

THE NORTH WEST JOINT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2010

at the Central Avenue Suite, Ramada Bolton Hotel, Bolton
commencing at 12.45 pm

PRESENT

Cllr R Cole (CUMBRIA)
Cllr M Doherty (LANCASHIRE)
Cllr P Murphy (GREATER MANCHESTER)
Mrs M Ollerenshaw (CHESHIRE)
Cllr W Weightman (MERSEYSIDE) [Chairman]

Also present

CHESHIRE

Mr M Sellwood (Chief Executive)
Mr D Bateman (Vice Chairman)
Mr D Whatton (Chief Constable)

LANCASHIRE

Ms M Carruthers-Watt (Chief Executive)
Mr Steve Finnigan (Chief Constable)

CUMBRIA

Mr C Alcock (Chief Executive)
Mr C Mackey (Chief Constable)

MERSEYSIDE

Mr P Johnson (Chief Executive/Treasurer)
Mrs C McConnell (Deputy Chief Executive)
Mr B Lawson (Deputy Chief Constable)

GREATER MANCHESTER

Ms Sam Frenz (Head of Scrutiny and
Engagement)
Mr P Fahy (Chief Constable)

Apologies for absence were received from Mr G Roper, Vice Chairman, Lancashire Police Authority, Mr R Bernstein, Executive Director, Greater Manchester Police Authority, and Mr Jon Murphy, Chief Constable, Merseyside Police Service

24. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

25. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the North West Joint Committee Meeting, held on 16th November 2009, were received as a correct record.

Matters Arising

With reference to Minute 17 it was confirmed that the Standing Orders have been amended and circulated.

26. Chairman's Announcements

Cllr Weightman announced that the Chief Executive of Cumbria Police Authority will be retiring at the end of March 2010. Cllr Weightman wished to place on record, on behalf of the Members of the Joint Committee, recognition of the contribution made by Clive Alcock to the work of the Committee, and invaluable advice he has provided.

Miranda Carruthers-Watt also extended her thanks on behalf of the Chief Executives for Clive's contribution, and in particular his efforts to establish a Northern Chief Executive's Group.

27. Police Treatment Centres

The Members of the Committee provided feedback in respect of their Authorities in relation to the request made at the previous Joint Committee for one-off capital funding to the Police Treatment Centres. There was support for a regional view to be presented and provided to the Charity.

A number of concerns in relation to the request had been echoed across each of the North West Authorities, which included the financial pressures facing police authorities in the next few years. A number of Authorities also reported that other police related charities have recently sought funding. A particularly important factor taken into consideration related to the fact that the charity is not open to police staff, especially given the increasing number and growing role of police staff.

Taking all these factors into consideration Members took the decision not to support the Police Treatment Centres' request.

Resolved:-

- (i) That the request for one-off funding be declined; and

- (ii) That the chairman of the North West Joint Committee write on behalf of the 5 Police Authorities setting out the consideration made and the decision taken.

28. Forward Plan of the Joint Committee

The report set out an updated Forward Plan for Members of the Joint Committee to consider.

The Chairman of the Joint Committee requested that colleagues take note of the deadlines for producing the reports in order that they can be considered at the draft report stage. He sought approval for the officers responsible for preparing the agenda to be able to have a dialogue with individual authors to ensure that the content of reports provides the information requested by the Joint Committee.

Cllr Weightman also informed the Members of the Joint Committee that he would, in future, be holding a briefing meeting in between the draft and final report deadlines. David Whatton informed the meeting that he will be taking over as ACPO lead on 1st April, and that this might initially lead to some slippage in the preparation of reports.

Resolved:-

That the Forward Plan be noted.

29. Custody Visiting

Mark Sellwood presented the report on the work that is being undertaken in the region in respect of Independent Custody Visiting. The region has established a Regional Custody Visiting Administrators Group, which has helped to identify and disseminate good practice but also to collaborate and standardise policies and procedures across the 5 North West Authorities.

Mr Sellwood also raised the recent letter that has been circulated to the North West Authorities in relation to rejoining the Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA). There was agreement that given the success of the regional meeting that there was no appetite to rejoin ICVA at this time.

Resolved:-

- (i) That the Chief Executive of Cheshire Police Authority should write to ICVA on behalf of the 5 North West Authorities stating their decision not to rejoin the Association.

30. Challenges relating to Regional Collaboration

Peter Fahy presented a discussion paper that set out the current position regarding collaboration issues. The paper reflected a number of the issues discussed at the last meeting and the frustration around the capacity to take forward large collaborative projects. Whilst the region can demonstrate some positive approaches this is a unique area with 2 large Metropolitan Forces, and this brings some specific challenges.

As previously discussed other regions have created a post specifically to coordinate projects, service the Joint Committee as well as seeking new areas for collaboration. There is a view by the Chief Officers that such a post would assist the North West Region and they have proposed the creation of a Chief Superintendent post, which would be reviewed after 12 months. There was a general view amongst Members that this should be supported. Given that the ACPO lead will be David Whatton it was agreed that the Chairman and Chief Executive from Cheshire Police Authority would be involved in developing the proposal and in the appointment of the postholder.

A more general discussion also took place in respect of collaboration and how the Joint Committee can measure the outcomes. The postholder will be able to assist in helping to develop this approach but also in considering wider collaboration that may only involve 2 Forces.

Miranda Carruthers-Watt also raised the issue of the Shared Services project, which had previously been reported via the Joint Committee. It was agreed to formally close the involvement with this project but to include the potential areas of collaboration in back office functions in a future report to the Joint Committee.

Resolved:-

- (i) That the Joint Committee approves the appointment of a Chief Superintendent subject to a review after a period of 12 months;
- (ii) That the Chairman and Chief Executive of Cheshire Police Authority be involved in the appointment of the postholder; and
- (iii) That the Joint Committee formally closes the Shared Services Project.

31. Regional Collaboration Update

Peter Fahy presented an update in relation to regional collaboration and specifically funding issues in respect of the Regional Crime Unit.

Following the previous report there was further discussion in relation to measuring value for money and the impact on performance. The Serious and Organised Crime Task Force (Titan) was discussed in detail. It was agreed that more information was required in order for decisions on further funding to

be made in a timely way. ACC Andy Cooke from Lancashire is available to provide a presentation to each of the North West Authorities in respect of Titan.

The report also set out a number of other areas of collaboration including procurement. Concern has been raised with regard to procurement in relation to preparing a set of common standing orders. It was agreed that Lancashire and Merseyside Police Authorities would lead on this area of work.

Mark Sellwood also provided a verbal update with regard to legal services. There is a review at the end of July and a paper will be provided to the Joint Committee.

Resolved:-

- (i) That Lancashire and Merseyside Police Authorities prepare a set of common standing orders for use with procurement across the North West Authorities; and
- (ii) A report setting out the issues relating to Legal Services be submitted to the meeting of the Joint Committee in August.

32. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

RESOLVED That in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and having satisfied the requirements of paragraph 10, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following five items of business on the grounds that they involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

33. Regional Collaboration Update

An additional paper relating to Titan was circulated at the meeting. There was concern amongst Members that presentation of papers at the meeting make it difficult to make a positive contribution. It was agreed that CTIU will circulate this information to their Special Branch officers who will then be responsible for briefing their Chief Constables and Police Authority colleagues.

The report set out in more detail the work of Titan.

Resolved:-

That the Members of the Joint Committee be briefed on Part 2 information locally by Special Branch Officers.

Minutes 24 – 33 received as a correct record the 17th May 2010.

Chairman of the Joint Committee

(The meeting closed at 2.15 pm)