

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

A meeting of the **Planning and Consultation Committee** was held on 1 February 2006.

Further information on the items referred to below is contained in the agenda for the meeting held on 1 February 2006.

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

[PC/173] Objectives for the Planning and Consultation Committee

Members agreed that the objectives for the Planning and Consultation Committee for the forthcoming year would be:

- Agree to a maximum of 4 topics / themes and the target audiences for Authority consultation during 2006/07.
- Improve accessibility of the Authority by raising its profile using marketing techniques.
- Review the format of, and deliver, the Annual Policing Plan 2006-7, Strategic Plan 2006-9 and Annual Report 2005-6 by the statutory dates.

[PC/174] Raising the Profile of Neighbourhood Policing

The Committee was provided with an update on activities within the Corporate Communications Department to support the promotion of neighbourhood policing. This update was prompted by the Committee's concern at the continuing fall in public awareness of neighbourhood policing within the March and October 2005 public surveys.

Members expressed concern at the suggestion of widening the role of Police Community Support Officers at the expense of regular Police Officers. Whilst recognising the escalating importance of Police Community Support Officers, the Committee strongly supported the need for regular Officers to be the central policing presence within a neighbourhood. The Committee felt a clear strategy needed to be put in place to take this forward.

[PC/175] Police Authority Profile within the Force

The Committee was informed of action that is being taken to raise the profile of the Authority within the Police Force.

Several communication lines were discussed including the Voice of Authority publication.

The Chairman was scheduled to attend the attestation of probationary officers soon.

[PC/176] Evaluation of Community Engagement with minority communities in Devon and Cornwall

Members were advised that there remained a delay in the publication of report from the independent review into the effectiveness of community engagement with minority groups.

Difficulties had been met in meeting with some hard to reach groups.

A draft Terms of Reference for the Race Relations Independent Advisory Group is currently out for consultation.

[PC/177] Production of the Police Authority Annual Policing Plan 2006/07, Strategic Plan 2006/09 and Local Policing Summary

Members were updated on the progress of preparing the Police Authority Annual Policing Plan 2006/07, Strategic Plan 2006/09 and Local Policing Summary.

The Committee made suggestions on a few minor changes to the report. The latest versions of these documents are to be presented to the full Police Authority on 15 February 2006 for its approval.

[PC/178] October 2005 Public Survey

The Committee was provided with a report summarising the findings from the October 2005 Public Survey.

Members expressed concern at the substantial falls in the proportion of respondents who feel that the police do an excellent or good job. The British Crime Survey also suggests a fall but not to this magnitude.

The Committee also discussed the responses to questions asked as part of the Meeting the Challenge survey.

[PC/179] Policing Boards

The Committee discussed a proposal to pilot a Policing Board to cover the North & East Devon and South & West Devon BCU areas.

Policing Boards have come to more prominence recently following the police force restructuring and local accountability agendas.

The Committee did not support the resolution. The Committee felt a board of this size would be too big, would duplicate the work of existing partnerships and needed further debate in light of the national direction of policing.

Mike Nevitt
Chairman of the Planning and Consultation Committee