

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on the **21st JANUARY 2008**.

Present:-

Philip Blundell (Independent Member)(**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, Assistant Chief Constable Lewis Benjamin, Simon Pameley, Derek Kitchen, David Whitehouse and Cathy Ward.

Police Authority: -

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

In Attendance:-

Simon Payne and Jeff Millward (Police Federation), Vaughan Jones (UNISON) and Nick Gower-Johnson (County Partnerships Manager, Warwickshire County Council)

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1. Chair's Announcements

The Chair confirmed that he would be speaking at the 'Fair Pay for Police' rally being held by the Police Federation on Wednesday 23rd January in London in his capacity as Vice Chair of the APA and Chair of the Police Negotiating Board.

2. General
(1) Apologies

An apology was received from Ian Francis.

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

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

Richard Hobbs and Izzi Seccombe declared personal interests in Agenda item 4 as members of Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17th December 2007 and Matters Arising

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 17th December 2007 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

3. 150 Forward Programme

In presenting the report, Andy Parker commented on the introduction of the new shift system and also responded to Members' questions particularly regarding the availability of Inspectors to attend locality meetings. He assured Members that, although the new system now included Inspectors, they would still be expected to attend these meetings.

4. Proposal for the Accreditation of Stratford-on-Avon District Council Parking Attendants

The Chief Constable's report was considered.

Resolved:-

That the proposal for the accreditation under the Police Reform Act 2002 of staff employed by Stratford-on-Avon District Council as Parking Attendants be endorsed.

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

was considered.

Andy Parker briefly reported on the outcomes of the seminar held last week to look at the priorities for the Safer Communities block of the LAA. He confirmed that the top two priorities had been identified as serious violent crime and criminal damage. It was proposed to hold a further seminar on the 8th February to agree how those priorities would be delivered.

(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.

Although it was noted that the PACT meetings continued to be developing at varying rates in most parts of the county, concern was expressed about their effectiveness and how they were able to contribute to the work of the CDRPs. It was recognised that the PACT meetings would develop in different ways across the county dependent upon local needs.

Katherine King commented that the Locality Panels and the PACTs were working well in the Rugby area and thanked Nick Gower-Johnson for his support and that of the Rugby Area Team. She added that support was also received from the local media

and suggested greater use could be made of the Safer Neighbourhoods website particularly in promoting local meetings.

(3) Report of the Voluntary Services Lead

was considered.

In introducing the report, Eithne Goode stated that it was intended to report on the Special Constabulary in her next report. She did confirm however that the current establishment was 189 officers.

With regard to paragraph 1(4) of the report, she informed the Authority that she had received a report from the Chair of the Southern Panel with a request that it be considered at this meeting. As this was not practical, she proposed to discuss the report at her next meeting with the two Panel Chairs.

It was then Resolved:-

That approval be given to a trial of self-introduction for the Northern Custody Visitors' Panel.

(4) Report of the Community Engagement and Consultation Panel

was considered.

Richard Hobbs commented that the two workshops held in November 2007 and last week had confirmed that all the partners were aligned with the Force's vision 'Protecting Communities From Harm'.

With regard to paragraph 3 of the report, the Chair commented that he was keen to progress the development of formal working arrangements between the Authority and the County Council. However, he felt it would be better to wait until the budget process had been completed. There was a proposal on the table that the two authorities should meet on the 19th March and he would keep Members up-to-date with developments.

(5) APA Neighbourhood Policing Policy Group

(6) Report of the Safeguarding Children Lead

were noted.

6. General Report of the Chief Constable

was considered.

Keith Bristow stated that the Force had now been asked to be the lead force for police links with Rwanda and he had accepted. He felt that this would be a good development opportunity for Warwickshire officers. Andy Parker would be the Force's Lead Officer.

The Authority then congratulated the Force on the excellent performance for the year to date. They were particularly impressed with the significant improvement around Community Confidence.

6A. Police Authority Governance Arrangements

The report by the Chief Executive was considered.

Resolved:-

That approval be given to the Code of Corporate Governance.

7. General Report of the Chief Executive

was considered.

(1) Chief Constable to lead Violent Crime Portfolio for ACPO

The Authority congratulated Keith Bristow on his appointment to lead a new national portfolio focused on tackling violent crime.

(2) Dates of Meetings 2008/09

(3) Review of the APA

These paragraphs were noted.

(4) Assessments of Policing and Community Safety (APACS)

Eric Wood urged Members to read Appendix 3 which gave a clear insight into the aims of APACS. He added that it was proposed to arrange a seminar on APACS and performance management in the near future.

(5) Regional Seminar

After Chris Davis and Phil Robson had commented on the seminar which had been very informative, Eric Wood stated that it was proposed to invite Professor Ron Aman to give a similar presentation to the Authority and other partners.

(6) Warwickshire County Council – Locality Forum

At the invitation of Eric Wood, Nick Gower-Johnson gave a short presentation on the current position with regard to locality working. He stressed that the main aim was to engage closely with local communities and to ensure that they have one clear point of contact for all the main services.

Members then discussed the role of the Locality Forums and how they will need to operate differently across the five Borough and District areas. It was recognised that they were already working effectively in Rugby although this was not the case elsewhere.

Eric Wood suggested that it would be helpful if a model of community governance could be produced clearly showing how the structure worked and how it would support communities. He added that it was important that the Police Authority did not become involved in any political debate around locality working and that the links between Locality Forums and CDRPs should be considered by the County Council.

The Chair pointed out that the Flanagan Report was due to be published on the 4th February and would include significant comments around locality management. He suggested therefore that the report referred to at Appendix 4 should be considered

further by the Community Engagement and Consultation Panel together with the Flanagan Report and that they report back to a future meeting of the Authority.

8. Urgent Business

None.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the full Authority will be on Wednesday 20th February 2008 at 10am.

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, 3, 4 and 7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

11. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17th December 2007 and Matters Arising

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 17th December 2007 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

12. Force Performance

The report by the Chief Constable was noted.

13. Operational Updates

The report by the Chief Constable was considered.

Keith Bristow reported that, in addition to the operations referred to in the report, 3 further incidents had been dealt recently by the Force.

14. Whitnash Safer Neighbourhood Office

In considering the report by the Chief Executive, the Authority gave approval to the arrangements for the new Whitnash Safer Neighbourhood Office.

15. Warwickshire Justice Centre Programme

The Chair announced that he did not propose to consider this report at this meeting as it was proposed to hold a special meeting of the Authority in March 2008 to consider the Warwickshire Justice Centre project.

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Chair of the Authority

The meeting closed at 6.20pm