

The **POLICE AUTHORITY** met at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK** on **19 DECEMBER 2011**

Present:-

Phil Robson (Independent Member) (**Chair**)
John Vereker (County Councillor) (**Vice Chair**)
Steve Nicklin (Independent Member) (**Vice Chair**)

Independent Members:-

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

County Councillors:-

Chris Davis, Peter Fowler, Carol Fox, Eithne Goode, Bob Hicks, Richard Hobbs, Frank McCarney and Phillip Morris-Jones

Police:-

Chief Constable Andy Parker, Deputy Chief Constable Neil Brunton, Assistant Chief Constable Guy Rutter, Assistant Chief Constable Simon Edens, Richard Elkin, Chief Superintendent Steve Burrows, Superintendent Debbie Tedds, Jeff Carruthers and Mandy Crust. Detective Superintendent Noel McMenamain and Detective Inspector Andy Nolan attended for Agenda Item 17

Police Authority:-

Oliver Winters, Neil Gulliver, Dave Clarke, Debbie Mullis and Victoria Newbold

Others:-

Lis Antrobus (Chair, Strategic IAG)

1. **Chair's Announcements**

The Chair announced that Heather Costello had been appointed as the new Director of Finance under the Strategic Alliance.

2. **Apologies**

An apology was received from Ian Francis.

3. **Members' Declaration of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

None.

4. **Minutes of the Meeting held on the 16th November 2011 and Matters Arising**

(1) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Police Authority's meeting held on the 16th November 2011 be approved.

There were no matters arising.

5. Investigations and Standards – Reports of the Governance Stream

Report by Governance Stream Lead

After Angela O'Boyle had introduced the report and had given a brief overview of the work undertaken within the Stream, she went on to present the reports under Appendices 1 and 2.

Appendix 1 – Protecting Vulnerable People

Appendix 2 – Report of the Safeguarding Children Lead

Angela O'Boyle highlighted the key points in both reports and stressed the excellent work of the Force in providing protection to both vulnerable people and children. In response to a question by Richard Hobbs, Simon Edens and Guy Rutter explained the work that was ongoing to further develop these services under the Strategic Alliance and a report would come back to a future meeting of the Authority.

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

In presenting the report, Mike Edwards stated that the HMIC report on the review of police relationships had now been published and there were no major issues for the Force. On the question of performance, the number of complaints had risen significantly nationally although complaints against Warwickshire Police were relatively low. A significant number related to neglect.

Appendix 4 – Report of the Lead Member for Member Development

Was noted.

6. Overview of Investigations Directorate Post 9 May 2011

The briefing paper by Chief Superintendent Steve Burrows was noted.

7. Report of the Audit Committee

After Bob Hicks had brought a number of issues to Members' attention, it was agreed to note the report.

8. Council Tax Freeze Grant

The Chair stressed that whatever decision the Authority reach with regard to the precept for 2012/13 it will have a significant impact on future budgets for the Commissioner. This was only the start of the debate but he hoped that a consensus could be reached on the level of council tax increase before the Authority meeting in February 2012.

Dave Clarke then presented the report and pointed out that the Authority would be able to propose a 4% increase in council tax without invoking the need for a referendum. In addition, if the Authority were minded to accept the council tax grant they needed to bear in mind that the value of that grant would be lost from the base budget at the end of March 2013.

The Chief Constable indicated that loss of the Council tax Grant after the first year would put additional pressure on policing resources at a point when the medium term financial

plan and the strategic alliance efficiencies would only be part achieved. He advised this could have a detrimental impact on the quality of policing in the County. A lengthy discussion then ensued during which officers and members debated the advantages and disadvantages of accepting the grant or opting for a 4% council tax increase. Of particular concern was the pressure the new Police and Crime Commissioner would face in setting a budget for 2013/14 within a few weeks of their election if the grant was accepted.

The Chair suggested, and it was unanimously agreed, that the Authority would not propose an increase in the level of council tax above 4%. Beyond that, further discussions would take place at the budget seminar before a final decision was made at the Authority meeting in February 2012. In clarifying the voting procedure (a majority of the County Councillor membership and a majority of the full Authority is required to set a budget), the Chair also indicated that the Chief Constable and himself would be pleased to meet with the political groups if they would find that useful as a context for their thinking.

9. 101 – Police Non-Emergency Number

Simon Edens presented the report and stressed that it was too early to judge how successful the introduction of the 101 number had been. Members did question how effective publicity had been to date but acknowledged that further promotion would take place in the New Year. It was agreed that the Authority should receive a progress report in six months time.

10. General Report of the Chief Constable

Was noted.

11. General Report of the Chief Executive

1) Governance Framework

Resolved:-

That approval be given to the amendments of the Governance Framework as set out in paragraph 1 of the Chief Executive's report

2) Police Authority Independent Member Extension Regulation

This paragraph was noted.

12. Urgent Business

None.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Police Authority will be on Wednesday, 18 January 2012 at 10.00 am.

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 Governance Act 1972.

15. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th November 2011 and Matters Arising

At the suggestion of Bob Malloy, it was agreed that the words “Henley-in-Arden Police Station or any other properties” in Minute 23 should be replaced by “Police Authority properties”. It was then Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority’s meeting held on 16 November 2011 as amended be approved.

There were no matters arising.

16. Section 23 Agreement

After Oliver Winters had presented the report and the Chair had updated Members on the outcome of a recent meeting of the Strategic Alliance Steering Board, the Authority gave their approval to actions relating to the further development of the Section 23 Agreement.

17. Operations and Investigations

The Authority received a presentation by Detective Superintendent Noel McMenemy on the work of the Serious and Organised Crime Taskforce.

18. 150 Plus Programme

In presenting the report, Neil Brunton pointed out that the 150 Plus Programme Board had now been replaced by the Strategic Alliance Programme Board. The Chair acknowledged the success of the 150 Plus Programme.

19. Force Performance

Andy Parker presented the report and highlighted performance on each of the policing priorities which the Authority noted.

20. Operational Updates

The Chief Constable’s report was noted.

21. Operation Westbere

In noting the report, the Chair requested a more detailed report be submitted to the Authority in January or February 2012 depending upon Court developments.

Chair of the Authority

The meeting closed at 1.05 p.m.