

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

Present:-

Philip Blundell (Independent Member)(**Chair**)
Ian Francis (Lay Justice Member)(**Vice Chair**)

Independent Members:-

Dorrette McAuslan, Steve Nicklin and Phil Robson

Lay Justice Members:-

Mike Edwards and Alan Woodward

County Councillors:-

Chris Davis, Anne Forwood, Eithne Goode, Richard Hobbs, Katherine King and Phillip Morris-Jones.

Police: -

Chief Constable Keith Bristow, Deputy Chief Constable Andy Parker, Assistant Chief Constable Lewis Benjamin, Assistant Chief Constable Bill Holland, Simon Pameley, Richard Elkin, Carl Baldacchino and Dawn Cross

Police Authority: -

Eric Wood, Oliver Winters, Neil Gulliver, Sarah Duxbury and Debbie Mullis.

In Attendance:-

Nick Gower-Johnson (Partnership Manager, WCC) and Lee Bowers (UNISON)

1. Election of Chair

Ian Francis, seconded by Katherine King, moved and it was Resolved:-

That Philip Blundell be elected Chair of Warwickshire Police Authority in accordance with Standing Order 3.5.

2. Election of Vice Chair

Richard Hobbs, seconded by Katherine King, moved and it was Resolved:-

That Ian Francis be elected Vice Chair of Warwickshire Police Authority in accordance with Standing Order 3.5.

3. Chair's Announcements

The Chair announced that, following the advertisement for an interim Stream Lead for Resources and Standards, Steve Nicklin had been invited to take on that role

4. General
(1) Apologies

were received from Bob Hicks, Izzi Seccombe and John Vereker.

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Richard Hobbs declared a personal interest in Agenda item 14.

Mike Edwards declared a personal interest in Agenda item 5(8) as a member of Stratford-upon-Avon Town Partnership.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 23rd April 2008 and Matters Arising

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 23rd April 2008 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

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

was considered.

In presenting his report, Ian Francis referred to a recent meeting between representatives of the Authority and the Force and Stratford-on-Avon District Council to discuss the Authority budget for 2008/09. The meeting had been very supportive and positive towards the issues facing the Authority and the Force.

The Chair suggested that the opportunity of such a meeting with the other Borough and District Councils should be pursued.

Keith Bristow reported that under customer satisfaction, the level of satisfaction with the public's involvement with the Force had increased from 53% to 70%, the whole experience level had increased from 72% to 87% while satisfaction and trust in the Force had increased from 77% to 96%. Congratulations should be extended to Bill Holland and Neil Brunton for their work in this area.

(2) Report of the District 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.

The Chair pointed out that he received many letters from local councillors (who were not members of the Authority) on policing issues. He intended to write to all such councillors to make them aware of the role of the Police Authority, the need to discuss such issues in private and to help direct them to the right points of contact. Richard Hobbs suggested that every opportunity should also be used to promote the names of the local Borough and District Commanders via the Parish Councils and, wherever possible, on parish notice boards. It was also suggested that similar details are made available in the Members Rooms at the County Council, Borough and District Councils.

(3) Report of the Voluntary Services Lead

was considered.

After Eithne Goode had introduced the report, discussion centred on the various initiatives which were in place to encourage more volunteers to join the the Special Constabulary.

Richard Hobbs raised the issue of the use of Special PSCOs by the Force. Keith Bristow confirmed that a report on this issue could be considered by a future meeting of the Authority.

(4) Report of the Community Engagement and Consultation Panel

was considered.

Richard Hobbs acknowledged that the need for the Authority to improve its consultation arrangements was important and this issue would continue to be addressed by the Panel.

(5) Report of the Safeguarding Children Lead

were noted.

Katherine King introduced the report and referred to the Force proposal to set up a Steering Group to address the outstanding issues from 'Every Child Matters' which was very welcome.

Steve Nicklin suggested that the Authority may find it helpful to engage with the Warwickshire Youth Parliament as part of their consultation process. Katherine King agreed to pursue this suggestion.

(6) Children and Young People

The report by Assistant Chief Constable Bill Holland was noted.

(7) Endorsement of the new Local Area Agreement 2008/11

The report by the County Council's Partnerships Manager was considered.

Members and Officers acknowledged the extensive work which had gone into developing the new Agreement but also echoed the view of Keith Bristow that it was important to achieve some 'quick wins' to get the new Agreement underway immediately.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Warwickshire Local Area Agreement 2008/2011 be endorsed and that the Authority expresses its thanks to the Block Leaders, their Support Officers, Partners and all others for their efforts in achieving the production of the new Agreement.

(8) Safer Neighbourhood Policing and Proposals for Locality Working

The report by the County Council's Partnerships Manager was considered.

After Nick Gower-Johnson had introduced the report, Bill Holland commented that paragraph 2.12 was probably the most important part of the report. He added that he was aware of some tensions in the Warwick area and that further work needed to be done.

Eric Wood reminded the meeting that the Chief Constable would remain answerable but not accountable to local communities and that the role of the CDRPs would be increasingly important. He added that it was essential that the 23 Heads of Service who had been appointed to support the Localities should fully understand the role of the Police Authority and their governance responsibilities. It would seem sensible for them to be suitably briefed.

It was then Resolved:-

That approval be given to the following arrangements for Locality Working as agreed by the County Council on 13th May 2008:-

1. The establishment of 23 Localities and 23 Community Forums as follows:

• 4 Localities and 4 Community Forums in North Warwickshire based on map 1. Appendix 1

• 7 Localities in Nuneaton and Bedworth based on map 2 in Appendix 1. Community Forums will be established as required at a later date, with due regard being given to the number of Forums, and the practicalities of how Forums can be facilitated by Officers from partner organisations

• 4 Localities and 6 Community Forums in Rugby based on map 3, Appendix 1

• 3 Localities with Joint Committees in the Stratford on Avon area to be integrated with 6 Community Forums based on map 4, Appendix 1

• 5 Localities with 7 Community Forums in Warwick based on map 5, Appendix 1

2. The endorsement of the model terms of reference for Community Forums based on Appendix 3

3. The replacement of existing arrangements for PACT/Safer Neighbourhood Panels by these proposals

4. The Implementation of these proposals with effect from 1st September 2008

5. The review of these arrangements following twelve months of operation

6. Report of the Audit Panel

was noted.

7. The Policing Plan 2008/09 – 2010/11

The report of the Chief Constable was considered.

Resolved:-

That responsibility for approving the final version of the Policing Plan 2008/09 be delegated to Ian Francis as Stream Lead for Warwickshire Partnerships and Local Policing in consultation with Steve Nicklin and Chris Davis.

8. General Report of the Chief Executive

was considered.

(1) Code of Conduct for Members of the Police Authority

Resolved:-

That the revised Code of Conduct for Members of the Police Authority be adopted.

(2) Scheme of Delegation for Officers

Resolved:-

That approval be given to the Scheme of Delegation for Officers.

(3) Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy

Resolved:-

That approval be given to the Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy.

(4) Independent Member Appointments

This paragraph was noted.

(5) Local Government White Paper

Neil Gulliver briefly reported on the outcomes of the conference held on the 15th May on the White Paper. He pointed out that the key aim of the White Paper was to devolve more power to local communities on the deliver of a number of services including local policing. Although there did not appear to be any great desire for local government to assume responsibility for policing, there was a clear need for police authorities to improve their profile and to engage with local communities.

(6) Draft Queen's Speech

Eric Wood reminded Members that it was proposed to hold a seminar on the Flanagan Report and the Green Paper in June.

The Chair stated that the second bullet point on the first page of Appendix 4 had not been included when the Prime Minister had presented the Government's draft legislative programme.

(7) APA Review

Eric Wood introduced this item and explained that it was necessary for the Authority together with Staffordshire, West Mercia and West Midlands Police Authorities, to approve the recommendations set out on page 7 of Appendix 6 and then to consider the make up of the policy networks at a future meeting.

It was then Resolved:-

That approval be given to the recommendations set out on page seven of Appendix 6.

Ian Francis pointed out that Phil Blundell had not formally been endorsed by the Authority as their representative on the APA. He, seconded by Katherine King, then moved and it was Resolved:-

That Phil Blundell be formally appointed at the Authority's representative on the APA..

(8) Home Office

This paragraph was noted.

9. General Report of the Chief Constable

In presenting his report, Keith Bristow added that Rebecca Mews, Volume Crime Scene Examiner had received a national award from the NPIA in respect of her work.. He added that Bill Holland and Lewis Benjamin would be swapping directorates with effect from the 2nd June 2008.

10. Urgent Business

None.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the full Authority will be on Monday 30th June 2008 at 10.00am.

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 23rd April 2008 and Matters Arising

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 23rd April 2008 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

14. Operational Update

The report by the Chief Constable was considered.

In presenting the report, Keith Bristow drew a number of issues to the attention of the Authority relating to ongoing and completed police operations.

15. Force Performance

The report by the Chief Constable was noted.

Neil Gulliver, Sarah Duxbury and Debbie Mullis left the room prior to consideration of Agenda item 16(1).

**16. Supplementary Report of the Chief Executive
(1) Police Authority Staffing**

Eric Wood and Phil Robson drew a number of issues to the attention relating to the staffing arrangements for the Authority.

All County Council members of the Authority left the room prior to consideration of Agenda item 16(2).

(2) Operation Westbere

Phil Robson and Lewis Benjamin gave the Authority a detailed update on the progress of Operation Westbere.

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Chair of the Authority

The meeting closed at 12.45pm