

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

MINUTES

A meeting of the **Community Engagement Committee** was held on Thursday 14th May 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: Mr M Hodge, Mrs A Malcolm, Mrs J Owen, Ms J Zito.

Officers in attendance:

Police Authority

Mr R Martin (Acting Chief Executive), Ms A Buisman (Policy Officer), Mrs G Clifton (Administrator).

Constabulary

Ms V Goodwin, Sgt K Morley, ACC P Netherton, Ms A Parsons, Ms A Poole, Ms G Sims, PC G Watts.

PC/313 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Sir Simon Day, Mrs L Dunn, Mrs V Pengelly.

PC/314 Declarations of Interest

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

PC/315 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman gave his thanks to A Buisman for all the support she had given to the committee; she was due to leave the Police Authority in a few days.

PC/316 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th March 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

Updates on the following items were given:

- PC/307: HMIC had completed a further inspection covering Pledge, Neighbourhood Policing, contact centres etc. The initial feedback was positive and a final report would be provided in two to three weeks' time. The next quarterly visit was due in July. The report from the previous visit would be presented to the Committee at the September meeting.
- PC/312: the Chairman had spoken to the Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee about progress on partnerships. The forthcoming HMIC inspection of the Police Authority (PA) would include this area. There was some work still to be done.

PC/317 Speed Watch

PC Gary Watts gave a presentation on the Speed Watch Project. The following issues were discussed:

- The project increases the resources put into speeding by using the community and Neighbourhood Teams to carry out highly visible speed reduction and intelligence gathering. The emphasis is on education rather than enforcement.
- Speeding was a top priority for the public in over 100 areas and accounted for two out of three of the local PACT priorities.
- The method had a profound impact on offending drivers when they were questioned by school children on the possible effects of driving too fast. Letters were sent to the drivers; tickets could not be issued due to the fact that the equipment was not calibrated for enforcement.

- A new database had been developed and it was planned to roll out the project to other areas. Volunteers were thoroughly vetted before being allowed access to the database and the Police National Computer (PNC).
- So far the project had operated mainly in rural areas but could be used in an urban situation if a speeding problem was identified.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the presentation

PC/318 Spectrum Photo Labs

Sgt K Morley gave the presentation. The following points were made:

- Engagement of young people in Plymouth had increased since the introduction of the PCSOs. The use of community projects such as football, building, remote controlled cars etc. has reduced offending. However, there is a lack of similar projects for girls; these tend to have a greater cost associated with them.
- We need to learn from the key messages shown on the posters of responses from young people about the police. Further posters were being produced for display in public areas to use as a communication tool for older people, victims, offenders etc.
- Some partnership work had been done with children's services to target drinking and teenage pregnancy. Packs were being put in taxis with advice and free condoms.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the presentation.

PC/319 Strategic Partnerships Audit

Ms A Parsons gave an overview of the report. The following issues were discussed:

- The report focused on joint working arrangements with partners e.g. Devon County Council, Devon Fire and Rescue and the Primary Care Trusts. Risks and control arrangements were looked at together with the role of the PA.
- Findings showed that the new strategy was working well but it is not always applied as much as possible. It would be useful to have more support from the PA especially at the Executive level.
- The risk frameworks are not yet in place for strategic partners (those that have a cash involvement greater than £100K).
- The Assistant Chief Executive is leading the partnership work for the PA. A national framework had recently been released by the Home Office. The PA needs to set in place a list of the partners, what their role is, what we hope to achieve and a means of reporting back to the full PA. Succession planning of members was necessary to avoid gaps.
- Although the strategic partnerships were working well there were no formal links to Crime Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs). The PA should be key members of the CDRPs.
- There were a number of recommendations for the Force that the PA should note. In addition the recommendation for the PA was that it develops a statement of commitment that will provide strong support to the Force. It was unclear which committee this should sit with. The Assistant Chief Executive agreed to look into this and the possibility of setting up a working group.

RESOLVED (i) that the report be noted
(ii) that the Assistant Chief Executive arranges how the partnership work will be taken forward.

PC/320 Draft Police Authority Annual Report

The following points were discussed:

- There was a danger of duplication with the PA Annual Report and the Local Policing Summary (LPS). Therefore, it was suggested combining the two documents. The PA section should be clearly defined as separate. The advantages were that the LPS was delivered to every home in the region which would

vastly increase the circulation of the PA report and it could explain the role of the PA in the Force's achievements. A formal, more comprehensive document would still be put on the website.

- RESOLVED**
- (i) that the PA Annual Report for 2008-09 be incorporated into the Local Policing Summary.
 - (ii) that the contents of the Annual Report are in accordance with the items listed in the paper.

PC/321 Summary of Consultation Activities

The Policy Officer presented the report. The following issues were covered:

- Police visibility has increased and the Force website is well used. The ease of contact score had also improved.
- The priority area for 2009-10 should be 'confidence' and 'satisfaction'. The Home Office was moving to a common framework of targets in September this would have to be discussed with the Committee.
- The PA was attending several festivals and events over the next few months. These would provide an opportunity to assess public confidence and satisfaction but the approach would be discussed with the Force.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

PC/322 Community Engagement Strategy

The Policy Officer presented the report. The following issues were covered:

- The strategy was for information only at this stage but would eventually be published on the website with links to other areas.
- Other ways of communicating the strategy could be through advertisements in newspapers, at the County Shows and in the Neighbourhood Policing Team letters that go out to the public. Information could also be put into the LPS.

RESOLVED to note the strategy

PC/323 Any Other Business

Ms A Buisman wanted to thank the committee, panel members, and Exeter College students for their work and collaboration. She also wanted to thank Joy Norris and Graham Davey for their support, guidance and leadership whilst working at the Police Authority.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12:25 hours