

WILTSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES of a MEETING held at POLICE HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, DEVIZES on THURSDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2007

PRESENT: Mr C Hoare (Chairman), Mr R Bluh, Mrs D Dart, Mr W Fishlock, Mr B Ford, Mrs M Groom, Ms J Hillyer, Mr C Humphries, Mr S Lake, Mr A Macpherson, Mr F Palmer, Mrs J Rooke, Mrs M Sitaram, Mrs C Soden, Mrs G Stafford, Mrs M Taylor, and Mr I West

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting Chief Constable S Long, Acting Deputy Chief Constable A Marsh, Acting Assistant Chief Constable P Howlett, Mr M Bennion-Pedley, A/Chief Superintendent M Pullen, Mr K Kilgallen, Mr M Prince, Mr R Flux,

1. **Apologies** There were no apologies for absence.
2. **Public Questions** There were no public questions.
3. **Declarations of Interest** There were no declarations.
4. **Chairman's Announcements**

(i) The Chairman informed members that a lunch was being arranged for Monday 21st January, 2008 at Police HQ, Devizes at which members and invited guests would have the opportunity to meet the new Chief Constable, Brian Moore. An invitation would shortly be sent to all members.

(ii) Members were informed that a Carol Service would be taking place on 18th December at Police HQ, Devizes conducted by the Force Chaplain. All members were welcome.

5. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting (20th September 2007)**

Resolved: *To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2007.*

6. **Conferences and Meetings Attended by Members since the Previous Meeting, and Future Conferences / Seminars** Reports on the following conferences and seminars were presented:

- APA Annual Conference 2007 (attended by Mr Hoare)
- Criminal Justice Management Conference 2007 (attended by Mrs Sitaram)
- APA Black and Minority Ethnic Network Hindu 'Dwali' Ceremony in Southampton (attended by Mrs Sitaram)
- Disability Awareness Event 'No Barriers' Arranged Jointly by the Authority and Force (attended by Mr Palmer)
- Every Child Matters Conference in Bath (attended by Mrs Stafford)
- Public Protection Conference in Cheltenham (attended by Mrs Stafford)
- Domestic Violence Workshop (attended by Mrs Stafford)

Resolved: *To note reports on the above.*

7. Appointment of New Chief Constable

Resolved: *To note the appointment of Brian Moore as the new Chief Constable of Wiltshire. Mr Moore will start on 1st January, 2008.*

8. Minutes of Meetings The minutes of the following meetings were circulated:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date (2007)</u>
Audit Committee	24 th September
Complaints and Professional Standards Committee	29 th October
Consultation and Public Focus	17 th October
Performance Committee	29 th October
Resources Committee	25 th September
Standards Committee	5 th November
Strategy, Direction and Progress Group	25 th September

Resolved: *To note the above minutes.*

9. Appointment of Independent Members to the Wiltshire Police Authority

Resolved: *To note that the regulations giving effect to the change, whereby magistrate members will cease to be a category of membership of police authorities in favour of three additional independent members, will not now commence until 1st October, 2008. The three existing magistrates had all agreed to continue until 30th September, 2008.*

10. Review of Members' Allowances A report by the Chief Executive was circulated. The report had been previously considered by the General Purposes Committee on 15th October, 2007.

Resolved:

- 1) To approve the changes to the Scheme of Allowances, as set out in Appendix B to the report, effective from 1st April, 2008.*
- 2) To agree that the lead members for Human Resources and Child Protection and Vulnerable People be paid a special responsibility allowance with effect from 1st January, 2008. The amount being pro-rata to the annual allowance of £2,500.*
- 3) To agree that the allowances currently paid to the Chairman of the Complaints and Professional Standards Committee, and the lead members for Inclusivity continue until 1st April, 2008. Thereafter, £2,500 pa will be payable.*
- 4) To agree the policy with regard to 'Out of County' journeys as set out in the report, subject to members being permitted to claim reasonable transport costs (taxis) from home to the station and return. (The taxable implications of this change, if any, to be clarified).*
- 5) To agree that an independent review of the members allowances scheme be undertaken as recommended in the report, subject to any changes taking effect from 1st June, 2008.*

11. Acting Chief Constable's Performance Report A report by the Acting Chief Constable was circulated giving details of force performance as at the end of October 2007. Copies of crime and detection overview charts from Iquanta and the policing plan performance scorecard were circulated. The Acting Chief

Constable gave a verbal update on the figures.

Members also received a verbal update on matters concerning Contact Management, Neighbourhood Policing and Volume Crime. The Acting Chief Constable dealt with a number of questions raised by members.

- Resolved:
- 1) *To note the performance report from the Acting Chief Constable.*
 - 2) *To note that the figures relating to repeat offences for domestic violence require revision as the Force has interpreted the performance data differently to Home Office requirements.*
 - 3) *To ask the Acting Chief Constable if it is possible to make the data contained in the Policing Plan Overview a little clearer to understand.*
 - 4) *With regard to recent traffic fatalities involving military personnel returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, to ask the Acting Chief Constable if he can discuss this with the military authorities to see if something can be done to improve the situation, e.g. road signing.*
 - 5) *To ask the Acting Chief Constable if it is possible for members to gain access to the Force 'First Point' web page.*
 - 6) *To ask that details of the recent revision of PCSO powers be issued to members.*

12. Improving Public Contact, Access and Engagement with Wiltshire Police

A report by the Acting Chief Constable was circulated. The following points were raised by members:

- there is confusion regarding the meaning between policing points and information points
- with regard to neighbourhood policing, the mail drop to residents giving information about the local teams has not been carried out in all areas
- there is uncertainty about the availability of services to the public at Devizes Police HQ
- there is a need for the police to engage with the magistrates courts to clarify the position regarding the closure of enquiry offices and the implications this has for people having to report for bail
- the magistrates courts staff in Swindon need to be made aware that the enquiry office in Henry Street, Swindon is open for business
- good news information about the work of neighbourhood policing teams needs to be conveyed to parish councils and other NPT's

The Acting Chief Constable responded to these points. An explanatory note about the meaning of policing points, information points etc was circulated. With regard to people on bail having to report to the police, the Chief Executive said he could see no obvious reason why such people could not report to the relevant court building rather than a police station. This would be followed up.

- Resolved: *To note the report and the Force's response to the difficulties experienced since the transition to three main enquiry offices, and to await an evaluation.*

13. **Interim Report on Treasury Management Strategy 2007-2008: April to September 2007** A report by the Treasurer was circulated.

Resolved: To note the report.

14. **Dates of Police Authority Meetings in 2008 and 2009**

2008	2009
7 th February	5 th February
12 th June	11 th June
18 th September	17 th September
4 th December	3 rd December

15. **Wiltshire Constabulary: Police Officer Changes at Senior Level** The Acting Chief Constable reported details of staff changes, to come in to effect early in the new year.

16. **Exclusion of the Public**

Resolved: In accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in Items 17 and 18 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 Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

17. **Confidential Minutes of Meetings** The confidential minutes of the following meetings were circulated:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date (2007)</u>
General Purposes Committee	15 th October
Resources Committee	25 th September

Resolved: To note the minutes.

18. **Regional Collaboration Programme** A joint report by the Chief Executive and Acting Chief Constable was circulated.

Resolved:

- 1) To note progress with the regional collaboration programme.
- 2) To endorse in principle the Force's discussions in relation to air support and ICT, subject to consideration of detailed business cases in due course.
- 3) To note members wish that a helicopter service should continue to be readily available in the Swindon area.
- 4) To approve the process for consideration of individual business cases.
- 5) To delegate to the Chairman of the Authority, acting in consultation with the Chief Executive, power to approve all routine matters but reserving to the Authority the approval of any final business case.

(Duration of Meeting: 10.30am to 12.45pm)