

## Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

### MINUTES

A meeting of the **Community Engagement Committee** was held on 3 July 2008 in the Conference Room, Endeavour House, Woodwater Park, Exeter starting at 2.00pm.

#### Present:

Chairman        B Preston  
Members:        M Bull, M Hicks, A Malcolm and J Owen

#### Officers in Attendance: -

**Police Authority** A Buisman (Policy Officer) and R Martin (Policy Officer)  
**Constabulary** G Sims (Force Consultation Officer)

#### PC/266 Election of Chairman

Mr B Preston nominated by Mrs A Malcolm and Seconded by Mr M Hicks.  
No further nominations.

**RESOLVED** Mr B Preston elected Chairman.

#### PC/267 Election of Vice-Chairman

Mrs A Malcolm nominated by Mr B Preston and Seconded by Mr M Hicks.  
No further nominations.

**RESOLVED** Mrs A Malcolm elected Vice-Chairman.

#### PC/266 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs L Dunn, Mr G Hicks and Mr C Wallin.

#### PC/267 Declarations of Interests

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

#### PC/268 Chairman's Announcement

Concerns were expressed that the role of Neighbourhood Beat Manager was becoming an unattractive role for police officers. It was felt this may be in part due to the recent decisions by the Force to no longer award the Special Priority Payment to NBMs. This had, in effect, resulted in a pay cut for some officers. Members were updated on the discussions held recently with the Chief Constable on the dilemma faced by the Force and Authority in deciding which roles are to receive the SPP. Under Home Office rules, a maximum of 40% of officers are permitted the payment. The Chief Constable has been asked by the Police Authority to look into alternative ways of applying the payment in future years.

The Chairman stated he would raise the issue further, particularly the effect on morale, with the Assistant Chief Constable (Territorial Policing) in due course.

#### PC/269 Minutes

PC/261 – The Chairman stated he met with the Assistant Chief Constable (Territorial Policing) on 17 June about the lack of information being provided to Members about forthcoming PACT meetings. It was suggested that some Members would want more information than others, particularly regarding PACT meetings in neighbouring areas. It was agreed that the suggested that each PACT meeting should be listed in the weekly Members' newsletter.

**RESOLVED** The minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2008 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **PC/270 Autumn Public Survey**

The Policy Officer (Community Engagement) provided a summary of the results from the autumn 2007 Public Survey. Issues discussed during the consideration of this item included:

- The survey measured the public's awareness of the Neighbourhood Policing Initiative, Neighbourhood Policing Team and Police Community Safety Officers (PCSOs), with some questions targeted to visibility. In addition it examined ease and quality of contact and public satisfaction rates of policing within their local area and in a wider context of Devon and Cornwall.
- Overall, 50.5% of respondents were satisfied with how easy it is to contact the Police

**RESOLVED:** The results of the Autumn 2007 Public Survey are noted and used as a future benchmark to assess public perception of policing

### **PC/271 Consultation Update**

The Policy Officer (Community Engagement) introduced a report updating Members of current and planned consultations.

Members discussed the need to clearly differentiate between the Police Authority and Constabulary as public events.

**RESOLVED** That the report is noted

### **PC/272 Police Authority Liaison Meetings**

Members were presented a report providing information of recent Police Authority Liaison Meetings held in the last few months.

Members were critical of the report saying it did not provide sufficient information to be of use. The Committee asked for a revised report to be prepared and its format discussed with the Chairman of the Committee.

This led to a wider discussion about the role of PALMs particularly with the establishment of PACTs across the Force.

The Chairman called for a report into the effectiveness of PALMs for the next meeting. The report should consider the way in which PALMs will operate alongside PACT meetings.

### **PC/273 PREVENT strategy**

The Policy Officer (Community Engagement) provided a brief overview of the Government's PREVENT strategy.

A Work Plan is under development to take this area of work forward.

**RESOLVED** That the report be noted.

### **PC/274 Disability and Pride Festival Results**

The Policy Officer (Community Engagement) provided Members with a report outlining the results of engagement activity at several diversity events.

**RESOLVED** That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 2.55pm