

**CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY**  
**CONSULTATION WORKING GROUP**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Consultation Working Group held on Wednesday  
7 December 2005 in the Police Authority Offices, Carleton Hall, Penrith  
commencing at 2.00pm.

**PRESENT**

Mrs C A Egan (Chair)  
Mr C S Moth  
Mrs L L Shaw

**Also Present:**

Constabulary Director of Strategic Development (Ms J Davies)  
Constabulary Head of Strategic Planning (Inspector G Rutherford)  
Constabulary Head of Marketing & Communications (Ms G Shearer)  
Deputy Clerk (Mr S Edwards)

**19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs L Slavin and Mr R Watson.

**20. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of any personal interests relating to any item on the agenda.

**21. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on 9 September 2005 had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

The Head of Strategic Planning advised that approximately 3000 questionnaires had been circulated but that to date the response rate was poor. He hoped to be in a position to submit a report on the outcome of the consultation to the next meeting of the Working Group.

A Member referred to recent concerns in the Carlisle area with regard to anti-social behaviour and the possibility of undertaking a "mini survey" in the vicinity of the majority of complaints to compare them with the County-wide results. The Director of Strategic Development advised that the Authority had recently agreed a Best Value Review into anti-social behaviour but that unfortunately there would be little capacity to include such a survey within that piece of work. However it might be possible for the Neighbourhood Policing Project to do some work on this matter.

The Head of Strategic Planning then referred to Minute No.14, "Internal Consultation Results" and advised that following the meeting, and subsequent report to the Policing Plan and Best Value Committee, the initial work had been supplemented by approximately fifteen focus groups throughout the Constabulary, and the issues emerging from consultation were violent crime, neighbourhood policing, bureaucracy, and antisocial behaviour. These results, together with the outcome of other consultation would be submitted to the Police Authority on 15 December 2005 as part of the work on developing local priorities.

With reference to Minute No.16, Local Policing Summaries – Section 157 Serious and Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, the Head of Strategic Planning advised that guidance was still awaited.

**RESOLVED,** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on 9 September 2005 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **22. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION STRATEGY**

The Head of Strategic Planning submitted a report by the Chief Constable, appended to which were copies of the Joint Strategy for Community Consultation 2005-08 and the Community Consultation Action Plan 2005/06. He reminded Members that the Consultation Strategy was being presented to the Working Group for final approval following the submission of draft documents to meetings earlier in the year.

Members welcomed the joint consultation strategy. They asked that it be amended to include reference to partnerships and suggested that it would be appropriate to include an additional bullet point on page 4 in the section beginning "Wherever possible, our consultation will involve or take account of the following....". In making this suggestion they referred to the recent successful partnership event arranged by the Constabulary at Rheged.

Consideration was then given to the amended Action Plan circulated with the agenda. It was noted that, in the main, the actions contained within the Action Plan were on target.

Specific consideration was given to consultation with young people and in particular Members focussed on work being undertaken by LPTs with schools in Barrow and actions being taken by the Authority itself through the Police Community Liaison Forums in Copeland and Eden. Reference was also made to work undertaken by other bodies with regard to youth consultation which might be of benefit to the Authority and Constabulary.

A Member referred to a discussion at the recent APA Conference during which representatives of small business indicated that many of them had stopped reporting minor crimes and low level nuisance as they did not receive feedback from their local forces. Reference was also made to a recent BME

Community Day held in Barrow in which both the Constabulary and Authority could beneficially have joined.

Members stressed the importance of proceeding with the current work plan for consultation and stressed their desire that it was not in any way sidetracked by the restructuring proposals currently being debated.

**RESOLVED,** that

- (i) the Police Authority be asked to approved the finalised Joint Consultation Strategy (copy attached at Appendix 1); and
- (ii) the current position with regard to the Consultation Action Plan be noted.

### **23. PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY MAPPING EXERCISE**

The Constabulary Head of Strategic Planning advised that the mapping exercise was ongoing and it was hoped that it would be completed in time for submission to the next meeting of the Working Group

Members noted that the Chair of the Consultation Working Group and the Clerk/Chief Executive had been interviewed as part of the exercise. They welcomed this piece of work and looked forward to receiving a final report in March.

**RESOLVED,** that the position be noted.

### **24. CONSTABULARY MARKETING ACTIVITY 2006/07**

The Constabulary's Head of Marketing and Communications provided the Working Group with details of the team assigned to marketing and communication activity within the Constabulary and set out their remit. Her particular role in the short term was to establish the strategic direction for, and development of the team. Initial tasks had included the development of internal communications within the Constabulary and external contacts with the media as well as getting an appropriate team in place. It was the intention that during 2006 a Marketing and Communications Strategy for the Constabulary would be in place.

The Chair of the Working Group thanked the Head of Marketing and Communications for her presentation and asked that the Authority be included within any marketing strategy that was developed.

**RESOLVED,** that the report be noted.

## **25. POLICE AUTHORITY CONSULTATION**

It was noted that due to pressures created by the Police Structures Review it had not been possible for the officers of the Authority to undertake any further work with regard to the identification and development of consultation activity that could be conducted by the Authority to complement the enhanced levels of consultation being undertaken by the Constabulary.

**RESOLVED,** that the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 3.00pm.