



CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

14 June 2012

1. MEETING

The Authority last met on 30 May 2012 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 the final 6 months of the Authority.

3. ANNUAL REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE

Members have praised new performance figures which show the Force has dramatically improved its status in the national ranking for solving the most prolific crimes during the past year.

Annual data has revealed that the Force has achieved its target to rank 20th or better, nationally, in four out of five priority crime types; domestic burglary, vehicle crime, most serious violence and serious sexual offences in line with the ambition to ensure that people in Bedfordshire are less likely to be a victim of crime.

The biggest improvements were recorded in serious sexual offences detections which saw force performance increase from 20% in 2010/11 to 46% in 2011/12 and resulted in a rank change of 40th place to 1st. The detection rate of the domestic burglary category also improved considerably from 16% to 20.4% - placing the force 17th nationally.

In the four priority crime areas (domestic burglary, vehicle crime, most serious violence and serious sexual offences), the force had climbed no fewer than 92 places in the national rankings for crime detection since March 2011 – an average of 23 places for each crime type.

Meanwhile, recorded crime has fallen across many major crime categories including the overall number of recorded crimes which has dropped from 43,617 offences in 2010/11 to 40,795 in 2011/12 (6.5% or 2822 offences) – a reduction of eight offences every day.

Figures for domestic burglary – a key aim outlined in the force's Policing Plan – show the force has reduced the number of offences from 3,923 to 3,149 in 12 months – a drop of 2.1 offences a day. The performance figures also show

most serious violent offences fell by 34% (118 offences) in the 12 months ending March 31 this year while anti-social behaviour – another important ambition set out by the Force and the Authority - dropped by 8.6%.

Earlier this year, the Authority and Force agreed the Policing Plan 2012-16 which set out four clear ambitions for performance: protection of life, protection from violence, protection of property and protection from disorder. The figures show many of the goals are already being achieved as well as the Force and Authority's efficiency drive, which has delivered major savings to the budget.

These improvements are due to a series of innovations in the way the force have been investigating crime and include the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme and improved forensics within Serious Acquisitive Crime investigations. The new policing model has enabled more Officers to be on the streets to tackle volume crime and this has had a positive effect on offence levels, which has fallen across many areas. However the Force are still below the desired target public satisfaction rates, which have slightly improved during the past 12 months but will continue to be a focus in 2012/13. The challenge now lies in strengthening Police performance further over the next six months as we prepare to hand over the reins to the incoming Police and Crime Commissioner.

4. BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HERTFORDSHIRE STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

Members have received an overview of the collaboration work that Bedfordshire had undertaken with Hertfordshire and from May 2011 with Cambridgeshire as part of the Strategic Alliance.

Under the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Collaboration Programme by April 2011 there were 13 collaborative units and one with Cambridgeshire delivering, mainly Protective Service functions across two Forces and generating some £4.4M of cash savings per annum.

In the new Strategic Alliance it is aimed to deliver approximately £20M of cashable savings through the collaboration of the three Forces Protective Services, Operational Support and Organisational Support functions

In respect of Protective Services four went live between January 2012 and April 2012, these being Professional Standards, Scientific Services, Major Crime and Armed Policing. Through collaboration in these areas the three Forces had delivered annual savings within 2012/13 of some £2.55M. These are expected to increase by some £0.95M, as well as providing significant levels of capability and capacity across the three Forces. A business case was approved at a special meeting of the Authority in April for a collaborated Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism unit which would go live in November 2012 and is expected to deliver savings of some £0.250M. Business Cases are expected to be submitted to the next meeting of the Authority for the Dogs, Operational Planning and Roads Policing Units. These are expected to bring with them a level of cash savings as well as a greater ability to protect local policing resources. Work also continued on Serious and Organised Crime and it was expected that the first phase Business Case for this area would be presented to Authorities later in the year.

In terms of the Organisational Support work stream which covers all of the

support service departments including Human Resources, Finance, ICT and Estates savings of around £10 to £12M are expected to be achieved across the three Forces through streamlining these functions. Police Authority members in the three counties will be asked to consider later this month how these services could be delivered in future as part of a joint recommendation made by the three chief constables which proposes the development a full business case outsourcing support services through the existing Lincolnshire Police framework, with G4S as the supplier. The Police Authority will be holding a special meeting on 28th June to consider the proposal.

In terms of the Operational Support work stream which includes activities such as Contact Management, Call Handling and Criminal Justice it is anticipated that a report would be considered by Chief Officers in June suggesting what a collaborative Contact Management function would look like and work will also commence in June on the creation of business cases for the remainder of the Operational Support functions with business cases expected to be completed by the commencement of the new calendar year.

A business case for the centralisation of the camera tickets and collisions administrative functions was approved at the meeting which would provide potential efficiencies in the region of £573,000K

5. TRANSITION TO POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS

With less than six months to go until the election of Bedfordshire's first Police and Crime Commissioner Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is undertaking a programme of support and challenge meetings to monitor risks associated with the transition from police authorities to police and crime commissioners.

An identified risk for a successful transition is the failure of partners to establish the arrangements for the election, police and crime panel and community safety arrangements. Central Bedfordshire Council is one of the statutory partners that share this risk with the Authority and are members of the Transition Programme Board. The inspection reviewed all risks facing the Police Authority in fulfilling its statutory duties, including holding the Chief Constable to account and making key decisions as well as ensuring a seamless handover to the PCC and the effectiveness of the arrangements for stakeholder engagement during the transition. A public facing report will be issued in mid July however the initial feedback from the inspection was positive for Bedfordshire Police Authority and its partners.

PETER HOLLICK

REPRESENTATIVE ON THE BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY