

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the **Performance Management Committee** was held on 30 January 2007.

Further information on the items referred to below is contained in the agenda, reports and minutes for the meeting held on 30 January 2007.

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

[PM/433)Meeting arrangements

The Chairman explained this would be the first in a new style of meeting for this Committee. From now on, this Committee would concentrate on a small number of issues per meeting examining these rigorously in detail and following them up thoroughly. Senior officers would be requested to attend the Committee to account for performance where necessary.

The Chairman indicated that the beginning of each meeting would be held without any Constabulary staff or officers present to allow the Members to discuss and agree the approach to be taken to each item.

[PM/434)Crime Detection and the Impact of the Major Crime investigation Team

In February 2005, the Police Authority approved funding to establish the Major Crime Investigation Team (MCIT). This became operational on 1 April 2006. Reports prepared by the Force indicate that, whilst abstractions from the BCUs have reduced significantly, there was little improvement in volume crime detection performance. Members questioned Acting Assistant Chief Constable (Territorial Policing and Justice) about this issue.

There was a lack of business benefits apparent yet from the appointment of 80 detectives. This might be explained in part by the fact that initially, the Force was prioritising the development of Neighbourhood Policing with the possible adverse impact on improvement in sanction detection performance. That period was now over and improvement should be becoming apparent very soon. This will be closely monitored.

There is an issue emerging that response and neighbourhood officers are holding an inappropriately high caseload and types of crimes when compared to detective officers. The A/ACC is exploring the reasons behind this by looking at the individual caseloads for officers. Addressing this should start to release more time from both response and NBM's to deal with matters closer to their intended role. The A/ACC agreed that BCU-based detective performance should be better given the capacity released by the MCIT and indicated that improvement would be seen from 1 April 2007. The Committee will follow up on these issues and asked the A/ACC to return in due course to discuss them again.

[PM/435)Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, Magistrates Courts Act (MCA) Work Backlog

During 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 Cornwall & Isles of Scilly BCU had a large backlog of cases that had not been presented to Magistrates' Court because the mandatory time limit had expired. This was seen as being a contributor to reduced improvements in driving up sanction detection performance.

Members questioned the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly BCU Commander about this issue.

The BCU Commander reported that additional staff had been drafted in to assist with reducing the backlog. A further report will be given and the position will be closely monitored

The Chairman called for a further report to be prepared in July 2007.

[PM/436)Performance against the Annual Policing Plan (Targets)

A £500,000 seizure has been reported towards the asset recovery target.

The target to answer 90% of 999 calls within 10 seconds is not likely to be met but it will not be missed by a serious extent. The non-emergency call target should just be achieved. The Committee learnt that the Director of Communications had been called to account for this at the last Performance

Management Group. Members indicated that this issue continues to be raised by the public as one of concern. The Chairman called for this issue to be considered at the next meeting of this Committee. The target for 60% of uniformed officers' time to be spent on visible activity is being met. Imminently, scenes of crime officers will be equipped with uniforms and will then be counted within this sample. This should make a beneficial contribution to increasing the visibility target performance. Scenes of crime officers have also now been tasked with visiting an average of at least 3 scenes per day which is a significant increase. This almost certainly will produce increased useful forensics samples being recovered from crime scenes and consequential improvements in positive identifications. The need for the most potentially fruitful crime scenes to be identified for visits was emphasised so that there would be the most beneficial increase in the opportunity for forensic lifts and impact on sanction detection rates. This would be a key matter for the holders of the new managerial posts in each BCU to address.

[PM/437)HMIC Baseline Assessment 2006 Action Plans

The Committee reviewed Action Plans to address areas for improvement from the HMIC Baseline Assessment. Members learnt that the Plans regarding Leadership were progressing well and the Authority now had fewer concerns about this area following the recent Chief Officer appointments.

It was noted that a robust meeting of the Human Resources Committee had very recently discussed the HR action plans which are being pursued with vigour.

[PM/438)National Crime Recording Standard/ National Standard of Incident Recording compliance NCRS was assessed by the Audit Commission as fully compliant. NSIR compliance is less satisfactory. Changes adopted from the 13/15 (log management) Project had impacted on closing OIS logs and has impacted beneficially on performance. Since the assessment in September 2006, the Force had improved to 82%, equivalent to a 'fair' grading.

Mike Bull
Chairman, Performance Management Committee