

THE NORTH WEST JOINT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2009

at the Rivington Park Room, Ramada Bolton Hotel, Bolton
commencing at 1.00 pm

PRESENT

Cllr R Cole (CUMBRIA)
Cllr M Doherty (LANCASHIRE)
Mrs M Ollerenshaw (CHESHIRE)
Cllr W Weightman (MERSEYSIDE) [Chairman]

Also present

CHESHIRE

Mr M Sellwood (Chief Executive)
Mr R Hodson (Lead Member for
Collaboration)
Mr D Whatton (Chief Constable)

LANCASHIRE

Ms M Carruthers-Watt (Chief Executive)
Cllr G Roper (Vice-Chairman)
Mr C Weigh (Deputy Chief Constable)

CUMBRIA

Mr C Alcock (Chief Executive)
Mr C Mackey (Chief Constable)

MERSEYSIDE

Mr P Johnson (Chief Executive/Treasurer)
Mrs C McConnell (Deputy Chief Executive)
Mr B Lawson (Temp/Chief Constable)

GREATER MANCHESTER

Mrs G Oates (Vice-Chairman)
Mr P Leeming (Executive Services)
Mr P Fahy (Chief Constable)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr P Murphy, Chairman, Greater Manchester Police Authority, Mr R Bernstein, Executive Director, Greater Manchester Police Authority, and Mr S Finnegan, Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary.

14. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

15. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the North West Joint Committee Meeting, held on 28th July 2009, were received as a correct record.

16. **Presentation from Chief Executive of the Police Treatment Centres – Michael Baxter QPM**

Mr Baxter described the work of the Police Treatment Centres, which is a Charity providing intensive physiotherapy, treatment and care for ill and injured officers. The Charity operates from two Treatment Centres and largely relies on a fund made up of weekly donations contributed from serving officers. A number of Police Authorities have also provided small sums of funding, and for the first time the Home Office has provided a grant of £1.3m.

The Police Treatment Centres require improvement and refurbishment. The Trustees of the Charity set up a Fundraising Strategy, and to date sufficient monies were raised to complete the first phase of improvements.

The aim of the presentation was to provide more detailed information to Members in order that local decisions could be considered in relation to providing a one-off funding grant by each Authority to the Charity. This would be on the basis of a contribution equivalent to £40 per officer for each Authority.

Following questions from Members, Mr Baxter agreed to provide the full report from Glasgow Caledonian University. Mr Baxter also set out his concerns if the money for inspections and refurbishment is not found. Mr Baxter reported that it is likely that the premises would fail to provide services, and that officers would be unwilling to attend the Treatment Centres.

The Chairman thanked Mr Baxter and his colleagues for attending the meeting.

Resolved:-

- (i) That Mr Baxter will supply additional information relating to research undertaken by Glasgow Caledonian University; and
- (ii) That each Authority will use the information supplied by the Police Treatment Centres to take local decisions as to whether to make a grant amounting to £40 per officer to the Charity.

17. **Developing the Procedure under Standing Orders for better public access to the new Joint Committees**

The report set out proposed amendments to the Standing Orders that would allow attending public to speak at Joint Committee meetings. The amendments included a defined procedure for a written question to be laid.

Members agreed to the proposals contained within the report but sought clarity on a couple of issues. In relation to responding to questions at meetings Cllr Cole sought clarification as to the period of time questions may be put after commencement of the period allowed for questions. It was confirmed that this would be a total of 20 minutes for all questions.

In relation to amendment 8(e) it was agreed that whilst questions would be directed to the Chairman, that this in fact means 'through' the Chairman. This would then allow the Chairman to redirect the response to come from another Member or Officer, particularly where the question is pursuant to that Authority/Force.

Resolved:-

- (i) That the Joint Committee approves the amendments to their existing Standing Orders as highlighted in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) That the period of time allowed for all questions would be for a period of 20 minutes after the commencement of the period allowed for questions; and
- (iii) That all questions will be directed through the Chairman of the Joint Committee.

18. Forward Plan of the Joint Committee

The report set out a draft Forward Plan for Members of the Joint Committee to consider and provide views in respect of the style and content.

The Chairman of the Joint Committee reflected that the Forward Plan would be of assistance to the Committee, enabling Members to keep track of business. The Chairman stated that this would be particularly helpful in relation to long term projects.

Resolved:-

That the Forward Plan be adopted and used to track the business of the Joint Committee.

19. ICT Investment Decisions ISIS Programmes

This report provided an update on developments in relation to ICT Investment decisions and the ISIS Programme since the last meeting of the Joint Committee. The report also provided information for Members in relation to work undertaken recently by IDeA and Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships to support the scrutiny activity of ICT investment decisions.

The Chairman was concerned that not all Members would have access to the IDeA circulars as these are sent directly to elected Members. Members were assured that they can access these via the IDeA website.

Nationally Richard Earland from NPIA (Chief Information Officer) is leading on this work.

Locally there is a good deal of work being undertaken via the Virtual Procurement Unit. Draft Standing Orders are being developed in respect of this work, and will be shared with Miranda Carruthers-Watt. The Chairman suggested that once these Standing Orders have been considered this area

of work should be included in the Forward Plan. Dave Whatton agreed to provide a date for this to be reported back to the Joint Committee.

Resolved:-

- (i) That the Standing Orders in relation to the Virtual Procurement Unit be submitted to a future meeting of the Joint Committee.

20. Letter from Minister of State, David Hanson

The Chairman sought views from Members as to whether their Authority had plans to formally ask the Minister of State to vary the size of their Authority.

Mrs Doherty expressed a personal view that as legislation only allows for a maximum of 19 Members then this was unlikely to provide sufficient benefits to outweigh the cost.

Mrs Oates expressed the view that there was reference to the size of Membership of Police Authorities contained in David Blunkett's report. The fact that the Minister had written in such terms seemed odd given that the White Paper is due to be published shortly.

Resolved:-

That the Joint Committee notes the content of the Minister of State's letter.

21. Regional Collaboration Update

Peter Fahy presented this report that covered a range of collaboration issues, including current projects, principles in relation to future collaboration work, and areas identified by ACPO officers as having potential for future collaboration.

In addition to considering the current collaboration updates Members also discussed some of the issues in relation to how the success, or not, of projects could be evidenced. Whilst the current projects appear positive it is difficult to know whether they are having the positive impact on performance. Local experience shows us that where significant resources are requested to invest the Police Authority would expect to use the business case, including expected performance and outcomes. This has not been the case for the current regional collaboration projects but will need to be built into future principles.

ACPO officers also voiced concerns in relation to having resources to give the professional oversight and rigour this work deserves. At the same time they also recognise that they do not want lots of small groups set up. Peter Fahy expressed the view that the Chief Constables would welcome the Chairman's suggestion of having lead Members to have oversight of specific collaborative projects.

In relation to the current collaborations, officers would look to compare performance to other areas of the country.

The report also explored issues in respect of future collaboration and the principles relating to this work. In other areas a Deputy Chief Constable has been appointed to lead on all collaboration, whereas our approach has been to appoint an ACPO lead for each project. This has led to a lack of a standardised approach. The recent ACPO meeting also highlighted that, to date, collaboration effort has been focused on the more specialised functions of policing. Whilst this is important there might also be benefits from sharing best practice across a wider range of disciplines but particularly in the way the day to day service is provided.

Resolved:-

- (i) The main item of the next Joint Committee meeting will focus on the future challenges relating to regional collaboration;
- (ii) A report setting out the specific funding issues relating to the Regional Crime Unit be submitted to the next meeting of the Joint Committee; and
- (iii) That the Gant charts highlighting progress against specific projects be reinstated.

22. National Reporting of Stop/Search data by British Transport Police

Craig Mackey updated the Joint Committee in respect of Stop/Search data collected by the British Transport Police. Previously the way in which British Transport Police collated data made it difficult for authorities to monitor data in relation to Section 44 stops undertaken in their area. A breakdown is being piloted in West Yorkshire, and is likely to be rolled out to other areas in future.

Resolved:-

That the Joint Committee notes the progress in relation to the national reporting of Stop/Search data by British Transport Police.

23. Other items which the Chairperson deemed to be of an Urgent Item

- (i) Regional Priority for APA 2010/11 Business Plan

Paul Leeming circulated a proposal, on behalf of the region, for the APA 2010/11 Business Plan. This contained details of a proposal whereby the APA might consider arranging, on a regional basis, one or two events each year to which all Members in the region would be invited. The purpose of such events would be to update Members on the work of the APA networks and current significant issues, giving Members the opportunity to contribute.

Resolved:-

Members welcomed and approved the proposal for the comments from the

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Joint Committee to inform the APA 2010/11 Business Plan.

Minutes 14 – 23 received as a correct record the 26th February 2010.

Chairman of the Joint Committee

(The meeting closed at 2.35 pm)

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