



PARTNERSHIPS FORUM

**WEDNESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2007 AT 10.00AM
IN CABINET ROOM C, COUNTY HALL, PRESTON**

NB If you have any queries regarding the Agenda papers or require any further information, please contact Ian Dickinson on 01772 533462.

AGENDA

PART I (OPEN TO PRESS AND PUBLIC)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

Members are asked to consider any personal/prejudicial interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to any matters under consideration on the Agenda. If the personal interest is a prejudicial interest, then the individual members should not participate in a discussion on the matter and must withdraw from the meeting room.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 18TH JULY 2007

Copy enclosed for confirmation at item 3.

4 MATTERS ARISING

Concerns were expressed with regard to the Communications Room within the Eastern Division, particularly with calls from the Belthorn area, where it was understood that such calls were going to the Greater Manchester Police rather than the Lancashire Police causing a delay in response. Concerns were also raised that the Community Beat Managers were not getting the information required regarding incidents, in particular, a number of recent incidents regarding mini-motos. This matter has been resolved by Inspector Graham Keyte contacting the individual members who raised the issue and an update will be provided at the meeting.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5 POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY MEETINGS

A report on the summary of issues raised during the Police Authority Community Meetings held during September and October 2007 is attached at Item 5.

6 POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS

An oral report will be presented by Inspector Mary Cowley on the different local arrangements for the role and powers of the Police Community Support Officers.

7 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SERVICE STANDARDS

An oral report will be presented by Inspector Keyte clarifying the Constabulary's Public Assistance and Service Standards to deal appropriately and proportionately on the incidents reported by members of the public, particularly around Code 2 responses.

8 THE FUTURE ROLE OF POLICE AUTHORITY'S PARTNERSHIPS FORUM

A report on the future role of the Partnerships Forum within the Authority's decision making and planning processes is attached at item 8.

9 URGENT BUSINESS

An item of urgent business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the Minutes, the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Chief Executive should be given advance warning of any Member's intention to raise a matter under this heading.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held at 10.00am on Wednesday 2nd April 2008, at County Hall, Preston.

Miranda Carruthers-Watt
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

LANCASHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE PARTNERSHIPS FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH JULY 2007 AT COUNTY HALL, PRESTON

PRESENT

County Councillor D Whipp (Chairman)

Lancashire Police Authority

Miss S Afzal
Councillor G Bell
County Councillor C Grunshaw
County Councillor N Penney

Lancashire County Council

County Councillor T Aldridge

District Councils

Councillor D Dickinson – Chorley
Councillor E Forshaw – Chorley

Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen

Mrs A Cheetham – Rossendale
Hon. Alderman M Cowell - Hyndburn
Mr A Marsh – Wyre
Mrs S Maw – Ribble Valley
Mrs M Milne – Preston
County Councillor A Pimblett – South Ribble
Councillor R Pinder – Hyndburn
Councillor B Roberts – Hyndburn
Mr H Taylor - Wyre
Councillor S Taylor – Ribble Valley

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms M Carruthers-Watt – Chief Executive, Lancashire Police Authority
Superintendent B McMahon - Lancashire Constabulary
Mr I Dickinson – Administrator, Chief Executive's Office (representing the Clerk)
Miss D Norton – Marketing Officer, Chief Executive's Office

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of:-

Mr S Sarwar (Lancashire Police Authority); County Councillor D Yates (County Council); Councillor F Farquharson (Rossendale Borough Council); Councillor Jebson (Blackpool Unitary Authority); Councillor M Lishman (Burnley Borough Council); Mr E Bowden (Ribble Valley); Councillor P Dunne (Blackpool PAC); Mr B Fenn (Burnley); Councillor F Oldfield (Blackburn); Councillor I Richardson (Preston); Mr T Sharples (Blackburn);

Councillor R Sherlock (Lancaster); County Councillor A Thornton (Lancaster); Councillor J Bennett (Fylde) and Mr M Ogden (Chamber of Commerce).

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

The Forum noted that at its Annual General Meeting on the 9th May 2007, the Police Authority had agreed that County Councillor Whipp be appointed Chair of the Partnerships Forum for the ensuing year.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

The Forum noted that at its Annual General Meeting on the 9th May 2007, the Police Authority had agreed that Ms S Afzal be appointed Vice-Chair of the Partnerships Forum for the ensuing year.

MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Forum noted the Membership and Terms of Reference of the Forum, as agreed by the Police Authority at its Annual General Meeting on the 9th May 2007.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 28TH MARCH 2007

01/07 RESOLVED:- That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 28th March 2007 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The Forum received a report on the issues raised at the Police Authority Community Meetings held during May and June 2007.

The Chairman of the Wyre PAC reported that PCSOs in the Wyre area had now been given powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for dog fouling and dropping litter. Discussions with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of other Police Authority Committee meetings highlighted a disparity in the powers to which PCSOs had been given and it was agreed that a report be presented at the next meeting highlighting the PCSOs powers on a Force-wide basis.

The Vice-Chair of the West Lancashire PAC wished to place on record a substantial drop in anti-social behaviour within the West Lancashire area.

The Chairman of the Chorley PAC meeting also welcomed a reduction in crime in the Chorley area as well as speeding through the rural areas and wished to place on record his support for the PCSOs who were doing a very good job in the area.

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Hyndburn PAC expressed concerns with regard to the Communications Room within the Eastern Division, particularly with calls from the Belthorn area, where it was understood that such calls were going to the Greater Manchester Police rather than the Lancashire Police causing a delay in response. Concerns were also raised that the Community Beat Managers were not getting the information required regarding incidents, in particular, a number of recent incidents regarding mini-motos. It was agreed that a further report should be presented to the next meeting in November on the communications issues.

With regards to the Burnley PAC, it was noted that three questions had been raised:-

- Did the Authority get recompensed for any costs incurred during the merger?
- Was it illegal for plain clothes Officers to enter a house without identifying themselves to the owner?
- Will PCSOs in Lancashire be given any extra powers?

It was agreed that as these were particular questions, a suitable answer would be placed in the Pennine Edition of the Dialogue Newsletter.

02/07 RESOLVED:-

1. that the Summary of Issues raised at the Police Authority Community Meetings be noted.
2. that a report be presented at the next meeting on the powers of PCSOs within Lancashire's Divisions.
3. That a report be presented at the next meeting on the Communications Rooms.

THE FUTURE ROLE OF POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The Forum received a report on the future role of Police Authority Community meetings.

It was noted that the Police Authority Community Meetings were last reviewed in 2001 and that the Police Authority considered that the time was now right to take another look at them. It was important that the Police Authority worked effectively with Partners and there was real concern that there was a duplication of consultation and meetings. The Authority, therefore, was looking at ways of ensuring the most effective format for meetings, both at district and Force-wide level as well as looking at possibility of joint collaborations to host public meetings such as working with disability groups and deaf PACT meetings.

There was a mixed response from the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the PAC meetings with some reporting good attendance and others reporting poor attendance. Those Chairs and Vice-Chairs who indicated a poor turnout agreed that with the cost of Officer time many meetings were perceived to be a poor use of resources. However, there was a strong voice from all Chairs and Vice-Chairs that publicity for PAC meetings was needed to be greatly improved. There was also concern that with regards to the last review, the number of PACs had already been reduced from 4 to 3 per year.

It was noted that there was no intention of reducing the number of meetings further, but rather develop the existing arrangements to more effectively engage with the public. With the introduction of Lancashire Locals by LCC and PACT meetings by Constabulary, there was a consensus that there were now too many similar meetings and there was a strong need to reduce duplication by combining meetings. However, it was important to remember that Lancashire Police Authority was a single service authority as opposed to the County Council and District Councils who were multi-service authorities. There was also concern that meetings would become political rather than concentrating on policing issues should PAC meetings combine with Lancashire Locals.

The Forum felt that there was a need for a mechanism which would hold the Police to account, give the public access to senior Police Officers and Members of the Police Authority and that considered strategic issues as opposed to local issues such as those currently raised at PAC meetings.

03/07 RESOLVED:- That:

1. there was a need to have a high level ability to hold the Police to account.
2. there was a need to avoid duplication of different bodies such as area committees, Lancashire Locals and PACT.
3. the importance of publicity should be readdressed.
4. there was not a 'one size fits all' resolution and therefore different mechanisms may need to be in place for different areas.
5. the Chief Executive be asked to write to all Local Authorities seeking their present consultation and community engagement mechanisms to see where possible duplication may occur.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SERVICE STANDARDS

The Forum received a report on the Constabulary's Public Assistance and Service Standards to deal appropriately and proportionately with incidents reported by members of the public.

The Forum was happy with the response criteria for grade 1 emergencies. However, considerable concern was raised regarding grade 2 response times in respect of vulnerable victims' and the Forum asked for greater clarity on this area.

By way of background, Superintendent McMahon informed the Forum that in the last quarter the constabulary had received around 440,000 calls - in the previous year (06/07) the Constabulary had received over 1.7 million calls it had to try and grade these calls according to the need of the public. The Forum also noted that the Constabulary, between April and June 2007, had answered over 90% of all 999 calls within 10 seconds (the target being 90% within 10 seconds) and 89.9% of non-999 calls were answered within 40 seconds (the target being 90% within 40 seconds).

With regards to grade 2 response Superintendent McMahon advised the Forum that it was expected that officers should be responding to such incidents as expeditiously as possible and within the hour. He also outlined instances where a faster response would be required – for example, incidents of violence and where there was a crime in progress. Listening to the concerns raised by the members of the Forum, Superintendent McMahon agreed that there was a need to change the wording contained within the template (that had been circulated with the briefing paper) surrounding the grade 2 responses to give the meeting more clarity as to the type of response the public would receive.

04/07 RESOLVED:- That a further report be presented to the meeting in November setting out the allocation of resources and the training received by staff in connection with the response times.

THE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF POLICE OFFICERS FROM ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

The Forum received an update on the recruitment and retention of Police Officers from ethnic communities. In response to a question from the Forum, it was noted that the Constabulary did have exit interviews for all members of staff who left the Constabulary.

05/07 RESOLVED:- That the report be noted.

INVESTORS IN POLICING

The Forum received and noted a report on the launch of the Police Authority's Investors in Policing campaign.

06/07 RESOLVED:- That the report be noted.

OPINION

The Forum received a copy of the participant feedback Newsletter, Opinion, and suggested that future areas of questions be centred on road safety, in particular, speed cameras, standards of driving and road policing.

07/07 RESOLVED:- That the participant feedback Newsletter, Opinion, be noted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

08/07 RESOLVED:- That the next meeting was scheduled to be held at 10:00am on Wednesday the 21st November 2007 at County Hall Preston.

MIRANDA CARRUTHERS-WATT
Chief Executive



PARTNERSHIPS FORUM

21ST NOVEMBER 2007

PART I

POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY MEETING FOR LANCASTER HELD ON TUESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2007 AT MORECAMBE TOWN HALL

- It was requested that an item be discussed on CrimeStoppers at the next meeting.
- A query as to why all people in attendance are not noted on the attendance sheet.
- A request that people be identified in the Minutes. It was noted that this would be discussed further by the Police Authority to ensure that there was a common approach to writing the Minutes across the County. It was also noted that some people again may wish to remain anonymous within the Minutes.
- A member of the meeting highlighted problems with vandalism and anti-social behaviour and congratulated Inspector Gary Roberts that there had been more Police presence and this was very positive.
- A comment that Police & Community Support Officers were not taken seriously.
- A suggestion that there needed to be more Police Officers visibly on the beat during the evening.
- Enforcement of Cycling on pavements.
- Whether horses were allowed on the pavements.
- Cars obstructing the pathway.
- Drinking and prostitution problems on Moor Lane and near to the Lancaster Canal.
- Concern about safety on the Lancaster & Morecambe Cycle path.
- Whether the alcohol banning zones would be extended?
- A request for more advertising of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes to let people know where they are and how to become involved.

POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY MEETING FOR WYRE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2007 AT THE WYRE CIVIC CENTRE

- Complaints relating to Poulton's licensed premises at the weekends - that bottles were taken out of venues and that some clubs were charging £10 inviting individuals to drink as much as they liked for this entrance fee impacting on alcohol related antisocial behaviour.
- Suggestion that there should be a ban across the whole of Wyre with regard to drinking outside of licensed premises, ie, on the streets.
- Whether an increase in bicycle theft in Fleetwood suggested that these items were 'stolen to order'.
- Information on legalities regarding mobility scooter use on both roadways and pavements, as this was an issue, particularly in the Knott End area.
- Whether Lancashire was to introduce 16 or 17 year old PCSOs?
- Whether there was a proposed introduction to make taser gun use more widespread.
- Whether there was a need to introduce more CCTV and whether it actually led to an increase in convictions.
- An assurance was sought that domestic violence would also be looked at from the perspective of a male victim in terms of support available.
- Concern was raised that the venue used for the successful diversionary activities for young people in Fleetwood during the winter months last year would not be available this year.
- Whether there were restrictions on the Fixed Penalty Notices that could be issued by PCSOs.
- Whether PCSOs were able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to individuals under the age of 18.
- A request that PCSOs were provided with better tools to do their jobs.
- A concern as to the number of Fixed Penalty Notices that were actually paid and how this impacted on taxpayer money and that payment of Fixed Penalty Notices needed to be better enforced.
- Confirmation of the highway proposals from Shard Bridge to Garstang Road in Poulton.
- Keeping the public informed in relation to burnt out cars that were found in rural areas particularly to individuals residing in the areas.
- With reference to alleygates in Fleetwood, certain individuals had been consulted on where these gates should go, but no further progress had been made on this matter.

POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY MEETING FOR RIBBLE VALLEY HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2007 AT THE RIBBLE VALLEY COUNCIL OFFICES

- Concerns regarding road safety following recent fatal accidents in the Ribble Valley area – A59 / Pendle Road, Clitheroe and Mellor Lane.
- Speeding traffic on Ribchester Road, Clayton-le-Dale.
- Speeding traffic on Chatburn Road, Clitheroe.
- Speeding traffic at Ramsgreave – up towards the Spread Eagle Pub
- Volume of traffic / dangerous driving into Mellor Brook from the Fielding Arms to the by-pass.
- Council-tax precept

POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY MEETING FOR BLACKPOOL HELD ON THURSDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2007 AT PARK SCHOOL, BLACKPOOL

- Concerns about community issues such as fear of crime.
- Unacceptable street behaviour due to drinking
- Lack of foot officers and officers on bikes
- Concerns over people rider bikes on pavements and without lights

POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY MEETING FOR FYLDE HELD AT HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2007 AT THE YMCA, ST ANNES ON SEA

- Concern that a huge number of representatives do not regularly attend the meetings.
- A request for PACT to be included in the terms of reference.
- The need for a divisional neighbourhood watch co-ordinators meeting.
- The need for the Authority to refresh the representative list by writing out to members of the PAC.
- Confusion for the public as PSCO's look like police officers (uniform) but do not have the same powers.
- Concern that the police stations in Fylde are often closed.
- Concern that reoccurring issues raised through PACT are not addressed leading to lack of confidence in the process (Wrea Green Parish).
- Dilution of crime statistics and that this issue should be raised by the Police Authority to the Government.

- That PCSO's are powerless and that there are communication problems (Kilmhouse estate).
- Concern that crime is recorded but it isn't followed up.
- Tackling youth nuisance should be more than moving the problem from one area to another.
- Whether there should be a blanket drinking ban across Fylde.
- That issues raised more than twice at PACT should then be brought to the PAC meeting.
- That speed restrictions should be consistent on Squires Gate Lane (across the Blackpool and Lancashire border area).
- Consider the frequency of PAC meetings in the Review.
- Making a positive impact on the community in rural Fylde, a PSCO had successfully set up a youth club to provide a diversionary activity for young.

POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY MEETING FOR PRESTON HELD AT HELD ON MONDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2007 AT ST STEPHEN'S C OF E SCHOOL, PRESTON

- That reassurance work with both the muslim and non muslim community is needed during the pending murder trial.
- Concerns around gun crime and how often guns are deployed in Lancashire.
- Concerns around the sale of imitation guns.
- Complaint that police response and approach was not systematic to deal with persistent antisocial behaviour in Frenchwood, Preston.
- The need for more round the clock CBM presence.
- That PACT had changed from Police and Communities together to Partners and communities together in some wards without consultation.
- That neighbourhood watch needed more publicity.
- Comment that things had improved in Preston over the last 12 months

POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY FOR SOUTH RIBBLE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 4TH OCTOBER AT PENWORTHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE.

- Spids not being used
- Elderly people frightened to go out at nights due to youth intimidation.
- Car parking in a cul-de-sac causing problems with bin collection.

POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY MEETING FOR WEST LANCASHIRE HELD ON MONDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER 2007 AT DIGMOOR COMMUNITY CENTRE, SKELMERSDALE

- Comments on poor press handling and reporting
- No speed indicators on A59 Southport Road and 4 car accidents

POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY MEETING FOR CHORLEY HELD AT HELD ON THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2007 AT COPPULL YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

- A plea from the public for local agencies to do all they could to tackle the problems arising from young people drinking alcohol and then causing a nuisance and antisocial behaviour.
- Praise for the very good police service in Coppull.
- Positive feedback about the very effective contribution made by the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in Astley Village, especially in dealing with local nuisance problems. Conversely, concerns about the police officer response to requests for help and non-attendance at community meetings in the village.
- Positive comments about the contribution by police officers and PCSOs in Brindle and Hoghton.
- Enquiries about the police policy on gun crime, about the law relating to the setting off of fireworks and why the police did not stop vehicles parking on zebra crossings.
- A suggestion that people fined for using mobile phones while driving be named and shamed in local newspapers. (This was already done by the Wigan Observer.)

POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY MEETING FOR BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN HELD ON MONDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2007 AT GREENFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE, BLACKBURN

- Improving communication and relationships between the Constabulary and young people.
- Concern was raised regarding a paedophile that had been housed opposite the Community Centre whilst on bail; he had now been sentenced to a number of years in prison.
- The role of PCSOs in the community.

POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY MEETING FOR BURNLEY HELD ON MONDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2007 AT HOWARD STREET COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

- Concern that a huge number of representatives do not regularly attend the meetings.
- Antisocial behaviour due to poor landlords and problem families.
- Issues with PACT meetings that they are cancelled or officers fail to attend.
- Problems on Friday and Saturday nights with youth nuisance and antisocial behaviour.

- Issues with officers driving past incidents.
- The need for feedback to the community on actions undertaken by officers.
- Drug problems in the area.
- Lenient sentences given by the courts.
- A request for a representative from Calico to attend the next meeting.
- A request for a representative from the Community Safety Partnership to attend the next meeting.

POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY MEETING FOR PENDLE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2007 AT FOULRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

- Was there a mandatory speed limit of 20mph outside all primary schools?
- Why was there such a time delay in put in place speed cameras in the area?

POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY MEETING FOR ROSSENDALE HELD ON THURSDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2007 AT THE RIVERSIDE WHITWORTH CIVIC HALL

- Speeding traffic in Whitworth.
- Underage drinking in Stacksteads.
- The Restorative Justice scheme.
- Consultation with Young People regarding the relocation of a youth shelter



PARTNERSHIPS FORUM

21ST NOVEMBER 2007

PART I

THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE PARTNERSHIPS FORUM

Appendix A refers

ISSUE FOR CONSIDERATION

The future role of the Partnerships Forum within the Authority's decision making and planning processes.

INFORMATION

The Police Authority is currently reviewing its Committee structure as part of an overall review of the way the authority conducts its business.

To assist the authority in that process the Forum is asked to consider the following areas. To assist the Forum a copy of its current Terms of Reference is attached at Appendix A.

- The effectiveness of the Forum.
- The membership of the Forum. Should the membership of the Forum be opened up to other organisations and partner agencies?
- Whether or not the work of the Forum is duplicated anywhere else.
- Whether there are any areas of responsibility that the Partnerships Forum could develop in the future.

The work of the Forum may also be affected by the ongoing review of the PACs and a report setting out the findings will be presented in due course.

DECISION REQUIRED

The views of the Forum are sought.

Background Papers

None

Report Author

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PARTNERSHIPS FORUM

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Partnership's roles are to:

1. to advise the External Relations Committee on the discharge of its duties and responsibilities;
2. to share best practice in respect of consultation, promote joint working, understanding and networking between partners; and to encourage interagency consultation and data sharing;
3. to support the Authority's community consultation planning process making sure all parts of the community have opportunity to voice opinions, and to represent Lancashire's communities and their interests to the External Relations Committee;
4. to support benchmarking, scrutiny and evaluation of the Authority's consultation process, its consultation strategy and performance against targets;
5. to consider equality and diversity matters which are relevant to the business of the Forum.