improved through the Black History Month events.

(4) Report of the Safeguarding Children Lead

were noted.

Angela O'Boyle introduced the report and referred to the range of good work currently ongoing between involving a number of partnerships across the County.

Izzi Seccombe commented on the Childrens' Trust which was working very effectively in Warwickshire with strong commitment from the Force and the public should have real confidence in the processes which were now in place.

7. Priority Policing Areas and Differential Targets 2009/10

The report of the Chief Constable was considered.

Prior to consideration of the report, the Authority received a presentation by Neil Brunton on the proposals to identify areas of the county for priority policing. A new Policing concept is proposed based on the following;

- Protecting communities from harm
- A focus on the serious harms
- Targeting the high harm causers
- In the neighbourhoods that are most affected

Following the presentation, a detailed discussion took place during the following issues were highlighted:-

- Potentially a clear focus on a specific geographical area can cause some displacement to other geographical areas.
- 'It was recognised that setting more demanding harm reduction targets for areas experiencing disproportionate levels of harm would result in those areas being allocated more resources which may not receive universal support. That said, it was also accepted that a clear focus on high harm causers would have a positive impact on all neighbourhoods.
- The Authority and the Force recognised that there would be concerns that the strengths of the SNTs might be diminished in some areas to deal with the priority areas. Keith Bristow acknowledged that this may be an issue for some County Councillors.
- Need to look to engage with the District and Borough Councils.
- Need to ensure that the right level of public consultation and engagement is established so that communities understand what is going on and any effects it may have on them.

It was then Resolved:-

That the approach for Priority Policing Areas and the associated differential targets be supported.

8. General Report of the Chief Executive

In noting the report, it was agreed that a seminar on the Police Authority inspection process should be arranged in the New Year.

9. General Report of the Chief Constable

was considered.

Bill Holland demonstrated the proposed new uniform for operational officers. The new uniform was currently being considered by a small working group of officers including issues such as smartness and comfort. It was recognised that there was a serious health and safety issue with officers being required to face increasing risks. The Authority gave their support to the adoption of the new uniform.

10. Urgent Business

None.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the full Authority will be on Wednesday 17th December 2008 at 2.30pm. This meeting will be preceded by the Authority's Christmas Lunch in the Judges House at 12.30pm.

Members are also reminded that there will be a Budget Seminar on Monday 15th December at Police HQ commencing at 12.30pm.

12. 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.

13. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 24th September 2008 and Matters Arising

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 24th September 2008 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

14. Relocation of the Force Dedicated Source Unit

The Authority considered the report by the Chief Executive and agreed to the proposals contained therein.

15. Domestic Abuse Priority Targets 2008/09

The report by the Chief Constable was considered by the Authority and they fully supported the proposals.

16. Force Performance

The Chief Constable presented his report which updated the Authority on performance of the Force since the Authority's last meeting.

17. Operational Update

The Chief Constable presented his report which updated the Authority on a number of operations currently being undertaken by the Force.

All County Council members of the Authority left the room prior to consideration of Agenda item 18.

18. Operation Westbere

The report by the Chief Constable was considered and noted by the Independent Members of the Authority.

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Chair of the Authority

The meeting closed at 1.20pm