

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on the **27th May 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, Eithne Goode, Bob Hicks, Richard Hobbs, Phillip Morris-Jones, Izzi Seccombe and John Vereker

Police: -

Chief Constable Keith Bristow, Deputy Chief Constable Andy Parker, Assistant Chief Constable Lewis Benjamin, Assistant Chief Constable Bill Holland, Chief Superintendent Neil Brunton, Richard Elkin, Paul Mason-Brown, Marie Perry and Debbie Sansom.

Police Authority: -

Neil Gulliver, Dave Clarke, Sian Stroud, Tony Brown and John McPhail.

1. Chair's Announcements

None.

2. General

(1) Apologies

were received from Anne Forwood, Katherine King, Chief Superintendent Richard Sear, Kate Quilley and Lee Bowers (UNISON).

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 22nd April 2009 and Matters Arising
(i) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 22nd April 2009 be approved.

(ii) Matters Arising
Minute 8 – Urgent Business – Petition by Bedworth and Bulkington Residents and Community Members

In response to a question by Phillip Morris-Jones, Lewis Benjamin commented that he had met with local residents and the Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch to discuss their concerns. It was proposed to bring a full report back to the Authority's June meeting.

3. Financial Outturn Report 2008/09

The report by the Assistant Director of Resources (Finance) was considered.

After Marie Perry had introduced the report and drawn a number of key issues to Members' attention, a lengthy debate ensued during which the following comments/issues were considered :-

- (1) Phillip Morris-Jones expressed concern about the capital project at Rugby Police Station. Richard Elkin replied that the Authority would receive a detailed update on the Estates Strategy at their June meeting and this issue would be picked up then.
- (2) Richard Elkin recognised Members' concerns about the level of underspend in 2008/09 and explained how that situation had evolved and that a major review of how the budget was developed and subsequently monitored had been carried out to address this issue in the future.
- (3) In response to questions by Richard Hobbs on overtime, Keith Bristow commented that overtime was now being better managed and being used as a flexible resource as required. Any overtime accrued as a result of Operation Westbere was being charged to that operation and was not part of the general overtime budget. Richard Elkin added that there was a specific requirement to look at how the Force monitored/managed overtime as part of the financial monitoring process. With regard to TOIL, the Force had, as part of the buy out exercise authorised by the Authority during 2008/09, agreed a limit on the levels of TOIL that can now be carried by individual officers.
- (4) Angela O'Boyle questioned whether vacancies in Protective Services had deliberately been left unfilled. Keith Bristow replied that this had been the case due to the need to support pressures within the Local Policing Directorate through the early part of the 2008/09 financial year.
- (5) Dorrette McAuslan raised the question of how the Force intends to fund policing of the Bulldog Bash if funds had not been specifically made available in the Budget. Keith Bristow responded by pointing out that it was important that those people who support the Bulldog Bash should understand that policing of this event would mean that funding would have to be found from elsewhere in the budget.
- (6) Several Members expressed concern about the level of underspend in 2008/09 but were reassured that strong management arrangements were now being put in place to ensure more rigorous monitoring takes place. Dave Clarke did remind Members that, because of the potential capping situation in 2008/09, the Authority did not know its actual budget until the end of July 2008. As a result, expenditure had to be curtailed until that situation was resolved. He added that the Force was well managed and had done exceptionally well, taking Operation Westbere out of the equation, to get within 2% of the proposed budget.

It was then Resolved :-

That the report by the Assistant Director of Resources (Finance) be noted and approval given to the required carry forwards for the capital programme as set out in that report.

4. Police Authority Inspection

The report by the Assistant Chief Executive was considered.

Neil Gulliver introduced the report and drew Members' attention to the issue of peer assessors and the use of a scoring system which would most likely lead to public scores being used to create "league tables".

Several Members expressed both their support for the use of peer assessors and concerns on the use of a scoring system, particularly at a time when such proposals had been removed for police forces.

Steve Nicklin in particular expressed his concern about the impact that the inspection process would have on the capacity of the Authority's staff.

The Chair asked that, if any Members wished to contribute to the Authority's response to the consultation process, they should let Neil Gulliver know before the 3rd June.

5. Urgent Business

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

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the full Authority would be on Monday 29th June 2009 at 10am. This would be the Annual General Meeting of the Authority.

The Chair pointed out that the meeting would elect a Chair and two Vice Chairs but the areas of responsibility for the Vice Chairs would be considered at a later meeting.

7. 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.

8. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 22nd April 2009 and Matters Arising

Izzi Seccombe referred to the wording of the first sentence of the final paragraph of Minute 17 which did not reflect her personal views. It was agreed that that sentence should be amended.

It was then Resolved :-

That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 22nd April 2009 as amended by approved.

There were no matters arising.

It was then agreed to deal with Agenda Item 5.

5. Urgent Business

Bulldog Bash 2009

At the invitation of the Chair, Keith Bristow and Bill Holland made the Authority aware of their concerns about this year's event going ahead and gave an update on the current situation and on the actions being proposed by the Force.

9. Priority Policing Areas and High Harm Causes

The Authority received a report and presentation by Chief. Supt. Neil Brunton on the significant and sustained work which has taken place around the implementation of Priority Policing Areas and High Harm Causes.

10. Proposal for Re-Aligning Force Serious Violence Measures to include All Assault with Injury

The report by the Chief Constable was considered and actions agreed.

Resolved :-

That approval be given to the proposal to re-align the measures for violence with a view to immediate implementation.

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Chair of the Authority

The meeting closed at 1.00pm