

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY
PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee was held on 15 June 2004.

Mr. D Money and Mr. W Thomas JP were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively

Further information on the items referred to below is contained in the agenda for this meeting, which has been circulated to all members.

Matters discussed (with minute references shown in brackets) included:-

[PC/101] Consultation with Minority Ethnic Groups

Members debated the relative merits of people from different minority groups being represented on separate Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs) or on a joint IAG. There is a feeling nationally that the issues of smaller groups could be over-shadowed by those relating to race and there is no impetus locally to form combined groups. However, the experience of Devon County Council demonstrates that there is value in sharing information. This topic will be debated at a future meeting of the Committee and the Force Diversity Manager will be invited to that meeting.

[PC/112] Final Publication of the Annual Policing Plan 2004 / 05

Final publication of the Annual Policing Plan for 2004/05 was due on 30 June 2004. Members discussed updates providing end of year figures for achievement of targets and the associated commentary. They approved the updates for publication subject to a small number of amendments.

[PC/113] Style and Format of the Annual Policing Plan for 2005 / 06

In the past, members have commented on the general style, size and content of the Annual Policing Plan. A meeting has been arranged to discuss the future style and content with the production team and members provided initial thoughts and ideas to inform that discussion.

[PC/114] Strategy for Engaging the Communities of Devon and Cornwall - Developing the Framework

Members considered a report updating them on progress on delivering the strategy. A number of significant steps had been taken including the production of a contact list and consultation planning matrix. A new Consultation Officer will be appointed to take these initiatives forward. Two strands of activity have been identified:

- An overall engagement plan that will address the issue of corporate and force wide issues that need to be communicated and
- Local engagement strategies which could be formulated via the regular meetings between BCU Commanders, local Police Officers and Police Authority Members and staff. This forum should be used to establish what the local consultation priorities are, discuss what is already happening in that area and working well. It was felt that when this forum becomes established, there could be significant communication/consultation gains with little additional resource input.

The fact that members have limited additional time to commit to this activity was raised. This issue needs to be discussed by the Authority as a whole.

Community engagement is now a national priority and the Home Secretary had indicated that an audit trail will be required of consultation undertaken locally and how it influences decision making. The next Annual Plan needs to address local priorities and it will be necessary to gain public endorsement of these.

Mr David Money
Chairman of Planning and Consultation Committee