



CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

21st July 2011

1. MEETING

The Authority last met on 20 May 2011 which was the AGM

Set out below are some of the issues discussed

2. POLICE AUTHORITY APPOINTMENTS

The Authority has re - elected Peter Conniff as the Chair and the Authority and Linda Hockey as the Vice Chair for 2011/12. The Authority has also appointed the Vice Chair to the Central Beds LSP and Penny Fletcher to the Central Bedfordshire Community Safety Executive CSP

3. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATION

Following the local elections across the whole county in May it was necessary for each council to nominate and appoint members to the Police Authority. The means by which members are appointed is via the Bedfordshire Police Authority's Joint Selection Committee which is governed by the three Bedfordshire councils.

The Joint Selection Committee had met immediately before the Authority's AGM and appointed the following Local Authority Representatives to the Authority:

Fiona Chapman, Doreen Gurney, Peter Hollick and Iain Mackilligan from Central Bedfordshire Council and Colleen Atkins and Sarah Holland from the Bedford Borough Council.

The Joint Selection Committee did not agree to the nominations submitted by the Luton Borough Council as they had not followed the recommended political allocation.

Luton Borough Council had therefore been asked to review their nominations. The Bedfordshire Police Authority Joint Selection

Committee expects to meet before the next meeting of the Police Authority which is on 22 July to consider the revised nominations and determine Luton Borough Council's appointments to the Authority.

The Police Authority expressed concerns that Luton Borough would not be represented at any of the Committee meetings until this matter was resolved, particularly with the significant changes being developed and implemented over the next 4 months, and hoped that the three councils were able to resolve the matter promptly.

4 BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HERTFORDSHIRE STRATEGIC POLICING ALLIANCE AGREEMENT

The Authority has approved a Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Strategic Policing Alliance Agreement which will enable the progress of collaboration ventures in the areas of Protective Services, Organisational Support Services and Operational Support Services

The Framework Agreement sees the formalisation of the joint working arrangements and includes details of the purpose and scope of the alliance, how it will be delivered and governed as well as outlining the financial arrangements between the three forces and authorities.

The alliance will bring savings of up to £20m per year across the three forces by the end of 2015. These savings will be crucial in helping each force to maintain delivery of frontline policing to communities in the face of the current financial challenges.

The programme team is actively pursuing a wide range of joint working options for the three forces across all the areas above except those aspects of service delivery that are delivered locally, either singly or in partnership with other agencies. The objective is to build greater efficiency, effectiveness and resilience whilst protecting frontline services.

The three-force programme is building on the success of the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Joint Collaboration Programme which has, since 2007, developed 13 joint units. A joint Procurement Department was also recently established for all three forces.

The Chair and Chief Constable are offering to meet with the Leader of each council and/or representatives to provide details of the changes, particularly in relation to the Strategic Alliance and Local Policing.

5 ANNUAL REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE

The Authority considered annual performance reviews in relation to police performance, professional standards and the People and

Leadership Strategy. Progress against the activities in the Policing plan was also reported upon.

Police performance in the first 6 months of the year had been disappointing and the Authority has accepted that the merger debate had contributed to this downturn in police performance leading to an overall increase in recorded crime of 3.5% (1495 more crimes compared to the previous year) by the year end.

However, there has been noticeable up-turn in performance over the last six months, which has continued into the first month of the current year. Through more effective policing of the night time economy, management of high risk domestic violence, disruption of gang activities and improved crime classification the Most Serious Violent crime rate exceeded the 16% reduction stretch target set by the Authority.

To ensure that the momentum is maintained the Authority has asked for a report to be taken to the next Performance Scrutiny Committee on Serious Acquisitive Crime, looking at areas where crime has increased the most.

The Authority is pleased to see that, thanks to effective local policing, anti-social behaviour has dropped by 13%, which means over 5000 fewer incidents. Local residents and businesses have consistently raised this as an area of concern, so the downward trend is good news.

In addition, criminals across the county are increasingly being hit in their own pockets. Bedfordshire Police has recovered nearly £1.5m of ill-gotten gains in the last 12 months, of which a proportion is returned to Bedfordshire to help fight crime.

Disappointingly, the Authority's targets for victim satisfaction were missed, primarily regarding keeping victims informed about their case. This is something that the Authority will continue to focus upon, understanding its importance and the link with public confidence.

The Police Authority will scrutinise this year's performance against the ambitions in the Strategic Policing Plan 2011-15 launched in April, using a balanced scorecard approach and evaluation reports.

Key Performance Facts for April 2011 compared to April 2010

Recorded Crime

- Violence Against the Person – 828 offences, an increase of 13.4% (equating to 98 more victims)
- Sexual Offences – 27 offences, a reduction of 42.6% (20 fewer victims)
- Burglary Dwelling – 235 offences, a reduction of 27.0% (87

fewer victims)

- Burglary Other – 227 offences, a reduction of 15.9% (43 fewer victims)
- Robbery – 63 offences, a reduction of 13.7% (10 fewer victims)
- Theft of a vehicle – 62 offences, a reduction of 34% (32 fewer victims)
- Theft from a vehicle – 301 offences, a reduction of 13.3% (46 fewer victims)

PETER HOLLICK
REPORT OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY