

WILTSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES of a MEETING held at POLICE HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, DEVIZES on TUESDAY 27TH MARCH 2012

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

IN ATTENDANCE: T/DCC M Veale, Mr C Barker, Mr K Kilgallen, Mr M Prince, and Miss S Kyte

1. **Apologies** Apologies for absence were received from Mr Rogers.
2. **Public Questions** There were none.
3. **Declarations of Interest** There were none.
4. **Chairman's Announcements** There were none.
5. **Annual Policing Plan 2012-15** A copy of the final draft Policing Plan 2012-15 was circulated to Members who commented as follows:
 - Although document feels 'wordy' it was recognised that this is what the Authority will use to hold the T/Chief Constable to account for delivery of policing in Wiltshire and Swindon. As in previous years, a summary would be produced.
 - Details of the budget for 2012-13 were given on Page 12 of the document and referred to a figure of £125.5million when a budget of £103million had been set by Members. The Treasurer stated that the higher figure included specific grants received by the Authority although it had been identified that these had potentially been included twice. Members were content that the budget section include the figures for specific grants but it should clearly refer to the budget set by Members at the February meeting of £103million and the additional funds received through specific grants.
 - It was pleasing to see the inclusion of pie charts as the pictorial information they provided was quicker and easier to digest than text.
 - The figures detailed in the pie charts should be rounded up or down.
 - Consideration should be given to providing further explanation to the meaning of the terms local policing and protective services as detailed in the graph on Page 13 as these terms would not mean much to the public as they currently stood.
 - The Authority needs to ensure that the document is written in plain English so that the public can understand it.
 - The Equality and Diversity section should be expanded further so that the section provides substance to the overall Plan and the membership of the Strategic Diversity Board should also be included.
 - Final paragraph on Page 16 should be included under the 'Improving Technology' heading.

- To explore whether there was another way of expressing the current position with the Chief Officer Team as the use of 'temporary' does not imply a permanent solution.
- Local Authorities should be included in the list of those talked to when preparing the Plan.
- Mr Bluh questioned the ordering of some of the items as anti-social behaviour was a key priority for the public yet does not feature until further down the list underneath the heading 'Our First Aim'.
- Metal theft was also an issue for the public and did not appear to be addressed in the Plan.
- Page 1 refers to Wiltshire having the 'lowest level of violence against the person in England and Wales'. What happens if during the next financial year Wiltshire's position changes?
- Need to ensure that it is clear from the Policing Plan that although there are areas of the business that will receive particular attention, there was still an overall commitment to tackling crime.

The Head of Finance stated that in recent years the police service had been working with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy to produce a standard set of data which was known as the Police Objective Analysis (POA) which helped to assist in providing information on what was considered a national standard. The Head of Finance was looking at aligning the budget in due course to the POA which would assist in aligning the budget to the Policing Plan. The most recent POA was circulated in October 2011 and a copy would be circulated to all Members for information.

Resolved:

- 1) *To give delegated authority to the Authority Chairman, Joint Strategic Board Chairman, and the Chief Executive to issue a final version of the WPA Annual Policing Plan 2012-15.*
- 2) *That the Head of Finance would arrange for a copy of the Police Objective Analysis produced in October 2011 to be circulated to all Members.*

6. **Neighbourhood Justice Panels** A report by the Chief Constable had been circulated. Members were informed that the T/ACC was leading on this for the Force with C/Supt Armstrong. Ms Hillyer reported that she and Mr Macpherson had met with Inspector Paul Saunders (who is the locally embedded Inspector with Swindon Borough Council) and Simon Evans (Swindon Borough Council) and felt this was a positive initiative to be pursued although it should be noted that there were some issues to be resolved. These issues included agreeing with the Courts on how records for this process would be kept, the Crown Prosecution Service had not yet signed up to this, and that an answer should be sought from the T/Chief Constable on who the Force Champion was for Local Resolution. It was important that the Force Champion provided the link between local resolution and Neighbourhood Justice Panels and that there was no separate storage of data or operating in silos. Cllr Bluh stated that he was aware the Swindon Community Safety Partnership were working on this initiative but it had not yet been to Cabinet for approval.

The T/DCC stated he was familiar with the role of Neighbourhood Justice Panels and had seen them in operation in another area. The Panels assist in providing a proportionate and local response to local low level crime and were well received by the community in which they had operated.

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

7. **Brief Updates on Following Items:**

Tri-Service Specialist Ops Unit

The T/DCC reported that the collaboration team had nearly completed the scoping exercise and that the business case was due to be delivered at the end of March. It would then be submitted to those Forces involved for full consideration. The T/DCC would be meeting with the Chief Executive in the near future to discuss the matter and identify those savings to be made. A further update would be provided at the Authority meeting in April.

Establishment of Estates Delivery Board

The Chief Executive reported that a Joint Estates Board had been established which met in early March with a primary focus on Monkton Park, Chippenham. The WPA Lead Member for Estates was Mr Macpherson and local WPA Members would be invited to attend meetings of the Board when estate matters arise pertinent to their geographical area.

In order for Monkton Park to be treated as a Police Station rather than office accommodation, Members of the Joint Estates Board had decided to apply for planning permission although technically this was not required. Some Members felt that this was unnecessary but Mr Caswill stated that the Members of the Joint Estates Board felt it would be prudent to do so.

Resolved: 1) *That a further update on the tri-service specialist ops unit would be given at the April meeting of the Authority.*

2) *To note the verbal updates provided.*

8. **Dates of Police Authority Meetings in 2012**

2012

19th April

14th June

20th September

1st November

Resolved: *To note that the venue for the April and September meetings of the full Authority would be Melksham.*

9. **Urgent Items** There were none.

10. **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 11-12 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 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.*

11. **Swindon Community Safety Partnership** A confidential report by the Chief Constable was circulated and the following concerns raised by Members:
- Community Safety Partnership funding would be received by the Police and Crime Commissioner from 2013-14 onwards.
 - Licensing had been withdrawn from this proposal but it was not clear why, particularly when it was felt that inclusion of this would provide further savings.
 - Are warranted officers included within the new service?
 - There would appear to be the loss of a Prevent Officer from the old structure to the new and it was not clear where this workload had been transferred to.
 - The paper did not provide enough detail on how the Partnership's workload would change under the new structure and what, if anything, would not be done in the future that had been done previously.

Resolved: *To ask the Force to bring a further report to the April Police Authority meeting addressing Members' concerns and providing a detailed explanation of the outcomes achieved by the Community Safety Partnerships and the work that they do to bring about the outcomes.*

12. **Special Priority Payments** A confidential report by the Chief Constable which had been considered at the March meeting of the Value and Productivity Group had been circulated.

Resolved: *To approve the amendment of the current scheme to allow the continuation of an 'equivalent special priority payment' scheme for on-call arrangements for a period of three months effective from 1st April 2012 at a cost of £44k with a view to receiving a further report in May showing how the introduction of a replacement on-call scheme under Winsor Part II is likely to affect Wiltshire and how the introduction of unsocial hours enhancement payments under Winsor Part I impacts the current variable rate special priority payments arrangements.*

13. **Urgent Items** The Chairman agreed to accept the following as an urgent item.

i. Proceeds Under Police Property Act 1897

A report by Mr Macpherson was circulated. .

- Resolved:
- 1) *To note the distribution of funds in the current year.*
 - 2) *To request payment of £5k to Victim Support as soon as possible.*
 - 3) *To lift the restriction of grants made by the Community Foundation only to registered charities.*
 - 4) *To ask the Community Foundation to consider the totality of support to applicants given by the Police Authority in any year.*
 - 5) *To make a transfer to the Community Foundation of £45k.*

- 6) *To request the completion of contracts with both the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust and SPLASH within three months of the date of this meeting.*

ii. Operation Yellowstone

The Chairman stated that notification was received Friday afternoon (23rd March 2012) that the Sunday Times would be running an article in relation to Operation Yellowstone.

Resolved: *To note the verbal report by the Chairman.*

(Duration of Meeting: 2.00pm to 3.55pm)