

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on the **22nd April 2009**

Present:-

Ian Francis (Independent Member) (**Chair**)
Phil Robson (Independent Member) (**Vice Chair**)
Phil Blundell (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, Bob Hicks, Richard Hobbs, Katherine King, Phillip Morris-Jones, Izzi Seccombe and John Vereker

Police: -

Deputy Chief Constable Andy Parker, Assistant Chief Constable Lewis Benjamin, Assistant Chief Constable Bill Holland, Chief Superintendent Neil Brunton, Chief Superintendent Richard Sear, Superintendent Chris Ward, Paul Mason-Brown, Inspector Alf Berridge, Dawn Cross and Kate Quilley.

Police Authority: -

Sue Howl, Neil Gulliver, Oliver Winters, Sian Stroud, Tony Brown, Debbie Mullis, John McPhail and Steve Baldwin.

In Attendance:-

Lee Bowers (UNISON)

1. Chair's Announcements

The Chair stated that he was aware that Bob Hicks wished to present a petition which he would take under Agenda item 8.

2. General

(1) Apologies

were received from Chief Constable Keith Bristow, Richard Elkin and Debbie Sansom.

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 23rd February 2009 and Matters Arising
(i) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 23rd February 2009 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

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

was considered.

Phil Robson introduced the report and referred, in particular, to the issues considered by the Business Improvement Board. The Sustainability Strategy would be closely monitored by the Board who, in turn, would submit reports to the Authority on the delivery of the efficiency targets. He added that the future role of the Budget Strategy Group was still being considered following its successful introduction last year.

John Vereker questioned the lack of elected member involvement in the process and asked that consideration be given to that issue when reviewing the role and composition of the Group in the future. The Chair confirmed that it was proposed to carry out that review and he would take on board his comments.

(2) Report on Protecting Vulnerable People

was considered.

After introductory comments by Angela O'Boyle, Izzi Seccombe welcomed her contribution to protecting vulnerable people and the importance of promoting the work of the Warwickshire Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board, particularly at a time when the number of elderly and vulnerable adults in the County continues to increase.

(3) Report by the Chair of the Professional Standards Committee

was noted.

(4) Report of the Lead for Member Development

was considered.

Dorrette McAuslan introduced the report and commented that nationally there was concern about the lack of training for police authority members. However, Warwickshire appeared to be ahead of many other authorities and she hoped that Members would make the most of the training which is proposed.

(5) Report by Chris Davis – Policing Plan

was noted.

4. Report of the Audit Committee

was considered.

John Vereker commented that the Audit Commission had identified four specific risks as part of the Audit Plan, three of which were routine while the fourth looked at the way the Authority managed the budget and the need for full elected member involvement in that process.

5. Partnership Strategy

The report by the Chief Executive was considered.

Sue Howl introduced the report and drew the key issues to Members' attention. She pointed out that it was becoming apparent that, as part of the inspection of Police Authorities, the Audit Commission and HMIC would be looking to see whether such strategies were in place.

Richard Hobbs pointed out the importance of ensuring that, where Members of the Authority were asked to act as representatives at meetings of other bodies, they were fully appraised of their role and of the role of the body whose meeting they were attending. It was agreed that this should be built into the Members Development Programme.

It was then Resolved:-

That approval be given to the Partnership Strategy and associated processes.

6. Policing Pledge

The Authority received a presentation by Chris Ward on the background to the Policing Pledge, where the Force were at the present time and what additional work was still required. He stressed that the Force was compliant with all ten pledges but it was now important to get an effective communications strategy in place. The Force were due to be inspected by HMIC in late May 2009.

The Chair asked that the Authority received a further update on the Pledge at their July 2009 meeting.

7. Report of the Chief Constable

was considered.

In introducing the report, Andy Parker reported that Detective Chief Inspector Jim Essex was now in charge of Protecting Vulnerable People. He was also pleased to report that Detective Chief Inspector Ally Wright had won the "Family Liaison Officer of the Year" Award at the recent "Identifying Victims Needs, Promoting Positive Practice" Conference in London.

In response to paragraph 9, Phil Blundell spoke about the effect that the media reporting on the incidents which occurred during the G20 demonstrations had had on morale in the police. He stated that the media coverage did not reflect the very difficult circumstances which the police officers had to deal with at a time when they were vastly outnumbered by protesters. Whilst he did not condone any wrong doing by any police officer, he felt it was appropriate for this Authority to show its support for police officers, particularly the contribution of the nine motorcyclists and two firearms officers from Warwickshire.

He asked that the Chair of the Authority write to the Chief Constable to recognise the admirable work of officers under very difficult circumstances. He also asked that a copy of the letter should be sent to the Association of Police Authorities in the hope that other Authorities would follow Warwickshire's lead.

8. Urgent Business

Petition by Bedworth and Bulkington Residents and Community Members.

Bob Hicks presented a petition signed by 2,877 residents and community members from Bedworth and Bulkington on the following issue:-

"We the below signed, as Bedworth and Bulkington residents and community members, strongly object to the changes to the current policing at Bedworth Police Station. We have a purpose built building which has no reactive/emergency police in it. We wish our view to be heard by Warwickshire County Council/Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, the Police and Warwickshire Police Authority."

The Chair formally accepted the petition on behalf of the Authority and confirmed that the Authority would discuss the issues with the Chief Constable. He added that the petition would also be brought to the attention of the other agencies referred to.

Lewis Benjamin confirmed that discussions had already taken place with local residents and these would continue.

9. Date of Next Meeting

A meeting of the Authority is provisionally scheduled for Wednesday 27th May 2009 at 10.00am, primarily to deal with the approval of the Authority's Statement of Accounts.

The next scheduled meeting of the full Authority will be on Monday 29th June 2009 at 10.00am. This will be the Annual General Meeting of the Authority.

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 23rd February 2009 and Matters Arising

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 23rd February 2009 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

12. Force Performance

The report by the Chief Constable on Force Performance during 2008/09 was considered together with the latest dashboard on performance up to 22 April 2009 which was circulated at the meeting.

13. Operational Update

The Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable together with an update on a number of incidents which had recently occurred.

14. Conflict Management Model

The Authority received a presentation by Inspector Alf Berridge on the Force Conflict Management Model and, in particular, on the use of TASER.

[Clerks note : Further presentation/seminar to be included in the Authority’s Members Training Programme].

(The time being 5pm, it was agreed to adjourn the meeting to allow the presentation on the Warwickshire Justice Centre to proceed. The Authority reconvened at 5.55pm)

15. Operation Rome

It was agreed to defer this presentation to a new date. Neil Gulliver was asked to arrange a new date for the presentation to take place before the launch of Operation Rome on the 12th May 2009.

16. Priority Policing Areas and High Harm Causers

It was agreed to defer this presentation to the Authority’s June 2009 meeting.

17. Bulldog Bash 2009

Bill Holland gave a brief update on the work ongoing within the Force in relation to the Bulldog Bash which was due to take place between the 6th and 9th August 2009.

18. Operation Westbere

The Chair asked that the report by the Chief Constable, circulated to all Independent Members, should be noted without discussion. This was agreed.

.....

Chair of the Authority

The meeting closed at 6.10pm