



MINUTES

YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE JOINT POLICE AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE (YHJPAC)

15 FEBRUARY 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT

Alene Branton MBE	Charles Perryman	Alternates
Mark Burns-Williamson (Chair)	Bob Tress	Rosie Brown
Jan Fiore		Clive Palmerley
Alan Hartley		Steven Rollinson

OFFICERS PRESENT

Catherine Archer	Claire Craven-Griffiths	John Kirman
John Bates	Andy Ford	Fraser Sampson
Sir Norman Bettison	Karen Grey	Mike Sanderson
Janet Clitheroe	Judith Heeley	Bill Wilkinson
Sally Collins	David Hunter	

The Chair welcomed Sir Norman Bettison to his first meeting as West Yorkshire Chief Constable. He also extended a welcome to Andy Ford, John Kirman and Fraser Sampson.

50. APOLOGIES

Received from Clive Richardson, Ann Liston, Bill Baugh, Jim Fender, Jane Kenyon, Graham Stroud, Tony Hargreaves, Jeremy Holderness and Susan Reid.

51. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None.

52. MINUTES OF THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE JOINT POLICE AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2006

These were agreed as a correct record.

53. MATTERS ARISING

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

Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison provided further information about progress towards a legal framework to facilitate joint working between the four forces. He explained that the legal advisors were of the opinion that a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by the four Chief Constables was sufficient to outline command and control arrangements and other liabilities that arose from joint working. He added that the Regional Chief Constables Group (RCCG) had asked for a range of scenarios to be provided, matched by relevant legal underpinning. Sir Norman said this would be provided to the Joint Committee at a future meeting. In response to a question Sir Norman said that the MOUs would transcend the stewardship of individual chief constables.

Andy Ford said that the Home Office was still considering the legal aspects and Denis O'Connor had provided a number of scenarios to assist. He said the Home Office was prepared to take steps to overcome obstacles as necessary.

The Chair then invited Andy Ford to speak about the letter received that morning from the Police Minister, Tony McNulty. Andy Ford highlighted a number of key points within the letter, including extended timescales, the scope for demonstrator sites with seed corn funding to be established and work ongoing with HMIC and ACPO around standard setting for the provision of protective services.

Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison provided further information about the proposed standards, saying that HMIC would be using them during the forthcoming baseline assessment. He added that ACPO was working to produce threshold standards that all forces must meet.

When asked if the proposed sub-board of the National Policing Board would be responsible for counter terrorism, Andy Ford said that it would not be responsible, but would need to be kept informed of activities in this area. He added that Robert Raine had been given the responsibility for improving the protective services capability of forces, and that this would include new developments in their counter terrorist capability, helping to ensure a joined up approach.

Members agreed that it was important for forces to be supported to ensure they could fulfil their role in relation to gathering community intelligence.

RESOLVED

Members noted the progress of actions and other matters arising.

54. CHAIR'S URGENT ITEMS

None.

55. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of Agenda Item No. 22 (Minute No. 71 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.

56. INTERNAL AUDIT COLLABORATION

Members were presented with a report which sought approval of a Project Initiation Document (PID) for joint working between West and North Yorkshire Police Authorities on Internal Audit services. In presenting the report, the West Yorkshire Police Authority Treasurer explained that this project had been under discussion prior to the other joint working projects being identified. A Service Level Agreement (SLA) had also been developed, because of the appetite to make progress quickly. She outlined the benefits to both authorities of joint working, including strengthening the resilience of the audit team and the opportunity to share best practice. She finished by saying that the project must also be approved by each individual police authority and was currently on the agenda for the next full meeting of both North and West Yorkshire.

The North Yorkshire Treasurer endorsed the introduction and reiterated the benefits to be gained from joint working, including improved performance.

Members and officers from Humberside and South Yorkshire Police Authorities said they were interested in seeing how the project developed before considering whether to participate. The Chair of South Yorkshire Police Authority reminded members of the joint servicing arrangements within their area.

RESOLVED

That members approved the PID and recommended to the West and North Yorkshire Police Authorities approval of the arrangements for collaborative working on Internal Audit Services.

57. TRAINING PROJECT – BUSINESS CASE

The paper was introduced by Claire Craven-Griffiths, Strategic Planning Officer from North Yorkshire Police Authority. She explained that the document was a vision of how the four police authorities could work together, and included possible arrangements for how training could be delivered, and

by whom. It was suggested that the project ought to concentrate on six topics where the need was greatest first and become more ambitious over time. Claire added that all four police authorities had been consulted during the preparation of the document, in addition to the link member and Calderdale council.

The document was well received by members. Comments made during the discussion were that it was hoped that this project would lead to cost savings, training might also be able to be provided by the forces, the need to make some of the training mandatory for all categories of membership, offering the induction training to existing members too, linking training to member appraisal systems and a requirement to specify minimum skill expectations for members. The Chair also referred to the recent announcement about inspection of police authorities, saying that this project would help members to be ready to face such a regime.

There was a brief discussion about the training provided by local authorities to councillors. There was strong feeling that, whilst local authority training could be good, there was a need to supplement this with training about the police authority context and the role of a councillor member on a police authority.

In addition to approving the project plan, members requested that a further business case be brought to the next meeting in respect of induction training that could be provided to new Independent and Councillor members.

RESOLVED

That members approved the project plan.

ACTION

A business case to be brought to the March 2007 meeting for joint working on induction training.

58. LINK MEMBER PROTOCOLS

Members were provided with a report which set out suggested responsibilities for link members appointed to joint working projects for the four forces. The Executive Director introduced the report, saying that link members appointed to authority projects would be encouraged to play a more active role, shaping the development of the project. She briefly explained why each of the five responsibilities in the appendix to the report was important and finished by saying that officer support would be encouraged.

Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison said that the Regional Chief Constables Group had considered the protocols and was happy with them.

During the discussion, some of the link members felt that officers managing the force projects should be more proactive at notifying them of key dates and developments. Sir Norman agreed to refer this view back to the RCCG.

RESOLVED

That members considered and agreed the protocols.

59. WORKFORCE MODERNISATION BUSINESS CASE

Members received a report which included as an appendix, a high level business case submitted to the Home Office in response to a request for bids to be demonstrator sites for workforce modernisation projects. Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison introduced the report, saying that this was an opportunity to approach the two force projects from the perspective of new page thinking, rather than having to work within existing structures. He explained that the Home Office were likely to view the bid favourably and added that the timescale for approval to move to the next stage had slipped to early March. Sir Norman finished by saying that a more detailed business case would then be worked up.

There was a general discussion about the impact that these projects could have on other areas of policing, civilianisation and efficiency savings. Also debated was the need to have a link member for workforce modernisation, but it was felt that the existing link members could pick these issues up.

RESOLVED

That Members noted the contents of the paper.

60. JOINT WORKING PROJECTS PRIORITISATION

Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison presented a request from the four Chiefs to delay the identification of further joint working opportunities until the results were received from work being undertaken by KPMG with the East Midlands equivalent of the Joint Committee to identify possible areas where efficiencies could be gained, and lessons began to emerge from the existing two projects. He added there was also a need to raise awareness within the forces and authorities about the existing projects and the likelihood of more joint working in the future.

During the discussion it was clear that, whilst members were happy to wait until the KPMG project results were known, they did not want to delay identification and prioritisation of other joint working projects much beyond that. Members also wanted the messages to forces and authorities to be delivered jointly.

A joint meeting of members of the Joint Committee and the four Chief Constables was felt to be appropriate, to revisit the visioning work from October 2006. The Executive Director also advised that planning for the all member event would soon begin, and that the KPMG results might be a good topic for that meeting.

ACTION

A joint meeting to be arranged for the Joint Committee and the four Chief Constables.

61. REVIEW OF SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME (SOC) PROJECT UPDATE

Members received a report which provided a brief update about the SOC project and anticipated timescales for further review by the RCCG and the final report coming to the Joint Committee.

RESOLVED

That members noted the contents of the report, progress made to date and the current timetable.

62. STRATEGIC ROADS POLICING (SRP) PROJECT FOR THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE REGION

Members received a report which provided a progress report on work undertaken on the SRP project since January.

RESOLVED

That members considered and noted the contents of the paper.

63. UPDATES ON JOINT WORKING PROJECTS FROM LINK MEMBERS

Written updates from link members had been circulated for the Equality and Diversity project, Complaints project and the SOC project.

There was a brief discussion about the concerns raised in respect of the SOC project, particularly abstractions and time limited funding. Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison said he would raise these concerns with the RCCG.

RESOLVED

That members noted the project updates.

64. RISK REGISTER FOR THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER REGION

Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison presented a report which included a copy of the current risk register, developed to capture the main risks and opportunities around joint working in the region, as an appendix. He said that the register was actively managed by the RCCG.

RESOLVED

That members considered the Risk Register.

65. INVOLVEMENT WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER (LGYH)

Members received a report which included issues discussed at the January LGYH meeting, and advised that police authority attendance had been reviewed at the last Clerks meeting. The Director of Performance and Resources at Humberside Police Authority introduced the report and highlighted the opportunity to open a debate with Chief Executives about greater involvement in the development and implementation of Local Area Agreements.

The Chair advised members that in West Yorkshire one of the district Chief Executives had been tasked with acting as a liaison point for securing a closer relationship with the Police Authority in relation to target setting.

During the brief discussion it was agreed that continued engagement with LGYH was important and that opportunities such as closer working and data sharing should be explored.

RESOLVED

- (a) That members noted the report and activity that had taken place.**
- (b) That members agreed to a report to the next meeting on issues for discussion with Local Authority Chief Executives on 29 March 2007.**
- (c) That members requested officers to continue to provide regular reports on developments to future meetings.**

66. NOTES OF THE CLERKS MEETING HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2006

Members were provided with notes from the Clerks meeting held on 19 December 2006.

67. NOTES OF THE CLERKS MEETING HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2007

Members were provided with notes from the Clerks meeting held on 25 January 2007.

68. NOTES OF THE REGIONAL CHIEF CONSTABLES GROUP (RCCG) CONFERENCE CALL HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2006

Members were provided with notes from the RCCG conference call held on 8 December 2006.

69. NOTES OF THE REGIONAL CHIEF CONSTABLES GROUP MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2007

Members were provided with notes from the RCCG meeting held on 18 January 2007.

**70. REPORT OF THE REGIONAL CHIEF CONSTABLES GROUP
CONFERENCE CALL HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2007**

Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison said that the only item raised which had not been discussed during the meeting was agreement to his continued representation of the four Chief Constables at the Regional Resilience Forum.

IN PRIVATE

71. OVERSIGHT OF COUNTER TERRORISM

Members received a report to update them about emerging thinking in relation to the oversight of counter terrorist activity.

It was agreed that all members of the four police authorities needed to be kept fully informed about the issues presented in the paper.

IN PUBLIC

72. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

CHAIR