

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

MINUTES

A meeting of the **Community Engagement Committee** was held on Thursday 19th March 2009 in the Conference Room, Devon and Cornwall Police Authority, Endeavour House, Woodwater Park, Exeter, starting at 10:00hrs.

Present:

Chairman Mr B Preston

Members: Mrs L Dunn, Mr M Hodge, Mrs V Pengelly.

Officers in attendance:

Police Authority

Ms A Buisman (Policy Officer), Mrs G Clifton (Administrator).

Constabulary

Mr T Burton, Ms V Goodwin, Ms A Poole, Supt. K Perkin

PC/303 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from ACC Netherton, Sir Simon Day, Mrs A Malcolm, Ms J Zito, Mrs J Owen.

PC/304 Declarations of Interest

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

PC/305 Chairman's Announcements

There were no announcements.

PC/306 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2009 were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

PC/307 HMIC Recommendation Update

The final report had been received; five recommendations had been made and the areas for improvement identified for improvement will be monitored. HMIC would visit on a quarterly basis in future to review progress and reports of these assessments would be presented to the Committee.

RESOLVED

- (i) to note the contents of the report
- (ii) that the Committee receives regular updates on progress.

PC/308 Policing Plan

The draft Policing Plan had been prepared and members had been given a text only version for consideration. The following points were made:

- This was not yet the final wording of the document;
- The final version will be much shorter as large portions of the text will be accessed through clicking on the heading. Readers can then choose more detail if required;
- The working group should be convened to look at the final version before signing it off, this should be ready by the end of the next week;
- The areas listed where the 200 extra Police Officers will be going are BCUs but could be confused with Local Authorities. It was suggested that the wording be revised to "92 in Devon (which includes Torbay)" to make it clearer.

- The format produced had been the most popular of the options considered and could not be changed at this late stage.

RESOLVED (i) to note the contents of the draft plan
(ii) to reconvene the working group to review the final version before recommending it to the full Police Authority for approval.

PC/309 Police Authority Public Survey Results

- The survey had produced >6000 responses most of which were very positive;
- The top three priorities might be misrepresented as the question did not specify Devon and Cornwall Police;
- Fewer respondents had confidence in their local area compared with the whole of the region; this was the opposite of results from Police Surveys which showed confidence diminishing as the area increases. Next year the questions might be amended;
- The Policy Officer agreed to check how the overall trends compared with previous surveys;
- With the large number of responses it was originally hoped to break the data down into neighbourhoods. This was not possible this year but will form a part of next year's survey;
- The Police Survey had different questions so direct comparison was not possible. However, the same overall messages were similar. Confidence in policing had increased and Devon and Cornwall was the second highest in the country for this criterion;
- National Guidance expected in October will make the surveys statutory;
- When asked where people want to see more police many respondents cited housing estates, which are not currently a priority. The Constabulary will look at ways of including these areas in the tasking process; PACT meetings show anti-social behaviour as a priority PCSOs will be targeted into those areas;
- The return rate of 25% is quite high compared with previous years. Lower than this percentage can make the statistics unreliable.

RESOLVED the report be noted

PC/310 Devon and Cornwall Panels

The results of the two panels held in February were discussed. The following points were made:

- The Panels were designed to have a rolling membership so that half of the members were changed after two or three sittings. Details of previous members will be kept on file in case they are needed at a later date;
- The Cornwall Panel had been very positive, minor issues raised at the Devon panel were quickly resolved;
- The application forms for Independent Members were seen as very long and complicated, the Panel suggested other means of recruitment which will be discussed;
- It was suggested that the Cornwall panel be split into two to cut the distances involved in travelling. The East and West Panels would meet three times a year and hold a joint meeting annually;
- Operational matters should not form part of the Panels' remit. In order to maintain the Panels' independence it was suggested that if any agenda items had an operational element, information from the Constabulary would be sought prior to the meeting to feed in to discussions. It was emphasised that the panels were not to have Force representation at the meetings unless the Authority felt it was necessary to have them there.

RESOLVED (i) that the report be noted
(ii) that details of ex-panel members will be kept on file for future use;
(iii) that the Cornwall Panel will be split in two for three of the four meeting annually;
(iv) that information will be sought from the Constabulary on any operation elements

prior to the meetings.

PC/311 Police Authority Website

The Police Authority Website was out of date and should be reviewed. The following suggestions were made:

- The site should be made more interactive and interesting;
- It should appeal to younger people who are more likely to visit the website than attend a PALM or PACT meeting;
- There should be subsites for young people, professionals etc. with links to the Police Website;
- The Constabulary had recently updated their website and offered their assistance;
- A mock homepage would be brought to the next meeting for discussion.

RESOLVED that the Policy Officer would liaise with the Constabulary and draft a new homepage for discussion at the next meeting.

PC/312 Partnership Update

A summary of the Police Authority member representation on partnerships was discussed. The following points were made:

- When attending partnership meetings members should provide a briefing note on what issues were discussed and their implications for the Police Authority;
- There were lots of meetings without PA representation, members needed to be found to attend these groups;
- It was a decision for the Corporate Governance Committee as to where the PA should be involved. The Chair agreed to progress this with that Committee.
- There were two requests for Partnership information sent out in December and it was suggested that in future these would be combined to make it easier for the BCUs.

RESOLVED (i) members would provide a briefing note of meetings attended;
(ii) the Chair and the Policy Officer would discuss attendance at meetings with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee;

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.02hrs