

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on the **17th December 2008**.

Present:-

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

Independent Members:-

Mike Edwards, Angela O'Boyle 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, Richard Elkin, Chief Supt Richard Sear, Paul Mason-Brown, Detective Chief Inspector Debbie Tebbs, Mike Ball, Carl Baldacchino and Catherine Ward.

Police Authority: -

Sue Howl, Neil Gulliver, Oliver Winters, Tony Brown, Steve Baldwin, Debbie Mullis and Katie Baker.

In Attendance: -

John Burbeck and Richard Lyttle (for Agenda item 20)

1. Chair's Announcements

The Chair welcomed Katie Baker to her first meeting of the Authority following her appointment as PA/Admin Assistant with the Authority.

The Chair confirmed that it was intended to issue a newsletter to all Authority members on a fortnightly basis from January 2009 onwards to keep them up-to-date with any news and developments affecting the Authority and/or the Force.

2. General

(1) Apologies

were received from Phil Blundell and Dorrette McAuslan.

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 29th October 2008 and Matters Arising
(i) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 29th October 2008 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

3. Presentation on Performance of Protecting Vulnerable People

Detective Chief Inspector Debbie Tebbs gave a presentation on the role and performance of the Protecting Vulnerable People Unit followed by a question and answer session during which the following points/comments were noted:-

- The Force works closely with West Midlands Police.
- Issues relating to forced marriages do receive a high risk rating by the Unit.
- Izzi Seccombe commented on the role of the Safeguarding Children Board which had seen a four fold increase in the number of referrals to the Childrens Team since the 'Baby P' case came to light. This was putting a severe strain on the service and it was proposed to submit a bid to the Public Service Board for additional resources to support vulnerable families.
- Bill Holland stated that there had not been a domestic related murder in Warwickshire since October 2007 which demonstrated the level of work undertaken by the Unit to prevent such situations occurring.

4. Report of the Audit Committee

was considered.

John Vereker referred to the Police Use of Resources Feedback Report and confirmed that all the recommendations in the Action Plan were progressing well. He added that a review of energy efficiency arrangements should be carried out and suggested that the Authority appoint an 'Energy Champion'. He hoped that this could be arranged before the Authority's next meeting.

5. Police Authority Consultation and Community Engagement Strategy

The report of the Community Engagement and Consultation Panel was considered.

After Richard Hobbs had introduced the report, the Chair commented that it was extremely important that the Authority further developed its consultation and community engagement strategy and that it may need to be prepared to invest a significant amount of money to achieve its aims.

Keith Bristow expressed his full support for the new Strategy.

It was then Resolved:-

- 1. That the Police Authority approves the new Consultation and Community Engagement Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.***
- 2. That approval be given to "buy" a wave of consultation using the County Council's Citizen's Panel in April 2009 at a cost of £5,400.***

3. *That in approving the Strategy, the Police Authority acknowledges that there will be significant cost implications arising from the implementation of the Strategy which they are asked to take into consideration when determining the budget for 2009/10 and future years.*

6. Report of the Standards Committee

was considered.

Resolved:-

That approval be given to the Police Authority Whistleblowing Policy.

In approving the Policy, the Authority's officers were asked to consider whether a more 'customer-friendly' title could be found.

7. Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Warwickshire Police Authority Freedom of Information Publication Scheme

The report by the Chief Executive was considered.

Resolved:-

That approval be given to the draft Freedom of Information Publication Scheme.

8. Authority Structure – Stream Reporting Template and Schedule

The report by Phil Robson was considered.

Resolved:-

That approval be given to the reporting template and the annual reporting schedule for the Governance Streams.

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

was considered.

Following introductory comments by Phil Robson, Richard Hobbs asked whether it would be possible to make more information available on the collaborative work ongoing with our neighbouring Forces, possibly through the Force and Authority websites. Lewis Benjamin agreed to look at whether this idea could be developed.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Authority congratulates the Senior Investigating Officer and his Team on the successful outcome of the M40 Murder Trial.

(2) Report of the Professional Standards Committee

was considered.

Mike Edwards briefly commented on the introduction of the new regulations covering police conduct and performance and complaints procedures which came into effect

from the 1st December 2008. He, together with Dorrette McAuslan, had recently attended a training seminar in London on the new regulations and details are available should any Member wish to see them.

10. Financial Management Report 2008/09

The report of the Temporary Director of Resources was noted.

11. General Report of the Chief Executive

In noting the report, the Authority congratulated Keith Bristow on his appointment as Chair of the G8 Law Enforcement Group.

12. General Report of the Chief Constable

was noted.

13. Urgent Business

None.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the full Authority will be on Wednesday 21st January 2009 at 2.30pm.

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 29th October 2008 and Matters Arising

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 29th October 2008 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

17. Operation Rome Update

The Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable on proposals on managing demand within the Force and noted the recommendations contained therein.

18. 150 Forward

In considering the report by the Chief Constable, the Authority noted the progress made in respect of 150 forward to date and the associated financial benefits, the decision to implement the remaining recommendations beyond 2008/09 and the proposed changes to the recommendations within Protective Services.

19. Policing Pledge

The report by the Chief Constable was considered which explained the Force proposals for launching the Policing Pledge in Warwickshire.

20. Warwickshire Justice Centre

The report by the Senior Responsible Officer was considered and the Authority noted the progress to date on the construction of the Justice Centre at Leamington Spa and the fact that the Nuneaton Justice Centre was beginning to show significant benefits.

21. Force Performance

The report by the Chief Constable was considered together with an updated performance table was circulated at the meeting. The Authority acknowledged the overall good performance of the Force.

22. Operational Update

The report by the Chief Constable was noted.

22A. Supplementary Report of the Audit Committee

was considered in respect of proposals for additional audit work to be carried out as when required by the Audit Committee.

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

23. Operation Westbere

The report by the Chief Constable was considered and noted.

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Chair of the Authority

The meeting closed at 5.05pm