

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, Police Headquarters
Valley Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 8QJ
on Monday 23 April 2012 at 10.00am

MEMBERS PRESENT

Avon and Somerset Police Authority

Mrs C Gordon
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 J Smith (Chief Executive, Avon and Somerset Police Authority)
Mr D Bennett (Treasurer, Gloucestershire Police Authority)
Mr R Bates (Treasurer, Dorset Police Authority)
Mr M Baker (Chief Constable, Dorset Police)
Mr P Geenty (Chief Constable, Wiltshire Police)
Mr T Melville (Chief Constable, Gloucestershire Police)
Mr C Port (Chief Constable, Avon & Somerset Police)
Mr S Sawyer (Chief Constable, Devon and Cornwall Police)
Mrs S Goscomb (Director of Finance & Resources, Devon and Cornwall Police)
Ms E Zeeman (Director of Human Resources, Avon and Somerset Police)
Mr I Etheridge (Regional Collaboration Programme Coordinator, Dorset Police)
Mr R Martin (Strategic Planning Officer, Devon and Cornwall Police Authority)

GUESTS

Mr B Hughes (Regional Chief Crown Prosecutor)

129. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies for Absence

The Chairman opened the meeting. A particular welcome was extended to Shaun Sawyer (Devon and Cornwall) and Pat Geenty (Wiltshire) in their first SWPAJC meeting as chief constable.

Apologies had been received from Dr P Heffer (Avon & Somerset Police Authority) and Mr B Greenslade (APA).

130. Declaration of interests

There were no declarations of interests.

131. Open minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2012

RESOLVED

- i. That the Open minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2012 be approved as a correct record.*

132. Presentation from Regional Chief Crown Prosecutor

The Chairman welcomed Barry Hughes, Regional Chief Crown Prosecutor for Devon & Cornwall, Avon & Somerset and Gloucestershire to the meeting. Mr Hughes provided Members with his views on the impact Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) may have upon the criminal justice system.

Key points from the presentation included:

- The Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act is a significant 'game-change' for the police and the wider criminal justice system.
- The CPS region is not co-terminus with Force areas. This may present complications as CPS attempt to juggle potentially differing PCC priorities and to what extent PCCs will wish to work together in a region.
- The PCC's Police and Crime Plan must reflect the views of the public. PCCs will be wise to ensure the needs and views of victims and witnesses are addressed in order to garner greater public support.
- Mr Hughes posed the question of how a PCC would deal with delays in police proceedings, custody time limit delays, cracked trails and the like.
- One area of Police Reform that has had less attention is the "*..and Crime*" aspect of a PCC's role.
- The Government is considering further reforms of the Criminal Justice System in a White Paper to be published shortly.
- PCCs will come into their roles with varying views of the Criminal Justice System. They are unlikely to have the detailed understanding or knowledge of the complexities and risks faced by the CJS and its interface with the police service.

Mr Hughes took questions from Members.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hughes for his astute and perceptive presentation and his contribution to the ongoing debate.

133. Tier One update

The Chairman stated that he was dissatisfied with some elements of the paperwork for this meeting. Several papers had been received late whilst others had not materialised at all.

e-Commerce

Mr Geenty stated that excellent progress was being made. This had been made possible by the NPIA's agreement to provide considerable funding for this initiative. The project was now progressing to the implementation phase. The momentum that had been built up by the region would need to be maintained if the full potential of this work was to be realised.

Mr Baker agreed that the benefits from this work would see the south west region well placed. However, it was recognised that the workload remained very high at a time of considerable change.

Mr Smith reminded the Committee that the Section 23 agreement was outstanding. Mr Bull referred to a letter received by himself and Mr Baker from Mr Smith regarding the outstanding Section 23 agreements and stated the Committee would discuss this later in the meeting.

ICT convergence (Business case progress report)

Mr Geenty provided Members with an update on the progress of project aimed at developing a shared services agreement between Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.

Mr Geenty reported on the complexities of the regional and national police ICT landscape. The analysis conducted as part of this review unearthed further complications and for this reason it had not been possible to prepare a draft business case for consideration at this meeting as had been originally planned.

A revised timescale for the completion of the assessment phase was the first week of May, with onward progression to the SWPAJC at its next meeting in July 2012.

Mr Garnham provided an update on the national position of the introduction of NewCo. The current estimate was for NewCo to be available from July 2012 meaning the region may be able to adopt this option should it choose to do so.

Mr Garnham informed the Committee that Gloucestershire would be withdrawing from further involvement from the ICT convergence project. This was due to the risk of jeopardising Gloucestershire's ability to address savings targets and organisational change issues. Mr Garnham recognised the useful work that had been achieved to date and was keen to engage with the project team to see if Gloucestershire could remain involved in some way with the process.

Mr Melville stated that the outline business case which was presented to the November 2011 meeting of this Committee was not very detailed and Members were provided with insufficient time to make a full assessment of its merits. Gloucestershire was expecting the full business case at this meeting and, Mr Melville hoped, this would have assisted Gloucestershire address some of the internal

challenges it faced. Mr Melville had consulted with his Police Authority recommending that it would be inappropriate to wait any longer for the project to run its course and develop a set of proposals. Therefore, Mr Melville withdrew Gloucestershire's continued involvement in this process.

Mr Geenty expressed disappointment that Gloucestershire had taken the decision to withdraw as the three force model was, in the project's view, the best option.

Mr Hoare stated that this project and its potential savings had been factored into Wiltshire's savings plans. If Gloucestershire was to withdraw now, Wiltshire may need to review its continued commitment too.

Mr Goscomb stated Dorset's position remained that it was committed to the ICT convergence approach.

Mr Bull stated his disappointment that Gloucestershire's position had only become apparent now. He felt that the COB should have discussed this development prior to this meeting.

Mr Baker reported that ICT convergence had been discussed between Chief Constables but the matter had not been an issue at that time.

The Chairman stated that he would expect the ICT convergence business case to be presented to the July 2012 meeting of this Committee. Gloucestershire's position would then be presented and the future viability of the initiative considered.

The Chairman did not put the recommendations indicated in the report to the Committee but instructed that the Committee would note the report.

Learning and Development

Ms Zeeman presented a verbal update. It was reported that the pre-assessment project timescale was approximately 6 weeks behind schedule due to BSQ Trial and Easter Break. Acceptance testing is scheduled for beginning on 16 May 2012.

IPLDP Workstream is currently experiencing some delays. This is due to the 15 potential suppliers not wishing to offer the package as a distance learning module. Some funding is available from Skills for Justice. Human Resources directors will meet in May 2012 to develop options and will be presented to the SWPAJC in July 2012, following consideration by COB.

Vehicle procurement

Mr Baker stated there were no issues to report.

Transactional Processes

Mr Melville stated there were no issues to report. The project remained on-time and on budget.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Progress Report on the Business case for ICT convergence is noted.*

134. SWPAJC Regional collaboration programme – Revision of key workstreams

Mr Baker presented a report following a request by the SWPAJC at its last meeting, proposing a revised approach to managing the different collaboration projects within the region.

The current model, working with collaboration projects arranged under a three tier Structure, had been in operation for two years it is now considered that the context has changed and this no longer fully meets the needs of the Regional Collaboration Programme.

The report proposed that Tier One remains substantially unchanged; for projects that have a Full Business Case approved by SWPAJC. All current projects initially listed within Tier Two (with effect from August 2010) Governance Framework have either been moved to or combined with projects in Tier One, or are complete and being dealt with under benefits realisation. It is proposed that Tier Two will now contain every project that has an Outline Business Case and has been approved by SWPAJC for the completion of a Full Business Case. On approval of the Full Business Case the project will move up to Tier One.

It was further proposed that Tier Three be removed. The responsibility for those projects that involve operational simplification and standardisation will remain with nominated leads who will account to their respective Chief Officers as currently but the requirement to report to the Regional Collaboration Programme Board will be removed. There is an extensive network of Regional operational meetings that manage these workstreams.

Mr Garnham pointed out that the important criteria for a project's inclusion at Tier One or Two was their strategic importance to policing, not the stage of their development. He asked for clarity of how existing projects would be reviewed and assessed against their original rationale. Mr Baker stated that he would arrange for all projects to be reviewed and a report brought to the July 2012 meeting of the SWPAJC.

RESOLVED

- i) *That the SWPAJC accept the proposals, namely that*
 - Tier One remains unchanged;
 - Tier Two to remain unchanged.
 - Tier Three be removed. These projects to be managed by respective Chief Officers and requirement to report to the Regional Collaboration Programme Board and SWPAJC is removed
- ii) *A review of all projects to be presented to the July 2012 meeting of the SWPAJC.*
- iii) *That delegated authority is provided to the Chairman, in consultation with Mr Champness, to adjust the wording of the Tier structure in the Ten Year Regional Collaboration Strategy, to reflect the agreement above,*

135. 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 8 to 10 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.*