

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on the **18th December 2009**

Present:-

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

Independent Members:-

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

County Councillors:-

Carol Fox, Eithne Goode, Bob Hicks, Frank McCarney and Phillip Morris-Jones

Police: -

Chief Constable Keith Bristow, Deputy Chief Constable Andy Parker, Assistant Chief Constable Bill Holland, Richard Elkin, Chief Supt. Richard Sear, Supt Christine Rushton-Wadsworth, Ch. Insp. Chris Lewis, Paul Mason-Brown and Debbie Sansom.

Police Authority: -

Sue Howl, Neil Gulliver, Oliver Winters, Tony Brown and Debbie Mullis.

Others:-

Simon Payne (Police Federation)

1. Chair's Announcements

None.

2. General

(1) Apologies

were received from Martin Barry, Richard Hobbs, Steve Nicklin, Izzi Seccombe and ACC Lewis Benjamin.

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Eithne Goode and John Vereker declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 13.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 18th November 2009 and Matters Arising

(i) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 18th November 2009 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

3. Safety On Our Roads

Chris Lewis gave a presentation on the work of Warwickshire Police and its partners to try to improve safety levels on Warwickshire roads.

At the conclusion of the presentation, a lively question and answer session took place during which the following issues were highlighted:-

- The majority of fatalities occurred on the County's A roads, particularly in the south.
- Phillip Morris-Jones suggested that all motor vehicles should display a disc on the windscreen to show that valid insurance was in place.
- 12 "hot routes" had been identified in the county which were reviewed on a monthly basis and the Force had committed to ensuring that high visibility policing was in place on these routes.
- Suggestion that need to look at working with children to help get the message across to parents etc, regarding road safety.
- Concerns around the use of motability units and the lack of training for users. Chris Lewis agreed that this issue needed to be considered at a regional and national level.
- Need to continue to use public opinion to get message across about drivers using mobile phones.
- Carol Fox commented on the value of the young drivers course and asked whether it would become an integral part of the driving test. Chris Lewis agreed to pursue this at a regional/national level.
- Community Speed Watch has been very effective during trials in Kenilworth and Nuneaton.
- The recession has reduced the volume of traffic on roads, an example being a 25% reduction in traffic levels at the Cathorpe Interchange.
- In May 2009, Warwickshire went live on the Graduated Fixed Penalty Scheme which enabled officers to fine foreign drivers for offences which had to be paid on the spot or they were not allowed to continue their journey

4. Protective Services, Standards and Planning – Report by Governance Stream Lead

was considered.

In introducing the report, Phil Robson commented on the very limited use of TASER by the Force, the Protective Services Awards Ceremony on the 16th December and

the development of the Authority's new website. He then invited the Lead Members in the Governance Stream to represent the following reports:-

Appendix 1 – Protecting Vulnerable People

The report by Angela O'Boyle was considered.

In presenting the report, Angela O'Boyle stressed the importance of the Sexual Assault Referral Centres and the Safeguarding Adults Board. Keith Bristow added that a considerable amount of work had been done by the Force to assist in putting the Referral Centre in place which was primarily a health service intervention although they had been a little reticent in progressing their role.

Appendix 2 – Safeguarding Children

The report by Angela O'Boyle was considered.

Angela O'Boyle highlighted the importance and value of good partnerships such as the Safer Schools Initiative.

Appendix 3 – Professional Standards Committee

In introducing the report, Mike Edwards commented on his attendance at the Force Taser course recently. He described the training course as being very professional and it gave him an opportunity to have a greater understanding about the use of this equipment should complaints be received about its use in the future. He did express some concern about the frequency of officers attending refresher courses. Keith Bristow agreed to review this.

Appendix 4 – Notes of the Regional Strategic Policing Policy Group

Were noted.

5. Report of the Audit Committee

was noted.

6. HMIC / Audit Commission Inspection of Warwickshire Police Authority

Was noted.

7. General Report of the Chief Constable

was considered.

In presenting the report, Keith Bristow drew the following additional items to the Authority's attention:-

- Sgt Nick Tompkinson had been selected for the High Potential Development Scheme.
- DCI Wright had been in Japan supporting the Hawker family.

- Supt. Andy Johnson would be going to Sudan in the New Year to assist with training at the request of the NPIA.
- At the recent Chief Superintendent Selection Process no appointments were made.

8. General Report of the Chief Executive

Was considered.

After discussion, it was Resolved:-

- 1) ***That the Lead Member for Publications and Use of Information, the Assistant Chief Executive and the Policy Officer for Protective Services be included in the list of those Members and Officers requiring vetting to S C Level.***
- 2) ***That approval be given to the programme of meetings for the period January 2010 to October 2011.***
- 3) ***That the Police Authority's Combined Equalities Scheme and Action Plan be endorsed.***

9. Urgent Business

Operation Westbere

Phil Robson the Governance Stream Lead for Protective Services made the following statement.

“The governance of the investigation into the fire at Atherstone on Stour was put to a Full Authority meeting before the end of 2007 where it was agreed that effective governance was essential and would be delegated to independent Members. The Fire Authority responsible for Atherstone on Stour is Warwickshire County Council. They also appoint nine of the seventeen members of the Police Authority. The issue resolved by this decision was how to establish a “safe but effective” governance role in the Police Authority as it was clear that this was to be a resource demanding investigation with considerable public interest, which also had a potential for reducing the overall performance of the Force. Since December 2007 County Council Members and employees have withdrawn on each occasion the operation has been discussed at Authority, they consequently have no knowledge of the progress of the investigation. The Governance Stream Lead for Protective Services has attended the Gold Group and there has been a report to the independent Members at the end of each full Authority meeting. As the investigation enters its third year it is timely to reaffirm this procedure in the public section of the Authority meeting.

This governance arrangement enables the Authority to confirm that from its overview, the investigation has proceeded in a way which is commensurate with the complexity and care required to achieve a proportionate and just outcome.”

Sue Howl – Chief Executive

The Chair reminded the Authority that this would be Sue Howl's last meeting before leaving the Authority and he made a small presentation to her on their behalf.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Police Authority will be on Wednesday 22nd January 2010 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 18th November 2009 and Matters Arising

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 18th November 2009 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

13. Kenilworth Police Station Re-Development

The Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable on the possible future use of part of the property.

14. Force Performance

The report by the Chief Constable was considered.

Keith Bristow commented on the Force's overall performance and highlighted particular issues for Members' attention. He also responded to a number of questions from Members on a range of issues.

15. Operational Update

The report by the Chief Constable was considered and the Authority also received a verbal update on a number of additional items.

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

16. Operation Westbere

The exempt minute on the discussion by the Independent Members of the Authority's 18th November 2009 meeting was accepted together with a further report by the Chief Constable.

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Chair of the Authority

Meeting closed at 12.35pm