

SOUTH WEST POLICE AUTHORITIES JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the
South West Police Authorities Joint Committee (SWPAJC) held at
The Leadon Room, Gloucestershire Police HQ, Waterwells Drive,
Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2 2AN
on Monday 13 February 2012 at 10.00am

MEMBERS PRESENT

Avon and Somerset Police Authority

Dr P Heffer

Ms S Mountstevens

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

Mr M Bull - Chair

Mr B Preston

Dorset Police Authority

Mr M Taylor CBE DL

Mr B Cooper

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 D Bennett (Treasurer, Gloucestershire Police Authority)

Mr S Otter (Chief Constable, Devon and Cornwall Police)

Mr M Baker (Chief Constable, Dorset Police)

Mr B Moore (Chief Constable, Wiltshire Police)

Mr R Beckley (Deputy Chief Constable, Avon & Somerset Police)

Mr R Hansen (Assistant Chief Constable, Avon & Somerset Police)

Mr K Lambert (Assistant Chief Constable, Gloucestershire Police)

Mrs S Goscomb (Director of Finance & Resources, Devon and Cornwall Police)

Ms C Taylor (Human Resources, Avon and Somerset Police)

Mr R Martin (Strategic Planning Officer, Devon and Cornwall Police Authority)

GUESTS

Mr D Jones (National Policing Improvement Agency)

Mrs A Crosse (National Policing Improvement Agency)

113. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from

Mr J Smith (Chief Executive, Avon and Somerset Police Authority)

Mr P Rook (Treasurer, Dorset Police Authority)

Mr T Melville (Chief Constable, Gloucestershire Police)

Mr C Port (Chief Constable, Avon & Somerset Police)

114. Declaration of interests

There were no declarations of interests.

115. Open minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2011

RESOLVED

- i) That the Open minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2011 be approved as a correct record.*

116. The shadow Strategic Policing Requirement

David Jones from the National Policing Improvement Agency delivered a presentation to Members on the shadow Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR).

The presentation was based upon the key concepts of the SPR known as the five 'C's - Capacity, contribution, capability, consistency and connectivity.

Members queried whether the NPIA would publish any guidance on the SPR for the incoming Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC). Mr Jones stated that it was not the role of the NPIA to do this, nor had it been asked to do so. The Policing protocol was in place and this set out the PCC's responsibilities to have regard to the SPR when setting strategies and plans.

Members discussed the implications of the SPR and the dynamics of how relationships between PCC's and Chief Constables will change. Reference was drawn to different approaches across the country and the interest the private sector is taking to filling gaps in service provision.

The Chairman thanked Mr Jones for his presentation.

117. A Walk through the Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act

Mr Champness provided Members with a high level summary of the key changes brought about by the Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011 and, in particular, the implications it has for collaborative working.

The presentation covered following key points:

- Key provisions from the Act which are being brought in gradually
- The concept of a corporation sole and its status in law
- The functions of a Police and Crime Commissioner and in particular the PCC's duty to issue a Police and Crime Plan.
- The collaboration provisions, enacted on 16 January 2012, which affects collaborative work between PCC's, Chief Constables and with other bodies.

- The new duty to collaborate where it is in the interests of the majority even if it is not to the benefit of one.
- Arrangements for holding the Chief Constable to account for collaborative work.
- The changing picture of police grant-making and partnership funding streams.
- The functions of the Chief Constable
- The duties on both the PCC and Chief Constable to secure value for money.
- The complexities of the first and second phase transfers.

Dr Heffer questioned it whether there were any gaps in the existing regional programme that the Committee should be aware of, given this aspect of the Act took effect in January.

Mr Champness referred to the earlier presentation and specifically the Five C's. It was advised that future collaboration agreements will need to clearly specify how Chief Constable(s) will be held to account for delivery of the agreement.

The Chairman thanked Mr Champness for his presentation and invited further input at subsequent meetings as and when developments emerged.

118. SWPAJC and regional collaboration arrangements

Mr Kilgallen presented a paper setting out the implications for the SWPAJC from the Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011 focusing on the abolition of police authorities and introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners in November 2012.

Along with all of a police authority's assets, Section 23 agreements will transfer to the incoming PCC in November. Several S23 agreements were yet to be finalised and it was emphasised that these needed completion before November 2012.

As a result of the changes brought about by the Act, the SWPAJC will cease to exist as of 22 November 2012. Mr Kilgallen suggested that beyond this date, a forum of PCC's and Chief Constables would be the suitable basis upon which to progress. Below this, it is suggested a subsidiary board arrangements or through a scheme of consent agree to his or her force discharging the governance function is established. Such arrangements will allow the SWPAJC successor body to focus on strategic development and over-arching governance, leaving detailed delivery to subsidiary project boards which can operate in accordance with schemes of consent agreed by each Police and Crime Commissioner with his or her Chief Constable.

The Chairman asked Mr Kilgallen and Mr Goscomb to prepare a briefing paper to be sent to the five police authorities in the region to alert them to the issues raised in Mr Kilgallen's report

RESOLVED

- i. That on behalf of Chief Executives and Chief Constables, Mr Kilgallen reviews and make relevant changes to the existing and proposed collaboration arrangements to implement the changes set out in the report.*
- ii. To approve the proposal for governance and strategic management of collaboration arrangements set out the report.*

119. Programme Revision of Key Workstreams

Mr Baker presented a report setting out a proposal from the Programme Board to slim down and rationalise the regional Programme in order to focus on the projects that were likely to bring about the most benefits to the Region.

Mr Crowther felt that the report did not give a sufficient rationale for the proposal but was in agreement in principle with the move to cut out those areas where benefits were less likely to be forthcoming.

The Chairman stated that the SWPAJC had established a work programme that was seen as being the most effective for the needs of the authorities and forces at that time. If substantial changes were to be made, this would need setting out with a clear rationale of explanation.

Dr Heffer welcomed a review of the 'long-list' approach and felt that a mechanism was needed for Forces and/ or Authorities to bring forward proposals for consideration.

Mr Hoare questioned the appropriateness of asking Chief Constables to review the governance arrangements.

Mr Baker suggested that in the spirit of collaboration, Chief Constables were offering to review arrangements and provide a series of proposals to police authorities.

Mr Garnham reminded Members of the role that Police and Crime Panels will play in the future in scrutinising a PCC on his/ her decisions and actions. The importance of providing information to the Panel forms part of this scrutiny and therefore presenting a clear rationale for taking a particular course of action is important. A review of the current programme of work will assist this.

The Chairman sought clarification from Mr Baker regarding the arrangements for project management support to the Regional Programme. The Chairman referred to a decision by the SWPAJC in August 2010 whereby it would be consulted upon any changes to the arrangements with delegated authority being granted to the Chair and Vice Chair to approve such changes.

Mr Baker informed the committee that earlier project management support arrangements had proved to be impractical and had been revised.

Mr Otter apologised that these changes had not been shared with the SWPAJC.

RESOLVED

- i) *That Chief Constables prepare a report for the next meeting of the SWPAJC, setting out a clear rationale and subsequent proposals for a revision to the number of Workstreams being managed through the SW Regional Collaboration Programme.*

120. TIER 1 Update

Mr Baker introduced an update on the progress Tier 1 workstreams within the Regional Programme.

Procurement

Mrs Goscomb mentioned that savings in a number of areas had been identified already, namely fleet management, telecoms and vehicle parts and fuel. The project was on track

The Section 23 agreement was in place but would be reviewed in light of changes to be discussed in the Closed part of this meeting.

Mr Garnham questioned whether the circa £4m of efficiencies originally predicted was still an accurate forecast.

Mrs Goscomb stated that all Authorities and Forces had substantially reduced spending due to the Comprehensive Spending Review, meaning that savings would be harder to come by. Mrs Goscomb doubted that the efficiency figure would amount to £4m but would still be “seven figures” and sufficient to cover costs with a surplus.

It was clarified that a fall in demand was accounted for and built into the contract with the provider.

Forensics

Mr Baker reported that this project was on schedule and would be providing a business case to the SWPAJC in April 2012.

Firearms

Mr Hansen reported that this project was on schedule and a business case would be prepared by the end of March 2012. Heads of Terms were in preparation. A Section 23 agreement would be prepared in due course.

Firearms Access Control would be subsumed into the main Firearms workstream.

Learning and Development

IPLDP – The pre-entry assessment tool is being utilised. The number of people in the process is less than planned for and the working is currently approximately three weeks behind schedule. Ms Zeeman (Project Lead) has written to Forces encouraging them to speed up processing as this may cause some delays to those Authorities wishing to recruit officers.

e-commerce

This item to be dealt with in the Closed section of this meeting.

ICT convergence

Mr Moore provided an update. Work is on schedule for presentation of a business case to the April 2012 meeting of SWPAJC.

Work progresses in-line with the national developments regarding NewCo (the national police-led ICT company under development). This Region's work would not be compromised by national developments. The region is represented at a senior level on the NewCo development arrangements.

Firearms licensing

This item to be dealt with in the Closed section of this meeting.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Tier 1 update reports are noted.*

121. The 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games

Mr Baker introduced a report to Members setting out an overview of the implications for South West forces and Authorities of the Olympic Torch Relay and the Olympic and Paralympic Games affecting parts of the Region in May, July and August this year.

Mr Baker pointed out to Members that national funding does not extend to the policing and security implications associated with the Torch Relay. Forces will not be able to recover the costs of policing any local events arranged to coincide with the Torch Relay from the Home Office. Mr Baker stated that Force Finance Directors had been made aware of this.

Mr Bull thanked Mr Baker for the report and

RESOLVED

- i) That the report on the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games be noted.*

122. Chairman's announcement

The Chairman advised members that this would be the last SWPAJC meeting for Stephen Otter who would shortly be leaving Devon & Cornwall Constabulary for a role with HMIC.

Mr Bull thanked Mr Otter for his substantial contribution to regional work over the past five years and in particular with relation to his leadership on transformational change.

On behalf of the SWPAJC, the Chairman expressed his considerable gratitude to Mr Otter and wished him well for the future.

123. 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 11 to 15 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.*