

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on the **29th June 2009**

**Present:-**

Ian Francis (Independent Member) (**Chair**)  
Phil Robson (Independent Member) (**Vice Chair**)  
John Vereker (County Councillor) (**Vice Chair**)

**Independent Members:-**

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

**County Councillors:-**

Martin Barry, Jim Foster, Carol Fox, Richard Hobbs, Phillip Morris-Jones and Izzi Seccombe

**Police: -**

Chief Constable Keith Bristow, Deputy Chief Constable Andy Parker, Assistant Chief Constable Lewis Benjamin, Assistant Chief Constable Bill Holland, Richard Elkin, Paul Mason-Brown, Marie Perry, Carl Baldacchino and Debra Carew.

**Police Authority: -**

Sue Howl, Neil Gulliver, Dave Clarke, Oliver Winters, Debbie Mullis, Tony Brown, Phil Trigg and John Galbraith.

**In attendance:-**

Simon Payne (Police Federation)

The Chair welcomed Martin Barry, Jim Foster and Carol Fox to their first meeting of the Authority.

**1. Procedural Standing Orders**

The report by the Chief Executive was considered together with the amendment to Standing Order 19, which was circulated at the meeting.

Resolved:-

***That approval be given to the revised Procedural Standing Orders.***

**2. Election of Chair**

Richard Hobbs seconded by Clive Parsons moved and it was Resolved:-

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

**3. Election of Vice Chairs**

Mike Edwards seconded by Izzi Seccombe moved and it was Resolved:-

***That Phil Robson be elected Vice Chair of Warwickshire Police Authority in accordance with Standing Order 3.5.***

Phil Robson seconded by Richard Hobbs moved and it was Resolved:-

***That John Vereker be elected Vice Chair of Warwickshire Police Authority in accordance with Standing Order 3.5.***

#### **4. Chair's Announcements**

The Chair read out a letter from Phil Blundell resigning from the Authority with effect from the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

At Richard Hobbs suggestion, it was agreed that the Authority should place on record their appreciation of the work undertaken by Phil Blundell, Anne Forwood, Chris Davis and Katherine King and to wish them well for the future.

#### **5. General**

##### **(1) Apologies**

were received from Eithne Goode, Bob Hicks, Debbie Sansom and Lee Bowers (UNISON).

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

None.

##### **(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009 and Matters Arising (i) Minutes**

Resolved:-

***That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009 be approved.***

There were no matters arising.

#### **6. Finance**

##### **(1) Financial Outturn Report 2008/09**

was considered

Resolved:-

***That approval be given to :-***

- (i) the revenue carry forward budgets as set out in paragraph 4 of the report.***
- (ii) the capital underspend being carried forward to 2009/10 as set out in paragraph 5 and appendix C of the report.***
- (iii) the capital determinatins and prudential indicators as set out in paragraph 6 and related appendices of the report.***
- (iv) the recommended method of calculating Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for 2008/09 and 2009/10 as detailed in paragraph 10 of the report.***

## **(2) Statement of Accounts 2008/09**

were considered.

Oliver Winters presented the Statement of Accounts for 2008/09 and highlighted a number of key issues. He stressed that the accounts had been rigorously scrutinized by the Audit Committee and the Resources Panel prior to submission to the Authority.

During consideration of the Statement of Accounts, the following comments were noted:-

- Steve Nicklin pointed out the importance of the Force delivering on the Sustainability Strategy during 2009/10 and beyond.
- John Vereker confirmed that the Audit Committee had scrutinized the process of producing the Accounts which had been carried out very competently by officers and he was happy to commend them to the Authority.
- In response to a question by Richard Hobbs, Dave Clarke stated that he had written to CIPFA last year about the unintelligibility and therefore usefulness of the Statement of Accounts but had not met with much positive response. He proposed to run a campaign this year with the support of colleagues from other authorities with the aim of making the Accounts more understandable and meaningful. He believed that, at present, they did not portray an accurate picture of the Authority's finance as, due to the accounting approach for police pensions, it gave the wrong message to anyone who wished to examine them. The Authority gave their support to Dave Clarke's proposals.
- Marie Perry confirmed that, in preparing the Statement of Accounts, all the recommendations by the Audit Committee last year had been addressed.

It was then Resolved:-

***That, subject to minor amendments, approval be given to the Statement of Accounts 2008/09 and that the Chair be authorised to sign them on behalf of the Authority.***

## **7. The Annual Governance Statement**

The report by the Chief Executive was considered.

Resolved:-

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

## **8 Resources**

### **(1) Report of the Governance Stream Lead**

was considered.

Steve Nicklin introduced his report and highlighted a number of key issues. John Vereker commented that he welcomed the involvement of elected members in the new Resources Assurance Group.

## **(2) Report by the HR Lead – Progress of HR Reorganisation**

was considered.

In introducing the report, Steve Nicklin praised the work of Patricia Pennington, Assistant Director of Resources (HR), for the work she had undertaken to produce a very effective HR facility for the Force and also achieving significant savings.

## **(3) Report by the Lead for Diversity and Staff Development / Chair of Diversity and Equality Panel**

was considered.

Dorrette McAuslan introduced the report and informed the Authority that the review of the first ten years following the publication of the McPherson report was well underway. A report would be presented to the Force Confidence and Equality Board, the Diversity and Equality Panel and the Central Independent Advisory Group before being submitted to the Authority.

In response to a question by Phillip Morris-Jones, Lewis Benjamin explained the police powers relating to the use of Stop and Account by Police Officers. Police staff, including PCSOs did not have these powers.

## **(4) Force Health and Safety Performance 2008/09**

was noted.

## **(5) Update on Estates Strategy**

The Authority received a presentation by Paul Mason-Brown on the current situation relating to the Estates Strategy.

## **9. Governance Framework – Proposed Changes**

The report by Phil Robson was considered.

Resolved:-

That approval be given to:-

- 1) the process for the allocating accountabilities to the Chair and Vice Chair roles.
- 2) the removal of the Core Group and Resources Panel and the creation of a Resources Assurance Group and its proposed accountabilities.

## **10. Report of the Audit Committee**

was noted.

## **11. Report of the Chief Executive**

Was considered.

### **1) Dates of Meetings**

Resolved:-

***That approval be given to the dates of meetings for the period July 2009 to February 2011.***

- 2) Police Authority Inspection**
- 3) Regional Update**
- 4) Policing and Crime Bill**
- 5) Newsletter**

These paragraphs were noted.

## **12. Report of the Chief Constable**

was noted:-

The Chair then stated that he proposed to take Agenda 18 next in the public part of the meeting.

## **18. Policing in Nuneaton and Bedworth**

The report by the Chief Constable was considered.

After Keith Bristow had highlighted the key issues in the report, he confirmed that it was his belief that the current arrangements for policing in Nuneaton and Bedworth were appropriate and effective. It was agreed that the Authority would respond to the petitioners on the basis of the report presented to them.

## **13. Urgent Business**

The Chair agreed to deal with this item in the exempt part of the agenda.

## **14. Date of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the full Authority would be on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at 2.15pm.

## **15. 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.***

## **16. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009 and Matters Arising**

Resolved :-

*That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009 be approved.*

There were no matters arising.

## **17. Collaboration**

The report by the Chief Constable was considered and noted.

## **18. Policing in Nuneaton and Bedworth**

This item was dealt with earlier.

## **19. Force Performance**

The Chief Constable presented his report together with the latest performance dashboard which had been circulated at the meeting. He gave a brief resume of the current performance by the Force against the areas referred to in the dashboard.

## **20. Operational Update**

The report by the Chief Constable was noted. The Authority were also informed about a number of incidents which had occurred since the report had been prepared.

### **Additional Agenda Items**

## **21. Bulldog Bash**

Bill Holland gave an update on the current position regarding the Force's opposition to the event taking place this year.

## **22. Event at Ragley Hall, Alcester**

Richard Hobbs commented on a forthcoming event at Ragley Hall and whether the Force were aware of any traffic management plans being in place. Bill Holland replied that he was unaware of this but would look into it.

## **23. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Day**

The Authority received a report and detailed briefing from Bill Holland at the meeting on the History Day which took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> June. He gave a brief resume of the day and explained that it was intended to improve the level of communication between the Force, Gypsies and Travellers, and settled communities. In this it had been a success, and the thousand people who attended were a mixture from these groups. The initial feedback from those who attended was very positive, and it was particularly pleasing to note the numbers of children who came.

Keith Bristow reminded the Authority that they and the Force had a duty in law to promote community cohesion and it was necessary to engage with communities to discharge that duty.

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**Ian Francis**  
**Chair of the Authority**

The meeting closed at 1.25pm