



MINUTES

YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE JOINT POLICE AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE (YHJPAC)

14 DECEMBER 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Baugh
Mark Burns-Williamson (Chair)
Jan Fiore
Alan Hartley
Ann Liston

Charles Perryman
Clive Richardson
Graham Stroud
Bob Tress

Alternates
Rosie Brown
Tony Hargreaves
Clive Palmerley
Steven Rollinson

OFFICERS PRESENT

Catherine Archer
John Bates
Sir Norman Bettison
Janet Clitheroe
John Crosse
Andy Ford
Karen Grey

Judith Heeley
Jeremy Holderness
Jim Holt
Meredydd Hughes
Shahin Ismail
John Parkinson
Susan Reid

Jerry Robinson
Peter Simmonds
Claire Sykes
Neil Whiting
Bill Wilkinson

The Chair began by asking everyone to stand for a minutes silence in respect of former West Yorkshire Chief Constable Colin Cramphorn. He then welcomed John Parkinson, Andy Ford and Sir Norman Bettison to the meeting.

34. APOLOGIES

Received from Alene Branton MBE, Jane Kenyon and Jim Fender.

35. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None.

36. MINUTES OF THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE JOINT POLICE AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2006

These were agreed as a correct record.

37. MATTERS ARISING

Members were referred to a pre-prepared sheet outlining progress with the actions from the last meeting.

A further update was provided about the letter to Tony McNulty. Once it was known there was to be another letter to forces and authorities from Tony McNulty, it had been agreed to wait until it had been received before deciding whether to send one from the Chiefs and Chairs. Andy Ford said that the letter would most likely be sent in the New Year. The Chair said he had seen a draft at the Association of Police Authorities (APA) and felt it would give a clear steer from the Government.

The Chair said the issue of governance arrangements of the counter terrorism project was being progressed in a number of ways, including through a meeting of Chair, Chiefs and Chief Executives with the Home Office in late January/early February. There was also to be a meeting of police authority chief executives in areas hosting counter terrorism hubs before Christmas. The Chair said he had also raised it at the recent meeting of the APA Executive. Andy Ford added that he had been appointed as the senior civil servant to take the governance issues forward.

Charles Perryman said he had already met with Richard Spedding to discuss the Strategic Roads Policing project. He provided a brief update on the three workstreams and said there would be a further report to the Joint Committee at the end of February. He advised that there may be budgetary implications from the project and was concerned about the timing, given the need for authorities to set budgets before this date.

Following on from his update there was a brief discussion on how the link members should feedback to the Joint Committee. It was agreed that the link members provide a written report to future meetings; to enable the Joint Committee to be sure the project was both on track and on the right track. It was also suggested that the roles and responsibilities of link members be documented.

There was then a brief discussion about the budgetary issues. The Executive Director reminded members that business cases would have to show a cost neutral option. It was also advised that any extra provision for these projects would need to be met either from the Chiefs' delegated budgets or through a contingency fund.

ACTIONS

- (a) Link members to provide written project updates to meetings of the Joint Committee.**
- (b) The Executive Director to document the roles and responsibilities of link members.**

38. CHAIR'S URGENT ITEMS

None.

39. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of Agenda Item No. 16 (Minute No. 45 refers) on the grounds that it is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and in accordance with the requirements of Part 2 of the same schedule.

40. TAKING FORWARD JOINT WORKING IN YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER – REVISED PRINCIPLES

The Executive Director provided members with a revised set of principles to guide joint working, amended following the discussion at the November Joint Committee meeting. She felt they strengthened the principles in the way members had requested, whilst remaining succinct.

Chief Constable Mr Hughes fed back the views of the Regional Chief Constables Group, saying the Chiefs felt the phrase 'back office' ought to be removed, since it was often difficult to distinguish between front and back office service areas. The Chiefs felt the phrase 'any service areas' was adequate.

It was suggested that there would be the need, at some stage, to give consideration to timescales "short, medium and long" in relation to programme development and implementation.

RESOLVED

That members reviewed and agreed the principles contained in the appendix.

41. JOINT WORKING PROPOSALS – POLICE AUTHORITIES

The Executive Director introduced the agenda item by referring back to the discussion at the previous meeting, where a paper had been tabled to gauge members' interest in joint working amongst the four police authorities. She reminded members that there had been a lot of interest and demanding timescales set for proposals to be brought back to the Joint Committee. The four clerks met soon after the last meeting, and the result of their discussions turned into project initiation documents.

The Executive Director explained that proposals had deliberately started from a blank sheet, to mirror expectations of the forces. Agreement to the proposals would trigger further work to determine the necessary standards for joint working, present compliance and opportunities for improvement. She added that it would be important to ensure proposals didn't compromise the style and individuality of each authority. She finished by drawing members attention to the intention to submit an initiation document for the Internal Audit project to the next meeting, and the interest in joint working expressed by the Civil Nuclear Police Authority.

Jeremy Holderness provided an overview of the Member Training Project Initiation Document, which was received well by members and identified as a priority project given the expected influx of new members over the coming months. During the discussion it was requested that chairmanship skills be included within the scope of the project. Members were concerned that the structure should provide the flexibility to allow other arrangements to take place for urgent briefing items. It was also felt that the project ought to address issues that otherwise might enable members to opt-out of the programme.

Karen Grey provided an overview of the Equality and Diversity Project Initiation Document. Again the document was received well and it was suggested that the potential resource implications could be mitigated through joint working with local authorities.

John Bates provided an overview of the Complaints Project Initiation Document, which was also well received.

It was agreed that full business cases could be pursued in respect of each project, and brought back to a future Joint Committee meeting. It was also suggested that link members be appointed for the projects in the same way that they had been appointed to the force projects. Nominations were requested from Joint Committee members in the authorities not already involved in the projects.

RESOLVED

- a) **That members considered the project initiation documents in Appendix A.**
- b) **That full business cases can be pursued in respect of each project.**

ACTION

Joint Committee members to indicate their interest in being a link member for the three police authority projects to the Executive Director.

Secretary's note: Rosie Brown from South Yorkshire has been appointed as link member for the Complaints project. Ann Liston from West Yorkshire has been appointed as link member for the Training project.

42. DRAFT METHODOLOGY FOR PRIORITISATION OF JOINT WORKING

Members were provided with a report which outlined a framework by which future work would be considered, together with a suggested timeframe. Chief Constable Mr Hughes explained that the recommendation of the four Chiefs was to focus primarily on the existing two projects and learn from those before moving onto other areas. The paper also proposed to hold a number of workshops in January 2007 with relevant stakeholders to assess other potential areas for future joint working including finance, human resources and shared services. Police authority representatives would be invited to attend the workshops.

Some reservation was expressed about the proposal to hold workshops in January and it was felt that attendees with vested interest in the services might inhibit creativity and miss opportunities. Chief Constable Mr Hughes said that January was just the start of the workshops, but reiterated the point in the paper that there was a target date of April to report back. He also acknowledged the issue about attendees, but said there would be a broad range of people there and properly trained facilitators to ensure this did not happen. It was also suggested that there could be advantages of joint working on National Centre for Policing Excellence (NCPE) doctrines. Chief Constable Mr Hughes warned that these often needed a lot of interpretation and resulted in the need for extra resources.

RESOLVED

That Members considered and noted the contents of the paper.

43. LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO FACILITATE SPECIFIED JOINT WORKING BETWEEN THE FOUR POLICE FORCES OF THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER REGION

Members received a report which presented a model schedule designed, when duly authorised and signed, to facilitate certain aspects of specified joint working between the four forces. Chief Constable Mr Hughes explained that the schedule had been prepared using the present advice of the legal advisors to the four forces, but there were ongoing discussions about the wordings of Sections 23 and 24 of the Police Act, involving ACPO and HMIC, which may result in a change to primary legislation.

RESOLVED

That Members noted the contents of the paper.

44. REPORT OF THE REGIONAL CHIEF CONSTABLES GROUP CONFERENCE CALL HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2006

Chief Constable Mr Hughes provided members with a verbal update from the conference call the RCCG held the previous week. Since many of the items

discussed had already been raised he just provided a brief outline of progress with the Serious and Organised Crime project. Mr Hughes explained that the project team was presently focused on ensuring their plans complemented other work going on at a national level.

The Chair commented that he had met with the Head of the national Serious and Organised Crime Agency and thought it would be good to invite him to a future meeting.

ACTION

The Head of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency to be invited to a future meeting.

IN PRIVATE

45. ACPO NORTH EAST REGION COUNTER TERRORISM UNIT

Members received a verbal update on plans for the North East Region Counter Terrorism Unit from Detective Chief Superintendent John Parkinson.

During the discussion following the update, ACC Mr Crosse offered to prepare a discussion paper about governance arrangements within the North East Region, which was agreed by members.

It was felt there were good opportunities for police authorities to contribute to the work of the unit, through focus on level 1 crime, community engagement and holding chief officers to account. Andy Ford said that these issues and others such as performance management, capability and capacity at a community level would be discussed at the Home Office event in late January.

ACTION

ACC Mr Crosse to prepare a discussion paper on governance arrangements in the North East Region for the next meeting.

IN PUBLIC

46. INVOLVEMENT WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER

Members received a report to update them on the work undertaken by the Chief Executives/Clerks to engage with Local Government Yorkshire and Humber (LGYH). A relationship had been established as a result of discussions begun when force mergers were being pursued. This relationship continued after plans were dropped and through further discussions, a number of areas for possible collaboration identified. Various LGYH meetings have been attended since, which has resulted in the four police authorities being sighted on some capacity building and improvement work around tackling crime, the fear of crime and creating safer communities.

The report proposed that the Chief Executives/Clerks continue their involvement with LGYH to represent the interests of police authorities and the police when service delivery initiatives were being developed.

RESOLVED

- (a) That members noted the report and the activity that had taken place.**
- (b) That the Joint Committee endorsed the continuing involvement of the Chief Executives/Clerks in seeking to ensure that the interests of police authorities and forces are represented when service delivery initiatives are being developed by LGYH.**
- (c) That officers were requested to provide regular reports on developments to future meetings of this Committee.**

47. NOTES OF THE CLERKS MEETING HELD ON 23 NOVEMBER 2006

RESOLVED

That members noted the topics discussed and decisions made.

48. NOTES OF THE REGIONAL CHIEF CONSTABLES GROUP MEETING HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2006

RESOLVED

That the notes were received.

49. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

CHAIR