

PART 1 MINUTES OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2009 AT COUNTY HALL, HERTFORD

PRESENT

Stuart Nagler (Chair), Richard Smith (Vice Chair), Nigel Brook, Sarah Coffey, Keith Emsall, Robert Gordon, Brenda Griffiths, David Lloyd, Kevin McGetrick, Ron Tindall, Bengie Walden, Sue Warman, Anne Wright

Hertfordshire Police Authority Officers present:

Bernice Compton	Committee and Members' Services Officer
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:

Frank Whitely	Chief Constable
James Hurley	Director of Resources
Chris Miller	Temporary Assistant Chief Constable
Steve Hutchings	Police Federation
Voja Mihailovic	Police Federation
Sophie Gross	Hertfordshire/Bedfordshire Collaboration Unit
Kelly Barnett	Hertfordshire/Bedfordshire Collaboration Unit
Mark Castle	Chief Executive, Association of Police Authorities (APA)
Rose Cheswright	County Councillor (for Part 1 items only)

PART 1 IN PUBLIC

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Clare Berry, Chris Kitchin, Sally Newton, Derek Scudder and Simon Parr.

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

The Part 1 minutes of the meeting held on Friday 18 September 2009 were confirmed by the Authority as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

4. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Hertfordshire Constabulary's PC Kevin Moore who recently won a National Justice Award for outstanding individual commitment to diversity. Working with members of the Travelling community to establish positive relationships, Kevin has introduced local officers to the sites, breaking down barriers between police and the community. This work has helped to increase trust and confidence while raising awareness of Traveller culture. PC Kevin Moore has also provided colleagues with operational practical advice, removing damaging cultural misunderstanding and considerably reducing tensions within the Travelling community.

Also in the same awards, the Choices and Consequences Partnership (C2) came second in the Partnership of the Year team award. Highly commended for its efforts over the past two years, it was particularly recognised for its innovative programme for prolific non-violent offenders who want to change their lifestyle and achieve long-term crime reduction.

5. QUESTIONS

None

6. PUBLIC PETITIONS

None

7. INDEPENDENT MEMBER RECRUITMENT PROCESS

The Authority considered a report giving an update of the independent member recruitment process and was asked to decide how it wishes to carry out the final selection of the independent member.

The appointed member will commence their term of office on 24 February 2010. It is therefore vital that the Authority makes its final decision during January.

It was proposed that the final selection be carried out by a small Sub-Committee of the Authority comprising the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority and the Chair of Policy and Planning Committee.

If the Authority does not wish to accept this recommendation then a special meeting of the Police Authority will need to be convened during January 2010.

Members expressed concern with this proposal and agreed that the decision should be made by the Full Authority.

It was agreed that an extraordinary meeting of the Full Authority be held on Friday 22nd January, 9.30am to make a decision on the appointment.

8. PERFORMANCE AGAINST POLICING PLAN OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS – APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2009

The Authority considered a report giving an update on the Constabulary's performance against the 2009-2012 Policing Plan half way through the current financial year.

Members thanked the Constabulary for a helpful report. They particularly found the reporting schedule in Appendix 1 helpful showing the objective and target for each Policing Plan area and its reporting mechanism to each Committee.

The Authority noted the report.

9. POLICING PLAN 2010/13 AND STRATEGIC PLAN 2009/12

The Authority considered a report presenting the outcome of a review of the Policing Plan 2009/2012 and proposals for the Policing Plan 2010/2013 informing members about the publication and launch arrangement agreed by Policy and Planning Committee.

The Authority was asked to consider draft proposals forming the basis for consultation to inform members' decision on the Policing Plan 2010/2013. The Authority was also asked to consider that partner agencies, stakeholders and the public be consulted on the draft proposals for comments, together with consultation on the Council Tax options needed to support the Plan.

The Authority was informed that the Home Office would be launching a national media campaign in support of the National Policing Pledge on Sunday 22nd November. The Authority also noted that a new 'user friendly' version of the pledge had been received and were asked to decide if they wanted to adopt the new version for Hertfordshire.

Given the current financial climate and the difficult choices facing members, it was proposed that the Authority undertakes considerable public and stakeholder consultation on both the proposals for changes to the targets and measures and the level of Council Tax that could be made available to support those changes.

The Chief Executive advised that, if the Authority wishes to consider a substantial increase in precept, such as 15%, public opinion support for that increase would minimise the risk of Government action (capping).

It was agreed that the Authority consults on three levels of increase – 1.5%, 5% and 15%, as a response to meeting the funding gap that the Authority faces.

The report laid out the proposed consultation starting 30 November, with a closing date of Monday 18 January 2010. Feedback will then be analysed with the assistance of the Constabulary and presented to the Policy and Planning Committee for consideration at its meeting on 22 January 2010.

Interim feedback will also be presented to the Resources Committee at its meeting on 8 January 2010, and final analysis will be presented to the Full Authority at its February 2010 budget-setting meeting.

The Authority agreed that the draft proposals form the basis for consultation to inform members' decision on the Policing Plan 2010/2013.

The Authority agreed that partner agencies, stakeholders and the public be consulted on the draft proposals for comments, together with consultation on the Council Tax options needed to support the Plan.

10. THINK FAMILY LAA PROJECT

The Authority considered a report and presentation on the Constabulary's involvement in the government sponsored 'Think Family' project.

The programme encourages joined up service delivery from key public sector partner organisations to identify and deal with families where there are multiple and complex issues such as; poverty; parental worklessness; domestic violence and substance abuse.

Small numbers of children and their extended families call disproportionately on the resources of public sector service providers. Frequently the same children will need to access a wide range of services. Their multiple needs stretch partner organisations. The programme brings together these organisations to work holistically as a team.

The Hertfordshire 'Think Family' project has been funded with the Local Area Agreement (LAA) Performance Reward Grant (PRG); a total of 3.6 million over the next three years.

An Operations Manager has been appointed from Hertfordshire Constabulary, DI Julia Wright. This is a three year appointment and it is intended that her post be funded by the PRG. The Operations Manager will oversee the four centres and provide leadership, guidance and direction to the four team leaders.

The four locality teams that have been identified using the published Indicators of Multiple Deprivation (2007), the Index of Child Well Being (2009) and county held Midas and crime data, as presenting the greatest challenge to local service providers, are; South Oxhey (Three Rivers), Bedwell (Stevenage), Cowley Hill (Hertsmere) and Holbrook (Broxbourne).

The first centre, Holbrook, is almost ready and is expected to open at the start of the new year, the other three are expected to be up and running in the next six months.

Members were impressed with the presentation given and the programme plan.

Concern was expressed at funding only being available for three years and suggested that a way forward would be for Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) to take the project forward.

Keith Emsall mentioned the DVD – ‘Dark Side of the Moon’ that was being taken into senior schools relating to Domestic Violence. He mentioned the content was very strong and asked if staff were attending when the DVD was shown to support children that were affected by the content. He also asked if there was any data showing how many schools the DVD had been shown to. Chris Miller informed the Committee that some anecdotal information was beginning to come through and that there had been children that had been affected by the DVD. He agreed to go back to the Children’s’ Officer and report back to the Committee.

The Committee thanked Chris Miller for a very interesting presentation and welcomed the project.

ACTION

Chris Miller will report back to the Authority information regarding the DVD – ‘Dark Side of the Moon’ and its effect on children in school.

11. PLACE SURVEY RESULTS

The Authority considered a report giving information about the results of the Place Survey 2008 in relation to the Safer and Stronger theme of Hertfordshire Local Area Agreement and the National Indicator 21.

The final report has now been received and published on the Hertfordshire Observatory website.

The report shows that 84% of people are satisfied with public services and consider that Hertfordshire is a good place to live. The Committee noted the report.

ACTION

Sally Patient will send out a briefing report on the full results.

12. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

The minutes as circulated were noted.

13. 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.

14. UPDATE FROM MARK CASTLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF POLICE AUTHORITIES (APA)

After giving a brief introduction of himself and his background, the new Chief Executive of the Association of Police Authorities (APA) Mark Castle, informed the Authority of the new draft vision for the APA and asked the Authority for views, good and bad, on the APA. The new draft vision is:

“The APA is a respected and influential advocate for our members in driving the national policing agenda, valued for providing them with the support and guidance that enables them to add real value to their communities.”

He also presented the APA Mission:-

“THE APA MISSION IS TO:

- *Influence the policing agenda at the national level*
- *Support police authorities in securing efficient and effective policing services*
- *Enable police authorities to improve their capability*
- *Raise awareness of policing needs and the role and achievements of police authorities*
- *Champion the principles of local accountability and policing by consent*

In order to ensure that local communities are served by efficient and effective police authorities.”

The Authority welcomed and thanked Mark Castle for attending the meeting and expressed their backing; they look forward to helping develop the vision and raising the profile of the APA.

15. 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 outweighed the public interest in disclosing it.

PART 2 IN PRIVATE

16. PART 2 MINUTES

The Part 2 minutes of the meeting held on Friday 18 September 2009 were confirmed by the Authority as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

17. UPDATE ON SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME COLLABORATION

The Chief Constable gave an oral update on Serious and Organised Crime Collaboration.

The Authority noted the update.

ACTION

Chief Executive will write a letter of thanks to Jerry Tattersall for hard work and effort on collaborative projects.

18. OPERATIONAL MATTERS

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

The Chief Constable apologised to Members for not informing them sooner of the closure of Hemel Hempstead Custody Suite.

Members noted the reasons for the proposed closure of the custody suite but expressed concern in particular relating to young offenders who come from less well-off families with no transport. When these young offenders are taken to Hatfield, how are their families expected to make their way there to support the young person?

The Chief Constable agreed this was a fair point and something to take account of.

The Authority noted the update.

19. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Friday 22 January 2010, 9.30am - Extraordinary
Tuesday 23 February 2010, 2.30pm – Budget Meeting
Friday 28 May 2010, 10.30am – AGM
Friday 16 July 2010, 10.30am
Friday 17 September 2010, 10.30am
Friday 19 November 2010, 10.30am

Chair