

**PART 1 MINUTES OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY  
MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2009 AT COUNTY HALL,  
HERTFORD**

**PRESENT**

Stuart Nagler (Chair), Richard Smith (Vice Chair), Clare Berry, Nigel Brook, Sarah Coffey, Keith Emsall, Brenda Griffiths, Chris Kitchin, David Lloyd, Kevin McGetrick, Ron Tindall, Derek Scudder, Bengie Walden, Sue Warman, Anne Wright

Hertfordshire Police Authority Officers present:

Julia Harries	Committee and Members' Services Manager
Sally Patient	Communications Manager
Brian Pereira	Performance and Operations Manager
Andrew White	Chief Executive

Hertfordshire Constabulary Officers present:

Simon Parr	Deputy Chief Constable
Frank Whiteley	Chief Constable

Steve Hutchings	Police Federation
Voja Mihailovic	Police Federation

Rose Cheswright County Councillor (for Part 1 items only)

**PART 1  
IN PUBLIC**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Robert Gordon and Sally Newton.

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Anne Wright declared a personal, prejudicial interest in Item 7 Independent Member Recruitment Process and left the room during the debate on this issue.

### **3. MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Part 1 minutes of the meeting held on Friday 17 July 2009 were confirmed by the Authority as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

### **4. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Police Authority welcomed Berni Compton who had been appointed as a full-time permanent member of the Police Authority staff, as Committee and Members' Services Officer.

The Choices and Consequences (C2) project has been nominated in the National Criminal Justice Awards for Best Partnership Award and is 1 of 3 nominees. Winners will be announced on 20th October 2009. Additionally, C2 has also won an Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Excellence in Policing Award, which will be presented on 22nd September 2009 at the ACPO Excellence in Policing Conference to be held at Ryton.

### **5. QUESTIONS**

None

### **6. PUBLIC PETITIONS**

None

### **7. INDEPENDENT MEMBER RECRUITMENT PROCESS**

The Chief Executive had submitted a report setting out various options for the Authority to consider relating to the independent member recruitment process. This is due to start in the near future, since a vacancy will arise in February 2010, when an incumbent's term of office expires. The last recruitment process was completed in the summer of 2008, and given that this caused some controversy, despite having been fair, open and accountable, members had asked for alternative methods of selection to be proposed.

The report set out the advantages and disadvantages of Police Authority members sitting on the Selection Panel and gave examples of what categories of independent members could be considered.

The Authority discussed the options set out in the report, particularly the advantages of the Selection Panel being entirely independent of the Authority, with no Authority members sitting on it.

Other suggestions from members included:

- extending the term of the present incumbent until March 2011 when there is another recruitment round due
- maintaining a vacancy on the Authority until March 2011 when there is another recruitment round due – both these options would save recruitment and induction/training resources and could enable a proper ‘gap analysis’ to be carried out to ensure the selection process addresses the balance of the Authority profile, but would leave the Authority short-handed at a critical time
- changing the length of the term to align this appointment with the recruitment round in March 2013
- that members of the Selection Panel should receive adequate training
- that independent members of the Panel should be a District Council Leader, a representative of the Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce and a person with policing experience. This could be a former member of Hertfordshire Police Authority.

In conclusion, members agreed that the Selection Panel should be entirely independent, that it was not desirable for the authority to hold a vacancy, given the workload and important forthcoming decisions to be made and that the term of this appointment should end in March 2013.

The Authority went on to discuss the criteria used to appoint independent members, in particular the weight given to past experience of policing matters and how to achieve a balance in the membership profile.

## **RESOLVED**

The Authority agreed the following on a majority show of hands (7:6, with one abstention):

1. That the membership of the Selection Panel should be entirely independent of the Police Authority.
2. That the Chief Executive would approach a District Council Leader, a representative of the Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce and a person with policing experience (this could be a former member of this Authority) to sit on the Selection Panel, with the Home Office appointee (Tina Fahm) and an Independent Assessor (John Shrigley).
3. That the term of office for this appointment be three years and one month to bring it into line with the round of recruitment in March 2013.

## **8. POLICE AUTHORITY IMPROVEMENT PLANNING**

The Authority considered a report setting out the recommendations of the member group on Police Authority improvement planning, specifically relating to proposals to maximise value from limited resources. This work would assist the Authority to prepare for its inspection, which will take place after March 2010. The inspection framework is based on the delivery of good service outcomes to the public, the scrutiny role of Authorities, community engagement and value for money.

The starting point of the improvement plan would be the development of a joint Consultation and Engagement Strategy between the Constabulary and the Authority, which would then lead to an annual survey plan and further joint work with the Constabulary on public consultation and engagement.

Members noted the importance of the scrutiny of protective services and how this was reported back to the Authority and that the analysis of control room calls would be considered by the next meeting of the Policy and Planning Committee.

## **RESOLVED**

1. The Authority agreed the Improvement Strategy as set out in the report with further work to be undertaken by the main committees on their specific area of business.
2. An updated draft Improvement Strategy would be considered by the next meeting of the Policy and Planning Committee and circulated to all members. The intention would be to develop this Strategy alongside the Policing Plan.

## **9. DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

The Authority considered and noted a report setting out the following decisions made under delegated powers by the Chief Executive since the last meeting of the Authority:

- Supplemental agreement relating to the former Police Station, Ware Road, Hertfordshire Constabulary
- British Transport Police Partnership Working
- Lease Renewal Abbots Langley Police Station
- Disposal of Redundant Police House
- Extension to Secondment of Police Officer to Iraq
- Secondment of Police Officer to the Youth Justice Board

## **10. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolution:

That under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 3 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest test not to disclose information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

**PART 2  
IN PRIVATE**

**11. BUSINESS CASE AND SECTION 23 AGREEMENT TO INCREASE EASTERN REGION AND CAPABILITY TO TACKLE SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME**

The Chief Executive presented a report setting out a business case which would enable the delivery of a more efficient and effective model for tackling serious and organised crime across the Eastern Region. This report would also be considered by Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk Police Authorities during September and October.

**RESOLVED**

That the Authority agreed the business case as set out in the report.

**12. OPERATIONAL MATTERS**

The Chief Constable gave an oral update on recent operational matters of interest.

Chair