

WILTSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES of a MEETING held at POLICE HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, DEVIZES
on THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2008

PRESENT: Mr C Hoare (Chairman), Mr R Bluh, Mr R Fisher, Mr B Fishlock,
Mr B Ford, Mrs M Groom, Ms J Hillyer, Mr C Humphries, Mr A Johns,
Mr S Lake, Mr A Macpherson, Mrs J Rooke, Mrs C Soden,
Mrs G Stafford, Ms G Tawiah, Mrs M Taylor, and Mr I West

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Constable B Moore, Deputy Chief Constable D Ainsworth,
Assistant Chief Constable J Clayton, Assistant Chief Constable
A Marsh, Mr M Bennion-Pedley, Mr C Barker, Mr M Milton,
Mr K Kilgallen, Mr M Prince and Miss S Kyte

1. **Membership** The Chief Executive reported the membership as follows:

Local Authority Members

Conservative

Mr R Bluh

Mr R Fisher

Mr B Ford

Mrs M Groom

Mr C Humphries

Mrs C Soden

Labour

Mrs M Taylor

Liberal Democrat

Mrs J Rooke

Mr I West

Independent

Mr W Fishlock

Mr C Hoare

Ms J Hillyer

Mr A Johns

Mr S Lake

Mr A Macpherson

Mrs G Stafford

Ms G Tawiah

2. **Apologies** There were no apologies for absence.

3. **Public Questions** There were none

4. **Declarations of Interest** There were none.

5. **Chairman's Announcements** There were none.

6. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting (18th September 2008)**

Resolved: To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on
18th September 2008.

7. **Conferences and Meetings Attended by Members since the Previous Meeting, and Future Conferences / Seminars**

Association of Police Authorities (APA) Conference, 11th-12th November 2008

Mr Ford reported he had attended the APA Conference with the Chief Executive on behalf of the Chairman. The main subject was direct election of representatives to Police Authorities. An update on the Policing and Crime Bill was provided at Agenda Item 11.

ACPO Children and Young People's Conference, 24th-25th September 2008

Mrs Stafford stated that Children and Young People is a key business area for ACPO. 32% of recorded crimes are committed by only 5% of young people and there is difficulty in maintaining positive role models in society for young people.

ACPO National Police Public Protection, 13th-14th October 2008

Mrs Stafford reported that approximately a quarter of police resources are allocated to this area and, although it is rare for these types of crimes to be committed, they do create ripples of concern. Information and expertise sharing is critical to the success of MAPPA and it would be an advantage for PCTs to be more involved on certain issues.

GOSW Preventing Violent Extremism, 12th November 2008

Mrs Stafford reported that the conference looked at tackling the causes and drivers of terrorism. The sharing of information and what lessons are being learnt were also reported on.

Mr Macpherson raised concern at the lack of engagement from the APA with regard to performance matters and that no efforts appear to be being made by the APA for regional events to be hosted. The Chairman stated he would raise this at the next Regional Chief's and Chair's meeting and directly with the APA.

- Resolved:
- 1) *To note the updates provided by Mr Ford and Mrs Stafford.*
 - 2) *To ask the Chairman to raise this issue with the APA expressing concern over lack of engagement around performance matters and regional meetings.*

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

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date (2008)</u>
Audit	22 nd September 1 st December
Resources	24 th September
Consultation and Public Focus	13 th October
Performance	5 th November
Human Resources and Professional Standards	5 th November
Standards	27 th November

- Resolved:
- 1) *To note the above minutes.*
 - 2) *To note that the Audit Commission have been appointed as the Authority's External Auditors.*
 - 3) *To note that the Audit Committee, on behalf of the full Authority, accepted the audit letter from KPMG. Mr Fishlock asked for this be included on the agenda for the next meeting.*

9. **Appointment of Independent Members to the Standards Committee**

- Resolved: *To note the appointment of Mr Martin Forbes and Mr Stuart Middleton, and the re-appointment of Mr John Adams, to the Standards Committee from the 1st November 2008 for a period of four years.*

10. **Review of Members' Allowances** The Chief Executive reported that Mr Geoff Pears and Mrs Donna Moore had agreed to conduct an independent review of members' allowances. The Panel had been briefed and arrangements had already been made for them to meet or speak with members. A report from the Chief Executive would be submitted to the next meeting.

Resolved: *To note the update provided by the Chief Executive.*

11. **Update on Queen's Speech** The Chief Executive updated Members on the Policing and Crime Bill. The Home Office summarises the purpose of the Bill to be to "increase the effectiveness and public accountability of policing, to reduce crime and disorder and enhance airport security". The Bill will still legislate for the appointment of directly elected representatives to Police Authorities.

Resolved: *To note the update provided by the Chief Executive.*

12. **Interim Report on Treasury Management Strategy 2008-09** A report by the Treasurer had been circulated. The Treasurer reported that due to the recent banking crisis he had significantly amended the Authority's Investment Strategy. As from 20th October 2008, the Authority would only lend to financial institutions backed by Government (UK, Irish, Australian) and would not rely on credit ratings. This would be a short term measure which would be regularly monitored.

Resolved: 1) *To note the content of the report.*

2) *To endorse the action taken by the Treasurer in the amendment of the Investment Strategy.*

13. **Freedom of Information** A model publication scheme proposed by the APA had been circulated.

Resolved: *To adopt the model scheme developed by the APA and delegate authority to the Chief Executive to complete and publish the scheme in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act requirements.*

14. **Chief Constable's Performance Report** A report by the Chief Constable, based on the performance period 1st April to 31st October 2008, had been circulated. For this performance year, 26 Policing Plan measures had been identified and, of these, 13 were currently being achieved. The following information was provided:

- Total crime has reduced by 4.9% (compared to the same period last year), placing the Force 3rd in its Most Similar Group (MSG) of eight years.
- 29.2% of crimes are currently being detected, placing the Force second in its MSG (compared to 8th last year).
- There has been a 3% reduction in violent crime compared to the previous year. This comes at a time when many forces are reporting an increase in violent crime. On a national basis this places Wiltshire 7th out of 43 forces. (This is compared to 12th at the end of the last performance year).
- Currently over half (51.2%) of all violent crimes are being detected. The Force is placed second in its MSG.

The Chief Constable also spoke about the following:

- Operation Hawk – is the mobilisation of staff from across the Force to provide additional uniformed policing to key problem areas.

- Operation Dobbin – has been introduced with the intention of eradicating prostitution in the Broadgreen area of Swindon and is a multi-agency operation.
- Baby P – The Chief Constable reported that he had met with the Chief Executive of Wiltshire County Council and respective heads of profession to review the protection of children and that a similar meeting would take place with Swindon Borough Council. ACC Marsh reported that the early lessons of the Baby P case had been published and an audit of processes had been carried out for Swindon and Wiltshire.

Members were then invited by the Chairman to comment on or ask questions of the Chief Constable on performance issues.

- Cllr Bluh and Ms Hillyer stated they were aware of two cases where members of the public had been burgled, the incidents had been dealt with at the time, but they had had no further contact from the Force. This has an impact on the satisfaction and confidence levels in the Force. ACC Marsh stated that processes had been put in place to ensure the victim is kept informed of developments. If members become aware of cases where this had not occurred, they were asked to inform ACC Marsh who would personally review the incident.
- Cllr Bluh thanked the Chief Constable and his officers for the real progress that he felt had been made in Swindon over the last 12 months.

Mr Macpherson thanked the Chief Constable for his comprehensive report and, as Chairman of the Performance Committee, reported that:

- The consultation exercise recently undertaken by the Authority would be used to inform planning and target setting in the future.
- Monthly contact management reports would be submitted to future meetings of the Performance Committee.
- The Force needed to ensure that Police Officers' time is not wasted by non-attendance by members of the public to scheduled appointments.
- Commend to members the brief provided by the Chief Constable on Operation Hawk and Operation Dobbin.

Resolved: To note the Chief Constable's report.

15. **Dates of Police Authority Meetings in 2009 and 2010**

2009	2010
5 th February	4 th February
11 th June	10 th June
17 th September	16 th September
3 rd December	2 nd December

16. **Urgent Items** There were no urgent items.

17. 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 18 and 19 below 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 3 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.*

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

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date (2008)</u>
Audit	22 nd September
Resources	24 th September

Resolved: *To note the above minutes.*

19. Police Helicopter A joint report by the Chief Executive, Treasurer and the Chief Constable had been circulated.

- Resolved:
- 1) *To accept the budgetary consequences and to endorse the decision of General Purposes Committee to continue with a contract for air support for a further 5 years 12 members voted in favour. Margaret Taylor voted against the proposal and there were three abstentions.*
 - 2) *To remit the detailed consideration to the Resources Committee, General Purposes Committee and officers as set out in the General Purposes Committee resolution of 27th November 2008.*

(Duration of Meeting: 10.30am to 1.00pm)