

THE NORTH WEST JOINT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 30th JULY 2010

at the Ramada Bolton Hotel, Bolton
commencing at 1.00 pm

PRESENT

Cllr R Cole (CUMBRIA)
Cllr P Murphy (GREATER MANCHESTER)
Mrs M Ollerenshaw (CHESHIRE)
Cllr W Weightman (MERSEYSIDE) [Chairman]

Also present

CHESHIRE

Mr M Sellwood (Chief Executive)
Mr D Whatton (Chief Constable)

LANCASHIRE

Mr G Roper (Vice Chair)
Ms M Carruthers-Watt (Chief Executive)
Mr Steve Finnigan (Chief Constable)
Mr C Grunshaw (Chair of Resources)

CUMBRIA

Ms L Shaw (Vice Chair)
Mr S Hyde (Deputy Chief Constable)
Ms N Broomfield (Policy and
Performance Officer)

MERSEYSIDE

Mr P Johnson (Chief Executive/Treasurer)
Mrs C McConnell (Deputy Chief Executive)
Mr J Murphy (Chief Constable)

GREATER MANCHESTER

Ms C McGauley (Acting Vice Chair)
Mr R Bernstein (Executive Director)
Mr S Byrne (Deputy Chief Constable)

Also in attendance:

Mr D Dibble and Mr O Bolton, Collaboration Support Centre, Policing Police and
Practice Directorate, NPIA

Apologies for absence were received from:

Mr A Arnold, Vice Chair, Cheshire Police Authority
Mr S Edwards, Acting Chief Executive, Cumbria Police Authority
Mr C Mackey, Chief Constable, Cumbria Constabulary
Cllr M Doherty, Chair, Lancashire Police Authority
Mr P Fahy, Chief Constable, Greater Manchester Police Service
Mrs Diane Clark, Member, Merseyside Police Authority

44. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

45. Appointment of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Administrative arrangements for the North West Joint Committee 2010/11

The report sought nominations for the role of Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2010/11. Nominations were proposed and seconded for Cllr Bill Weightman for the role of Chairman and Cllr Malcolm Doherty for Vice Chairman. The appointments were approved for one year, ending at the annual meeting in 2011.

Approval for the administrative arrangements for the Joint Committee for 2010/11 were also sought. It was agreed, in accordance with Standing Orders that Merseyside would provide these arrangements, and its Chief Executive shall act as secretary for the same period.

The report also sought clarification from Members in relation to North Wales Police Authority, in particular, and any other interested parties to attend further meetings of the Committee. Members agreed to amend its Standing Orders to invite North Wales as an Associate Member.

Resolved:-

- (i) that the Joint Committee appoints Cllr Bill Weightman and Cllr Malcolm Doherty to the posts of Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2010/11,
- (ii) that the Joint Committee appoints the Chief Executive of Merseyside Police Authority for the same period;
- (iii) that the Joint Committee's Standing Orders be adopted for 2010/11 with the following inclusion

"The North West Joint committee is constituted of the five North West Police Authorities, consisting Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside.

Each Police Authority shall have a primary Member and each will have one vote. Each Police Authority shall also be entitled to send a second Member who may vote on behalf of their Authority in the absence of the Primary Member.

The North West Joint Committee may invite other Police Authorities to attend meetings as Associate Members. Such Police Authorities shall be entitled to vote in areas of collaboration in which they are directly involved," and

- (iv) that North Wales Police Authority be invited to attend future meetings of the Joint Committee as an Associate Member.

46. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the North West Joint Committee Meetings held on 26th February 2010 and 17th May 2010, were received as a correct record.

47. Presentation from NPIA Collaboration Support Centre

The Joint Committee received an informative presentation from the NPIA in relation to the challenges faced with collaboration and the support available from the Centre. The officers described the key areas that the Support Centre are providing to regions. These are:

- Facilitating the sharing of good practice and areas of successful collaboration;
- Development of the Police On-line Knowledge Area (POLKA); and
- Practical support, and access to expertise help and knowledge.

The officers stated that they are keen to learn from the Joint Committee what this region requires in respect of help from NPIA, and areas of work that would better support regional collaboration. They outlined their plan to visit other regions and to continue to help develop their approach.

The Chairman of the Joint Committee thanked them for their presentation and sought comments, and observations from the Committee. Members of the Committee expanded on areas where the support centre might be able to support Authorities, and in particular collaboration around police authority functions.

48. Forward Plan of the Joint Committee

The report set out an updated Forward Plan for Members of the Joint Committee to consider.

Resolved:-

That the Forward Plan be developed for 2010/11 ensuring that this includes a financial update on Titan.

49. Police Procurement North West

The report set out the current position in respect of North West procurement. The report confirmed that there is a virtual regional procurement group, and substantial savings are being made. Nationally, ACPO Cabinet received a report on procurement that set out an action plan to deliver savings on IT and goods and services provided by third parties.

It was agreed that a joint North West strategy on procurement should be developed, and that the Chief Executive / Treasurer from Merseyside Police Authority, with assistance from Cheshire Police Authority attends the Regional ACO / Directors of Finance meetings in relation to procurement matters. Areas of procurement were discussed in detail, and it was agreed to focus in on some key issues such as training, utilities and vehicle fleet.

Resolved:-

- (i) that a North West Joint Authority / Force Strategy on Procurement be developed and reported to a future meeting of the Joint Committee; and
- (ii) that the Chief Executive / Treasurer of Merseyside Police Authority attend future North West ACPO meetings in relation to procurement.

50. Home Office Strategy – Future of Policing

The Joint Committee considered the papers and verbal reports provided on the latest position in respect of the Coalition Government's proposals on the future of policing. It is clear that much in the strategy document has yet to be fleshed out, and it is silent on any transitional arrangements. There was a wide ranging debate about the issues contained within the strategy, which is wider than the accountability matters.

Members agreed that the APACE document attached to the report, should form the basis for a North West response with the view expressed that policing should be overseen by elected members and independent members rather than a Directly Elected Individual. Members also expressed the view that on such an important issue the Government should offer a referendum. David Whatton confirmed that regionally ACPO were preparing a response and that this would be shared with Police Authorities.

Resolved:-

- (i) that a North West response to the Home Office Strategy be prepared; and
- (ii) that the North West regional ACPO response to the Home Office strategy be shared with the regions' Police Authorities.

51. Regional Collaboration Update

David Whatton, the lead regional ACPO presented an update report on regional collaboration. The key issues were as follows:-

North West Collaboration Co-ordinator – A Chief Superintendent has been appointed to this post, and will shortly be meeting with each of the Police Authority Members of the Joint Committee.

Collaboration Costs – A proposal contained within the paper set out a number of principles which assumes future collaboration costs should be based on a percentage of total Police Grant. Members approved this approach in principle and also discussed the wider Proposed Collaboration Principles. However there was a view that Members might wish to take this document back to their Authorities for further discussion. It was agreed that Authorities would feedback any issues following those discussions before the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

Forensic Collaboration – Assurance was provided that this is not in relation to the current forensic collaboration outside the region, the proposals contained within the report seek to improve in-house forensic work. It was noted that Brian Simmons, Assistant Chief Officer (Cheshire Constabulary) who has made a huge personal contribution to the national collaboration is retiring in March 2011. It was agreed that the Director of Resources (Merseyside Police Service) will continue with this work.

North West Police Motorway Group – ACC Phil Thompson (Cheshire Constabulary) provided an overview of the regional motorway group. The presentation set out the financial arrangements and the success of the project to date. There are still challenges, and these were highlighted as well as future opportunities. A number of recommendations were approved.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that Authority members discuss the Proposed Collaboration Principles and priority areas within their Authority, and to feedback any issues to Merseyside Police Authority before the next meeting of the Joint Committee;
- (ii) that the Director of Resources (Merseyside Police Service) takes the lead on forensic collaboration; and
- (iii) the recommendations highlighted in relation to the motorway policing group be approved as follows:-
 - a) a formalised agreement to continue the collaborative arrangement in 2011/12 with the inclusion of Greater Manchester;
 - b) that the cost reduction resource model for the shared deployment centre be agreed;
 - c) that all collaborating partners sign the Service Level Agreement, including the agreed performance measures; and
 - d) that the implementation timeframe be agreed.

52. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and having satisfied the requirements of paragraph 10, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds

that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

53. Regional Collaboration Update

Two further papers as part of the regional collaboration update were considered covering the North West Regional Intelligence Unit (RIU) and the Serious and Organised Task Force (Titan).

Amongst Members there was strong support for both projects to continue and a further report will be prepared for the Authorities to consider individually. Taking account of those views, a report will be prepared to be submitted to the next meeting of the North West Joint Committee.

Resolved:-

That a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the North West Joint Committee.

Minutes 44-53 received as a correct record the 15th November 2010.

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Chairman of the Joint Committee
(The meeting closed at 4.10 pm)