

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on the **20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2008**.

**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, 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, Simon Pameley, Ch Supt Richard Sear, Richard Elkin, Derek Kitchen, Junaid Gharda, Mark Richards, Carl Baldacchino and Katie Sandall.

**Police Authority: -**

Eric Wood, Dave Clarke, Tony Brown, Neil Gulliver, Sian Stroud, Steve Baldwin, Debbie Mullis and Michael Furness.

**In Attendance:-**

Simon Payne and Jeff Millward (Police Federation), Ken Lambert and Lee Bowers (UNISON).

**1. Chair's Announcements**

The Chair informed Members that he proposed to deal with Agenda 10 – Revenue Budget 2008/09 as the first main item on the agenda. There would be a short presentation by himself and Keith Bristow after which a copy of the Chair's Recommendations would be circulated. At this point, there would be a 5 minute adjournment to allow Members' time to read the recommendations. On resumption, he would open the debate.

The Chair then informed Members that this would be Ken Lambert's last meeting prior to his retirement. On behalf of the Authority, he placed on record his appreciation of the help and support the Authority had received from him and his colleagues within UNISON.

**2. General  
(1) Apologies**

None.

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

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

Katherine King and John Vereker declared personal interests in Agenda item 9 as Directors of Rugby BID.

The Chair, Chris Davis, Katherine King and Phil Robson declared personal interests in Agenda item 5 as members of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

**It was then agreed to deal with Agenda item 10.**

### **10. Revenue Budget 2006/2007**

The joint report by the Chief Executive, Treasurer to the Authority and the Director of Resources was considered.

The Chair and Keith Bristow gave a short presentation on the budget proposals for 2008/2009 highlighting the key issues which needed to be considered in setting the budget. At the conclusion of the presentation, a copy of the Chair's recommendations was circulated to the Authority.

**The meeting then adjourned from 10.35am to 10.45am.**

On resumption, Dave Clarke stated that the Authority in deciding whether to seek to maintain the current level of expenditure needed to consider a number of issues:-

- Has it been successful? Comparison with performance now with that of 2005/2006 shows that it has.
- Is the budget reasonable and can it be justified? There is no new growth proposed in this year's budget.
- Should the Authority be getting better value for money? Two issues to be considered – firstly the Force has always delivered on efficiency targets and secondly the level of central government funding which is low compared to other authorities.

If the Authority intended to accept the possibility of capping, there were a number of other issues which they needed to take account of and be prepared to explain, namely:-

- Authorities are more likely to succeed if the aggregate tax for all authorities in the area stayed below 5%. This would enable an increase in Warwickshire on this criteria of 12.87%. This would not bridge the whole of the spending gap and there would still be a need to find savings of £1.5m in the medium term.
- Caps imposed by the Government are usually a combination of an increase in tax and an increase in budget requirement. While the increase in ongoing expenditure is only 3%, the increase in budget requirement as the Government tends to measure it is 6.62%. This is high and the Authority would need to be able to present a strong case.
- Rebilling is expensive and could cost up to £1million if the Authority is capped and lose any appeal. Warwickshire is not alone, a number of other authorities have already breached the 5% mark.

- Consultation is important. The Authority has not carried out specific consultation on this budget but has done extensive consultation throughout the year with a number of parties.
- Timing is a key issue. The budget could be sustained for one more year possibly two but only with reducing other planned expenditure especially around capital. At the same time, the Authority needs to bear in mind that the County Council elections take place in 2009 and the general election is due in either 2009 or 2010.

John Vereker, seconded by Bob Hicks, then moved:-

**That**

**(1) Policing Priorities**

- (i) the proposed budget fully supports Warwickshire Police's vision as set out in the Policing Plan 2008 – 2011 "Protecting Our Communities Together"**
- (ii) the Force strategy focuses on protecting people from harm, by which we mean:**
  - **Reducing the number of people killed on our roads or by crime**
  - **Reducing crimes of violence and road injuries**
  - **Protecting people from loss, such as having their possessions stolen**
  - **Protecting against distress: giving individuals and communities confidence to go about their lives without fear**
- (iii) in order to improve the quality of life experienced by local people, then local people, community groups, local businesses and voluntary statutory agencies, including ourselves need to work together. Through effective and focussed partnership working we will address those issues that impact most on our communities. Our Safer Neighbourhood Teams are integral to us turning our vision of closer working into a reality.**
- (iv) the service plan and resource allocation is prioritised to deliver our policing priorities.**

**(2) 2008/09 Budget**

<b>Total Net Budget Proposal 2008/2009</b>	<b>£91,608,000.00</b>
<b>Less Rule 2 Grant</b>	<b>-£1,495,189.00</b>
<b>(i) approval be given to a budget for 2008/2009 of</b>	<b>£90,112,811.00</b>
<b>(ii) approval be given to the use of reserves to support the 2008/2009 budget of (of which £3.162m will be used for one-off purposes)</b>	<b>-£4,698,000.00</b>
<b>(iii) approval be given to a budget requirement for the general expenses of the Police Authority after the use reserves for the year ending 31 March 2009 of</b>	<b>£85,414,811.00</b>

- (iv) *That the basic amount of the Council tax for a Band D property, for the year ending 31st March 2009 be calculated as follows:-*

	£
<i>Budget Requirement</i>	<i>85,414,811.00</i>
<i>Less Police Grant</i>	<i>- 31,690,650.00</i>
<i>Less Revenue Support Grant</i>	<i>- 2,575,598.00</i>
<i>Less Redistribution of Non Domestic Rates</i>	<i>- 18,501,778.00</i>
<i>Plus Council Tax Surplus on Collection</i>	<i>18,118.00</i>
	<hr/>
	<i>32,628,667.00</i>
 <i>Divided by the aggregate Council Tax Base for the County area</i>	 <i>£198,131.83</i>
 <i>Basic amount of the Council Tax (Band D)</i>	 <i>£164.6816</i>

- (v) *That approval be given to increase the Council Tax by 12.8745% and amounts for each category of property be as follows:-*

	£
<i>Band A</i>	<i>109.7877</i>
<i>Band B</i>	<i>128.0857</i>
<i>Band C</i>	<i>146.3836</i>
<i>Band D</i>	<i>164.6816</i>
<i>Band E</i>	<i>201.2775</i>
<i>Band F</i>	<i>237.8734</i>
<i>Band G</i>	<i>274.4693</i>
<i>Band H</i>	<i>329.3632</i>

- (vi) *That the Chief Executive to the Authority issue 2008/2009 precepts on the Warwickshire billing authorities as follows:-*

<i>North Warwickshire Borough Council</i>	<i>3,467,576.96</i>
<i>Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council</i>	<i>6,399,362.34</i>
<i>Rugby Borough Council</i>	<i>5,743,758.30</i>
<i>Stratford-on-Avon District Council</i>	<i>8,450,326.76</i>
<i>Warwick District Council</i>	<i>8,567,642.64</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>32,628,667.00</i>

- (vii) *That officers be instructed to comply with the prescriptive legal duties placed upon the Authority and the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer to the Authority be asked to advise of any instances in which they consider that the implementation of policies should be amended to ensure compliance with requirements.*

- (viii) *That all officers be instructed to exercise tight budgetary control in all cost centres. No overspending of the aggregate 2008/2009 budget will be authorised and caution will be exercised in entering into expenditure which creates additional commitments in future years. The Authority will be kept fully informed throughout the year.*

**(ix) That in accordance with Financial Standing Orders (Para 2.6 of the Cost Centre Managers Charter) officers are allowed, unless determined otherwise, to carry forward a percentage of any predicted underspends for the total of the cost centres under their control. The percentage to be applied in 2008/2009 is 100% of the predicted underspend as at the end of December 2008.**

**(x) That officers be instructed to continue to make every effort to secure savings and improvements through securing value for money in order to meet the efficiency improvement targets set by the Home Secretary and to maximise the resources available for investment in front-line policing.**

**(xi) That the following statement from the Treasurer be noted:-**

***In proposing this recommendation, the Chair has consulted with the Treasurer to the Police Authority. In overall terms the Treasurer is of the view that this budget has been prepared on realistic assumptions and that it represents a robust budget. However it is important to note that £1,536million of the on-going expenditure is being met from reserves. This is not sustainable beyond 2008/2009 and the Authority will need to identify savings in future years to offset this contribution from reserves.***

**(xii) In addition to considering the robustness of the budget, the Treasurer has considered the adequacy of the level of reserves and notwithstanding the previous comment is of the opinion that the reserves position, as outlined in the Revenue Budget 2008/2009 is adequate.**

After a lengthy debate during which Members spoke in support of the budget proposals, the motion was put a vote and was carried unanimously.

## **2. General (cont'd)**

### **(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008 and Matters Arising**

Resolved:-

***That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008 be approved.***

There were no matters arising.

## **3. Resources and Standards**

- (1) Report of the Governance Stream Lead**
- (2) Report of the Professional Standards Committee**

were noted.

### **(3) Finance Reports**

- (i) Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2007/08**

The joint report of the Treasurer to the Police Authority & the Director of Resources was noted.

**(iii) Financial Management Report 2007/08**

The joint report of the Treasurer to the Police Authority & the Director of Resources was noted.

Keith Bristow commented that it was prudent and appropriate to earmark £395,000 of the budget reserve in 2008/2009 in the event that a decision is taken to backdate the 2007/2008 police pay award to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007.

In response to questions by Chris Davis regarding the costs involved in Operation Westbere, Keith Bristow confirmed that it was proposed to make an application for special funding from the Home Office and that some costs might be recovered through loss adjustment.

**The meeting adjourned from 11.25am to 11.45am**

**4. The Policing Plan 2008/09 – 2010/11**

The two reports by the Chief Constable were considered.

On behalf of the Authority, the Chair and Ian Francis thanked Chris Davis and Steve Nicklin for their work in reviewing the development of the Plan and also in particular, Mark Richards for his excellent work in preparing the Plan.

It was then Resolved:-

***That the Authority –***

- 1) approves the draft Policing Plan for 2008/09***
- 2) notes the on-going work required to finalise the plan prior to publication***
- 3) approves the proposed priorities and targets for inclusion in the draft Policing Plan***

**5. Changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008**

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

Resolved:-

***That approval be given to the LGPS contribution banding rates based on individuals pensionable pay as at the 1<sup>st</sup> April each year.***

**6. Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2007/08**

The report by the Treasurer to the Authority was considered.

Resolved:-

***That approval be given to the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy for 2007/08 and that the Treasurer be authorised to carry out the activities as set out in section 9 of the report.***

#### **7. Efficiency and Productivity Strategy Plan 2008/09**

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

Resolved:-

***That approval be given to the Efficiency and Productivity Strategy Plan for 2008/09 for inclusion in the Local Policing Plan.***

#### **8. Fees and Charges 2008/09 – Report of the Resources Panel**

The report of the Resources Panel was considered.

Resolved:-

***That approval be given to the Private and Special Duty Rates and the discretionary charges as set out in Appendices 4 and 1 respectively in the Panel's report.***

#### **9. Capital Programme 2008/2009 to 2012/2013 and Prudential Indicators**

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

John Rennie commented on the excellent work of Richard Elkin in scrutinising the capital programme together with the Resources Panel.

It was then Resolved:-

***That the Authority-***

- (i) notes the capital grant for 2007/2008 and estimates for future years;***
- (ii) approves the capital programme for 2006/2007 of £8.056 million;***
- (iii) notes the indicative capital programme from 2008/2009 to 2012/2013;***
- (iv) approves the level of borrowing of £5 million for 2008/2009;***
- (v) notes the indicative level of borrowing from 2009/2010 to 2012/2013;***
- (vi) approves the prudential indicators, as set out in Appendix 4 to the joint report including that the authorised limit determined for 2008/09 of £23.744million will be the statutory limit determined under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003;***
- (vii) notes the Treasurer's Statement set out in Section 7 of the joint report.***

#### **10. Revenue Budget 2008/09**

This item was dealt with earlier.

#### **11. 150 Forward Programme**

Andy Parker commented that the Business Improvement Board had not met since the Authority's last meeting. There would however be a report on 150 Forward at the Authority's April 2008 meeting.

## **12. General Report of the Chief Constable**

was considered.

### **(1) Superintendents Appointed**

This paragraph was noted.

### **(2) Hate Crime Helpline Launched**

Following a request by Anne Forwood, Keith Bristow agreed to arrange to circulate details to all members about the helplines currently in use by the Force.

### **(3) Atherstone on Stour Fire Investigation**

### **(4) Head Camera Pilot**

This paragraph was noted.

### **(5) New Shift System Introduced**

Bob Hicks asked whether it was proposed to do an evaluation of the new shift system and also commented on local concerns about the status of Bedworth Police Station. Bill Holland replied that it was intended to review the system after 3 months. With regard to Bedworth Police Station, there was no proposal to alter the current arrangements and the Safer Neighbourhood Teams would continue to operate from that station. Chief Inspector Mike Naughton had been asked to contact local councillors to reassure them that there will be no changes to the present arrangements.

### **(6) Conditional Cautioning Scheme Introduced**

This paragraph was noted.

### **(7) Operation Dresden, Child Safety Campaign**

Following comments by Katherine King, Keith Bristow agreed to bring a report to a future meeting of the Authority on the measures the Force have put in place to protect young people.

### **(8) Training for Rwandan Officers**

This paragraph was noted.

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

was considered.

### **(1) Reviews of Policing**

Members agreed that a seminar on the Flanagan Report "The Review of Policing" should be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008 at 11.00am.

John Vereker welcomed this as an opportunity to discuss the important governance issues raised in the Flanagan Report.

- (2) Association of Police Authorities**
- (3) Policing Policy Regional Event**
- (4) Joint Negotiating Committee for Doctors Assisting Local Authorities**

These paragraphs were noted.

**(5) Member Development**

It was agreed that Dorrette McAuslan should take over responsibility for Member Development.

**(6) Young Black People**

Dorrette McAuslan commented that the Diversity and Equality Panel would discuss this issue at their next meeting and invited Katherine King to join the meeting in her role as Lead for Children and Young People.

- (7) Counter Terrorism Bill 2008**
- (8) Misconduct Hearings – Recruitment of Panel Members**
- (9) Dates of Meetings 2008/09**
- (10) Annual Reports**

These paragraphs were noted.

**14. Urgent Business**

None.

**15. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the full Authority will be on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008 at 2.15 pm.

There will also be a special meeting of the Authority on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 10am to consider the Warwickshire Justice Centre project.

**16. 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.***

**17. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008 and Matters Arising**

Resolved:-

***That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008 be approved.***

There were no matters arising.

**18. Force Performance**

The report by the Chief Constable updated Members on the performance of the Force was considered.

The Force had had a very successful 11 months and were very keen to end the year well. He was particularly pleased with the improvements around serious violent crime.

**19. Operational Updates**

The report by the Chief Constable was considered.

Keith Bristow reported that, in addition to the operations referred to in the report, 2 further incidents had been dealt.

Andy Parker then spoke to the Authority about the Force involvement in a pilot set up by the Home Office to allow for the increased disclosure of child sex offenders' conviction to families.

**20. Property Development Plan Update**

**21. Warwickshire Justice Centre Programme**

It was agreed that these reports should be dealt at the Authority's meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

.....  
Chair of the Authority

The meeting closed at 12.55pm