

WILTSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES of a MEETING held at POLICE HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, DEVIZES on THURSDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2010

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 G Stafford, and Ms G Tawiah

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Constable B Moore, DCC D Ainsworth, A/ACC M Veale, Mr M Milton, Mr C Barker, Mr K Kilgallen, Mr M Prince and Miss S Kyte

1. **Apologies** Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Soden.
2. **Public Questions** To be taken after the Chief Constable's performance report at Agenda Item 10.
3. **Declarations of Interest** There were none.
4. **Chairman's Announcements** The Chairman reported the death of serving Police Officer Dan Cooper, who was killed in a road traffic collision on duty, whilst answering a call from his colleagues. The Chairman would be attending the funeral on behalf of the Authority. The death of Ian Parry, a recently retired officer who had spent 25 years in the police service, was also reported. Ian Parry was killed in a car accident in Trinidad.
5. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting (3rd December 2009)**

Resolved: *To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2009.*
6. **WPA Risk Register**

Risk 1.20: Changes to the WPA Membership
There will be a change in Authority Membership next year as the terms of appointment of four Independent Members will expire in March 2011. The Authority should consider conducting a skills audit of current Members which would then inform the recruitment process.

Resolved: 1) *To ask the General Purposes Committee to consider conducting a skills audit of current Authority Membership.*
2) *To note the WPA Risk Register.*
7. **Conferences and Meetings Attended by Members since the Previous Meeting, and Future Conferences / Seminars**

Ms Tawiah reported that she had attended an NPIA workshop on 5th February 2010 with regard to the recently published Productivity Framework on Working for the Public. The Framework focuses in three areas on how the Authority and Force conduct business. These are: leading, organising, and development. The Chief Executive reported that the relevant elements of the Framework would be incorporated into the WPA Programme for 2010-11. The DCC stated that the Force would be looking to include the main elements of the Framework within the Policing Model.

Mr Johns reported that he would be attending a forthcoming IPCC workshop with regard to the revised IPCC statutory guidance which is to come into effect on 1st April 2010.

Mr Sample stated he had recently attended a Specials Attestation and advised all Members who had a similar opportunity to attend to do so, as it was good to see new people coming into the Force.

Resolved: *To note the verbal reports provided by Ms Tawiah, Mr Johns, and Mr Sample.*

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

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>
Audit and Risk	7th December 2009
Resources	9th December 2009
	20th January 2010
	25th January 2010
Consultation and Public Focus	11th January 2010
Human Resources	28th January 2010

Resolved:

- 1) *To note the above minutes.*
- 2) *To note that the Audit and Risk Committee have asked the Chief Constable to report back to them on the Resources Directorate.*
- 3) *To acknowledge that the minutes of the Resources Committee meetings held on 20th and 25th January 2010 are yet to be approved by the Committee.*
- 4) *To note the inaugural meeting of the Professional Standards Committee had taken place and that the Secretariat would be working with the Force to put a number of protocols in place around the scrutiny of professional standards matters.*

9. **Audit Commission Annual Audit Letter 2008-09** A copy of the Annual Audit Letter considered by the Audit and Risk Committee on 7th December 2009 had been circulated. Mr Fishlock reported that an 'unqualified opinion' had been issued by the Auditors and that the Authority were deemed to be performing 'adequately' with regard to Value for Money.

The Annual Audit Letter made two recommendations, one of which related to the valuation of significant assets in readiness for the 2009-10 statement of accounts. The other recommendation was in connection with the payroll system introduced by Wiltshire Council. The Head of Finance and Procurement stated that the Force were continuing to work with Wiltshire Council to resolve the outstanding issues.

International accounting standards will be introduced for the 2009-10 statement of accounts which will increase the size of the document. The Treasurer reported that the national body he is involved with are suggesting strongly to the Audit Commission that they need to ensure that they can be presented in a simple and understandable format for to the public.

Members expressed their disquiet with regard to the audit fee charged for 2009-10. The Chairman stated he would write to the Audit Commission raising the Authority's concern.

Resolved: 1) *To note the content of the Annual Audit Letter for 2009-10.*

2) *That the Chairman would write to the Audit Commission expressing concern over the audit fees charged.*

10. **Chief Constable's Performance Report 2009-10** A report by the Chief Constable covering the period 1st April to 31st December 2009 had been circulated.

The Chief Constable reported that:

- Of the 20 performance targets included in the Policing Plan, 14 (70%) were meeting or exceeding target, 5 (25%) were not achieving target, and 1 target (5%) was failing. The Force were predicting that 90-95% of all targets would be achieved by 31st March 2010.
- Of those areas meeting or exceeding target:
 - The Force is performing well in answering 999 calls and responding to those calls;
 - Serious Acquisitive Crime has reduced by almost 10% on the previous year;
 - The Force lost 22,000 days to sickness in 2008-09 at a cost of approximately £100 per day (nearly £2m). Significant effort has been made to reduce sickness absence and to the end of December 2009, 2,000 days had been recovered against the previous year. This matter has been scrutinised closely by the Authority, and the Chief Constable encouraged the Authority to continue to do so.
- Of those areas not achieving target:
 - The targets set in relation to violent crimes are generally those that are close to target. It is important to achieve the targets as these crimes have a fundamental effect on the individuals concerned and on public confidence generally. Nationally, the Force remain a top 5 performer for reduction of violent crime and violent crime detections.
- The one area where the Force is failing to meet target is in generating efficiencies through collaboration.

The Chief Constable also spoke about the following:

- Death of Pc Dan Cooper
Pc Dan Cooper was a well known police officer who had been a Special Constable before joining the regular force. He had been with the Force less than three years. He died when responding to an urgent call for back-up from one of his colleagues. The Health and Safety Executive and the IPCC had been informed as a matter of course, and the IPCC were satisfied for the matter to be dealt with locally by the Force.
- Death of Retired Police Officer Ian Parry
Ian Parry had served in Wiltshire for 25 years and was killed in a road traffic collision on 31st January 2010 in Trinidad. Prior to his retirement he had been seconded there to assist in the setting up of an anti-crime and corruption unit. A memorial service will be held at Malmesbury Abbey.

- Gun Crime
The Chief Constable spoke of three recent incidents which had caused him concern relating to the use of guns. In one case intelligence had been received and acted upon, which resulted in the safe recovery of a sawn off shotgun. In another incident there was an armed robbery at a bookmakers in Swindon. The third incident involved a firearm which was discharged at a passing vehicle. The victim was hit in the shoulder and will make a full recovery. Four people have been charged with attempted murder.
- Chief Constable Roadshows
Each member of staff has been invited to attend a Roadshow to be briefed on the Vision Wiltshire project. Approximately 1,000 members of staff have already attended. The Chief Constable reported that the Authority's support in this was appreciated and that Members were invited to attend wherever possible. The Chairman echoed this and advised Members to try and attend at least one event if possible.

The Public were then invited by the Chairman to ask any questions they may have.

- Mr French asked whether the Authority were looking to hold more public meetings around the County. The Chairman reported that previous public meetings run by the Authority had only police attendance and the new approach taken in Wiltshire with the Area Boards where partner agencies are in attendance, was welcomed. Members are engaged with the Area Boards and these meetings take place more frequently than those police only meetings which were held previously. A similar structure with the Clusters in Swindon is developing. Mr Fisher stated that he would ensure Mr French was kept informed of the cluster meeting dates within the relevant area.

Mr Macpherson responded to the Chief Constable's Performance report as follows:

- The Authority would be aiming to complete its next survey shortly and it was hoped that the public confidence figures would be available for year end.
- It was not felt that the target for collaborative efficiency savings were ambitious, but that a failure to meet this target reflects on the cultures within other organisations. The setting up of the Police Authority Joint Committee would hopefully help meet such targets in future years.
- The number of repeat incidents for domestic violence appears good at first glance, but the trend is worrying as the numbers were lower earlier in the year.
- The Policing Plan for 2010-11 will contain fewer targets than previous Plans, and have a greater emphasis on the understanding and monitoring the drivers of good performance.

Resolved: 1) *To note the content of the Chief Constable's report.*

2) *To note the comments by Mr Macpherson.*

11. **Revenue Budget 2010-11** A report by the Chief Constable had been circulated.

Resolved: *To note the Force's budget requirement for 2010-11 of £108.398m.*

12. **Precept and Council Tax 2010-11** A report by the Treasurer had been circulated. The Chairman asked Members to consider the level of precept to be set for 2010-11.

Mr Caswill proposed a precept increase of 3.6% which was seconded by Mr Sample. A vote was taken and 12 were in favour and four against. The Councillor vote was four in favour and four against. As the precept was not supported by a majority of the Councillor membership, it could not stand.

Mr Britton moved a recommendation of 3.4% which was seconded by Mr Rogers. A vote was taken and 11 were in favour, four against, and one abstention. The motion failed as it was not supported by a majority Councillor vote (three in favour, four against, and one abstention).

Mr Humphries moved a recommendation of 2.90% which was seconded by Mr Ford. A vote was taken and 5 were in favour and 11 against. The motion failed as it was not supported by a majority vote.

At this point the meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes and reconvened at 1.15pm.

The Chairman advised Members that a defeated motion could be reinstated at his discretion. Mr Britton moved a recommendation of 3.4% which was seconded by Mr Rogers. A vote was taken and 13 were in favour and 3 against. The motion was carried being supported by a majority vote of the Authority membership and as a majority vote of the Councillor membership.

- Resolved:
- 1) *To agree for 2010-11 a net revenue budget of £108.398 million which, after Government funding, requires a precept of £39.247 million and a Council Tax for policing services for all property bands based on £157.77 for Band D properties, representing a percentage increase of 3.4% on 2009-10.*
 - 2) *To approve the Treasurer's assessment of the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of reserves as described in Paragraphs 9 to 21 of the report.*
 - 3) *To approve the transfer of £0.750 million revenue contributions to general reserves rather than to the capital programme for 2010-11 only.*
 - 4) *To approve the underwriting from reserves of up to £0.200 million against any overspend on the 2009-10 budget.*

13. **Treasury Management Strategy 2010-11** A report by the Treasurer had been circulated. The CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management had been updated in light of the Icelandic crisis in 2009 but had no impact on the Authority's Treasury Management Strategy.

- Resolved:
- 1) *To adopt the updated CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services.*
 - 2) *To adopt the Prudential and Treasury Indicators as set out in Appendix A of the report.*
 - 3) *To adopt the Investment Strategy as set out in Appendix B of the report.*
 - 4) *To agree that operating leases of up to £500k may be used to assist in financing the Authority's 2010-11 capital plans.*

- 5) *To agree that short term cash deficits and surpluses continue to be managed through temporary loans and deposits as detailed in Paragraphs 14 to 16 of the report.*
- 6) *To agree that the majority of longer term cash balances are invested with Investec Asset Management and that the Treasurer continues to be delegated to negotiate the terms and conditions of this arrangement.*

14. **WPA Annual Report on Custody Visiting** A report by the Chief Executive had been circulated.

- Resolved:
- 1) *To note the annual report on custody visiting for 2009.*
 - 2) *To approve the proposals in Paragraph 6 of the report with regard to the reporting of custody visiting matters to the Professional Standards Committee.*
 - 3) *To ask the Standards Committee Chairman to assist with a review of the Scheme with the aim of concluding the review in time for the Authority's meeting in June.*
 - 4) *For the Authority to record its thanks to all custody visitors for their contribution, commitment and dedication.*
 - 5) *For the Authority to recognise the contribution made by Mr John Bradburn to the Scheme during his time as a Custody Visitor and to request that a shield be presented to him to on his retirement.*

15. **Dates of Police Authority Meetings in 2010 and 2011**

2010	2011
10 th June	10 th February
16 th September	16 th June
2 nd December	22 nd September
	8 th 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 Item 18 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 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 (2009)</u>
Resources	20th January 2010
Human Resources	28th January 2010

Resolved: *To note the above minutes.*

(Duration of Meeting: 10.30am to 1.55pm)