

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK**, on **23 FEBRUARY 2011**

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, Steve Nicklin, Angela O'Boyle and Clive Parsons

County Councillors:-

Peter Fowler, Eithne Goode, Richard Hobbs and Phillip Morris-Jones

Police:-

Chief Constable Keith Bristow, Richard Elkin, Chief Supt Steve Burrows, Paul Mason-Brown, Marie Perry, Mandy Crust and Di Houlder.

Police Authority:-

Oliver Winters, Neil Gulliver, Dave Clarke, Dave Stenning, Sian Stroud and Sioned Harper.

Others:-

Vaughan Jones (UNISON). John Burbeck (Senior Responsible Officer, Warwickshire Justice Centre) and Richard Lyttle (Programme Director, Warwickshire Justice Centre) attended for Agenda Item 10.

1. Chair's Announcements

None.

2. General

(1) Apologies

were received from Chris Davis, Carol Fox, DCC Andy Parker and ACC Neil Brunton.

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 19 January 2011 and Matters Arising
(i) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 19 January 2011 be approved.

(ii) **Matters Arising**

Minute 5 – Local Policing – Appendix 3 – Progress Report by the Chair of the Community Engagement and Consultation Panel.

Richard Hobbs reported that he had met with Nick Gower-Johnson at the County Council to discuss the idea of the business community being invited to attend the Community Forums and that this issue would be further discussed at the next meeting of the Panel.

Oliver Winters added that he had also met with Nick Gower-Johnson to feed back Members' comments on Community Forums in general arising from the recent round of one-to-one meetings with the Chair.

3. Financial Management Report 2010/11

After a brief discussion on the report it was Resolved:-

That:-

- 1) *The forecast outturn for 2010/11 be noted***
- 2) *The forecast reserve position be noted***
- 3) *The carry forward requests outline at paragraphs 2.2.1, 2.3.4, 2.3.5, 2.4.3 and 2.6.4 of the report be approved***
- 4) *approval be given to the use of specific reserves as set out in paragraph 2.6.5 of the report***
- 5) *approval be given to the Revised Capital Budget for 2010/11 as set out in section 4 of the report and detailed in Appendix D.***

The Chair asked Keith Bristow to pass on the Authority's appreciation of the hard work by officers and staff to achieve savings in the current year whilst still maintaining high levels of performance.

4. Treasury Management Strategy 2011/12

After introductory comments by Dave Clarke, it was Resolved:-

That:-

- 1) *approval be given to the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy for 2011/12 and its provisions have immediate effect in the current financial year 2010/11***
- 2) *approval be given to the Prudential Indicators set out in Appendix C to the report***
- 3) *the nationalised banking institution be included within the lending list under the minimum criteria: Nationalised bank, short-term Fl+, Support 1 as referred to in Appendix E to the report***
- 4) *the net borrowing does not exceed the Prudential level specified in Appendix C to the report, taking into account current commitments, existing plans and the proposals in the budget report.***

5) authority be delegated to the Treasurer to undertake all the activities listed in Appendix G of the report.

5. Medium Term Financial Planning Strategy including 2011/12 Revenue Budget, 2011/12 – 2015/16 Capital Programme and Reserve Strategy

Dave Clarke presented the joint report and stressed the importance of the Authority being able to deliver the required savings in 2011/12 and beyond. This would be extremely challenging but there were significant risks to the financial viability of the Authority if the savings identified were not delivered.

John Vereker then spoke on behalf of the elected Members and in particular highlighted the fact that, given the way that Central Government had structured the grant process and its capping policy, the Authority had no option other than to approve the budget before the Authority today. He emphasised that, although the debate at the Authority meeting may appear to be brief, a huge amount of work had been done by Members and Officers through the budget seminars leading up to today's meeting. The process had enabled Members to be fully engaged with the development of the budget.

John Vereker then moved the recommendations as printed in the joint report.

In seconding the recommendations, Phil Robson supported John Vereker's comments that this was the only option the Authority could take. He had confidence that the new Policing Model would deliver protection and the initial £13.4m savings but was concerned about the remaining gap if there was no change in the Government grant plans. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill includes a requirement to hold a referendum before increasing the precept beyond a set limit. He did not see how present levels of policing could be sustained without such an increase and thus a referendum would have to be considered by a future governance body some time between 2012 and 2014.

Richard Hobbs commented on the extensive consultation which had taken place with the public through the survey on the Authority's website and at Community Forums and also with the business community.

One being put to the vote, it was Resolved unanimously:-

1) That approval be given to:-

- i) a Net Revenue Budget before savings of £97.188m for 2011/12 as detailed in Appendix 7 of the joint report.**
- ii) an ongoing cash savings target for 2011/12 of £2.6m, with a further in year saving of £1.0m**
- iii) the use of £2.970m of Reserves to support the 2011/12 budget of which £0.424m will be used for one-off purposes.**
- iv) a Budget Requirement for 2011/12 of £90.618m.**
- v) a Council Tax for a Band D property remains at £174.10 as calculated as follows:-**

	£
Budget Requirement	90,618,246
Less Police Grant	35,185,705
Less Formula Grant	20,100,133
Sub Total	35,332,408
Less : Collection Fund Surplus	268,930
Amount to be raised by Council Tax	35,063,478

Divided by Aggregate Council Tax Base **201,402.70**

Basic Amount of Council Tax at Band D **£174.10p**

vi) **the consequential Council Tax for each property band will be as follows:-**

Band A (6/9th)	£116.064242
Band B (7/9th)	£135.408282
Band C (8/9th)	£154.752323
Band D	£174.096363
Band E (11/9th)	£212.784444
Band F (13/9th)	£251.472525
Band G (15/9th)	£290.160605
Band H (18/9th)	£348.192726

vii) **the Chief Executive to the Authority be authorised to issue Precepts Notices on the Warwickshire billing authorities as follows:-**

	£
North Warwickshire Borough Council	3,716,426.36
Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council	6,851,910.56
Rugby Borough Council	6,174,275.29
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	9,048,367.73
Warwick District Council	9,272,497.65
TOTAL	35,063,477.59

viii) **the 150PLUS review as set out in Section 7 of the joint report.**

ix) **the Reserves Strategy as set out in Section 8 of the joint report.**

x) **the revised Capital Programme and funding arrangements as set out in Section 10 of the joint report together with Appendix 8 and the Prudential Indicators detailed in the Treasury Management Strategy, referred to under Agenda item 4 above.**

xi) **Officers be instructed to comply with the prescriptive legal duties placed upon the Authority and the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer be asked to advise of any instances in which they consider that the implementation of policies should be amended to ensure compliance with requirements.**

xii) **all Officers be instructed to exercise tight budgetary control. No overspending of the aggregate 2011/12 budget will be authorised and caution will be exercised in entering into expenditure which creates additional commitments in future years. The Authority will be kept fully informed of the financial position throughout the year.**

- 2) ***That in approving the budget, the Authority notes the Treasurer's comments in Section 11 of the joint report in respect of the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of reserves.***

Keith Bristow then commented that the Force would continue to focus on protecting the public and to turn every penny available into the best policing for the county. The Authority and the Force had already identified £13.4m in savings but now had to face a serious challenge of finding an additional £9.5m in savings. It was intended to bring a report to the Authority's July 2011 meeting setting out proposals to achieve that additional saving.

6. The Policing Plan 2011 - 2014

The Chief Constable's report was noted.

7. Resources – Report of the Governance Stream

was noted.

Appendix 1 – Report of the Lead Member for Assets

was noted.

Appendix 2 – Report of the Local Member for Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

Dorrette McAuslan introduced the report and in particular commented on the importance of impact assessments and the need to maintain progress on EDHR issues and principles despite the expected demise of police authorities. Keith Bristow endorsed those comments.

Appendix 3 – Report of the Lead Member for Human Resources

Eithne Goode presented her report and commented on the excellent work done by Senior Women in Policing. In response to a question by Phillip Morris-Jones, Eithne Goode and Richard Elkin briefly explained the rigorous process in place to deal with all types of absence from duty.

Appendix 4 – Warwickshire Police Procurement Update Report

was noted.

8. Police Authority Communications Strategy – Action Plan

After Clive Parsons had introduced the report, Richard Hobbs asked that three additional actions should be included in the Action Plan, namely engagement with the County Council, engagement with the District Councils and the working relationship between the Authority and the County Council's Cabinet.

9. Report of the Audit Committee

was noted.

10. Warwickshire Justice Centre – Leamington Spa

John Burbeck highlighted the key points in his report which stated that the Warwickshire Justice Centre was now fully operational and had been well received by the public. A gateway review had been completed which had concluded that the Centre had been

successfully delivered on time, on budget and met the agencies' requirements. He thanked the Authority for their enormous support and for taking on the role of lead agency.

A number of Members congratulated John Burbeck and Richard Lyttle for their excellent work in delivering a very complex project and Keith Bristow added his thanks on behalf of the Force.

At the Chair's instigation, the Authority placed on record their thanks and appreciation to John Burbeck, Richard Lyttle and Izzi Seccombe who led on the project on behalf of the Authority.

11. General Report of the Chief Constable

In presenting his report, Keith Bristow confirmed that the Chief Officer team were moving out of Leek Wootton today to their new offices at the Warwickshire Justice Centre. He felt that this was the start of a change in culture for the Force and that Leek Wootton would no longer be referred to as Headquarters.

Additional Item

11A. Police Authority Governance Structure

After introductory comments by Oliver Winters, it was Resolved:-

That the Police Authority:

- (1) mainstreams the work of community engagement within the Policing Communities workstream after the Community Engagement and Consultation Panel on 2nd March 2011.***
- (2) changes the role of Richard Hobbs as outlined in paragraph 1.3 of the Chief Executive's report.***
- (3) retains other roles and responsibilities as set out in the Governance Framework.***

12. Urgent Business

None.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Police Authority will be on Wednesday 20 April 2011 at 9.30am.

14. 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.

[The Authority then adjourned from 11.25am to 11.45am.]

15. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 January 2011 and Matters Arising

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on 19 January 2011 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

16. Force Performance

Keith Bristow provided an update on Force performance during January and February and highlighted a number of key issues.

17. Operational Update

The Chief Constable's report was noted.

18. 150 Plus Programme

The Deputy Chief Constable's report was noted.

19. Estates Strategy

Bob Malloy introduced the progress report informing the Authority that North Warwickshire Borough Council had now given planning permission for the Atherstone Police Station and Courts site. The Authority were also made aware of other actions being taken around the Estates Strategy.

20. Policing Contributions from Development Schemes

The Authority considered and agreed actions on this matter.

21. Future Provision of Vehicle Maintenance and Management Services

The Authority considered a report by Richard Elkin and agreed to further work being undertaken with a view to a more detailed report would be brought to a future meeting of the Authority.

All Members and Officers of the County Council left the meeting before consideration of Agenda Item 22.

22. Operation Westbere

Keith Bristow presented the report and highlighted some key points within the report.

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Chair of the Authority

Meeting closed at 1.25pm