

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 7th April 2010

Time: 4.00 pm until 5.30 pm

Location: Conference Rooms 1 and 2, Police Headquarters, Huntingdon

Present:

Members:

Ms Ruth Rogers - Chairman
Mr Benjamyn Damazer – Vice Chairman
Mr Victor Lucas – Vice Chairman
Mr Ansar Ali
Mr John Batchelor
Mr Ian Bates
Mr John Clark
Mr Mahmood Fazal
Ms Shona Johnstone
Ms Ruth Joyce
Mr Matthew Lee
Mrs Olive Main
Mr John Pye
Mr Kevin Wilkins
Ms Nic Williams
Mrs Jayne Wright

Executive Team:

Dr Dorothy Gregson, Chief Executive
Mr John Hummersone, Treasurer
Mr Ronnie Yellon, Policy and Performance Manager
Miss Jackie Chapman, Committee and Support Services Officer

Constabulary:

Chief Constable Julie Spence
Deputy Chief Constable John Feavoyour
Assistant Chief Constable Mark Hopkins
Mrs Niki Howard, Director of Finance Resources
Mrs Penny Sills, Director of People
Mr Colin Luscombe, Head of Estates and Facilities
Management

Other Attendees: None.

1. To note any apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr John Reynolds.

2. To note any Declarations of Interest – and any updates to the register of Member’s interests

Mr Ian Bates declared an interest in relation to Agenda Item 11.

3. Questions and Statements from Members of the Public

The Authority was informed that one question had been received asking if any advice had been sought from the National Police Improvements Agency (NPIA) regarding the cancellation of the Strawberry Fair event in Cambridge.

The Chairman confirmed that the Authority had forward the question on to the Constabulary to obtain a written response as soon as possible.

4. Any Other Items of Business that the Chairman decides should be considered as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100(B) (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972

None was received.

5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2010 were accepted as a correct record (subject to some minor amendments) and signed by the Chairman.

6. Joint Police Authority and Constabulary Involvement and Engagement Action Plan

The Authority received proposals to approve the draft joint Police Authority and Constabulary Involvement and Engagement Action Plan.

The Chief Executive reported that following months of extensive work, the Authority and Constabulary had produced a joint draft Action Plan which set out the vision, responded to the HMIC inspection theme and briefly outlined the current engagement mechanisms. The Action Plan centred on delivering against nine key objectives and would be monitored by the new Scrutiny Committee.

The Authority noted that the Citizen Focus Panel had formally endorsed the Action Plan at its meeting on 3rd March 2010.

The Authority agreed that the future success of the Strategy and Action Plan was dependant on active engagement, and addressing the needs of local communities. The Chief Constable gave assurance that the Constabulary would work closely with the Authority to progress the approach to public engagement.

The Authority approved the draft Joint Involvement and Engagement Action Plan and recorded its thanks to Mrs Anna Horne, Head of Engagement and Communication and her Constabulary colleagues for their hard work in preparing the Action Plan.

THE AUTHORITY RESOLVED:

- (i) ***To note the Constabulary Engagement Strategy and approve the draft Joint Involvement and Engagement Action Plan.***

7. Police Report Card

The Authority was updated on the outcome from the first national Police Report Card, recently published by the HMIC on 11th March 2010.

The Chief Constable reported that the four domains assessed and graded were:

- Local Crime and Policing ('Fair'),
- Protection from Serious Harm ('Fair') ,
- Confidence and Satisfaction('Fair') ,
- Value for Money (Not Graded).

The Authority was informed 'Solving Crime' (which had identified a mix of variable performance detection rates for serious acquisitive crime and violence with injury) had received a 'poor' grade. The Chief Constable described the remedial action to address this matter.

The Authority welcomed the HMIC endorsement for the way in which the Constabulary tackled serious sexual crime and issues such as anti-social behaviour, work with ethnic minority communities, gun crime and human trafficking.

THE AUTHORITY RESOLVED:

- (i) ***To note the report.***

8. Cambridgeshire Policing Plan

The Authority received the issued version of the 2010/13 Cambridgeshire Local Policing Plan (LPP).

The Chief Constable reported that work was ongoing (in conjunction with the Authority) to finalise and deliver the Plan. This would include a series of meetings to discuss the timetable/milestones for the next year and ensure that the delivery and scrutiny of the Plan is incorporated into the meeting cycle and taken forward.

The Authority noted that the final approved version of the Plan would be published by the required statutory deadline of 30th June 2010.

The Authority thanked the Chief Executive, Members' Working Group and the Constabulary, and in particular T/Chief Inspector Karry Beeby, for their hard work in producing the Plan.

THE AUTHORITY RESOLVED:

- (i) ***To note the report and the on-going process to deliver the LPP for 2010/13.***

9. Process for Appointment of Chief Constable

The Authority was updated on the proposed process to recruit a new Chief Constable for Cambridgeshire.

Since Chief Constable Julie Spence announced her retirement on 1st March 2010, the Chief Executive reported that the recruitment process had commenced. The Chief Executive outlined the recruitment timetable, adding that 'Chief Constable Appointments Panel' (consisting of eight Police Authority Members) had been set up to oversee the process; this would include support from the National Policing Improvements Agency

The Chief Executive sought the Authority's formal endorsement to create the Appointments Panel (with five Members), which will have delegated power to appoint the Chief Constable. This was agreed.

The Authority noted that it would be kept fully updated on future developments.

- (i) ***To note the process and endorse the creation of an Appointments Panel with delegated powers to appoint the new Chief Constable for Cambridgeshire.***

10. Scheme of Delegation

The Chief Executive sought the Authority's agreement to approve the updated Scheme of Delegation.

At its meeting in September 2009, the Authority had agreed to revise the existing Committees and Panels structure (effective from July 2010). The aim of this was to not only reduce the overall number of meetings, but enable Members to drive forward the business of the Authority, in alignment with performance monitoring of the Policing Plan.

The Treasurer reported that the Scheme of Delegation had since been updated to account for the new Committee structure. This included some changes to the Terms of Reference for each Committee and Panel.

The Authority approved the updated Scheme of Delegation, subject to some minor changes which the Treasurer noted and agreed to amend.

THE AUTHORITY RESOLVED:

- (i) ***To note the report and approve the updated Scheme of Delegation, subject to some minor changes.***

11. Parkside Police Station (Southern BCU) Replacement Project

The Authority considered the recommendations made by the Finance and Resources Committee, with regards to the next stage of the Parkside Police Station (Southern BCU) Replacement Project.

The report detailed the background history of the Project, the current progress and latest estimate of costs.

At its meeting in 2009, the Police Authority had approved £0.9m for the Constabulary to appoint consultants (Pick Everard) to assess both the possibility of relocation the Southern BCU Headquarters and acquire a centrally located building for a city centre policing presence.

The Constabulary reported on the milestones of the Project. A Project Board had been set up to oversee the Project (including representation from the Police Authority). The Board had agreed that the timescales could not be met and further options needed to be explored e.g. a further site search, repair of the existing building or disaggregation of the functions currently operating from Parkside. This work had proved challenging and remained ongoing.

The Authority discussed the pros and cons of Project. In light of the information presented, the Authority agreed to approve a new capital scheme in 2010/11 for the repair of Parkside Police Station up to and including Life Cycle 3 standards (5 to 10 years additional life) at an estimated cost of £2.3m. It was agreed that this would be financed by the use of the Major Projects Capital reserve.

The Constabulary agreed to continue the search for, and acquisition of a new Parkside site and accommodation for a city centre presence. The Authority asked to be kept updated on future progress.

THE AUTHORITY RESOLVED:

- (i) To note the report.*
- (ii) To approve a new capital scheme in 2010/11 for the repair of Parkside Police Station up to and including Life Cycle 3 standards (5 to 10 years additional life) at an estimated cost of £2.3m and financed by the use of the Major Projects Capital reserve.*
- (iii) That the Constabulary should continue the search for, and acquisition of, a new Parkside site and also accommodation for a city centre presence.*

12. Report of the Committees and Panels

The Authority was updated on the key issues considered at the various Committee and Panel meetings held since the last Authority meeting.

The Authority approved the updated 'Charging for Police Services in Cambridgeshire Guidance', as recommended by the Finance and Resources Committee.

THE AUTHORITY RESOLVED:

- (i) To note the report and approve the updated 'Charging for Police Services in Cambridgeshire Guidance'.*

13. Exclusion of the public

To pass a resolution that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in clause 7 of Part 1 of the Revised Schedule 12A to the Act, provided by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006.

14. Eastern Region Serious Organised Crime Collaboration

The Authority was updated on Cambridgeshire Constabulary's ongoing work to tackle organised crime within the eastern region.

The Authority endorsed the approach taken by the Constabulary in this area and welcomed future updates reports as the work progresses.

THE AUTHORITY RESOLVED:

- (i) To note the report and endorse the approach taken by the Constabulary.*

15. Date of the next meeting

It was noted that the Police Authority Annual General meeting would be held on **Tuesday 29th June 2010 at 3.00 pm** at Police Headquarters, Huntingdon.

CHAIRMAN