

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on the **30th June 2008**.

Present:-

Phil 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, 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, Richard Elkin, Derek Kitchen and Carl Baldacchino.

Police Authority: -

Eric Wood, Dave Clarke, Tony Brown, Neil Gulliver, Sarah Duxbury and Debbie Mullis.

In Attendance:-

Simon Payne (Police Federation) and Lee Bowers (UNISON)

1. Chair's Announcements
(1) Chief Executive

The Chair announced that, following a lengthy process, the Authority had appointed Susan Howl, currently with Government Office East, as the new Chief Executive. Negotiations were currently ongoing regarding her start date but he was hopeful she may be able to start before Eric Wood begins his retirement to allow a smooth handover.

(2) Force Performance

Keith Bristow reported that, despite June being a particularly challenging month, the Force had exceeded all its crime reduction targets in the first quarter of 2008/09. The main reductions were as follows:-

Most serious and violent crime	down 15%
Road casualties	down 20%
Serious acquisitive crime	down 13%
Criminal damage	down 11%

The Force was also meeting all its detection targets with one exception. In addition, the level of satisfaction following contact with the Force was currently 89%.

Following questions by Richard Hobbs on the success in performance for Warwickshire compared with other counties, a detailed discussion ensued during which Keith Bristow pointed out that it was very difficult to compare performance across counties as the data used did not take into account the resources available.

Phillip Morris-Jones commented on a conference he recently attended around business crime which was perceived to be increasing at an ever growing rate. The Chair stated that feedback from that conference would be extremely helpful and asked him to bring a short report to the Authority's next meeting.

Ian Francis asked whether the user satisfaction data included contact with young people. Keith Bristow responded that it did not include contact with young people.

Eric Wood stressed the need for the Authority to acquire a much greater understanding of the public perception within local communities about policing in Warwickshire. There was a clear need to develop some methodology to measure this.

(3) Queens Police Medal

The Chair, on behalf of the Authority, congratulated Keith Bristow on the award of the Queens Police Medal in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours.

2. General

(1) Apologies

An apology was received from ACC Lewis Benjamin.

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21st May 2008 and Matters Arising

(i) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 21st May 2008 be approved.

(ii) Matters Arising

(a) Minute 8(6) – General Report of the Chief Executive – Draft Queen's Speech

Eric Wood reminded the Members that it was still proposed to arrange a seminar to consider the Flanagan Report and the Green Paper which was still to be published. In the meantime, he drew their attention to the copy of the Home Secretary's speech at the recent ACPO/APA Summer Conference which had been circulated at the meeting.

3. Capital Outturn Report 2007/08

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

It was noted that the word 'million' should be deleted from the first bullet point of item 2 in Appendix 3.

After discussion, it was Resolved:-

That approval be given to the capital expenditure and financing for 2007/2008 and the determinations and prudential indicators set out in Appendices 2 and 3 of the joint report.

4. Revenue Outturn Report 2007/08

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

Simon Pameley presented the report and highlighted the significant organisational changes brought about through the 150 Forward programme. The outturn for the year was a net spend of £84.728m compared to the budget of £84.856m which represented an underspend of £128,000. Then then took the Members through the significant issues in the report including the £2.855m cost of Operation Westbere. He paid particular reference to paragraph 4.5.6 and explained the background to the £535,000 interest not being charged to revenue in 2006/07 which required rectification in 2007/08. He added that an investigation was underway to establish why this had happened and the measures to be put in place to ensure that this did not happen again.

Dave Clarke stated that the Authority's financial position was healthy and would hopefully improve further. He pointed out that a small amendment needed to be made to the Notes in the Statement of Accounts and asked for authority to do this once they had been approved by the Authority. He also informed the Authority that CIPFA had now agreed to undertake a detailed review of accounting requirements which, it is hoped, may lead to the production of more user-friendly accounts in the future.

Steve Nicklin reminded the Authority that the budget for 2007/2008 had been set before the major changes to the Force had been introduced through the 150 Forward programme. He acknowledged the error which had been highlighted by Simon Pameley and confirmed that he would ensure that the Resources Panel were kept up-to-date with the progress of the investigation. He added that, although he was aware that a review of overtime had been completed and new processes were being put in place, he was still very concerned about the cost of overtime and would ensure that this was closely monitored by the Resources Panel.

Several Members also expressed their concern about overtime and the Chair confirmed that he had received an assurance from Keith Bristow that there would be an open discussion about the use of overtime at a future meeting of the Authority.

Eric Wood pointed out that a minus sign should be inserted before the figure 0.128 at the bottom of page 5 of the Statement of Accounts.

It was then Resolved:-

(1) *That the Revenue Outturn for 2007/2008 be agreed.*

- (2) ***That the Treasurer to the Authority is given delegated authority in consultation with the Stream Lead for Resources to make any adjustments to the 2007/2008 accounts in respect of grant aid for Operation Westbere as appropriate.***
- (3) ***That the proposals set out in Section 5 of the Joint Report be approved.***
- (4) ***That the virements set out in Appendix 3 of the Joint Report be noted.***
- (5) ***That the Treasurer to the Authority be authorised to make an amendment to the notes contained in the Statement of Accounts 2007/2008.***
- (6) ***That approval be given to the Statement of Accounts 2007/2008 and that the Chair be authorised to sign the Statement of Accounts on behalf of the Authority.***

5. Annual Governance Statement

The report of the Chief Executive was considered.

John Vereker introduced the report pointing out that the Annual Governance Statement had been considered in detail by the Audit Committee. He also paid tribute to the significant amount of work which had been undertaken by an Officer Group in preparing the Statement. In particular he drew Members' attention to the issues highlighted in section 5 of the Statement which it proposed to address over the coming year.

In response to a question from Chris Davis, Dorrette McAuslan confirmed that detailed work was underway to produce a detailed training and development programme for Members.

Dave Clarke commented that the Audit Commission saw the level of member involvement in the Annual Governance Statement process as exemplary.

It was then Resolved:-

That approval be given to the Annual Governance Statement for signature by the Chair of the Authority and the Chief Executive.

6. Report of the Appointments and Remuneration Committee

It was agreed to deal with this item in the exempt part of the agenda.

7. Urgent Business

None.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the full Authority will be on Wednesday 30th July 2008 at 2.15pm.

9. Exclusion of Members of the Public

Resolved: -

That the members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the following agenda item 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.

Tony Brown, Neil Gulliver and Debbie Mullis left the room prior to consideration of Agenda item 6.

6. Report of the Appointments and Remuneration Committee

Phil Robson reported upon a meeting of the Committee held at 9.30am on the 30th June 2008.

10. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21st May 2008 and Matters Arising

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 21st May 2008 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

Additional Items

(1) Budget 2008/09

The Authority received an update on the capping appeal and the possible actions which the Authority would wish to consider taking with regard to this year's and future years' budgets.

(2) Demand Management

Keith Bristow explained the aims of a review he proposed to undertake in the Force. The outcomes from the review would be reported back to the Authority.

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Chair of the Authority

The meeting closed at 12.10 pm