

WILTSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES of a MEETING held at POLICE HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, DEVIZES on THURSDAY 7TH APRIL 2011

PRESENT: Mr C Hoare (Chairman), Mr R Bluh, Mr R Britton, Mr C Caswill, Mr R Fisher, Mr B Fishlock, Mr B Ford, Ms J Hillyer, Mr C Humphries, Mr A Johns, Mr A Macpherson, Mrs G Mortimer, Mr R Rogers, Mr P Sample, Mrs C Soden, Mrs G Stafford, and Ms Tawiah

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Constable B Moore, T/DCC P Geenty, Mr M Bennion-Pedley, Mr K Kilgallen, Mr M Prince, and Miss S Kyte

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

2. **Public Questions** There were none.

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

4. **Chairman's Announcements**

Appointment of Temporary Deputy Chief Constable

The Chairman informed Members of the appointment of Pat Geenty as Temporary Deputy Chief Constable for a period of six months and wished him well in the role.

Following the death of Deputy Chief Constable David Ainsworth, Members held a one minute silence to remember him and to reflect on his contribution to policing in Wiltshire.

5. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th February 2011**

Resolved: *To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2011.*

6. **Outstanding Actions**

10th February 2011, Minute 8.2: The T/DCC stated that the 20-35 years age group had remained the most positive tests for drink diving with the 41-45 years age group a close second. The T/DCC would obtain the data for the time of day when the positive breath tests were made and the statistics would be circulated with the minutes.

10th February 2011, Minute 22.4 and 22.5: The Chief Executive stated that a briefing for Members on Street Watch had been arranged for the next Briefing Session on 25th May 2011. Contact would be made with the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils following this. Mr Rogers stated that he had applied and been vetted as a volunteer for the Street Watch scheme.

Mrs Soden stated that there were significant dangers in members of the public driving whilst using a mobile phone. She wondered how the Force were tackling this. It was noted that campaigns were run directed towards the use of mobile phones and other items distracting drivers' attention. A persistent offender who was brought to the attention of the police via a member of the public, would be dealt with by the local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Resolved: 1) *To note the content of the report and the verbal updates provided.*

- 2) *To attach the data from the December drink drive campaign, including the time of day that positive breath tests were made, to the minutes of the meeting.*

7. **WPA and Force Risk Register**

Risk 1.40 – Continued Diligence – can the Police Authority maintain an efficient and effective Force pending the arrival of Police and Crime Commissioners: The Chairman stated that the Joint Strategic Board would have ownership of transitional plans. It was thought that an Awayday to follow from the one held in September 2010, to review Vision Wiltshire, and to consider the transitional arrangements required for a Police and Crime Commissioner, would be beneficial. The Chairman indicated that he would pursue this with the Chief Constable through the bilateral meetings.

- Resolved:
- 1) *To note the updates provided in relation to the risks owned by the Police Authority.*
 - 2) *That the Chairman would pursue the need for an Awayday with the Chief Constable through the bilateral meetings.*
 - 3) *That the next meeting of the Audit Committee would carefully review the Authority and the Force Risk Register to ensure they are properly aligned.*

8. **Chief Constable's Performance Report 2010-11** A report by the Chief Constable covering the period 1st April to 28th February 2011 had been circulated. The overall performance of the Force was rated 'good' on the criteria set by the Authority. The Chief Constable provided a brief commentary on performance against each of the Strategic Priorities:

Strategic Priority 1: Tackling Violent Crime

- The inclusion of local resolutions within the violent crime detection rate had resulted in the target being achieved.
- Wiltshire was the second best performing Force in its Most Similar Forces (MSF) with regard to serious violent crime detection rate.

Strategic Priority 2: Protecting Vulnerable People from Harm and Reducing Road Casualties

- Serious sexual offences had seen an increase of 18% (61 crimes). Of these crimes, 37 were attributed to an increase in historical reports (25) and child victim offences (12).

Strategic Priority 3: Tackling Local Issues of Crime and ASB

- Satisfaction levels of 85% were currently meeting target (85%). The target for 2011-12 would be increased to 86% in order to stay in line with the MSF average.
- Overall detection rate, including local resolutions, currently stood at 27.8% against a target of 30%.
- Satisfaction with criminal justice system effectiveness was an area highlighted for improvement. The Chief Constable stated he had accepted the Chair of the Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board and hoped to influence some of the areas of difficulty.

Strategic Priority 4: Tacking Organised Crime Groups and the Supply of Class A Drugs

- Robbery had increased by 20% (47 crimes) against the previous year.

The Chief Constable also reported on a number of operational matters including Operation Mayan (murder of Sian O'Callaghan). The T/DCC stated that there had been an exceptional response from the community and the matter had been well planned and handled sensitively by the media, including the Force's own media centre. Now that the second body had been identified as Rebecca Godden-Edwards, the Force would compare the modus operandi with other unsolved cases in the country. This was routine in cases such as this.

The Chairman then invited Members to comment:

- Mr Caswill stated he was encouraged by the improvement in town centre figures although response teams still seemed stretched on occasions and continued to be a matter of concern.
- Mr Macpherson stated that the Authority would report on the performance of the Force for 2010-11 at the annual meeting of the Authority in June.
- Mr Ford reported that he had sat on the Gold Group for Op Mayan and wished to echo T/DCC's view about the reaction of the Swindon community. As Leader of Swindon Borough Council Mr Bluh wished to express his thanks and appreciation to the Force in the way the investigation was handled, particularly the speedy resolution. The Chairman echoed this view on behalf of all Members.
- Mrs Stafford raised the matter that criminal justice kept come up as an issue in relation to achieving targets, and was there anything the Authority could do to influence changes. The Chief Constable stated he had asked for a specific piece of work around the frequency of Police Officers being sent to court only to find a Hearing had been triple listed and then been returned to duty. This was to be looked at over a three month period. The report would be shared with Members as soon as it was available.

- Resolved:
- 1) *To note the content of the report and the verbal update provided by the Chief Constable.*
 - 2) *To commend the Force on its handling of the Op Mayan investigation and the positive feedback received from the public.*
 - 3) *That the report commissioned by the Chief Constable around the frequency of Police Officers attending Court only to find a Hearing had been triple listed would be shared with Members as soon as it became available.*

9. **Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Statement** A statement covering the period 1st April to 28th February 2011 for both revenue and capital budgets had been circulated. With regard to the revenue budget, the Director of Resources stated that a favourable variance of £2.639m was forecast. This was mainly due to the significant number of Police Officer and Police Staff vacancies. As of the date of the meeting, 53% of staff at risk in the Vision Wiltshire programme had been redeployed.

Transport costs as at Period 10 were £127k over budget. Approximately half of this was due to fuel increases. The Force would shortly be asking for agreement to invest in 'black boxes' for police vehicles and a report on this would be submitted to a future meeting of an appropriate Committee / Group.

Turning to the capital budget, the Director of Resources informed Members that the Impact Programme would come in under budget. The Automatic Number Plate Recognition Project was now listed as a Tier 3 Regional Collaboration Project.

- Resolved:
- 1) *To note the latest position for the revenue and capital budget.*
 - 2) *To note that a report from the Force on investment in 'black boxes' for police vehicles would be submitted to a future meeting of an appropriate Committee / Group.*
 - 3) *That the IST Strategy Plan would be submitted to the May meeting of the Strategy, Direction and Progress Committee.*

10. **Future Recruitment** A report by the Chief Constable had been circulated. The Director of Resources stated that the Force would be looking to proceed with Police Officer recruitment in September this year and that this would be from applicants who had previously been provisionally accepted. The Force were aware that the recruitment process required improvement and were working with regional partners exploring the possibility of a filtering system. A strategy on this was due to be considered by the Chief Officer Group in June which would then come to the Authority.

The Chief Constable emphasised to Members that staff were not being made redundant in order to start recruiting Police Officers again and that budget plans were quite clear about this. Recruitment was needed to ensure Police Officer numbers did not fall below an acceptable level.

- Resolved:
- 1) *To note the content of the report.*
 - 2) *That the Recruitment Strategy would come to the Authority following consideration by the Chief Officer Group at its June meeting.*

11. **Co-Location of Inspectors in Local Authority Premises** A report by the Chief Constable had been circulated.

- Resolved:
- 1) *To note the content of the report.*
 - 2) *To ask Inspector Lange to meet with the WPA Estates Group with regard to the development of the Estates Strategy.*

12. **Committee Reports** The minutes of the following meetings were circulated:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>
Professional Standards	27 th January 2011
Audit	21 st March 2011
Strategy, Direction and Progress	29 th March 2011

- Resolved:
- 1) *To note the above minutes.*
 - 2) *To note the brief overview provided by Mr Johns with regard to the January meeting of Professional Standards.*

13. **Group Reports**

Value and Productivity Group (VPG)

Ms Hillyer, as Chairman of the Group, reported as follows:

- VPG was pleased with progress in relation to Vision Wiltshire.
- The first meeting of the Brunel Joint Committee was due to take place on 18th April.
- Mr Johns and the Director of Resources were working on a Procurement Strategy.
- The Group were awaiting the refreshed firearms training business case.

Joint Strategic Performance Board

Mr Macpherson stated that a presentation on the Killed and Seriously Injured measure had been delivered at the meeting on 24th February by Inspector Elton, Roads Policing. A copy of the presentation was available from the Secretariat on request. The format of future meetings was changing and the Authority would be working with the Force to identify what the meetings might look like.

Joint Strategic Board

Mr Macpherson stated that the Annual Policing Plan had now been approved and was due to be published shortly. Future work for the Board included transitional plans to Police and Crime Commissioners and partnerships.

Community Engagement Working Group

The Chairman of the Group, Mr Humphries, stated that the Head of Corporate Communications had attended the last meeting to give an update on the use of media and influence of Facebook in relation to Op Mayan. At the meeting, Mr Macpherson had suggested the presentation of a community award. Organisations affiliated with the Force would be invited to submit a briefing to the Authority against a set criteria and an appointed Panel would judge a winner. There would be no monetary award but it was hoped that the winning organisation would receive some publicity from this.

- Resolved:
- 1) *To note the updates provided by the Group Chairmen.*
 - 2) *To endorse the suggestion by Mr Macpherson of the presentation of a community award.*

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

Forensic Science Tri Regional Meeting and Award Ceremony

Mr Ford stated that he had attended the Regional Forensic Science meeting and the Force Award Ceremony on 5th April 2011.

Autism Alert Cards – 1st April 2011

Ms Tawiah reported she had attended the launch of the Autism Alert Cards. The purpose of the cards was to alert public services that the holder was a sufferer of one or more of the conditions across the autistic spectrum range.

Restructuring Seminar, Ryton

Mrs Mortimer stated that she had attended the above. Delegates considered case studies from Forces who had already gone through re-structuring or had nearly completed a re-organisation. It was reassuring that the approach in Wiltshire was in line with those Forces who had already completed this exercise and that cost savings were similar in scope.

Community Speed Watch

Mrs Soden reported that Wiltshire had hosted Gwent Police at Malmesbury Police Station as Gwent were interested in learning more about Community Speed Watch. This had been picked up by Gwent from a programme on the BBC. Gwent had been invited back once local Councillors were engaged and it was hoped to be able to take them out on site to show it working.

Resolved: To note the updates provided.

15. **Dates of Police Authority Meetings in 2011 and 2012**

2011	2012
16 th June	9 th February
22 nd September	5 th April
20 th October	
8 th December	

Resolved: To note that the meeting scheduled for 21st July had been cancelled and may be removed from Members' diaries.

16. **Urgent Items** There were none.

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 27 and 28 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, 4 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

18. **Urgent Items** The Chairman agreed to accept the following as a confidential urgent item:

As ACC Geenty had now been appointed temporary DCC for Wiltshire, a vacancy at ACC level exists. Two chief superintendents had recently attended the Senior Command Course and were eligible to act as ACC pending recruitment to a substantive post in June 2011. Chief Superintendent Veale had indicated that he would be happy not to be considered, having previously held the acting position.

Resolved: The Chief Superintendent James Vaughan be appointed Acting ACC, subject to ministerial approval, pending the selection of the substantive post holder.

(Duration of Meeting: 10.30am to 12.50pm)