



## **CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

**13th September 2012**

### **1. MEETING**

The Authority last met on 13 July

Set out below are some of the issues discussed

### **2. OPERATIONAL POLICING REVIEW**

A new operational policing model was introduced within the Force in October 2011. This model saw the implementation of a functional policing structure designed to achieve the Force purpose of 'fighting crime and protecting the public'. The Operational Policing Model has been in place for over 6 months and the model has been reviewed in light of the strategic intentions, performance imperatives and the need to realise further cuts of up to £7.5m over the next two years in order to meet the funding gap.

The challenge for the review was to look at how things could be done differently with less money whilst continuing to drive down crime, increase victim satisfaction and maintain performance in solving crime. The findings indicated that the model is working well and without the financial challenges would be retained.

A revised model has therefore evolved from the findings with the focus of improving performance in priority areas, removing supervision through brigading and increased leadership visibility. The main change to the structure is that the local policing operations teams will be based at North and South hubs. The Luton and Kempston Headquarters will provide a start and end point for each shift which will include briefing and tasking sessions. The other stations across the county will be available to meet other working needs during shifts. The required savings would be met through the reduction of up to 100 Police officers and 56 PCSOs, together with a review of estates strategy and fleet strategy.

The detailed design for the revised model was expected to be completed by the end August 2012 with a view to a staged implementation from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 over the next four years.

The estates review is currently underway which is looking at how each of the police properties is being utilised to identify whether there are an opportunities to provide savings by releasing underutilised buildings to plug the funding gap without impacting on the service provided to the public. This review is still at the evidence gathering stage and therefore no decisions have been made by

the Chief Constable or Police Authority on any sites. There is a commitment in reviewing the Estates that the Force would retain a visible foothold in those areas that required a police presence although this might not be in a standalone police station but through co-location with partners, public or private. No decision is likely before the end of the year. Any such decision would need to be informed by the alternative options available to meet the commitment of a police presence.

A wide ranging communication activity will be put in place to explain the changes.

### **3. REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE**

Improved performance over the past year has continued into the first quarter of the year. The latest figures available at the time of the meeting indicated that overall crime was down by 17.7% in comparison with the same period in the previous year but was 9% below the overall crime objective for 2012/13.

The numbers of burglaries, vehicle crime and most serious violence continued to reduce and were in line to meet the end of year objectives in both crime investigation and crime reduction. The challenge remained around reducing the level of robberies which had only seen a 3% reduction on the previous year. Robbery detections are however beginning to show an upward trend.

Dealing with Anti Social Behaviour also remains a challenge for the Force and the Authority is keen to see that the recommendations flowing from the 2012 inspection on Anti-Social Behaviour by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary are progressed to a point that will be acceptable for the handover to the new Police and Crime Commissioner in November. To this end Members will receive an update on progress at each meeting of the Authority.

### **4. BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HERTFORDSHIRE STRATEGIC ALLIANCE**

Good progress is being made against the Strategic Alliance objectives of delivering approximately £20M of cashable savings through the collaboration of the three Forces Protective Services, Operational Support and Organisational Support functions.

#### **Protective Services**

The four collaborative units Professional Standards, Scientific Services, Major Crime and Armed Policing that went live in April will deliver some £3.0M of cashable savings.

In other areas of Protective Services the business case for Counter Terrorism & Domestic Extremism has now been agreed by all three Police Authorities and is at the early stages of implementation. Also at implementation stage are additional elements of Scientific Services relating to Visual Evidence and Scenes of Crime.

Three further business cases in relation to a collaborative Dogs Unit, Operational Planning Unit and Roads Policing Unit have also been approved by and will deliver a further £3.0M of cashable savings.

This now means that all of the Protective Service functional areas, except the complex area of Serious and Organised Crime for which work has commenced, will be delivered collaboratively by the end of this financial year, delivering over £6.0M of cashable savings.

### **Operational Support**

In respect of Operational Support the business case for Camera, Tickets and Collisions and has now been agreed by all three Police Authorities and therefore is in the early stages of implementation. This business case provides savings of over £0.5M.

Further work is now underway considering other areas of Operational Support. A paper on Contact Management is currently being developed to determine an appropriate method of delivery for the Alliance. In addition scoping work with regards to Custody, Criminal Justice, Firearms Licensing and other areas of Operational Support is soon to commence.

### **Organisational Support**

The Outline Business Case (OBC) for Organisational Support was presented to the Authority on the 28<sup>th</sup> June. It was agreed that the recommended collaborative option included within the OBC, an outsourcing option based upon the Lincolnshire contract with G4S, should be subject to further work to bring a full business case back to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), once in post. In addition it was agreed that an alternative option be developed in parallel by the Chief Constable for consideration by the PCC.

Work continues in accordance with this decision and the work to develop the full business case will continue to scrutinise the Lincolnshire Police/G4S contract and assess the ability of the contract to meet the specific requirements of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire.

The full business case will be completed over the next few months, ready for consideration and a decision by the Chief Constables in conjunction with the incoming Police and Crime Commissioners. In Bedfordshire the PCC will have an alternative option to consider alongside the outsourcing option.

## **5 TRANSITION TO POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

The findings of the recent inspection on Bedfordshire Police Authority's preparations for the transition to police and crime commissioner have been published and are in the public domain. The report concludes that the Authority has put in place sound plans for managing the handover to PCCs and that the Police Authority remains fully committed to ensuring business as usual.

The Transition Programme Board, which has Central Bedfordshire representation, regularly considers the risks relating to transition. There is a shared risk with our partners 'Failure of partners to deliver the PCC Election, set up the Police and Crime Panel and Force-wide community safety arrangements' which is currently assessed as green, there are no issues that need to be brought to Central Bedfordshire Council's attention at this time.

**PETER HOLLICK**  
**REPRESENTATIVE ON THE BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY**