

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on the **16th September 2009**

Present:-

Phil Robson (Independent Member) (**Vice Chair**) (In the Chair)

Independent Members:-

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

County Councillors:-

Martin Barry, Carol Fox, Eithne Goode, Bob Hicks, Richard Hobbs, Frank McCarney and Izzi Seccombe

Police: -

Deputy Chief Constable Andy Parker, Assistant Chief Constable Lewis Benjamin, Assistant Chief Constable Bill Holland, Richard Elkin, Ch Supt Richard Sear, Paul Mason-Brown, Mick Hayward, Junaid Gharda, Carl Baldacchino and Debbie Sansom

Police Authority: -

Sue Howl, Neil Gulliver, Dave Clarke, Debbie Mullis, John McPhail, Tony Brown and Sian Stroud

In attendance:-

Simon Payne (Police Federation) and Richard Verso (Chair of Warwickshire Probation Committee)

1. Chair's Announcements

The Chair welcomed Bob Malloy and Frank McCarney to their first meeting of the Authority.

2. General

(1) Apologies

were received from Ian Francis, Phillip Morris-Jones, John Vereker and Keith Bristow.

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 29th July 2009 and Matters Arising

(i) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 29th July 2009 be approved.

(i) Matters Arising

Minute 4 – Warwickshire Partnerships and Local Policing – Report of the Governance Stream

The Chair informed Members that it was proposed to circulate a list of suggested allocation of Members to the Community Forums across the county. At the request of Richard Hobbs it was agreed to look at the need for training prior to the Members' attendance at these meetings.

3. Protective Services, Standards and Planning – Report of the Governance Stream Lead

was considered.

After introductory comments by the Chair, he invited the Lead Members in the Governance Stream to present the following reports:-

Appendix 1 – Vulnerable People

The report by Angela O'Boyle was considered.

Angela O'Boyle stated that, together with Phil Robson and Izzi Seccombe, she had been interviewed by the Assessor for the Sex Offenders Disclosure Project which she felt had been very successful. The project had ended on 14 September but the Force had confirmed that they proposed to continue with this work.

Appendix 2 – Member Training Programme

was considered.

Dorrette McAuslan briefly introduced the programme and stressed the need for all Authority Members to attend as many of the sessions as possible

Mike Edwards pointed out that the training session on 4 November clashed with the dip sampling by the Professional Standards Committee. Neil Gulliver agreed to look at this and liaise with the relevant Members.

Appendix 3 – Report of the Chair of the Professional Standards Committee

was considered.

Mike Edwards presented his report and drew Members' attention to the key issues such as the local resolution of complaints and the value of the lessons learnt process. With regard to complaints by children, the Force received very few, but arrangements were in place to refer any such cases to the Professional Standards Committee.

During debate the following issues were considered/noted:-

- Steve Nicklin commented that there had been a strong emphasis on local resolution of complaints for some time and questioned whether there was anything the Authority could do to increase the number of cases dealt with. Mick Hayward replied that much greater emphasis was being placed on moving responsibility for dealing with complaints away from the centre to be

dealt with locally. Work was ongoing with District Commanders and other supervisors to achieve this.

- In response to a question by Eithne Goode, Mick Hayward confirmed that all detainees taken to hospital were searched before leaving the cell block and also on their return.
- Dorrette McAuslan questioned whether police officers had sufficient medical training to be able to assess whether a detainee was in a “safe and well” condition. Mick Hayward stated that Police Officers and staff were not medically qualified and if in doubt should seek the advice of a trained medical practitioner.

The Chair thanked Mike Edwards for the report. He also thanked Mick Hayward and his team for their excellent work in dealing with complaints in a very professional manner.

Appendix 4 – Protective Services Minimum Standards

The report by Angela O’Boyle was considered.

Angela O’Boyle introduced the report and briefly highlighted the aims of introducing minimum standards for protective services. Phil Robson and herself were members of the Force’s Minimum Standards Strategic Board and this allowed them to undertake their governance role around the collaboration and franchising arrangements which the Force were currently engaged in. She also commented on the importance of Warwickshire being part of those arrangements.

In response to a question by Richard Hobbs, the Chair explained the benefits both for Warwickshire and regionally of using franchising arrangements rather than establishing a permanent unit to deal with regional crime issues. The franchising arrangement meant that resources could be deployed on a more efficient and economical basis to meet specific demands which was in contrast to the cost and time required to establish the “permanent unit” approach. He added that there still remained a need to keep a tight control on the cost of this style of operating.

Appendix 5 – Regional Strategic Policing Policy Group Meeting

was noted.

4. Governance Plan

The Chair presented a revised copy of the Governance Plan circulated at the meeting and briefly explained the aims of the Plan.

At the invitation of the Chair, several Members commented on the Plan as follows:-

- Steve Nicklin suggested that a short explanation should be included in page 4 as to the meaning of “embedded governance”.
- Richard Hobbs asked that stronger emphasis was given to the need to improve public confidence.
- It was generally recognised that the Plan needed to be read in conjunction with the Authority’s Governance Framework.
- Dorrette McAuslan stressed that all Members had a responsibility to deliver the objectives not just the “owners”.

The Chair agreed to pick up these issues.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Authority adopt the Governance Plan, as amended above, with effect from 1 October 2009.

5. Report of the Audit Committee

was considered.

Bob Hicks presented the report and commented, in particular, on the announcement by the Audit Commission that the Authority had received a PURE score of 3 for 2008/09. This was a considerable achievement given the fact that the Commission had introduced a more challenging framework.

The Authority welcomed this excellent news and asked that their congratulations should be forwarded to Richard Elkin and his staff for their tremendous work.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Audit Committee's view that the policy and framework documents which support the risk management process remain unchanged be endorsed.

6. Report of the Chief Constable

was considered.

In presenting this report, Andy Parker reported that:-

- 1) Chief Supt. Mak Chishty and Chief Supt. Neil Brunton were both attending PNAC and, if successful, would go forward to the Strategic Command Course.
- 2) Keith Bristow had been appointed to the high level officials group chaired by Sir Michael Bichard to represent both the views of the Police Service on the policing aspects of the Total Place programme and the interests of the Chief Constables of the 13 pilot sites.

The Total Place programme brings together elements of central government and local agencies to collaborate within communities identifying issues of particular local importance (e.g. vulnerable families, drugs) and then working to transform the services provided by and contribution of each agency to improve the overall experience of local residents whilst also delivering improved efficiency and better value. The pilot programme is scheduled to report in March 2010.

- 3) Within Warwickshire and following the submission of a paper entitled '*Coordinating Partnership work in Priority Neighbourhoods, High Harm Causers and Targeted Family Centred Intervention*', to the Public Service Board (PSB) in April, Ch Supt Brunton and Supt Johnson have worked to develop a local strategic model that will provide a framework for a multi agency central referrals team, with shared analysis.

- 4) At a district and borough level, three family intervention initiatives are being progressed at Warwick, Nuneaton and Rugby respectively. These are concerned with providing interventions to those families most at risk. Each initiative, although tailored specifically to their own community needs, reflects the wider county agenda.
- 5) Anne-Marie Field, Head of Criminality at the Home Office, recently visited the Force and had been very impressed with their work. He added that this showed the benefit of having a Chief Constable with a high national profile.

7. Report of the Chief Executive

was considered.

In presenting the report, Sue Howl drew Members' attention to the following points:-

- The APA AGM was being held that same day and would be appointing a new Chair and Deputy Chairs.
- Mark Castle had been appointed as the new Executive Director of the APA.
- Kate Flannery would be leaving her current post with HMIC in October and would be replaced by Drew Sharpley.
- The Audit Commission and the HMIC had published performance characteristics to be used in police authority inspections. A copy would be made available to all Members.

(1) Members of the Authority

Resolved:-

That Robert Malloy be appointed as an Independent Member of the Police Authority with immediate effect until the 31st March 2013.

(2) Scheme for the Payment of Members' Allowances

Resolved:-

That approval be given to the proposed amendment to the Scheme for the Payment of Members' Allowances as set out in paragraph 2 of the Chief Executive's report.

(3) Appointment of Auditor

(4) Employment Targets and Police Authorities

These paragraphs were noted.

8. Urgent Business

None.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the full Authority would be on Wednesday 14th October 2009 at 2.15pm.

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 29th July 2009 and Matters Arising

Resolved :-

That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 29th July 2009 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

12. Public Confidence

The Authority considered a report by the Deputy Chief Constable and also received a presentation by Ch Supt Richard Sear on the current position.

13. Force Performance

The Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable and also received a presentation by Junaid Gharda on Target Setting.

14. Operational Update

The Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable.

At this juncture, the County Council Members and Officers left the meeting.

15. Operation Westbere

The Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable on the latest developments regarding Operation Westbere.

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**Ian Francis
Chair of the Authority**

The meeting closed at 1.10pm