

# LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

PAPER MARKED

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Meeting                   **POLICE AUTHORITY**

Date                       **TUESDAY 25 JANUARY 2011 – 1.00 P.M.**

Report of               **CHAIR OF ENGAGEMENT GROUP**

Subject                  **UPDATE REPORT FROM ENGAGEMENT GROUP BUSINESS DAY –  
5 JANUARY 2011**

## **Summary**

1. This report provides a summary of the Engagement Group Business Day held on 5 January 2011.

## **Recommendation**

2. The Authority is recommended to note the content of the report

## **Commentary**

3. The first Business Day took place on the 5 January, 2011. In the morning I attended the Safe and Confident Communities Board meeting together with our Engagement Officer, Mrs S Hoare. This Board looks at neighbourhood policing and performance. A major item of business at this meeting was performance on antisocial behaviour (ASB), confidence and satisfaction. Whilst there was a lot of good news, there was some concern that we seem to have slipped in the position compared to other forces. This was particularly so for road traffic collisions and violent crime especially in relation to contact. This led to a detailed discussion as to the reasons for this.
4. In relation to ASB our performance is good and the number of incidents has been dropping. The Home Office has a view that antisocial behaviour should be recorded under three headings. However this does not help analysis and some incidents of antisocial behaviour such as animal problems and noise are also the responsibility of partners.
5. The coalition government has also said that all forces have to have crime mapping down to street level must be in place by the end of January and that this date is not negotiable. A considerable amount of work is being done to make sure we are ready to do this but the main problem has been the quality of the data. We were assured that we would be ready in time.
6. The meeting also looked at how IR3 is working and the use of mobile data. We agreed that we needed to push the use of this and work is also being done to see if the GPS function on Airwaves can be used to locate officers.

7. We also had the presentation on the force's current consultation and engagement programme.
8. The first meeting of the Engagement Group was attended by Mrs Newton, Mr Render and Mr Roper. Assistant Chief Constable Morgan, Inspector Basra and Mr G Brown attended on behalf of the force.
9. Our first task was to look at the group functions and rolling work programme and we agreed these without change.
10. We had asked for a paper on the Police Authority role in Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and Basic Command Unit (BCU) funding. Our concern was to make sure that we understood our role and were carrying it out effectively. The reason for including the BCU fund was that the Police Authority is responsible for monitoring this and we needed to understand how it was spent. This was the first time that we had seen the spending set out for each of the CSPs and certainly raised questions. Mr Render agreed to raise this at the meeting with Chief Superintendent Thomas at the meeting on 26 January. It is understood that the BCU fund will continue for another year and we have asked for information on how this is to be distributed for the next year.
11. We then moved on to the JAG (Joint Action Group) review. JAGs are multi agency groups which act together to deal with ongoing problems. They are part of the CSP structure. A review was undertaken by the police and county council together and in the city a separate review was carried out. The reason for these reviews was that JAGs had grown organically, had completely different ways of working and there was no means of establishing their effectiveness. The recommendations made by the county review are now being considered by a task and finish group. They are in the process of drawing up a set of minimum standards for each JAG which will cover membership, data sharing and record keeping. There are currently nine JAGs in the county and nine in the city and they meet once a month. The task and finish group is hoping to complete this work within the next month. A paper will then go to the county strategy board for their comments.
12. We had also asked for a paper on the force's current consultation and engagement programme. The reason for this was that we needed to understand what the force was doing in order to decide what we should be doing. We had quite a discussion on the difference between consultation and engagement and the value of consultation where it could not make a change to a decision. We also discussed ways of making the public aware of the complexity of modern policing. They need a fuller picture of what the police do and the consequences if resources are not allocated appropriately. We asked questions about if we could show processes of how information informed decision making and how we could be sure that the engagement and consultation listed actually happened and what the outcomes were. We also asked if there was a clear way to show how priorities were set and we learned that there was no central point for directing all engagement.
13. What emerged from all this was that objective professional judgment had to be used and that the overall outcome was to reduce crime, increase user satisfaction and gain better intelligence from people who trust the police. We agreed that the way forward was for a small group to work on the Authority's

role in engagement and this will consist of the Chair, Mrs A Roberts and Mrs S Hoare.

14. The future of CRAVE was discussed at the Safe and Confident Communities Board and we also discussed it. The future was to be discussed at a Chief Officer Group on the 7 January. We all agreed that we wanted to keep CRAVE in some form. The options are to keep it as it is (cost £110,000 which is already in the budget), have it in a reduced form (cost about £35,000) or scrap it altogether. Whilst the government has given a very clear steer that the role of a police force is to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour CRAVE is our only statistically reliable data. We agreed that we would like to keep the full CRAVE but if not the reduced version. Our view will be taken to COG by ACC Morgan.
15. This year we are still required to publish local policing summaries. Work has been going on to ensure that they ready for publication. We are using the same format as last year and this time they will be published on the web with a few copies available for Front Enquiry Offices. It is intended that they will be ready by 1 April.
16. We also looked at the council tax leaflet. In the past we have used it for a small survey. However the returns are very small and we have decided to use this as an opportunity to publish good news stories. There will be a joint message from the Chair and the Chief Constable and the statutory information as well.
17. We also discussed the risk register and decided that the scoring was about right but we did need to keep this item on the agenda because things are changing rapidly and we might need to look at other control measures.
18. There were two items of any other business. We discussed the idea of member's photos being displayed in front enquiry offices. We agreed that we would go ahead with this because it would address the allegation that we are anonymous. Mrs S Hoare would liaise with Mr G Brown who owns the Front Enquiry Offices.
19. The second item was our website which we agreed needed some work doing on it. Mrs S Hoare will do some work on this.

### **Implications**

Financial: none. Legal: none. Risk Management: none. Diversity: none.

### **Background Papers**

Agenda papers and minutes from the Engagement Group held on 5 January 2011.

### **Officer to Contact**

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