

SOUTH WEST POLICE AUTHORITIES JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the
South West Police Authorities Joint Committee (SWPAJC) held at
Avon and Somerset Constabulary HQ, Valley Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 8QJ
on Friday 4th February 2011 at 10.00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Avon and Somerset Police Authority

Dr P Heffer
Ms Claire Gordon

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

Mr M Bull – *Chairman*
Mr B Preston
Mr B Greenslade – *representing the Association of Police Authorities*

Dorset Police Authority

Mr M Taylor
Mrs A Stribley

Gloucestershire Police Authority

Mr R Garnham
Mr B Crowther

Wiltshire Police Authority

Mr C Hoare
Mr B Ford

ALSO PRESENT

Mr A Champness (Chief Executive, Gloucestershire Police Authority)
Mr M Goscomb (Chief Executive, Dorset Police Authority)
Ms S Howl (Chief Executive, Devon and Cornwall Police Authority)
Mr K Kilgallen (Chief Executive, Wiltshire Police Authority)
Mr J Smith (Chief Executive, Avon and Somerset Police Authority)
Mr D Bennett (Treasurer, Gloucestershire Police Authority)
Mr P Rook (Treasurer, Dorset Police Authority)
Mr M Baker (Chief Constable, Dorset Police)
Mr T Melville (Chief Constable, Gloucestershire Police)
Mr B Moore (Chief Constable, Wiltshire Police)
Mr D Ainsworth (Deputy Chief Constable, Wiltshire Police)
Mr R Beckley (Deputy Chief Constable, Avon and Somerset Police)
Mr R Hansen (Assistant Chief Constable, Avon and Somerset Police)
Mr K Lambert (Assistant Chief Constable, Gloucestershire Police)
Ms E Zeeman (Strategic Human Resources Director, Avon and Somerset Police)
Mrs S Goscomb (Director of Finance and Resources, Devon and Cornwall Police)
Mr G Hill (Regional Programme Co-ordinator)
Mr R Martin (Strategic Planning Officer, Devon and Cornwall Police Authority)

54. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chairman apologised to Staff Associations and Unions that the last meeting of the SWPAJC in November 2010 was not followed by a briefing session. A briefing by the Chairman of the SWPAJC and Chairman of the Programme Board would follow this meeting if required by Staff Association members.

Apologies had been received from
Mr S Otter (Chief Constable, Devon and Cornwall Police)
Mr C Port (Chief Constable, Avon and Somerset Police)

55. Open minutes and Actions from last meeting - 5 November 2010

RESOLVED

- i) *that the Open minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2010 be approved as a correct record.*

56. Regional Collaboration Plan and common chapter 2011-12

The report asked Members to consider the draft Common Chapter for inclusion in each Authority's Local Policing Plan for 2011 and to consider the draft Regional Collaboration Plan 2011.

Common Chapter

The Chairman recognised that the finalisation of the Chapter was time sensitive given that Authorities had different deadlines that they needed to meet in order for the Chapter to be presented along with draft Local Policing Plans at imminent Police Authority meetings.

Members wished for the Chapter to remain reasonably short and punchy so that its impact is not lost in what may otherwise be lengthy documents.

Several observations were made in relation to enhancing the content of the Chapter. The Chairman asked for suggestions to be forwarded to Mr Martin by noon on 7 February 2011 for inclusion in the document.

Draft Regional Collaboration Plan

The draft Plan had been prepared based upon the work in development within the Tier 1 Workstreams. These had all been agreed by the SWPAJC and illustrated that much of the collaboration programme was based upon medium-term pieces of work that had taken and would continue to require considerable resource and time commitments from individual Forces. Members recognised that the significant pressures that all Forces faced over the coming years from reduced budgets would probably place the collaboration programme under some strain. The SWPAJC were clear that despite increased local pressures this was not the time to withdraw nor scale back the collective effort to collaborate further.

The Draft Plan received considerable debate. Members questioned the appropriateness of a one-year plan at a time when other Authorities are in the final stages of preparing four-year spending plans to cover the CSR period.

The Chairman agreed that a longer term view would be beneficial. This was particularly the case given the significant changes in public finances and social policy following the change of Government that have occurred since the last 'Visioning Day' conducted by the Region. The Chairman called upon the Chief Executives to work on a longer-term strategic plan on behalf of the region.

Members agreed that the Plan remained adaptable and subject to change should it become necessary due to unforeseen circumstances or changes in Government policy. As it stood, the Plan set out the framework within which the collaboration programme would operate. The means for moving work areas in to or out of the Programme are established through the escalation/ relegation process enabled between the SWPAJC and the Programme Board.

Mr Baker warned that much of the regional plan as set out in the Plan was vulnerable to and dependent upon national programme developments. There remained some uncertainty regarding the future arrangements for the support to important police systems as well as the appetite from Government to continue supporting programmes that are currently under development. The success of the regional programme is reliant on the Government delivering upon earlier promises for infrastructure and technology improvements. There was also a risk that nationally imposed schemes may undermine local and regional advances.

Members reflected that the Plan needed to remain flexible to take account of any nationally-imposed changes or significant Government policy announcements.

A number of suggestions were made for inclusion in the Plan. The Chairman asked for amendments to be forwarded to Mr Martin for working into a revised version of the Plan.

The Chairman stated that, as with the Common Chapter, each participant police authority needed to seek local approval for the Plan. Once the five Authorities had received the necessary endorsement, the Plan would be considered adopted.

The Chairman asked Chief Executives to arrange for the Plan to be considered locally. For completeness, the Plan would then return to the next meeting of the SWPAJC on 9 May 2011.

RESOLVED

- i) Subject to minor amendment, the Common Chapter be approved.*
- ii) That Chief Executives seek the necessary endorsement from their police authorities for the Regional Collaboration Plan.*
- iii) That the Regional Collaboration Plan be presented to the SWPAJC on 9 May 2011.*
- iv) That Chief Executives prepare a medium/ long term Collaboration Strategy for consideration of the SWPAJC on 9 May 2011.*

57. Workstreams 1,2 & 3 Master v1.4

Mr Baker introduced the report seeking to update Members on the wide range of work being progressed within the Region and managed by the Programme Board.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Update be noted.*

58. National Police Air Service

Mr Baker provided an update on the work that has been undertaken within the National Police Air Review. Members were advised that the joint ACPO/ NPIA project still has some way to go but is projected to be established by May 2012. However, it is considered unlikely that all areas will be party to the new arrangements immediately.

Given the status of this work, the Programme Board has established this as a Tier 2 project.

RESOLVED

- i) That the National Police Air Service update be noted.
- ii) That the inclusion of the National Police Air Service Project as a Tier 2 priority is noted.

59. Tier 1 Update Reports

Mr Baker invited Workstream leads to provide updates on the activity and progress within the Tier 1 projects.

Mr Baker recommended that Zephyr be moved to the *Benefits Realisation* category.

59a. Procurement

Mrs Goscomb reported.

- The project progresses well.
- A communications plan is developed. Briefings with staff will commence shortly.
- Further update on contractual arrangements to be provided in the Closed section of this meeting.

59b. Learning and Development IPLDP

Ms Zeeman reported:

- The Workstream is progressing well however there had been some delays in the progress of the shared service due to difficulties gathering information. It is recognised that all Forces are struggling with considerable HR-related issues at the moment.
- The project is being reviewed to better understand the benefits able to be gleaned.
- It is anticipated that savings of up to £4m may be realised across the Region.

The Chairman emphasised the expectation that the SWPAJC has that all Forces fully engage at the highest level and commit to the collective work that is required to drive collaboration forward. Again, it was recognised that much local effort was underway to reach pressing budget settlements but it was hoped this would not distract from regional work.

59c Corporate Services

Mrs Goscomb reported

- The benchmarking work conducted by Devon and Cornwall has informed local decision making. Most Forces are now moving to a central HR structure.
- Individual Authorities will hold their Forces to account for the delivery of these changes and therefore the Workstream will fall to Tier 2 once the revised structures have had time to settle.
- Some benefits from this work were difficult to capture. Officers and Members reflected on the improvements being seen that are not necessarily financial but resulted in better working relationships, confidence building and the free flow of information between Forces. The Chairman offered to write to HMI Sharpling to state that the improvements made from regional working were greater than they may appear at first glance.

59d ICT Convergence

Mr Moore and Mr Ainsworth reported

- This is a fast moving area of work of significant complexity.
- National developments to ISIS and changes to senior ISIS management have major implications on local and regional work activity.

- Phases 1 and 2 of the workstream are considered still valid to the Region however as time goes by potential savings may reduce. Considerable analysis is underway to better understand the benefits and risks. ICT convergence within the CSR period is a significant challenge and unlikely to reap considerable financial savings.

Members discussed the challenges posed by the Workstream and the uncertainties that impact upon its feasibility. The complexity of a national call-off framework that has little or no structure, shifting costs and lack of flexibility is too restrictive and costly for the Region.

Mr Baker recommended that the Regional effort should be focussed on standardisation, interoperability and convergence. National developments should be monitored but are initially likely to be too costly.

59e Transactional Processes

Mr Melville reported

- The Workstream is on time and on track.
- A Business Case is to be provided in May 2011.

59f Forensics

Mr Baker reported

- The Workstream in on track.
- There are concerns that the winding-down of the Forensics Science Service will leave gaps in service provision. A migration to other providers is underway and being led nationally by Chief Constable Sims of West Midlands Police. The transition must be completed by May 2012.
- The changes do make the Region vulnerable due to potential losses in specialist services.

59g Firearms interoperability

Mr Beckley reported

- A Business Case will be prepared by the end of February 2011.
- This is another area of work affected by national issues.
- The scheme is exploring the opportunity of income generation.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Tier 1 Update reports be noted.*
- ii) That Corporate Services Workstream be moved to Tier 2.*
- iii) That the Regional ISIS Coordinator role is not funded from the Region following the cessation of national funding.*
- iv) That Zephyr be moved to the 'Benefits Realisation' category.*

60. Tier 2 Update Report

Mr Baker introduced a report providing Members with a progress summary on the Tier 2 workstreams.

RESOLVED

- i) the Tier 2 update report be noted.*

61. Tier 3 Update Report (by exception)

Mr Baker introduced a report providing Members with a progress summary on the Tier 3 workstreams.

Approved by SWPAJC 9 May 2011

Issues were highlighted regarding the recently announced national processes for procurement of police vehicles. It was noted that the benefits from the revised arrangements were questionable. Mrs Goscomb indicated that the Region had suggested a refined, less bureaucratic process to the NPIA.

Mr Baker agreed to provide an update to the next meeting of the SWPAJC on 9 May 2011.

RESOLVED

- i) *the Tier 3 update report be noted.*

62. Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED

- i) *that in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in Agenda Items 9 to 11 because it is likely that if a member of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Act.*