

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

MINUTES

A meeting of the **Planning and Consultation Committee** was held on 1 November 2006 in the Conference Room, Endeavour House, Woodwater Park, Exeter, starting at 10.00am.

Present:

Chairman.... S Malloni

M Bull, C Bulley, I Doggett, G Hicks, S Hughes, and W Thomas.

Officers in Attendance: -

Police Force Superintendent D Caldwell (Commander Territorial Policing and Partnerships) [item 9 only] and A Poole (Force Principal Analyst) [item 8 onwards].

Police Authority T Kelland (Consultation Officer) and R Martin (Policy Officer)

PC/200 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from M Hicks, A Malcolm, D Money, and M Nevitt

PC/201 Declarations of Interests

No declarations of interest were made in respect of any item on the agenda.

PC/202 Minutes

PC/194 The Policy Officer informed the Committee that the Home Office had postponed the rollout of Wave 2 of the Single Non Emergency Number. This was due to the need to carry out further evaluation of the Wave 1 sites.

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2006 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

PC/203 The Role of the Planning and Consultation Committee

The Chairman delivered a PowerPoint presentation outlining the proposed future direction, objectives and work of the Committee. This detailed the role of the Committee, the need for more scrutiny within its business, better agenda management with fewer 'for information' items and more reports or briefings from Lead Members. The Chairman indicated the importance that this work links with the review of the Authority's structure and delegation processes being conducted by a group of Members.

Members agreed that the key objectives for the Committee should be:

- Agreement on three key consultation projects (these are currently Neighbourhood Policing, the Staff Survey and Complaints)
- Marketing / Promoting the Authority
- Review formats of and approve Annual Plans
- Ensure involvement with the setting of annual targets (this links with the Performance Management Committee)

The Authority would provide greater scrutiny by becoming more involved with the core business of the Committee. Individual Members would be asked to take a lead in particular areas and several

Members would be asked to form task and finish groups to conduct short scrutiny projects of agreed areas. The Chairman will assign different areas to individual Members and seek their support.

- *Engagement with ethnic minorities / diversity*
- *Youth Consultation & Strategy*
- *Annual Plans (Strategic, Policing Plan, Local Policing Summary & Annual Report)*
- *Force Surveys*
- *Marketing Neighbourhood Policing*
- *Call Management & Communications - The Chairman expressed a wish for Member of the Police Authority to be involved in the appointment panel of any new Head of Corporate Communications. Members also discussed the importance of distinguishing between the different types of communications. Members heard that the Force Marketing Team appears to have been scaled down. Members expressed great concern at this and the impact it would have on the work of the Force. The Chairman committed to write to the Head of Corporate Communications for clarity around the staffing and capacity of the marketing function within his department.*
- *Marketing neighbourhood policing*
- *Police Authority research*
- *Marketing the Police Authority*
- *Police Authority Liaison Meetings.*

The Chairman of the Performance Management Committee confirmed that these proposals were in-line with the new arrangements for the Performance Management Committee.

RESOLVED:

- Chairman to write to the Head of Corporate Communications for clarity around the staffing and capacity of the marketing function within his department.*
- The Chairman and Policy Officer to circulate the list of commitments to Members for agreement.*

PC/204 Review of Force Youth Strategy

The Chairman stated the Committee had the opportunity to discuss the Review of Force Youth Strategy that had been provided with the agenda and table questions that would be put to the Force Youth Issues Manager at the next Committee meeting.

Members expressed concern at the report's acknowledgement that many Neighbourhood Beat Managers were unaware of the Force Youth Strategy. Members considered this to be a symptom of a wider communication issue in the Force in failing to deliver messages accurately to frontline officers. Other issues raised that require clarification were:

- *Apparent confusion in the roles of Neighbourhood Beat Managers and Police Community Support Officers.*
- *Recognition that Neighbourhood Beat Managers are overstretched and the adverse impact this may have on schools.*
- *The appropriateness of Police Community Support Officers to deliver the Youth Strategy in schools*
- *Clarification around 'generic curriculum delivery'*
- *How best practice is spread.*

- *Financial budgets for youth affairs work.*

RESOLVED

- (a) *The Committee would put the issues raised to the Force Youth Issues Manager at the next Committee meeting*

PC/205 Police Authority Consultation Update

The Police Authority Consultation Officer presented a paper identifying the consultation activity currently underway by the Authority.

This included Neighbourhood Policing, the July Public Survey, the forthcoming staff survey and ongoing quality of service surveys.

Results from this work would be available for the next Committee.

RESOLVED

- (a) *That the contents of the report are noted*

PC/206 Raising the Profile of the Police Authority

The Assistant Chief Executive provided an oral update on the work underway to raise awareness of the Police Authority.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- *The Police Authority has become more media aware and is occasionally proactively issuing press releases.*
- *Increased press and media coverage during the last year has raised the Authority's profile.*
- *The decision was taken not to have a stand at either of the County Shows this year due to the unsuitable location offered within the venues.*
- *Work is underway with officers and staff from South and West Devon BCU to jointly promote Neighbourhood Policing and the Authority in a supermarket in Newton Abbot.*
- *The Assistant Chief Executive gave a radio interview to promote the work of Independent Custody Visitors.*

Members questioned whether Police Authority meetings could be broadcast on the internet similar to the practice adopted by Devon County Council.

Members were advised that they could record a PodCast for publication on the Authority's website if they wished. The Authority is provided with assistance from the Force for Marketing and Public Relations issues. However at times it may not be appropriate to utilise Force support in this area.

Members discussed Police Authority Liaison Meetings (PALMs). The Chairman indicated that PALMs can operate in different ways to suit local circumstances. The Chairman asked that the paper from the Assistant Chief Executive outlining the different options should be sent to Members again.

The Assistant Chief Executive welcomed any ideas from Members for PALMs.

RESOLVED

- (a) *The Committee notes the oral update*
(b) *The Policy Officer to circulate the Police Authority Liaison Meetings options paper to Members of the Committee.*

PC/207 Anti-Social Behaviour Satisfaction Surveys

The Force Principal Analyst presented a paper detailing the first set of results from satisfaction surveys carried out with people who have reported anti-social behaviour. It was stressed that several surveys would be required before useful information and recurring themes could be drawn from the results.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The surveys are nationally mandated and add to the crime victim satisfaction surveys already conducted.*
- It is not yet possible to identify how the Force measures nationally as accurate comparison data is not yet available.*
- Some of the incidents that are classed as anti-social behaviour may not be considered a priority for the police or include any police involvement. However the satisfaction survey will assess the public's feelings towards the response they received whether this was from the police or a partner agency.*

RESOLVED

- (a) That the report be noted.*

Closed Session

(Item considered by the Committee with only Members of the Police Authority, appropriate Officers and expert advisors present, on the grounds that exempt / confidential information may have been discussed)

RESOLVED *that the item detailed in the table below be considered as a closed item:*

Agenda item No	Report Title	Relevant Act	Relevant section
9	<i>Restorative Policing in Devon and Cornwall Constabulary</i>	<i>Freedom of Information Act 2000</i>	<i>Section 22 -Information Intended for Future Publication.</i>

PC/208 Restorative Policing in Devon and Cornwall Constabulary

The Commander, Territorial Policing and Partnerships, provided an overview of the employment of Restorative Policing practices in Devon and Cornwall Constabulary.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Despite the corporate drive, Restorative Policing is not being deployed in all BCUs as effectively as would be liked.*
- Some of the recommendations presented to the Command Team in December 2005 lacked the strategic drive necessary to move them forward.*
- A Restorative Policing co-ordinator is being appointed. This will be a police officer post sitting within the neighbourhood policing unit – better reflecting emphasis.*
- Much policing is restorative by nature and is not always recorded in official occurrences.*

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- *Officially, 400 officers have been trained in restorative policing.*
- *A restorative justice outcome is not recorded as sanction detection. There were moves to change this national policy several years ago. The current national intent for the future is unclear.*
- *There is scope for restorative justice conferencing within the community. The Devon Youth Council have been successfully involved in the past and may present opportunities for the future.*
- *There is a need to encourage partner engagement in restorative justice.*
- *Restorative justice should not solely be focused on youth offenders.*

RESOLVED

- (a) That the report be noted.*

The meeting closed at 12.15pm.