

## **DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY**

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **Devon and Cornwall Police Authority** held at Police Headquarters, Middlemoor, Exeter on **Friday 9 July 2004**.

### **Present:**

Mr C Bulley, Mrs A Colborne, Sir Simon Day, Mrs O Dendy, Mr B C Greenslade, Mr M Hicks, Mr S M Malloni, Mr D Money, Mr M Nevitt, Mrs J Owen, Mrs C J Ryan, Mr J Smith, Mrs A Talbot, Mr W D Thomas, Mr P Tregunna and Mr C L Wallin.

### **APOLOGIES**

Mr L D Brokenshire, Mr T Evans and Mr M I R Bull

### **P/870 BICHARD INQUIRY**

The Chairman opened the meeting by acknowledging the publication of the Bichard Report. Whilst the report contained recommendations that would need to be addressed by all Forces, Members were advised that the item would not be discussed at this meeting.

### **P/871 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **P/872 POLICE AUTHORITY WEBSITE**

Joy Norris, Assistant Chief Executive, gave a presentation on the launch of Phase I of the new Police Authority Website. (Item 12 on the agenda). A need to update the existing Police Authority Website had resulted from new legislation in respect of Freedom of Information and Disability Discrimination. A working party comprising Members and Officers from the Authority and the Force Web Development Team had undertaken this work and Phase I had been completed and launched on the 28 June 2004.

New features of the site included:-

- Variable text size
- Quick Links
- Compatibility with reader software
- Search engine
- Automatic email contact page for the Police Authority

Work in relation to Phase II had already started completion of the basic site due by Easter 2005. Over time, additional information would be added to build the site content.

### **P/873 ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION**

There were no items that in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered by the meeting as a matter of urgency.

**P/874 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED** that meetings be held on the following dates during 2005

- Friday 18 February 2005
- Friday 3 June 2005
- Friday 15 July 2005
- Friday 14 October 2005
- Friday 9 December 2005

**P/875 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 21 May 2004 were signed as a correct record subject to a minor amendment to minute P/860.

**P/874 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT**

Mrs Wallis reported that she had attended the Police Federation Bravery Awards in London. Sgt Shaun Kenneally and Constable Ian Gracie from Devon & Cornwall Constabulary had been presented with awards.

This news would be advertised on the Force Website.

Members considered the report of the Chief Constable and were updated on a number of incidents noted in the report.

Major incidents and Policing Diary

There were 19 ongoing murder inquiries of which only a handful remained unsolved. Mrs Wallis was hopeful that a significant result on one outstanding inquiry was imminent.

Concern was expressed about the apparent increase in violent crime. Domestic violence crime made up approximately one quarter of the recorded crime in this category. This was in part as a result of increased reporting by victims. The current binge drinking culture was also impacting on violent crime levels. Whilst the Force was able to cope, maintaining resilience in this key area was challenging.

There was confidence that the current national system for managing major inquiries was working. Detective Chief Superintendent Webster was undertaking a review to ensure that available assets were sufficient and resources were being correctly deployed.

Mr Nevitt asked whether there was a single comprehensive strategy that dealt with all 58 categories of Violent Crime and if it had a proactive and preventative element within it. In answer to this, Mr Melville reported that the breadth of 58 categories precluded this approach. The National Intelligence Model took a strategic approach to identifying and prioritising threats to Devon and Cornwall and this provided a co-ordinated if not an all-embracing strategy. The Performance Management Reviews of the BCUs currently being undertaken would identify how violent crime was dealt with in light of information provided by NIM.

Reports considered later on the agenda gave more information on alcohol-related crime and violent crime.

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1.16 – Arson Task Force – PC Gareth Twigg had been promoted to Sgt and a new officer would be posted to the Arson Task Force in his place. Mr Nevitt wished to express his regard to Sgt Twigg for his significant contribution to the Arson Task Force during his time there.

**P/874 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT (CONT'D)**

1.19 – 1.27 – Six fatal collisions were reported in the Road Traffic Collision section of the report. Four of these fatalities had been motorcyclists. A further five collisions involving motorcyclists had occurred during a 48 hour period leading up to this meeting.

1.31 – 1.32 – Excellent results had been achieved following drug raids in Torbay.

1.37 – Murder trial, France – Detective Supt Pierce and WPC Newman had supported the family of Caroline Dickinson in France during the trial of Francisco Arce Montes.

1.39, 1.40, 1.42 – Drug offences – Mrs Wallis had personally visited all prisons in Devon and Cornwall and had been assured that drug rehabilitation programmes were in place.

Operational Priorities

Mrs Wallis was celebrating her second year with the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary and her 28th year in policing. Members considered a selection of achievements and changes during the past two years, which were identified in the report.

2.3 – A number of police officers and staff had run in this year's London Marathon and raised thousands of pounds for charity.

2.6 – Torbay Beach Watch had been set up to combat the problem of beach hut crime and antisocial behaviour in the area.

2.7 – Checks on vehicles on the Isles of Scilly had identified a significant number of faults. As a result, issues surrounding vehicle licensing and MOTs will be reviewed.

2.8 – Community policing in Exmouth was working extremely well with the implementation of an initiative whereby PCSOs and traffic wardens accompanied the weekly mobile library service on its route from East Budleigh to Woodbury.

2.9 – Card cloning at cash points was becoming a problem and the public are warned to be vigilant when using them. The methods used to sabotage cash point machines varied and could include hidden cameras or devices attached to the card slot. It was AGREED that a media release would be issued advising people what precautions should be taken when using ATMs.

2.11 – The dangers of drink spiking were being publicised in Torbay by way of posters featuring a picture of an explosive mine floating in an alcoholic drink. PC Grant Savage was commended for his contribution to this excellent piece of work.

2.12 – The benefit of partnership working to combat the problem of 'boy racers' was acknowledged.

2.16 – One hundred and sixty three fixed penalty tickets had so far been issued for use of mobile phone whilst driving. There were still many who used hand held mobiles whilst driving and Members felt there was a need to publicise that this offence would not be tolerated. The necessary publicity would be undertaken - Mr Stowe was asked to alert Traffic Division.

2.17 – It was suggested that the involvement of NHB Managers in school workshops to promote anti-bullying could be extended to include anti-racism. Youth intervention officers were able to address this in schools where such problems were being experienced, however anti-racism initiatives should already be covered by the normal school curriculum.



**P/874 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT (CONT'D)**

2.18 – The Force Strategy to reduce motorcyclist deaths was commended by Members. A number of suggestions were aired including installing road signs in accident hotspots displaying the number of accidents at that spot. It was felt that the Safety Camera Partnership road show, which had included an educational video at the Royal Cornwall Show, had impacted greatly on motorcyclists. The road show visited many other fairs and shows throughout Devon and Cornwall. It was noted that many motorcyclists were visitors to the area and any safety education needed to be countrywide.

2.21 – Football– the Force were making preparations to deal with the new football season starting with the Plymouth V Millwall match which was due in August.

Awards and Commendations

Sgt Ian Marshall, Constable Sean Beer and Royal Navy Petty Officer Christopher Ferrier had received awards as detailed in the report.

North and East Devon BCU and Cornwall and Isles of Scilly BCU award ceremonies had taken place and commendations and certificates awarded.

Long Service and Good Conduct Medals had been presented to Officers and staff with more than 22 years service.

Successes and challenges – update

There was a recorded increase in crime of 4.6% however this included a 20.2% reduction in burglary and a 20.3% reduction in vehicle crime.

The Force would be concentrating on reducing alcohol related violence during the summer months.

Detections were at 25.6% which was in the top quartile of Forces nationally.

Road traffic collisions were down by 24% year to date, the lowest for the last four years.

Improving call handling continued to be a priority for the Force. 91.5% of 999 calls were answered within 10 seconds which was above the required year-end target. 90.4% of non-emergency calls were answered within 30 seconds and again exceeded the required year-end target.

The full amount of confiscated assets recorded as taken from defendants between 1 April and 8 June 2004 totalled £839,850.

Force Strength

The number of Neighbourhood Beat Managers had risen despite intense operational pressures of recent months. There were now 340 Neighbourhood Beat Managers in post.

Police Officer strength as of May 2004 was 3319. The target for March 2005 was 3405.

Personnel

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It was with regret that the Chief Constable reported the death of DC Nicky Gartrell who had died aged 44 years old on the 5 June 2004 following a long illness. DC Gartrell joined the Force in November 1977 as a Cadet. She served in the Regulars at Truro and Plymouth and latterly was based in the Plymouth Crime Standards Unit. She leaves a partner, Mike.

**P/874 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT (CONT'D)**

Station Enquiry Officer Pat Tucker died on the 23 June following a long illness. Born in 1942, Mr Tucker joined the Force in 1986 as a Comms Operator and later worked as a traffic warden in Barnstaple becoming Station Enquiry Officer at Bideford in 1996.

Both officers were a credit to the Force and would be sadly missed.

Members considered the personnel snapshot for 31 May 2004 in relation to staff, seconded officers, female and minority ethnic group representation.

The accuracy of self-classification forms was queried. It was felt important that staff felt confident to declare their ethnic background. In fact, the return rate for black and minority ethnic self-classification forms was quite high however there was a poor return rate from staff whose background fell outside of these groups. There was a current survey of all staff ongoing which would act as a benchmark and was aimed at increasing return rates. It was suggested that the return of classification forms be made mandatory.

In an effort to attract police officers from minority backgrounds, the Force was the only one which had held a recruitment stand at the recent Gay Pride event in London. A number of officers had expressed an interest in transferring to the Force.

Spotlight on Success

The first issue of Spotlight on Success featured the work of Victim Support and the Chief Constable paid tribute to their work.

The second issue highlighted the new ACPO pursuit policy.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

**P/875 BASELINE ASSESSMENT**

Members considered the report detailing the outcome of HMIC's assessment of Devon & Cornwall Constabulary's performance up to 31 December 2003. This provided a baseline against which improvement will be monitored.

Members had already received an informal presentation of the outcome given by Sir Peter Winship HMIC and this report formally presented the results.

Of the 23 performance areas, only 16 were graded due to the lack of comparable national data. The report presented included the performance areas not graded through the national moderation system but graded to reflect a subjective assessment. It was unfortunate that these performance areas had not been made public as they were very good. Overall, the report reflected a generally strong performance by the Constabulary across all performance areas. Of the 98 areas for improvement, 29 had been completed to date.

Changes to the original framework to reflect the Police Performance Assessment Framework domains have been made and include seven sections with twenty six performance areas. There

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is a potential for an additional ten graded performance areas in the 2004 baseline assessment report.

The next baseline assessment is due in the Autumn of 2005 with the focus being on domain structure. It was considered that this would give a more holistic approach to performance and this was welcomed.

Issues raised during discussion on this item included:

**P/875 BASELINE ASSESSMENT (CONT'D)**

- The potential for the amalgamation of Police Forces - the general opinion was that as a Force, Devon and Cornwall was already at an optimum size, however the national debate was ongoing and was unlikely to be resolved in the immediate future.
- The need to ensure that the Force is not found wanting in its race equality policy – a review of the Race Equality Scheme was already underway.
- Forensic management had received a fair grading, which was not unexpected. A considerable amount of work was being done in this area including a review of forensic capabilities which was due to be reported on in August.
- One Member had a perception that training appeared to end at probationer level. ACC Winter was reviewing training requirements. Current ongoing training included RIPA (Surveillance), Domestic Violence, Diversity, Interviewing techniques, investigation and Restorative Policing. Operational priorities often impacted on the amount of training the Force was able to deliver.

**RESOLVED** to note the report and congratulate the Constabulary on a generally strong performance.

**P/876 DRUGS POLICY – CRACK COCAINE IN DEVON AND CORNWALL**

During the late 1990s crack cocaine became more prevalent in UK cities, and as a result of an operation initiated by the Metropolitan Police Service at this time, displacement of this type of criminality to provincial areas occurred. One such province to be affected was Avon & Somerset however at the time, Devon & Cornwall remained unaffected.

In 2001 the Force set up Operation Ovidian to monitor and collate intelligence predominately relating to crack cocaine. It then became clear that the drug was gaining a foothold and the problem was increasing. Operation Ovidian continues to date.

In April 2004, Operation Pelican was established Forcewide to gather intelligence on Class A drug supply and has so far proved very successful with quantities of Class A drugs seized and arrests made. A number of other operations to target Class A drug dealers across the Force area were ongoing including:

- Operation Ravelin in Plymouth
- Operation Oak
- Operation Fundamental in South & West Devon BCU
- Operation Nightjar in partnership with West Midlands Police
- The 'Rat on a Rat' initiative.

In addition to the above, the Prolific Offender Units across the Force area also played a significant part in resolving drug related crime.

The Force Drug Arrest Referral Scheme – a partnership initiative – used the point of arrest as an opportunity for those arrested to take up the offer of help and access to treatment interventions. Approximately 539 people took the opportunity to go on the scheme last year and the completion rate was generally high. Two letters of appreciation from people who had been involved in the Drug Arrest Referral Scheme were read out to Members.

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Issues raised during discussion on this item included:

- Whether there was a shortfall in the supply and demand for drug treatment programmes. The Peninsula Drugs Group, which was chaired by ACC Melville, was currently looking to identify such problems.

**P/876 DRUGS POLICY – CRACK COCAINE IN DEVON AND CORNWALL (CONT'D)**

- The time lapse between a person agreeing to go on a treatment programme and a place being available could be critical. ACC Melville was investigating this problem.
- There was a need for Drug Action Teams to take a positive role as it was felt that perceived queue jumping to get onto drug rehabilitation programmes was not helpful.
- The link between drug crime, gun crime and organised crime was acknowledged. ACC Stowe and his team were seeking to tackle this.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

**P/877 ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY**

Members considered a report summarising the Government's Strategy for tackling the harms and costs of alcohol misuse in the UK. The strategy comprised four key issues:-

- Disorder
- Treatment
- Irresponsible alcohol promotions
- Information to consumers about misuse

The Force was already involved in many of the suggested strategies contained in the report for tackling alcohol misuse, however there was no room for complacency.

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and Plymouth BCUs were involved in a recently launched National campaign and identified good practice will be disseminated around the Force area. Violent crime was now being prioritised by the Force as part of its control strategy with the emphasis in relation to alcohol related crime changing from one of 'control by administration' to one of 'proactive enforcement'. As a response to the control strategy status of violent crime, ACC Melville has formed a Violent Crime Gold Group which will focus on reduction of violence in public places and improving offenders brought to justice together with the underlying cause of many of these – the misuse of alcohol.

Issues raised during discussion on this item included:

- A need for a levy on suppliers to contribute to policing costs because of the huge impact of alcohol related crime on policing.
- Publicity to inform adults of the law against purchase of alcohol for minors.
- The issuing and withdrawing of licences to sell alcohol will be removed from Magistrates and made the responsibility of Local Authorities. By February 2005, Local Authorities need to have prepared a licensing strategy. Force Licensing Officers were working with local authorities in this respect. The link between premises and crime is being looked at and will form part of the strategy.

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- 'Binge drinking' was not a problem limited to one sex. The behaviour stemming from this contributed to increases in violent crime. Alcohol related crime ranged from low level criminality through to violent crime and domestic violence and in some respects, the impact on policing of alcohol related crime could be considered on a par with drug related crime.
- There was a concern that Drug Action Teams, who had been asked to include alcohol treatment programmes in their remit did not have the resources to cope with this responsibility.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

**P/878 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN 2003-04**

The Treasurer was pleased to report that the final proposed outturn for 2003 – 04 had exceeded all expectations and showed a spending of £220.211m against an approved budget of £220.160 (an overspend of just £51,000). This was despite clawing back the overrun from the previous year, an overheating on the major operations contingency and a requirement to make £3m of savings during the year.

The following issues were highlighted:

- It would be necessary to finance the £51,000 overspend. The Treasurer suggested that this amount be funded by reducing the planned contribution to the service commitment fund.
- General balances had been replenished by £2.4m.
- There had been no detraction from performance.
- There had been a significant saving on overtime.
- Recruitment targets had been exceeded.

The Chairman asked that thanks be given to officers for achieving such a remarkable outturn.

Issues raised during discussion on this item included:

- It was important that the good news about the outturn was disseminated. The Chief Constable and the Chairman had attended a meeting with MPs and the opportunity to inform them of the budget outturn had been taken.
- It was thought that next year would be a tough one in respect of resources for policing. Three Police Authorities had been capped this year. Members were advised that the Budget Monitoring Working Party continued to meet and Brian Greenslade sat on the National APA Finance Lobbying Group.

**RESOLVED** that

- i. the proposed revenue and capital outturn for 2003-04 be approved, including the suggested treatment of carry forwards, accruals, provisions reserves, revenue financing and capital financing;
- ii. all relevant officers of the Authority and Constabulary be thanked and congratulated on this fine performance.

**P/879 JOINT RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

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Members considered the draft joint risk management strategy. The proposed risk management strategy was a real step forward to ensure that the management of corporate risk took place. The Force had adopted the strategy and were now working on a suitable database to store and keep track of identified strategic risks. There was a requirement for Members to agree a final version.

BCU Commanders and Heads of Departments and officers of the Authority would be responsible for undertaking the first stage of the management of risk with severe risks being passed to the Force Strategic Board. Risk registers would be kept by the Strategic Development Department and would be reported to the Force Strategic Board on a regular basis.

Mr Nevitt had attended the meetings of the working party tasked with developing the strategy and had found them to be very useful.

**P/879 JOINT RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (CONT'D)**

**RESOLVED**

- i. to approve the draft risk management strategy as presented;
- ii. that the Performance Management and Audit Committee be delegated responsibility for monitoring and advising on ongoing strategic risk management issues;
- iii. that the above delegation be reconsidered in light of any change to the Police Authority Committee Structure.

**P/880 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

The Authority received reports of the Committee meetings that had taken place since the last meeting of the Authority.

1. A meeting of the **Resources Committee** was held on 28 June 2004.

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee. The following recommendation arose from the meeting:

**[R/353] RENEWAL OF LEASE AT UNIT A EAGLE WAY SOWTON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE (EXETER VEHICLE WORKSHOP)**

**RESOLVED** that the lease at Unit A, Eagle Way, Sowton Industrial Park on the proposed new terms be renewed.

2. The meeting of the **Best Value Committee** scheduled for 30 April had been cancelled due to the lack of formal business.

Members noted the briefing advising on the ongoing review of HQ Support Services to BCUs.

3. A meeting of the **Human Resources Committee** was held on 8 June 2004.

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee. The following recommendation arose from the meeting:

**[HR/75] 'EXTRA MILE' AWARDS**

**RESOLVED** that the principles of the 'Extra Mile' awards be endorsed.

4. A meeting of the **Performance Management and Audit Committee** was held on 22 June 2004.

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee. There were no recommendations arising from the meeting.

Referring to the item discussed earlier on HMIC Baseline Assessment, Mrs Ryan commented that the Performance Management and Audit Committee was responsible for monitoring forensic and call handling performance. Constructive support was given to the Force where possible. The presentation on Targeted Policing given to the Committee by Officers of South & West Devon BCU had been very interesting and showed how a small team could make a big difference.

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

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee. There were no recommendations arising from the meeting.

#### **P/880 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES (CONT'D)**

Members were invited to join the group looking at the style and format of the Annual Policing Plan 2005/06.

Tamsin Kelland had been appointed Police Authority Consultation Officer and would take up her post on 9 August. Tamsin would be located at Police Headquarters and form part of Dr Theresa Lowndes' consultation team but would also integrate with the Police Authority staff and the Chief Executive. Her objectives included the progressing of consultation initiatives.

6. A meeting of the **Professional Standards and Complaints Monitoring Group** was held on 19 May 2004.

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee. There were no recommendations arising from the meeting.

#### **P/881 POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETINGS**

Members noted the meetings that had taken place since the last meeting of the Police Authority. The following issues of note were discussed:-

- There was concern expressed at the West Devon meeting about the non-attendance of Neighbourhood Beat Managers at Parish Council meetings. The Corporate Guidance for NHB Managers to be issued in August would address this problem.
- There was limited representation of young people at liaison meetings however the type of issues being raised by those attending were generally about young people and antisocial behaviour.
- It was suggested that CDRPs need to work towards reducing antisocial behaviour and binge drinking.
- Problems were being experienced on Isles of Scilly around the need to remove detainees off the Island because the custody suite could only be asked to detain offenders for a maximum of 6 hours.
- The Council for the Isles of Scilly was looking at introducing an alcohol free zone in St Mary's town centre where drink related antisocial behaviour was a problem.
- It was accepted that the current attendance at police liaison meetings was non-representative of the local communities. This was an issue being debated by the Planning and Consultation Committee and in time new initiatives would be progressed by the new Consultation Officer.

#### **P/882 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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**RESOLVED** that under Section 100 (A)(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 Paragraph 9 of Schedule 12A of the Act, being information relating to

- (i) Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

**P/883 EXETER CJU / CPS CO-LOCATION**

**RESOLVED** to delegate approval of the acquisition of a lease for a period of 10 years on Argal House, Peninsula Business Park, Exeter at or below the leasing costs indicated in the report to the Property Sub-Committee following final details being made available.

**P/884 SALE OF 10 CHESTNUT AVENUE, CULLOMPTON**

**RESOLVED** to agree to the sale of 10 Chestnut Avenue to the current occupier for the sum detailed in the report.