

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

MINUTES

A meeting of the **Performance Management Committee** was held on Tuesday 18 September 2007 in the Conference Room, Endeavour House, Woodwater Park, Exeter starting at 10.00am.

Present:

Chairman Mr M Bull
Mr C Bulley, Mrs L Dunn, Mr M Hicks Mr J Rowe and Mr C Wallin.

Officers in Attendance: -

Police Force

Dr R Bullock (Force Performance Analyst), Deputy Chief Constable T Melville [Agenda Items 1 – 6 only], Acting Assistant Chief Constable (Operations and Crime) R Pennington [Agenda item 8 only], and Acting Assistant Chief Constable (Territorial Policing & Justice) R Spencer [items 7 –9 only].

Police Authority

Miss J Norris (Assistant Chief Executive)

PM/466 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Sir Simon Day, Mr G Hicks, Mr D Money and Mr W Thomas.

PM/467 Declarations of Interests

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

PM/468 Minutes

Issues raised during this item included:

- PM/451 & PM/460 Decriminalised Parking Enforcement. Negotiations regarding Councils taking on responsibility for parking enforcement issues are progressing. Whilst the negotiations are ongoing the police will continue to address specific significant local issues using a targeted approach.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.

PM/469 Terms of Reference for the Performance Management Committee

Work is currently underway to compile a Constitution for the Authority. As part of that work each Committee has been asked to consider its Terms of Reference and make appropriate recommendations to the Authority.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The development of a protocol regarding the Police Authority / Basic Command Unit Commander meetings
- The change from an Annual Policing Plan to a rolling three year plan

RESOLVED

- (i) to recommend to the Police Authority that the Terms of Reference for the Performance Management Committee are
- *On behalf of the Police Authority set the rolling 3yr performance plan with annual milestones for inclusion in the Policing Plan, following consultation with the Force.*
 - *On behalf of the Police Authority hold the Chief Constable, or his appointed representative, to account for any area of Force performance*
 - *To call for a report on any areas requiring improvement action when necessary in areas of under-performance and to monitor delivery against appropriate action plan.*
 - *Report to the appropriate Police Authority Committee and/or full Police Authority with issues arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process.*
 - *To commission work on a Task and Finish basis following prior approval of the Chair's Group and the Chief Executive.*
 - *To receive relevant external inspection reports, such as from Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) or the Audit Commission and to track progress against recommendations.*
- (ii) That the Committee's preferred option is for the Committee to elect its Chairman and Vice-Chairman

PM/470 Performance Against the Annual Policing Plan (targets)

This report provided details of the Force's performance against the Annual Policing Plan Targets including an analysis of mid-year performance and forecast year-end results. The report was supplemented by a presentation from the Force Performance Analyst.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The user satisfaction survey results for each Basic Command Unit
- The questions asked in the user satisfaction survey
- Ways of raising the satisfaction with the way in which racist incidents have been dealt with and identifying the cause of dis-satisfaction.
- Use of forensic evidence and the impact upon detections
- Proceeds of Crime Act and the length of time it takes to take a case through the court system
- There are 2 financial investigators in each Basic Command Unit, except Cornwall & IoS BCU where there are four, who will undertake some investigatory work and also offer advice to front-line officers
- The economic crime unit focus on organised crime, crime networks and operates force-wide.
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary report on domestic violence
- Targets regarding road traffic incidents are not currently being achieved. There are many variables involved in road traffic incidents and these have been looked at but there are no clear trends regarding locations, weather conditions, etc. this target is also a shared product with other organisations and is not the sole responsibility of the police
- There has been good publicity regarding policing road safety initiatives especially regarding motor cycle rides
- Call handling – the response to 999 calls is improving as a result of a process change but this change may have repercussions on non-emergency calls.
- The categories of violent crime
- The definition of "public place" when used for the statistics

RESOLVED to note the report

PM/471 Protective Services

The Deputy Chief Constable provided Members with an oral report of how protective services performance is managed in Force.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The appropriate role for the authority regarding the performance management of protective services
- Strategic Assessment of Threats is undertaken twice a year and includes a control strategy.
- Officers and staff with specialist skills are deployed from the headquarters team to Basic Command Units when appropriate.
- A national Standard Assessment tool is due to be released to Forces in late September – results from this will be fed into the HMIC inspection regime.

RESOLVED to note the report.

PM/472 Review of Crime Investigation Teams

The Acting Assistant Chief Constable (Territorial Policing & Justice) explained to Members the role of the Crime Investigation Teams and the implementation of a review of their effectiveness.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The division of work between the specialise Crime Investigation Teams and the Neighbourhood Beat Managers
- The need for corporacy and consistency in the operation of Crime Investigation Teams across the Force
- The positive impact that Crime Investigation teams have made on the reduction of abstractions
- Sharing resources effectively

RESOLVED to note the report.

PM/473 Magistrates Courts Act (MCA) Work Backlog

To follow-on from concerns raised at the last meeting, Members were updated by the Acting Assistant Chief Constable (Territorial Policing & Justice) on the corporate approach to ensuring Magistrates' Court proceedings are commenced within the appropriate timescale.

It was explained that between December 2005 and February 2006 there was a backlog of offences going "out of time" that were written off with the consent of the Crown Prosecution Service. The backlog had arisen due to a number of factors including the speed cameras during the A30 road construction. There had been a concern during 2006 that the situation could arise again although all offences were being correctly dealt with and offenders received the appropriate letters etc. Currently there were no cases that were in danger of being "out of time".

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The timescales for dealing with offences to be heard in the magistrates court
- The performance management regime implemented by Basic Command Unit Commanders to ensure that all the documentation is dealt with in a timely fashion

RESOLVED that the Chief Constable be requested to inform the Police Authority immediately should there be any cases which go out of time.

PM/474 Performance Issues relating to the SOCRATES Project

SOCRATES is a software programme which supports the monitoring and sharing of forensics information and is being gradually introduced across the Force. The report by the Acting Assistant Chief Constable (Operations and Crime) updated the Committee on its status and anticipated performance benefits.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Implementation of using the Socrates system will start in March 2008 in the North and East Devon Basic Command Unit.
- Attendance at crime scenes by Scenes of Crime Officers has increased
- Successful recovery of evidence from scenes of crimes is dependent on many and varying factors including weather.
- The need for a corporate and consistent approach throughout the Force regarding forensic issues
- Appreciation of the role that Mr Mike Bull has personally played in progressing the SOCRATES project

RESOLVED to note the report

PM/459 Lead Member Update

Lynne Dunn, Lead Member for the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) and National Standard of Incident Recording (NSIR), provided a short briefing to Members on the work and training she has undertaken since taking on this role.

RESOLVED to note the report

The meeting closed at 12:30hrs .