



MINUTES

YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE JOINT POLICE AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE (YHJPAC)

16 MAY 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT

Alene Branton MBE
Mark Burns-Williamson (Chair)
Mohammed Ismail
Jane Kenyon (Vice Chair)
(Informal Session only)

Ann Liston
John Parkinson
Charles Perryman
Clive Richardson

Alternates
Clive Palmerley
Tony Hargreaves

OFFICERS PRESENT

Catherine Archer
Peter Bagshaw
Gill Bardsley
Sir Norman Bettison
Janet Clitheroe

Andy Ford
Karen Grey
Jeremy Holderness
David Hunter
Shahin Ismail

Alan Lees
Mike Sanderson
Jo Smith
Claire Sykes

93. APOLOGIES

Received from Bill Baugh, Jim Fender, Jane Kenyon, Steven Rollinson, Bob Tress, John Bates, Judith Heeley, John Kirman, Susan Reid and Bill Wilkinson.

94. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None.

95. MINUTES OF THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE JOINT POLICE AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 29 MARCH 2007

These were agreed as a correct record.

96. MATTERS ARISING

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

Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison updated members on the current position regarding the appointment of the Joint Regional Programme Director. He said there had been a delay in the Hay job evaluation process, but it was hoped to have made an appointment by July.

The dates for the Annual General Meetings of Humberside and South Yorkshire Police Authorities were noted.

RESOLVED

That members noted the progress of actions and other matters arising.

97. CHAIR'S URGENT ITEMS

None.

98. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of Agenda Item Nos. 18 and 19 (Minute Nos. 109 and 110 refer) on the grounds that they are 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.

99. COMPLAINTS BUSINESS CASE

Members were provided with an initial report from the joint complaints project, summarising the work that had gone into the project, the external influencing factors and the proposals for the committee to consider.

Each police authority and force professional standards department had been asked to supply information for benchmarking purposes. In addition, analysis of the draft Association of Police Authorities (APA) guidance on oversight and scrutiny of professional standards matters had been carried out, and there had been dialogue with the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC).

Four proposals for consideration by the Joint Committee were included in the business case. The first was to establish a network of authority professional standards support officers to share good practice and progress some joint projects. The second proposal was to develop a schedule of joint projects to enhance the work of each authority. The third proposal was to do more to publicise the role of police authorities in the oversight of the police complaints system. The final proposal was for joint training of members and officers.

The report also pointed to three areas for future consideration, which were to extend the project to consider police authority responsibilities for dealing with complaints against chief officers, the benefits of further joint working by the forces' professional standards departments and finally, the oversight of complaints received in relation to joint working of the four forces.

Members briefly considered whether there was scope to take the more radical approach of having one force and one police authority undertaking this work on behalf of the others. Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison said there could be different ways of doing this, but felt it was important to have separate professional standards departments to set and maintain organisational values. He felt there might be scope for forces to deal with particular classes of complaints on behalf of the others though. It was also felt that the differences in the ways of working of the four authorities would need more standardisation before the work could be done by just one.

RESOLVED

That:

- a) Members considered the report and agreed the proposals therein.**
- b) The report would be referred to the four police authority complaints committees or equivalent for their consideration and comment.**
- c) Members agreed to a further report being brought to the Joint Committee following consideration by the individual police authorities.**

100. PROTECTIVE SERVICES – INVITATION FOR DEMONSTRATOR SITE BIDS

Members were provided with a report from the Chief Constables which outlined the work of the Regional Chief Constables Group (RCCG) and Joint Regional Programme Team (JRPT) in relation to the invitation from the Home Office to submit demonstrator site bids.

Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison explained that the letter from Robert Raine, Head of the Police Protective Capabilities Unit, had provided a framework for forces to submit expressions of interest in demonstrator site bids. The purpose of this work was to generate and disseminate lessons and best practice in a co-ordinated way. He added that no individual grant would exceed £500k and participating authorities would be expected to contribute 25% towards planning and start up costs. An outline business case was to be submitted to the Home Office by 31 May 2007, and a workshop had been held the day before the Joint Committee meeting to provide greater insight for development of bids.

Sir Norman went on to explain the rationale for the four bids that were considered by the RCCG and the decisions made on which ones to progress

further. The bids that the RCCG wanted to work on further and submit were on IT information sharing and the creation of a serious, organised and cross border crime undercover unit. Sir Norman added that one of the other proposals, to create a regional human resources team with standard terms and conditions, could also be tackled within the second proposal. He finished by saying that the costs were thought to be well within the £500k available.

Members asked about governance and accountability arrangements. Sir Norman said he considered that to be the role of the Joint Committee. Janet Clitheroe went on to explain that evaluation would be an ongoing process, involving independent consultants and monthly performance monitoring.

RESOLVED

That:

- a) JPAC supported the Chief Constables proposals and agreed that two business cases be developed for submission as demonstrator site bids. Approval of those bids to be obtained from RCCG and the Chair of JPAC.**
- b) RCCG and the Chair and Vice Chair of JPAC to have sight of the business cases prior to submission.**

101. HYPOTHETICAL FINANCIAL IMPACT OF WORKING JOINTLY

Members were provided with a paper that illustrated the financial impact of working jointly on individual force budgets. The appendix costed a range of hypothetical scenarios for the Serious and Organised Crime Project (SOC), which showed both the need for extra investment by the forces and the likelihood of there being both winners and losers in financial terms.

Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison explained that the paper had been provided by the four treasurers and finance directors, and felt it would be a good reference document when final proposals were brought to the Joint Committee.

Catherine Archer observed that it would be important for existing costings to be accurate and didn't want to underestimate the challenge of forecasting both present and future costs.

It was also agreed that decisions needed to be made for the greater good of the region.

RESOLVED

That members noted the content of the report.

102. PROTOCOL FOR RELEASING INTERIM AND FINAL REPORTS FROM PROJECTS

Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison gave a verbal report to members in relation to a decision of the RCCG to draw up a protocol for releasing reports from projects. He said this had arisen from the discussion at the last Joint Committee meeting about the size of the SOC project interim report, together with the recognition that there was often sensitive information within the reports.

Sir Norman said the protocol would have three elements. The first element would involve progress reports, which would be provided to both the link member the Joint Committee.

The second element related to interim reports. Link members would have sight of, and the opportunity to scrutinise the full report. RCCG would see the full report and the executive summary. The executive summary would be provided to the Joint Committee, with the full report made available as a background document.

The third element related to final reports. These would be written after sufficient consultation had taken place and would be provided to link members. The Joint Committee would receive a summary, but the full document would also be widely available within forces.

Sir Norman said that the protocol was not yet ready because adding in the consultation process was proving to be more difficult than originally anticipated.

Charles Perryman supported the proposal, but asked that what was provided to the Joint Committee should concentrate on those aspects of the project that were important to authority members, to enable them to sell the proposals back in their individual authorities. He felt the sensitive aspects were of lesser importance to members.

RESOLVED

That the verbal report was noted.

ACTION

A document containing the protocol to be provided to members.

103. POLICE REFORM AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Members received a report of the Chief Constables which updated them on the progress of the regional and force protective services plans.

Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison explained that the four forces were undertaking this work jointly and that the product would be compared to the national Risk Assessment Framework, due to be released in July. He said that microanalysis would take place in relation to the whole protective services agenda and this would encompass the regional perspective in addition to the four forces.

Information was also included in the paper about plans to co-locate the Joint Regional Project Team. Janet Clitheroe said this would be for two days a week and would involve herself, the four project officers from the individual forces and some clerical support.

RESOLVED

That members noted the contents of the report.

104. UPDATES ON JOINT WORKING PROJECTS FROM LINK MEMBERS

Members were provided with an update report from the link member to the equality and diversity project, which indicated good progress and adherence to the principles of joint working.

Alene Branton MBE said she was meeting with the SOC project lead at the beginning of June.

RESOLVED

That the project updated was noted.

105. NOTES OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVES' MEETING HELD ON 25 APRIL 2007

The notes from the Chief Executives meeting held on 25 April 2007 were provided.

RESOLVED

That the notes were received.

106. NOTES OF THE REGIONAL CHIEF CONSTABLES GROUP MEETING HELD ON 16 MARCH 2007

Members were provided with the notes from the RCCG meeting held on 16 March 2007.

Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison said that the legal advice about joint working that had been endorsed by the Joint Committee had been provided to the Home Office to inform the current national debate. The Chair added that it had been discussed at the first meeting of the APA Strategic Policing Policy Group and well received.

RESOLVED

That the notes were received.

107. NOTES OF THE REGIONAL CHIEF CONSTABLES GROUP MEETING HELD ON 2 APRIL 2007

Members were provided with the notes from the RCCG meeting held on 2 April 2007.

RESOLVED

That the notes were received.

108. REPORT OF THE REGIONAL CHIEF CONSTABLES GROUP MEETING HELD ON 8 MAY 2007

Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison provided a verbal report of the meeting on those items that had not been discussed during the Joint Committee meeting.

He said that the RCCG meetings were now programmed to link better with Joint Committee paperwork deadlines, and that Chair's Briefs were being scheduled as discussed at the last meeting. There was to be some work initiated to look at joint working opportunities in relation to custody processes, which was to be led by Humberside Police.

IN PRIVATE

109. INTERIM REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC ROADS POLICING (SRP) PROJECT

Members received an update on the contents of the SRP interim report, including sight of the 22 recommendations which had been endorsed by the RCCG on 2 April 2007. In presenting the paper, Sir Norman said that a final report would be available for endorsement by the Joint Committee in the summer.

During the discussion it was agreed that members of the individual police authorities would need an informal briefing, to include issues in respect of consultation, costings and the business case.

RESOLVED

That members considered and noted the contents of the report.

ACTION

Chief Executives and Chief Constables to arrange briefings for their members.

110. GOVERNANCE OF COUNTER TERRORISM

A report of the Chief Executives updated members on matters in respect of police authority oversight of counter-terrorism activity, which included reports back from meetings of the APA Joint Counter Terrorism Unit Oversight Group and APA Strategic Policing Policy Group.

Catherine Archer also gave advance notice of a seminar being organised by West Yorkshire Police Authority to which other authorities would be invited.

RESOLVED

That the report was noted.

ACTIONS

- a) Nominations for the second place on the APA Strategic Policing Policy Group to be provided to Catherine Archer.**
- b) Members wanting copies of the lessons learnt by Thames Valley Police Authority to contact Catherine Archer or the APA.**

IN PUBLIC

111. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Due to some confusion over the date of the July Joint Committee meeting, there was no Chief Constable available to attend. Catherine Archer proposed that the date be used for the all member meeting. Should there be urgent business then a short notice meeting would have to be convened. This was agreed.

CHAIR