

CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

POLICING PLAN AND BEST VALUE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Policing Plan and Best Value Committee held on Tuesday 16 May 2006 in Conference Room 1, Police Headquarters, Carleton Hall, Penrith commencing at 10.00am.

PRESENT

Mr J Woolley (Chair)

Mr R S Cole
Mrs C A Egan

Mr W Smith
Mr R Watson

Also present:

Deputy Director of Strategic Development (Ms J Sauntson)
Head of Strategic Planning (Insp G Rutherford)
Performance Management and Policy Advisor (Miss M Saunders)
Deputy Clerk (Mr S Edwards)

PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

77. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs P M Halfpenny and Mrs L Slavin.

78. URGENT BUSINESS ANF THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Urgent Business

The Chair stated that he intended taking as urgent business a verbal report by the Deputy Director of Strategic Development on the impact of the amalgamation process on the work of the Committee.

Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no items on the Agenda for which the press and public were to be excluded.

79. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of personal interest in relation to any item on the Agenda.

80. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26 April 2006 were submitted.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26 April 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

81. LOCAL POLICING SUMMARIES AND ANNUAL REPORT 2006.

The Head of Strategic Planning presented a report by the Acting Chief Constable appended to which was a draft of the Local Policing Summary which it had become a requirement for the Authority to produce from 1 April 2006. Also circulated with the report was the data that would be included on the outer cover of the Annual Report. Several "mock ups" of different formats for the Annual Report were circulated for Members' observations.

The Local Policing Summaries would be distributed to every council tax paying household within the County by Royal Mail during August 2006. Each of the three BCUs were developing Local Policing Summaries (LPSs) tailored to their individual areas. Use of postcodes would enable the accurate distribution of LPSs in the relevant areas. These local area summaries would be used as inserts within the Annual Report. This approach would save on production and design time and enable a suite of documents to be held in one publication.

In addition to being distributed to homes within Cumbria they would also be distributed in the same way as the previous Annual Report had been.

Members noted the proposed production timescale as set out in the report and that the LPSs were being produced to conform to the "minimum standards" set out in Home Office guidance. They endorsed the additional suggestions for further information to be included within the LPSs as set out in the report by the Acting Chief Constable.

Having considered the various design options circulated Members indicated their preference for the "cut out" style of design for the Annual Report.

Members noted the desirability of arranging an additional meeting of the Committee in early to mid June to enable consideration of the final draft before submission to the Annual Meeting of the Authority on 28 June 2006. This matter would be considered later in the meeting.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the comments made by Members with regard to the design and content of the Annual Report and LPS be noted. and
- (2) the principal of using the LPS within the Annual Report to save on duplication of design and other work be approved.

82. TARGET SETTING 2006/07

The Head of Strategic Development presented a paper by the Acting Chief Constable which summarised the targets proposed for 2006/07. These targets had been set taking into account the actual year end position for 2005/06 with respect to the Constabulary's three year targets which had been set in 2004/05. To keep on course to meet the final 2007/08 target the required targets for 2006/07 were shown in each of the target categories.

In considering the report Members asked that the front line policing target for 2005/06 be included within the Policing Plan, Annual Report and Local Policing Summaries so that people reading those documents were aware of the progress being made with regard to this target.

RESOLVED, that the actual position regarding the three year targets be noted and the targets for publication within the Policing Plan, Annual Report, Local Policing Summaries and Constabulary posters be approved.

83. LOCAL PRIORITY SETTING - UPDATE

The Performance Management and Policy Advisor presented a report by the Clerk/Chief Executive which updated Members on the process for validating Cumbria's priorities for assessment in the Policing Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF) local domain "local priorities" for 2006/07.

The external process of quality assuring local priority setting for each authority and force in England and Wales had not yet been completed. However, indications from HMIC showed that following the deletion of anti social behaviour proposal 2, the priority setting process in Cumbria should pass its assessment.

Members noted that the work which would have been undertaken under this priority would still be undertaken within Cumbria but not within the PPAF local domain. Members stressed the importance of giving priority to work related to anti social behaviour and indicated that they were satisfied with the proposal as the work was still being undertaken, though not within the local priority setting framework.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the removal of the “perceptions of anti social behaviour” as a local priority be noted; and
- (2) the Committee continue to monitor developments in the local priority setting process.

84. URGENT BUSINESS – IMPACT OF THE AMALGAMATION PROCESS ON THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

The Deputy Director of Strategic Development provided Members with a verbal briefing on the impact of the amalgamation work streams on the Committee’s areas of interest. In particular she informed the Committee of proposals with regard to public consultation which would need to be signed off by the existing Police Authorities. As such it was possible that additional meetings of the Committee might be required in June and/or July. In addition it would be necessary to gain the approval of the existing Police Authorities to matters such as the application of Best Value Practice to the amalgamation process.

Members advised that the meeting of the Consultation Working Group programmed for 8 June 2006 would provide an ideal vehicle for consideration of proposals with regard to consultation. They also advised that the Programme Management Working Group would make a useful vehicle for reports on progress with the various amalgamation work streams.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted

85. ADDITIONAL MEETING – JUNE 2006.

Members were reminded that under Minute No.81, “Local Policing Summaries and Annual Report 2006”, the need for an additional meeting of the Committee in mid June had been identified.

RESOLVED, that a meeting of the Committee be held on Thursday 15 June 2006 commencing at 11.30am.

There were no Part 2 items.

The Meeting ended at 10.45am