

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES of a meeting of the **Devon and Cornwall Police Authority** held at Police Headquarters, Middlemoor, Exeter on **Friday 25th June, commencing at 10:00hrs.**

Present:

Chairman..... Mr M Bull

Vice-Chairman..... Mr B Preston

Mr M Clayton, Sir S Day, Mrs L Dunn, Mr B Greenslade, Mr M Hicks, Mrs J Zito, Mr D Percival, Mr D Money, Ms J Norton, Mrs J Owen, Mrs L Price, Mr M Hodge, Mrs L Williams and Mr J Hart

Independent Members of Standards Committee: Mr M Harvey and Mrs A Mayes

Officers in Attendance

Police Authority:

Ms S Howl (Chief Executive) Mr S Barrett (Interim Treasurer) and Mrs N Martin (Personal Assistant to the Chief Executive)

Police Force:

Mr S Otter (Chief Constable), Mr S Sawyer (Deputy Chief Constable), Ms D Simpson (Assistant Chief Constable) Mrs S Taylor (Assistant Chief Constable) Mr P Netherton (Assistant Chief Constable) Mr M Stamp (Director of Legal Services) and Mrs S Goscomb (Director of Finance and Resources).

P/2425 Appointment of Chairman

The Chief Executive informed the meeting that a statement from Mr Mike Bull requesting to be considered for this position had been received and circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED that Mr Mike Bull be appointed as Chairman.

The Chairman gave a brief speech to Members thanking them for voting him in to this position and informed them that he would try and lead the Authority through what will be challenging times over the coming months.

P/2426 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

The Chief Executive informed the meeting that a statement from Mr Bryan Preston requesting to be considered for this position had been received and circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED that Mr Bryan Preston be appointed as Vice-Chairman.

The Vice-Chairman gave a brief speech to Members informing them that he would be committed to this role and would continue to work closely alongside the Chairman.

P/2427 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Lady J Stanhope and Mrs V Pengelly.

P/2428 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest given.

P/2429 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

P/2430 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman informed Members that Bill Jenkin had resigned from the Police Authority with immediate effect.

The Chairman announced that he will be attending the APA/ACPO Conference in Manchester which is taking place from the 29th June -1st July 2010. He assured Members that he would update them all on the conference when he returns.

In light of the recent emergency budget, a Police Authority Budget Working Party had been arranged for the 28th June and all Members are welcome to attend. The Chair of Resources gave Members an update on the national angle following the budget and recent statements from the government in relation to the future of Police Authorities. He explained that he would be meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister and Mr Simon Hughes in the coming weeks and would be highlighting to them the positive contribution that Independent Members make to Police Authorities.

P/2431 Questions raised under Standing Order No. 6

No questions were raised under Standing Order No. 6

P/2432 Minutes

Subject to minor alterations, the minutes were agreed as a correct record. The Chairman gave a brief update on the position of the proposed Regional Collaboration Deputy Chief Constable post.

RESOLVED that the minutes, subject to alterations, of the 23rd April 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

P/2433 Performance Reports

The Chair of the Performance Management Committee gave a brief update on the key issues arising at the recent robust meeting and referred Members' to the last set of minutes.

The Deputy Chief Constable presented a report summarising the performance activity of the Constabulary to meet its targets set by the Authority in its Annual Plan and this was considered. iQuanta data was used to benchmark with most similar police forces. Members asked some robust and challenging questions around public confidence and other performance targets.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- That the impact of the World Cup causes an increase in Domestic Violence and that sufficient plans are in place to deal with this
- An overview of Force performance targets was given, which indicated where the Force are positioned nationally and to our 'most similar Force'
- The NPIA have confirmed that Devon and Cornwall are stable and not declining in the area of Public Confidence however, the Force acknowledged that improvement still needs to happen in this area
- That the Deputy Chief Constable is taking the lead on Public Confidence. Members were informed how the Force is trying to improve this area of performance which included the implementation of training and action plans and looking into the issue at a more local level. It was confirmed that the details of the comprehensive plan will be taken to the Police Authority Performance Committee
- A Member queried if the Force intends to be more focused in terms of measuring satisfaction of serious violent crime victims. The Member felt that satisfaction surveys that are undertaken for

victims of crime are limited in terms of what victims are being measured and wondered if there are any plans to drill down into detail on victims with regards to domestic violence or murder. Members were informed of what the Force is currently measured on in terms of satisfaction and that the areas mentioned do not currently sit within the framework. It was confirmed that due to capacity it would not be feasible to drill down into these areas at this time

- Members showed a considerable amount of concern for the declining performance in the positive outcomes target and expressed that it was completely unacceptable. The Force assured Members that extra focus has been given to this area of performance to ensure it improves. It was noted that the Authority will be looking at this area carefully
- A query was raised in relation to what support arrangements are in place for the BME workforce and the Chief Constable explained a number of support mechanisms that are in place including the Force Equality and Diversity Group. A Member asked if it was possible to have access to certain documents that went through this group.
- That there had been a downward trend in road traffic casualties. The Force confirmed that they will be targeting road traffic 'hot spots' throughout the summer months due to the number of visitors to the region
- Encouraging reports relating to performance in Plymouth BCU and that the Plymouth BCU Commander should be congratulated on this achievement

RESOLVED to note the reports.

P/2434 Chief Constable's Report

The Chief Constable's update report to the Police Authority was sent to Members 24 hours prior to the meeting. Members were informed that this report is in its new format and focuses more on major relevant strategic issues. The Chief Constable urged Members to give constructive feedback on the report and hoped it was what they required. A verbal update from the head of Corporate Communications was also given to Members.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The Chief Constable highlighted to Members that all of the information that was in the report is being dealt with in detail at Police Authority Committees and would not want to enter into duplicate conversations at this meeting. However, this report is designed to bring all Members and the public up to date with these topics
- That the Force is very prepared for the budgetary issues that have arisen after the emergency budget meeting. It was explained that this is a difficult time for staff and that the Chief Constable had been incredibly impressed by the way leaders and staff are approaching these challenges very positively
- A brief update on the System Integration and Solutions procurement (SIS) was given. Members were informed that updates on SIS are included within a report that is taken to Chairs' Committee meetings
- An overview of the 'Blueprint' project was given. It was highlighted that Members had had a presentation at a recent Police Authority Seminar
- That the Neighbourhood Policing is still and will remain a priority. The Force are building capability through new training
- An update on the Station Enquiry Office Review was given. The review is about how we can use the front offices to provide a better and more efficient service to the public. It was emphasised that this exercise is not about closing Police Stations or reducing access to them
- Members gave various comments around the format of the report and a couple of Members highlighted that they did find operational issues that were in the old style report interesting. A

Member also requested that the Chief Constable update Members of his national work in the report

- The Head of Corporate Communications informed Members of current and near future communication campaigns

RESOLVED to note the report.

P/2435 Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Strategy and Delivery Plan 2010-2013

Copies of the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Strategy and Delivery Plan were sent to Members prior to the meeting. It was highlighted that Members had seen both documents and had had the opportunity to contribute to both at a recent Police Authority Seminar.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Appreciation was expressed to both Sue Howl and Richard Martin for their efforts in producing the documents
- For the Chief Executive to consider the level of circulation of the documents

RESOLVED

- i. **That the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Strategic Plan 2010-2013 be approved and adopted.**
- ii. **That the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Delivery Plan 2010-2013 be approved and adopted.**

P/2436 Committees, Task and Finish Groups, Working Groups – Structure and Membership

Following the approval of the Authority's new Strategic Plan, the existing committee and groups structure will be reviewed to ensure it supports delivery of the Authority's vision and strategic plan. The timetable is for the review to be undertaken over the summer with a report containing recommendations to be presented to the September meeting of the Authority.

RESOLVED That as far as is practical the existing membership of committees, working groups and task and finish groups are to be retained until such time as the decision making structure is reviewed and any proposals implemented.

P/2437 Joint Working with Other Standards Committees

Work has been undertaken to explore the potential for a Joint Standards Committee for the South West Region to be established in accordance with the guidance received from the Standards Board for England. The report was sent to Members prior to the meeting and sets out the findings of the research to date and proposes a model terms of reference for a joint committee. The Standards Committee considered the matter at a special meeting on 7 June 2010 and recommended that the Authority consider being part of a Police Authority Regional Joint Standards Committee.

A high level of debate and scrutiny took place by the Members on this proposal.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- That both Avon and Somerset and Wiltshire Police Authorities' have not supported the proposal at this stage
- Members raised some concerns about the overall cost of the proposal and if the size of the membership would be justified

- It was explained that the size of the membership would have some advantages as complaints need a certain mass of Members to deal with them

RESOLVED

- i. **that the principle of establishing a regional joint police authority standards committee is supported**
- ii. **that the Authority nominates a representative to the working group finalising the proposals for consideration**
- iii. **that the joint committee should comprise 2 independent members and 2 Members from each participating authority and this to be reviewed in due course**
- iv. **that the independent members should be recruited and appointed by each authority rather than by the joint committee**
- v. **that any hearing should be conducted in the police Authority area relevant to the allegation and the hearing panel must contain at least 1 person from the relevant police authority.**

P/2438 Devon & Cornwall Police Annual Report 2009-10

The Chief Constable explained that he is required to produce an Annual Report of the activities of the Force and present such a report to the Police Authority in line with the Police Act 1996 and detailed in Home Office Circular 004/2008. The report was circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- That it would be useful to add the community messaging number on the 'how to contact us' page
- That the content of the safeguarding/vulnerable adults page could be strengthened
- The timescale that it has taken for the Authority to see the report

RESOLVED that the Police Authority received the Force's Annual Report for 2009-10 and accepted its contents

P/2439 Statement of Accounts for Year Ending 31st March 2010

The Treasurer presented the Statutory Accounts for approval. These re -present the financial outturn results into the required format for publication and audit to comply with statutory regulations and accounting practice. Also included are the prudential indicators for 2009/10. The Treasurer gave an overview of the documents, highlighting good performance in a difficult year.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Appreciation expressed to all Financial Officers and Members who have been involved with the accounts, with special thanks to Angela Daveney
- That an amendment needed to be made to page 4 of the Statement of Accounts. It should read 'The present value of the total liabilities for police officer pensions has increased from **£1,504m** as at 31 March 2009 to **£2,305m** as at 31 March 2010.
- That the 'performance' section on page 5 be removed from the document
- The need to review the Medium Term Financial Plan due to the recent emergency budget
- Members were assured that the Accounts Sub Group had been through the accounts page by page prior to this meeting

RESOLVED

- i. That the Statement of Accounts, including the Annual Governance Statement, and the prudential indicators for the year ending 31st March 2010 be approved;
- ii. That authority be delegated to the Treasurer, in consultation with the Chair of the Authority and the Chair of the Resources Committee, to remove the performance section and make any minor amendments to the Statement of Accounts to ensure compliance with Audit Commission guidance.

P/2440 Dates of Future Police Authority Meetings

A report recommending the dates for Police Authority meetings in 2011 and the budget setting meeting in 2012 was circulated to Members. Included in this report were Police Authority Seminar dates for 2011.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- That Members would like to have Away Days set up which are separate to Seminars
- A query around the April 2011 date and whether or not it was within the schools Easter Holidays. **Update note: this date has been checked following the meeting and it does not coincide with the schools Easter Holidays.**

RESOLVED

- (i) that the dates for the Authority meetings and Seminars during the remainder of 2010 and the first meeting in 2011 be noted
- (ii) that the dates for the Authority meetings and Seminars in 2011 and the beginning of 2012 be approved

P/2441 Committee Minute Pack

Members received the Committee Minute Pack prior to the meeting. The pack provides minutes of the Committee meetings that have taken place since the last meeting of the Authority.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Members debated Police Authority Liaison Meetings (PALM) and the proposed way forward that had been reached by the PALM Review Group. It was agreed that this should be taken to a Police Authority Seminar for further discussion and Member consultation.

RESOLVED that the minute pack was noted.