

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on the **21st January 2009**.

Present:-

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

Independent Members:-

Mike Edwards, Dorrette McAuslan, Steve Nicklin, Angela O'Boyle and Clive Parsons

County Councillors:-

Chris Davis, Anne Forwood, Eithne Goode, Richard Hobbs, Katherine King, Phillip Morris-Jones, Izzi Seccombe and John Vereker

Police: -

Chief Constable Keith Bristow, Assistant Chief Constable Bill Holland, Assistant Chief Constable Lewis Benjamin, Chief Superintendent Richard Sear, Richard Elkin, Paul Mason-Brown, Marie Perry, Mike Ball, Carl Baldacchino and Debbie Sansom.

Police Authority: -

Neil Gulliver, Dave Clarke, Tony Brown, Sian Stroud, Debbie Mullis, John McPhail and Steve Baldwin.

In Attendance:-

Ken Lambert (UNISON)

1. Chair's Announcements

(i) Visitor from Japan

The Chair welcomed Mr Suzuki from the Japanese Police Service. Warwickshire is the lead force for Japan on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers and Mr Suzuki was visiting Warwickshire to help him gain a good understanding of British law enforcement and to improve his English language skills.

(ii) Officers

The Chair also welcomed Debbie Sansom as Acting Staff Officer, Marie Perry, the new Assistant Director of Resources (Finance) and John McPhail, the Authority's new Policy Officer.

(iii) Sue Howl

The Chair reported that Sue Howl was making a good recovery from her recent road collision and it was hoped that she would be back at work in the very near future.

(iv) **Superintendent Mak Chishty**

On behalf of the Authority, the Chair congratulated Superintendent Mak Chishty on his award of the Queens Police Medal. He stated that Mak Chishty was a highly respected Officer who had done a great deal to strengthen local policing particularly in Rugby, but had also done a superb job in promoting the importance of ethnic minorities in the communities and in the police service itself.

(v) **Strategic Planning Workshop – 9th January 2009**

The Chair thanked Superintendent Richard Sear and his team for an excellent day at the Learning and Development Centre. It was extremely informative and he also acknowledged the large number of Police Authority Members and Officers who were able to attend.

2. **General**

(1) **Apologies**

were received from Phil Blundell, Bob Hicks, Sue Howl, DCC Andy Parker, Chief Superintendent Steve Burrows (Superintendents Association) and Lee Bowers (UNISON).

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

None.

(3) **Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17th December 2008 and Matters Arising**
(i) **Minutes**

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 17th December 2008 be approved.

(ii) **Matters Arising**
Minute 4 – Report of the Audit Panel

The Chair confirmed that Clive Parsons had agreed to act as the Authority's "Energy Champion".

3. **Report of the Resources Panel**

was considered.

Resolved:-

(i) ***That the Police Authority be recommended to note the Statutory and Nationally Agreed Charges as set out in Section A of Appendix 1 and Appendices 2 and 3, and to approve the Private and Special Duty Rates set out in Appendix 4 and the Discretionary Charges set out in Section B of Appendix 1.***

- (ii) ***That, under the scrutiny of the Resources Panel, Fees and Charges for future years be increased in line with the national guidelines and / or inflation. Any variation to this policy should be referred to the Police Authority for consideration.***

4. Report of the Members Remuneration Panel

was considered.

Resolved:-

- (1) ***That the Authority endorse the Panel's recommendation to adopt a year-on-year cost of living increase of 2.5% from the 1st April 2006 although any new increases in allowances would be effective from the 1st April 2009 and would not include any back-dating of payments.***
- (2) ***That, subject to 1) above, the Members basic allowance be increased to £6,624 with effect from the 1st April 2009 and be subject to further annual increases in line with Police Staff Council cost of living increases.***
- (3) ***That, subject to 1) above, the special responsibility allowances be increased as proposed in Appendix 1 to this report and be subject to further annual increases in line with Police Staff Council cost of living increases.***
- (4) ***That Members' motor mileage allowance remain at 40p per mile regardless of engine capacity up to 10,000 miles reducing to 25p per mile thereafter. In addition, the allowance for passengers be increased to an additional 10p per mile in respect of each passenger up to a maximum of 4.***
- (5) ***That the bicycle allowance be increased to 15p per mile.***
- (6) ***That the day subsistence allowance remain at its current level until it is in line with that paid by the County Council and then to be increased in line with the County Council allowance. All claims to be supported by the production of receipts.***
- (7) ***That the section entitled "meals on trains" be deleted from the Scheme of Allowances.***
- (8) ***That the rate of night subsistence outside of Greater London allowance remain at £90 with the allowance for staying overnight in Greater London being increased to £150. Any variation to these limits would be at the discretion of the Chief Executive.***
- (9) ***That, subject to (1) above, the daily rate for independent persons serving on the Standards Committee or on Police internal tribunals be increased to £166.***
- (10) ***That the daily rate for persons appointed to a Selection Panel to remain in line with Home Office guidelines.***

- (11) *That the hourly rate allowance in respect of the care of children under 14 years of age be set at a maximum of £5.50 and £18 in respect of an elderly, sick or disabled dependent requiring constant care.*
- (12) *That Members of the Authority be offered appropriate IT support to enable them to carry out their role, including the cost of Broadband, IT hardware and consumables.*
- (13) *That the Authority publish the rate of allowances paid to individual Members of the Authority at the end of each financial year.*
- (14) *Should the agreed budget need to be exceeded following a variation or re-allocation of the existing Members' special responsibilities then a further Remuneration Panel should be convened to consider the matter.*
- (15) *That a further detailed review of the Authority's Member Allowance Scheme be undertaken in 2012.*

4A Role of Phil Blundell as Vice Chair of the Police Authority.

The report by the Chair was noted.

5. Warwickshire Partnerships and Local Policing – Report of the Governance Stream Lead

was considered.

After the Chair had introduced the report and commented briefly on specific issues, particularly with regard to PREVENT, it was agreed that a seminar on PREVENT should be organised for all Authority Members plus County Council representatives and the Chairs of the CDRPs. Neil Gulliver was asked to liaise with Lewis Benjamin on the arrangements.

Appendix 1

The report by Chief Superintendent Neil Brunton was noted.

Appendix 2

A revised copy of Appendix 2 was circulated at the meeting.

The District Lead Members briefly commented on the main issues affecting their areas.

The report was then noted.

Appendix 3

Phillip Morris-Jones introduced the report and highlighted the key issues affecting the Custody Visitors and the Special Constabulary.

In response to a question by Dorrette McAuslan, Phillip Morris-Jones replied that diversity was an important part of the training for Custody Visitors. Paul Mason-Brown

added that the Force Learning and Development Centre provided diversity training to officers, staff and volunteers and suggested that the Custody Visitors might find that helpful.

Appendix 4

In presenting her report, Angela O'Boyle commented in particular on the work of the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board which works closely with the Force. She then highlighted the following additional points:-

- It was proposed that future reports would concentrate on those areas of work which still needed to be considered or completed rather than those where the tasks had already been completed. The Authority supported that proposal.
- That the Professional Standards Committee should be asked to look at how the Force deals with complaints against police officers by children. Mike Edwards confirmed that that would be done.
- The Safer School Partnership had made a successful start but now needed to build on that.
- Consideration could be given to establishing a number of young people fora across the county in the same way that the current community fora operate.

6. Resources – Report of the Governance Stream Lead

was considered.

Steve Nicklin introduced the report and drew Members' attention to the key issues. He stressed that the 2009/10 budget would be much tighter than in the past and more realistic. Dave Clarke added that the Authority was in a completely uncharted financial situation due to the national economic climate which made the budget cutting process very difficult. It was quite likely that, in such a volatile market, wrong decisions may be taken but it was important that the Authority remained in a position to manage that situation.

7. General Report of the Chief Constable

was considered.

Keith Bristow reported that Detective Chief Inspector Adrian Pearson had been selected as a Superintendent with Nottinghamshire Police. He added that he was very proud of the way the Force as a whole had responded to the discovery of a body on the embankment of the M45 motorway.

In response to a question from Angela O'Boyle, Keith Bristow commented on the protective equipment carried by PCSOs and the training they receive on how to deal with confrontational issues.

A lengthy discussion then ensued on the use of protective equipment during which Keith Bristow stressed that all officers received rigorous and extensive training in the use of all types of firearms and he felt that the ability to use protective equipment was a proportionate response to protecting communities from harm. Bill Holland added that

he would be happy to provide a briefing for Members on the use of protective equipment by the Force.

8. General Report of the Chief Executive

was considered.

With reference to paragraph 2, the Chair and Keith Bristow both commented on the progress which was being made in the region regarding collaboration or franchising and it was agreed that arrangements should be made to update Members in the near future. Neil Gulliver was asked to liaise with Keith Bristow.

It was then Resolved:-

That approval be given to the Authority's Health and Safety Policy as set out in Appendix 1 to the Chief Executives report.

9. Urgent Business

None

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the full Authority will be on Monday 23rd February 2009 at 10am.

11. 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.

12. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17th December 2008 and Matters Arising

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 17th December 2008 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

13. Force Performance

The Authority received a report by the Chief Constable which provide the latest information about the performance of the Force and related matters.

14. Operational Update

The report by the Chief Constable was noted.

All County Council Members of the Authority left the room prior to consideration of Agenda Item 15.

15 Operation Westbere

The report by the Chief Constable on the latest development with regard to Operation Westbere was considered and noted.

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Chair of the Authority

The meeting closed at 12.20pm