

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

MINUTES

A meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee was held on 7 June 2007 in the Conference Room, Endeavour House, Woodwater Park, Exeter, starting at 10.00am.

Present:

Chairman.... B Preston

M Bull, C Bulley, L Dunn, G Hicks, M Hicks and A Malcolm, M Nevitt.

Officers in Attendance: -

Police Force *T Burton (Senior Business Analyst (Risk))*

Police Authority *T Kelland (Consultation & Community Engagement Officer) and R Martin (Policy Officer).*

PC/226 Election of Chairman

Mr M Nevitt proposed Mr B Preston, seconded by Mr G Hicks and there being no further nominations, it was:-

RESOLVED *that Mr B Preston be appointed Chairman of the Planning and Consultation Committee.*

PC/227 Election of Vice-Chairman

Mr B Preston proposed Mrs A Malcolm, seconded by Mr G Hicks and there being no further nominations, it was:-

RESOLVED *that Mrs A Malcolm be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Consultation Committee.*

PC/228 Chairman's announcements

Members were reminded that, as they had requested, copies of Force Press Releases were available at the meeting for inspection.

Mr D Money wished it to be recorded that he was no longer a Member of this Committee.

PC/229 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr W Thomas.

PC/230 Declarations of Interests

No declarations of interest were made in respect of any item on the agenda.

PC/231 Minutes

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2007 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

PC/232 New Planning Arrangements for 2008/ 2009

The Senior Business Analyst (Risk) presented a report outlining changes to the police planning environment which are likely to come into effect in April.

The Committee recognised the growing significance that Local Area Agreements (LAAs) would have in relation to police planning and partnership working. The partnership landscape was becoming more and more complex with a number of new organisations emerging.

Members expressed some concern at the lack of clarity of how these new and existing organisations work together and fit into the overall structure of local governance and accountability. There appeared to be some disconnect, particularly with the establishment of LAAs and their impact on Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), particularly with regards to funding streams.

After some discussion, Members felt there was a gap in understanding generally, including within the Police Authority, of the roles, responsibilities and constitution of LAAs and how they integrate within the wider statutory framework.

The Committee called for a briefing to be given to Members at a suitable time to inform Members of the functions of LAAs, how they fit into the overall partnership background and its impact on policing accountability.

Whilst it was felt that this briefing would primarily inform Members of this Committee and the Corporate Governance Committee, it would be an issue that the whole Authority should be informed of.

RESOLVED:

- (i) The report was noted.*

PC/233 Police Authority Consultation Update

The Police Authority Consultation and Community Engagement Officer provided a report to keep Members informed of current and planned consultations.

Discussion centred around a report providing results of a public survey conducted in Penzance, Camborne, Truro and Honiton identifying opinion towards Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).

Members questioned whether the survey would be widened to take in a broader sample size. The Consultation and Community Engagement Officer indicated that this would be dependent on the time and resources available. The original four towns had been chosen as they, at the time of the survey, were the only areas with PCSOs.

It was established that whilst this survey would be sent to BCU Commanders, it had not been provided to the Force Neighbourhood Policing Board. This initiated further discussion on how Police Authority commissioned work is used to ensure the benefits are optimised.

The results of the Staff Survey will be reviewed by the Chief Officer Group prior to it being published. Some Members felt that as this was a Police Authority commissioned survey, the results should be seen by Members first.

After some discussion it was accepted that the Chief Constable needed some time to prepare an action plan for how the Force would address the issues raised.

The Committee complimented the Police Authority Consultation and Community Engagement Officer for her good work.

RESOLVED

- (i) *The report was noted.*

PC/234 Police Authority Consultation Priorities 2007/ 2008

The Police Authority Consultation and Community Engagement Officer provided a report to keep Members informed of consultation priorities for 2007/ 2008.

At the March meeting of this Committee, Members selected the subject of youth consultation as a consultation priority for the Police Authority for 2007/ 2008.

The Assistant Chief Executive has asked Members to reconsider this decision as youth is seen as a target audience for a range of consultation rather than a topic in its own right.

After some discussion, Members agreed that youth consultation would not be a specific topic for consultation but remain a key target audience. This would be reviewed at a later date.

Members reiterated the need to tailor consultation activity appropriately to the audience. This was considered particularly important when contacting young people.

Members recalled survey work that had been conducted before by the Police Authority and how helpful it had been in establishing links with those sometimes left out of such activity. In particular, the Chairman indicated that the findings from an earlier survey had fed into youth work in Cornwall.

RESOLVED

- i) *That the report be noted.*

The meeting closed at 11.10am