



MINUTES

YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE JOINT POLICE AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE (YHJPAC)

16 NOVEMBER 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Baugh
Alene Branton MBE
Mark Burns-Williamson (Chair)
Alan Hartley
Jane Kenyon (Vice-Chair)

Charles Perryman
Clive Richardson
Graham Stroud
Bob Tress

Alternates
Rosie Brown
Tony Hargreaves
Clive Palmerley

OFFICERS PRESENT

Catherine Archer
John Bates
Della Cannings
Janet Clitheroe

John Crosse
Karen Grey
Jeremy Holderness
David Hunter

Susan Reid
Claire Sykes
Bill Wilkinson

22. APOLOGIES

Received from Jan Fiore, Ann Liston, Andrew Ford, Sir Norman Bettison and John Parkinson.

23. MINUTES OF THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE JOINT POLICE AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 OCTOBER 2006

These were agreed as a correct record.

24. MATTERS ARISING

Chief Constable Ms Cannings confirmed that she had discussed the matter of link members at the Regional Chief Constables Group and it was thought to be a good idea to appoint link members. Ms Cannings added that the four Chief Constables felt that a draft protocol covering items such as involvement and timing of meetings would be useful and would work to develop an appropriate document. It was agreed to defer discussion about who the link members would be to Any Other Business.

25. CHAIR'S URGENT ITEMS

The Chair advised members that he had attended the Regional Chief Constables Group (RCCG) meeting the previous evening, where there had been a further discussion about writing a letter to the police minister, Tony McNulty. He said that, now the authorities had been notified of the money being provided by the Home Office in respect of merger activity, it had been agreed to make the subject of the letter an update on progress with joint working. The Chair confirmed that the letter would be circulated to the four authorities for comment and agreement before being sent.

A brief discussion took place about the money awarded to each authority. Chief Constable Ms Cannings said that the RCCG felt it best that the money be held by each Chief Constable, to fund projects as necessary. She added that some might also need to be spent on other areas of budget pressure.

ACTION

The letter to Tony McNulty to be circulated to all four police authorities for comment and approval.

26. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None.

27. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of Agenda Item No. 11 (Minute No. 28 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.

IN PRIVATE

28. ACPO NORTH EAST REGION COUNTER TERRORISM PROJECT UPDATE

ACC Mr Crosse provided members of the Joint Committee with an update on the national counter terrorism project and the likely impact upon the North East region. Mr Crosse asked it to be noted that he was providing the update in place of Chief Constable Mr Cramphorn, but added that he felt certain Mr Cramphorn would be content with the direction of the project.

Three main issues were raised following the presentation. The first concerned the potential resource implications for forces, whose officers and staff might seek recruitment to the counter terrorism unit. The second was about the practicalities of employing staff within the organisation. The third was about proposed governance arrangements, which members felt had been 'bolted

on', rather than an integral part of the planning from the start. ACC Mr Crosse spoke about the Human Resources (HR) Strategy being put into practice along with force HR leads. He also gave an overview of the present discussions about governance arrangements which was to include police authority representation, and which may be replicated on a regional basis. Mr Crosse said that ACPO TAM was working with the APA Executive about appropriate arrangements, and he expressed a view that he considered police authority representation on any governance body to be necessary.

It was agreed that Detective Chief Superintendent John Parkinson would be invited to a future meeting to provide more information about the counter terrorism unit. The Chair was also asked to make representation to the Association of Police Authorities (APA) about all police authorities being involved in governance arrangements, rather than just the Executive.

RESOLVED

(a) That the presentation be noted.

ACTION

The Chair to express the Joint Committee's concerns about governance arrangements to the APA.

IN PUBLIC

29. TAKING FORWARD JOINT WORKING IN YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER

Members were presented with a report which summarised the discussion at the visioning session before the last meeting and synthesised the views and ideas into a set of principles, attached as an appendix. The appendix described four sets of principles: an overarching principle describing desired benefits; principles guiding programme development, principles guiding the selection and prioritisation of project; and principles guiding the allocation of resources to joint working.

Members were asked to review the principles, confirm that they reflected the discussion at the last meeting and put forward any additional items. The Executive Director said she had emphasised the point that this was joint working and not amalgamation.

During the discussion the following additions and amendments were agreed:

- Projects to demonstrate added value to the public in Yorkshire and Humberside
- How success will be measured
- Symbolic actions to be linked to the business case and benefits
- Consideration of an outward facing benefit e.g. safer communities
- Re-wording of the decision process for allocating resources to make it clearer
- Extra proviso to be added to the principle of central government support about it not impacting on autonomy to act

Chief Constable Ms Cannings reflected the views of the RCCG that they felt project development needed to be an iterative process and involve the Joint Committee fully, and that they would like an opportunity to comment on the draft principles.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the draft principles in Appendix A were agreed subject to the amendments proposed.**
- (b) That the methodology of joint programme development was agreed.**
- (c) That each Authority agrees to include an objective relating to joint working in its Policing Plan for 2007/08.**

ACTIONS

- (a) Chief Constable Ms Cannings to bring back a paper proposing how joint programme development can be achieved.**
- (b) The Executive Director to propose a suitable wording for the Policing Plan objective about joint working.**

30. JOINT SUPPORT SERVICES PROPOSAL

Members received a joint report of the four Clerks, asking them to consider the scope for better joint provision of support services to police authorities in the region.

The paper set out the background thinking behind why joint working would be beneficial, the various ways that joint working could be achieved and the emerging thoughts of the four Clerks about areas suitable for joint working; Diversity, Member Training and Police Complaints. The paper also highlighted that the four police authority Treasurers were exploring the potential of joint provision of Internal Audit services to two or more authorities. The Executive Director finished her introduction of the paper by saying that business cases, following the same principles as previously agreed for the forces, would be presented to future meetings.

During the discussion, custody visitor recruitment and training was suggested as an area that would benefit from joint working at an early stage. Members made the point that joint working on member training and diversity needed to be progressed quickly, given the impending Independent Member recruitment and the amount of new diversity legislation impacting upon authorities at present. It was agreed to bring business cases for both to the next meeting.

In addition to discussing joint working possibilities, members talked about how they and their colleagues from the four police authorities could be kept informed of emerging issues, including the discussions held at meetings of the four clerks. The notes from these meetings were requested. The Executive

Director agreed to provide them and also consider how other emerging issues could be provided to members.

RESOLVED

(a) That Members discussed the proposal.

(b) That Members supported the scoping of firm proposals to effect joint delivery of support in the discharge of equality and diversity responsibilities, member training and the supply of internal audit services.

ACTION

The Executive Director to place the notes from meetings of the four clerks on agendas of the Joint Committee.

31. DATES OF MEETINGS IN 2007

Members received a report of the Executive Director which proposed meeting dates for 2007. The dates proposed were the third Thursday of each month, although it was recognised that at some point, the frequency of meetings would be reduced. The paper also proposed that the rotation of meetings would be adjusted if meetings were removed from the calendar.

During the discussion it was agreed to remove the meeting in April, since it clashed with an ACPO event and was also in the pre-election period. The Annual Meeting was fixed for July.

The dates for 2007 will therefore be:

- Thurs 18 January, 10.30am – West Yorkshire to host
- Thurs 15 February, 10.30am – Humberside to host
- Thurs 15 March, 10.30am – North Yorkshire to host
- Thurs 17 May, 10.30am – South Yorkshire to host
- Thurs 21 June, 10.30am – West Yorkshire to host
- Thurs 19 July, 10.30am – Humberside to host
- Thurs 20 September, 10.30am – North Yorkshire to host
- Thurs 18 October, 10.30am – South Yorkshire to host
- Thurs 15 November, 10.30am – West Yorkshire to host
- Thurs 20 December, 10.30am – Humberside to host

It was also agreed to diary Chair's Brief dates in advance.

The Chair made a plea that all Chairs would try and attend the face-to-face meetings of the RCCG.

RESOLVED

(a) That the revised proposed meeting dates and host authorities were agreed.

(b) That no meetings would be held in April and August 2007.

(c) That the Annual Meeting would be held on 19 July 2007.

32. REPORT OF THE REGIONAL CHIEF CONSTABLES GROUP MEETING HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2006

Chief Constable Ms Cannings provided members with a verbal update from the meeting of the RCCG held the previous evening. A number of items discussed had been covered already during the meeting.

It had been agreed to rotate the Chair of the RCCG meetings to match the location of the Joint Committee, so that the Chief Constables would represent the group at the meetings in their force areas.

Ms Cannings could confirm that the costs put forward at the last meeting of the Joint Committee in respect of the Joint Regional Programme Director's post were holistic. She added that West Yorkshire Police was progressing the recruitment process.

The legal advisors to the RCCG have recommended that the RCCG lobby the Home Office and ACPO for a change in the Police Act to incorporate direction and control in the statutory guidance in respect of Section 23. The second declarations were to be signed in respect of the two projects where project initiation documents had been approved.

The RCCG had made an expression of interest to the Home Office for the two existing projects to be considered as demonstration sites for the Workforce Modernisation programme.

33. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members discussed the appointment of link members to the two projects. It was agreed that the members should not come from the authorities whose forces were supplying the project leaders.

Therefore it was suggested that a member of the Joint Committee from Humberside Police Authority be linked to the Serious and Organised Crime Project, and a member of the Joint Committee from South Yorkshire Police Authority be linked to the Strategic Roads Policing Project.

The Executive Director invited expressions of interest from members from the two police authorities, who also sat on the Joint Committee.

ACTION

Joint Committee members from South Yorkshire and Humberside to indicate their interest in being a link member to the Executive Director.

Secretary's note: Alene Branton MBE has been nominated by Humberside Police Authority as the link member for the Serious and Organised Crime project, and Charles Perryman has been nominated by South Yorkshire Police Authority as the link member for the Strategic Roads Policing Project.

CHAIR