

LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

Minutes of a meeting of the Police Authority held at Leicestershire Police Headquarters, Enderby on Tuesday 26 January 2010

Present

Mr P Brown, Dr S Chowdhury, Mr U Dholakia, Mr B Greaves, Dr S Hill, Mrs W Martin, Mrs D Newton, Mr J Orson, Mr D Prince, Mr T Render, Mr B Rhodes, Mrs A Roberts, Mr B Roper and Mr M Sood.

Officers

Mr R Swinfield (Chief Executive), Mr S Fraser (Performance Analyst), Mrs S Hoare (Engagement and Communications Officer) and Mrs L Salmon (Members' Services Officer).

Representatives from the Constabulary

Mr C Eyre (Temporary Chief Constable), Mr G Fraser (Temporary Deputy Chief Constable), Ms W Yeadon (Temporary Assistant Chief Constable (Operations)), Mr P Dawkins (Director of Finance) and Ms A Naylor (Director of Human Resources).

Mr B Rhodes – in the Chair

*The Chairman welcomed Mr G Fraser to his first meeting as
Temporary Deputy Chief Constable.*

01/10. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr D Bill, Mr W Naylor and Mr D Snartt.

02/10. Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

03/10. Declarations of Code of Conduct Interests

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to make declarations of any Code of Conduct interests in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting. No such declarations were made.

04/10. Minutes of Meetings held on 3 November 2009

The minutes of the Police Authority Meeting held on 3 November 2009, having been previously circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and duly signed.

05/10. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

06/10. Performance Report 1 April 2009 – 31 December 2009

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Constable presenting Force performance against targets since 1 April 2009. A copy of the report marked 'A' is filed with the minutes.

The Temporary Chief Constable made the following comments on the performance report:

- Performance of 52% against the national confidence measure relating to police and local councils dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour was one of the best in the country and the ambition was to achieve 60% by 2011.
- The confidence result in the British Crime Survey was predicted by the CRAVE result.
- The freeze on recruitment meant that female officer and BME representation would not be improved until recruiting recommenced.
- Work around improving satisfaction with service delivery for racist incidents was ongoing.
- The Strategic Financial Planning Group would continue to monitor efficiency savings and the challenging financial position.
- Burglary dwelling on the South BCU was being targeted to achieve a reduction in the number of offences.
- Although the projected underspend was subject to change, the amount achieved would be carried forward to 2010/11 to ease budget pressures in the next financial year.

Members welcomed the achievements outlined in the report.

Members commented that reducing the number of domestic burglaries was also a high priority for CDRPs and requested that updates be provided on Operation Consequence to provide reassurance at CDRP meetings. The Temporary Chief Constable stated that this could be progressed through the Performance Panel.

Members requested that the Performance Panel consider the format of the Performance Report to ensure it outlined the reasons for significant changes in performance, what interventions were being made, the factors affecting performance and correlations between community based resolutions and confidence.

In response to a question about the steps being taken to improve confidence following a 2% drop in performance, the Temporary Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) informed members that all wards which the CRAVE survey identified as having lower confidence levels were being targeted to ascertain the reasons for this. She stated that the next Performance Report may outline a further dip in confidence in light of Operation Teak as there was a time lag in data being available through the British Crime Survey and CRAVE. She added that the Confidence Improvement Board would monitor the situation closely.

In response to a question about the City's 'red flag' in the Comprehensive Area Assessment, the Temporary Chief Constable stated that different approaches were required to local and serious concerns and that partnership working was essential to improve confidence levels.

Members queried whether the racially and religiously aggravated crime rate was higher than average. The Temporary Chief Constable stated that the figures were high because the Constabulary recorded any offence that was likely to fall into that category in order to provide a comprehensive victim focussed service. He added that this was evident from the increase in sanction detections and victim satisfaction rate.

Members requested information on the number of people killed out of the 249 road traffic casualties. The Temporary Chief Constable stated that this would be provided.

In response to a question about maintaining female police officer representation, the Director of Human Resources stated that past trends outlined that one fifth of leavers would be female and in order to achieve the target of 26% female police officer representation, at least half of each intake needed to be female. She added that an improvement would be achieved on the current figure of 24.8% once recruitment recommenced.

A query was raised as to the number of BME officers who would need to be recruited to achieve the target of 15%. The Director of Human Resources stated that recruiting one BME person would achieve this.

It was RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

07/10. Police Authority Inspection

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Executive providing information on the Authority's Inspection by Audit Commission and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and the steps being taken to address matters raised in the Inspection Report. A copy of the report marked 'B' is filed with the minutes. A copy of the Improvement Plan was tabled and is filed with the minutes.

The Chief Executive informed members that the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) would provide assistance in progressing some of the areas for improvement. He added that a mechanism for monitoring progress against the Improvement Plan was needed.

It was RESOLVED to:

- (i) agree the tabled Improvement Plan: and
- (ii) monitor progress against the Plan at meetings of the Police Authority, Finance and General Purposes Committee and Members' Discussion Days from 23 March 2010 onwards.

08/10. Operation Teak

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Constable updating members on the actions arising from Operation Teak. A copy of the report marked 'C' is filed with the minutes.

The Temporary Deputy Chief Constable stated that the Constabulary was currently undertaking work around the definition of a vulnerable person to ensure that they were identified by trained staff and referred to the most appropriate service as the current national definition excluded too many people.

In response to a question about information on critical incidents being provided to members, the Temporary Chief Constable assured members that the Authority would receive targeted and timely information.

Members requested that the Temporary Chief Constable review the minutes of the Police Authority meeting on 13 October 2009 to ensure that all aspects discussed were included in the Action Plan.

In response to a question about how any residual or future risk was being managed, the Temporary Deputy Chief Constable stated that monitoring and management would be undertaken by the Strategic Risk Board.

Members queried how any caller would be recognised as vulnerable. The Temporary Deputy Chief Constable stated that GENIE II was currently being used to search databases and access historical information. He added that further system capability was being sought to identify vulnerable people at the point of contact with the Contact Management Centre. The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) stated that as part of the Policing Pledge, call takers requested as much information as possible in order to identify vulnerable people.

The Temporary Deputy Chief Constable informed members that they would be invited to attend a full day workshop on the management of critical incidents.

It was RESOLVED to note the progress against the Action Plan.

09/10. Public Confidence in Policing – A Review of Research

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Executive providing feedback on the research commissioned by the Association of Police Authorities on public confidence. A copy of the report marked 'D' is filed with the minutes.

In response to a question about the impact of the initiatives identified in the report, the Performance Analyst stated that no evidence was available whether any had raised confidence levels in the relevant Force areas.

Regarding Initiative 7, members commented that their own existing arrangements for attachments to Local Policing Units (LPUs) was preferable as their role was one of governance not managing operational policing.

It was RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

10/10. Mobile Data and IR3

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Constable updating members on the implementation of mobile data technology and iR3 and the value for money achieved. A copy of the report marked 'E' is filed with the minutes.

In response to a question about mobile data offering more flexibility than fixed data, the Director of Finance stated that work would be undertaken around the possibility of reducing the number of desktop computers.

It was RESOLVED to:

- (i) provide to the next meeting of the Audit Committee the evaluation of mobile data by the NPIA to consider for the Audit Plan; and
- (ii) note the contents of the report

11/10. Inspection by HMIC/HMIP on Custody Provision

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Constable updating members on the current custody provision together with proposals to carry out further improvements in line with the NPIA Safer Detention and Handling of Detainees in Police Custody and in response to HMIC/HMIP feedback following their inspection in August 2009. A copy of the report marked 'F' is filed with the minutes.

The Temporary Deputy Chief Constable informed members that the cost for undertaking all the Inspection recommendations would have been £850k. He stated that this had been reduced to £443k by assessing which items were essential in order to comply with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act and the dignity and respect agenda. He added that £425k had been put aside in the current budget for this work and the remainder would be met from Constabulary funds.

It was RESOLVED to:

- (i) note the progress being made towards the Safer Detention and Handling of Detainees in Police Custody;
- (ii) note the recommendations of HMIC/HMIP;

- (iii) approve the HMIC/HMIP Action Plan; and
- (iv) approve the revised Safer Detention/HMIC custody estate improvements to Beaumont Leys and Loughborough.

At this point, Mr Brown and the Director of Human Resources left the meeting.

12/10. Recruitment of ACPO Officers

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Executive outlining the recruitment process for Leicestershire's Chief Constable and Assistant Chief Constable (Operations). A copy of the report marked 'G' is filed with the minutes.

Members commented that regarding the Chief Constable recruitment process, the presentation to stakeholders should be repeated and a detailed briefing be provided to the audience.

Members indicated they felt fortunate to have a strong team of officers currently in Temporary ACPO positions.

It was RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

At this point, the Temporary Deputy Chief Constable left the meeting.

13/10. Sub-Regional Collaboration

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Constable providing an overview of the proposed sub-regional collaboration between Leicestershire Constabulary and Northamptonshire Police. A copy of the report marked 'H' is filed with the minutes.

The Temporary Chief Constable informed members that sub-regional collaboration would be achieved with current collaboration staffing.

Members expressed concern regarding the proposal for two nominated members of the Joint Programme Board to be given delegated powers to make decisions on behalf of the Authority.

It was RESOLVED:

- (i) to support and approve the concept and principles of collaboration between Leicestershire Constabulary and Northamptonshire Police;
- (ii) to note that under s23A(5) Police and Crime Act (PACA) 2009 it would be a pre condition of entering into any future agreement with Northamptonshire that the proposed collaboration would be in the interest of the efficiency and effectiveness of one or more of the forces or authorities;
- (iii) to note the potential projects for collaboration outlined in the report and support the prioritised list for further scoping;
- (iv) to delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman the appointment of members to the Joint Programme Board and the extent to which such members could make decisions binding the Authority at Board meetings;
- (v) to note the resource implications for collaborative work on any agreed prioritised project.

14/10. Exclusion of the Press and Public

It was RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the grounds specified on the agenda.

15/10. Granting of Rights – Loughborough LPU

(Exempt by virtue of para 3 of the Act – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person including the Authority)

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Constable updating members on the current position in respect of a request for the granting of rights at Loughborough LPU. A copy of the report marked 'I' is filed with the minutes.

It was RESOLVED to accept the offer subject to the conditions in the report.

CHAIRMAN

2.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.

26 January 2010