

GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD

Council Chamber, Town House, Aberdeen, 10th September 2010 - Minute of Meeting of GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD.

Present:- Councillor Greig, Convenor
Councillor Collie
Councillor Dunbar
Councillor Farquharson
Councillor Fleming (as substitute for Councillor Howie)
Councillor Hendry
Councillor Lonchay (as substitute for Councillor Al-Kowarri)
Councillor Mair
Councillor McKail
Councillor Penny
Councillor K Stewart
Councillor Webster

In Attendance:- Mr Colin McKerracher, Chief Constable, Grampian Police
Mr Derek Penman, Assistant Chief Constable, Grampian Police
Ms Karen Williams, Director of Corporate Services, Grampian Police
Mr Gary Black, Senior Accountant, Grampian Police
Chief Inspector Ellie Mitchell, Grampian Police
Chief Inspector Innes Walker, Grampian Police
Ms Karlyn Watt, External Auditor, Henderson & Loggie
Ms Karen Donnelly, Depute Clerk
Ms Fiona Smith, Aberdeen City Council

At 10am there was not sufficient Members present for the quorum detailed in Standing Order 7 to be reached, insofar that no Member representing Moray Council was present. As required in Standing Order 8(i) the Board waited for ten minutes. Following this wait, there was still no quorum present. Given the substance of the Meeting Agenda, the Convener resolved to continue with the meeting, deferring any matter which required a substantive decision of the Board until the next meeting of the Board. Furthermore it was noted that any resolutions taken would require to be ratified by the Board at the next Board Meeting.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Depute Clerk provided a briefing to Members on the new format in use for the production of Board Agendas. She advised Members that the new format has sequential page numbers running from page 1 to the last page and that Members should refer to the page numbers printed in large text on the bottom of each page. The papers will now be available electronically and the Clerks offices are to review the distribution of papers to external agencies and contacts in order to utilise this method of

access where possible. The Board welcomed the new format and agreed that, in future, colour hard copies of the Force Quarterly Report would not be provided to Members, rather this would be available on line. In addition, it was noted that A3 sized copies of the Appendices to the Financial Monitoring Reports would be made available in hard copy to Members at the commencement of each Board Meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Al-Kowarri, Councillor Bell, Councillor Howie, Councillor McGillivray, Councillor Shepherd, Mr John McNab, Deputy Chief Constable, Grampian Police, Mr Colin Menzies, Assistant Chief Constable, Grampian Police, Mr Gary Craig, Depute Director of Corporate Service, Grampian Police, Mr Ian Robbie, External Auditor, Henderson & Loggie and Ms Jane MacEachran, Clerk.

ELECTION OF VICE CONVENER

2. This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Board given that the meeting was not quorate.

The Board Resolved:

To defer the election of a Vice Convener to the Board Meeting on 12th November 2010.

MINUTE OF GJPB MEETING OF 2ND JULY 2010

2. The Board had before it and approved as a correct record, the minute of the Board Meeting of 2nd July 2010 subject to the following amendments being made:

Item 11 Page 9	To amend the first sentence of the fourth paragraph to read 'Councillor Hendry noted that he had recently read an article within a Police Federation magazine which suggested that Officer within Grampian Police are being bullied into working additional hours for no payment or time of in lieu.'
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The Board Resolved:

To approve the Minute subject to the above amendment being made.

MATTERS ARISING

4. Item 11: The Chief Constable provided a verbal update with respect to the query raised at the last meeting by Cllr Hendry in relation to a recent Police Federation Magazine article. He advised that the

Force had challenged the basis of that article given that it was centred on the outcomes of a now out of date staff survey.

Item 12:

Cllr Hendry requested an update with respect to action taken by the Force to challenge a perceived view within the settled community that favourable treatment is given by the Police to Gypsy Travellers in the area.

The Chief Constable advised that the Force continue to use all available avenues within the Force and in joint work with partners to address any issues arising from Gypsy Travellers settlements in Grampian. He further advised that a consistent message is given to the public which is clear in terms of what the Force can and cannot do. Mr Penman advised that, in the first six months of 2010, 303 calls had been received by Grampian Police regarding Gypsy Travellers. These calls gave rise to 243 incidents being recorded which then led to 14 crime reports being submitted. Mr Penman reported that Grampian Police does not have a non-harassment policy with respect to dealing with Gypsy Traveller settlements but does apply the nationally agreed policy of non-prosecution of trespass.

Cllr Hendry stated his concern that the current policy & practice with respect to Gypsy Travellers was not sufficient and could lead to no action being taken at times when it should be. The Chief Constable assured the Board that, at all times, each incident is managed appropriately with operational review being undertaken to ensure that appropriate powers and discretion are applied. He further assured the Board that all incidents are treated equally.

Cllr K Stewart recognised that many myths and preconceptions surround Gypsy Travellers. He noted that the real issue would appear to be the lack of co-ordination and co-operation between Local Authorities and the Police in managing incidents. There was no commitment to tackling problems or to finding solutions and it is this that requires to be resolved. Cllr Stewart proposed that it would be appropriate for the Board to hold a Gypsy Travellers Summit to bring together Local Authorities, Police and other Local and National Agencies to explore the pertinent issues in Grampian and identify appropriate solutions.

The Convener supported the call for a summit, recognising this is a Grampian Wide issue to which a Grampian wide solution is required. Cllr Webster also supported the holding of a summit, recognising that the lack of official halting sites can be attributable as part of the problem. She recognised that a small number of

Gypsy Travellers give rise of the problems identified by the settled community and this gives rise to a increased feeling of antagonism by both communities. Cllr Collie also supported the proposed summit recognising that, by pulling together the expertise of all partners, a solution can be identified.

In exploring who would attend a Summit, the Board noted that all partners across the North East should be involved. Cllr K Stewart acknowledged that, in order to reach a solution to these matters, all involved have to recognise that difficult and unpopular solutions to previously raised questions will require to be addressed. In addition, the Convener noted that the Area Procurator Fiscal and appropriate officers from the Scottish Government should also attend. Finally, the Board also noted that representatives from the Gypsy Travelling community and from the settled community should also be invited to attend.

The Board resolved to instruct the Clerk to revert to a future Board meeting with proposed arrangements for a Summit on Gypsy Travellers in the North East.

Item 12: Councillor Dunbar requested feedback on her previous request that, as well as recording the number of complaints received within the Force Quarterly and Annual reports, the total number of complainers should also be detailed. The Chief Constable advised that this request had been overlooked accidentally and advised he would ensure it was acted upon in due course.

The Board Resolved:

- To instruct the Clerk to revert to a future Board meeting with proposed arrangements for a Summit on Gypsy Travellers in the North East.
- To otherwise note the matters arising.

UPDATED BUSINESS STATEMENT

5. The Board had before it the updated Board Business Statement dated 10th September 2010. The Depute Clerk provided a verbal update with respect to the statement as follows:

08/08 A paper copy of the revised Board Standing Orders was distributed to all Members at this Board Meeting. Those Board Members and Substitutes who are not in attendance will have a set sent to them in due course.

- 09/15 The Grampian Joint Police Board web page as part of the Aberdeen City Council website is now in operation and the Clerk's office are presently making arrangements for the pages to be populated. Board Agendas and Papers are now available on-line via the Board web pages.
- 09/18 Outcome of the Internal Audit Report on the Clerking function is still awaited.
- 10/01 The Clerk has written out to all of the other Police Boards in Scotland in relation to a centralised fund to deal with serious incidents but only one response has yet been received. The Clerk will report back to the Board in due course.
- 10/02 A Board Away Day was held on Friday 6th August 2010 and a further Away Day has been scheduled for Friday 1st October 2010. The Depute Clerk advised that she will submit a report to a future Board Meeting detailing a proposal to utilise the time following every second Board meeting as an informal training / briefing session for Board Members.
- 10/03 This item is complete as the Disability, Gender and Race Annual Report and Single Equality Scheme have been published on the Board web pages.
- 10/04 This item is complete as the Disability, Gender and Race Annual Report and Single Equality Scheme have been sent to the Equality and Human Rights Commission for information.
- 10/05 The Depute Clerk advised that a response is awaited from the Grampian Joint Fire & Rescue Board to the letter sent regarding joint working on the new headquarters project.
- 10/06 The Depute Clerk advised that a response is awaited from the Local Criminal Justice Board in respect to the Board's letter regarding Officer time spent in court.
- 10/07 The Depute Clerk advised that she would provide an update on this item in the private session.

The Board Resolved:

To note the updated Business Statement

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT – 31ST JULY 2010

6. The Board had before it a report from the Chief Constable and the Treasurer that presented the Revenue Budget Monitoring Report for the period to 31st July 2010. The

Director of Corporate Services introduced the Report which detailed that the Force is projecting an under spend of approximately £570,000 against an approved net revenue budget of £115.211m. The Director advised that the Force is seeking to maximise possible savings within this financial year in order to decrease the burden for identifying savings in future years. The report went on to advise of the forecast figure for Police Officer numbers which sits at 1,570 at 31st March 2011. Finally, the report advised that the forecasts indicate an increase in reserves at the end of the financial year which is being planned in order to assist with the 2011/12 budget.

Cllr McKail recognised that the decrease in officer numbers may have a negative impact on policing in Grampian and requested details of this impact from the Chief Constable. The Chief Constable advised that it is too early to identify the actual impacts however he advised the Board that any decisions regarding decreased spending would have an impact and the work on-going within Force at present seeks to minimise the impact on communities as much as possible.

Cllr K Stewart stated that the report gave assurance that the Force are carefully considering the difficult decisions that lie ahead given the current economic situation and asked for clarification that the Force is continuing to pursue all joint working solutions with partners in order to keep as much resource as possible at the front line. The Chief Constable confirmed that joint working remains a priority of the Force and advised that discussions are on-going into a number of areas in which progress can be made.

The Convener noted that the current financial report shows a positive position and he welcomed the planning for the future that the Force is presently undertaking. He recognised the current uncertainty around funding levels for future years and welcomed the responsible position adopted by the Force. He noted the very grateful thanks of the Board to the Force and the Treasurer for the on-going careful management of Finances.

The Board Resolved:

To note the Report

CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING – 31ST JULY 2010

7. The Board had before it a report from the Chief Constable and the Treasurer to update the Board on the progress of the 2010/11 Capital Plan, provide an updated projected outturn for the year and highlight any changes since the last Board report.

Mr Gary Black introduced the report and advised that the total budget allocated within the Forces Capital Plan for 2010/11 is £8,072,000. The plan has been increased by £20,000 to take account of additional funding from the Scottish Government for new cameras for the North East of Scotland Camera Partnership (NESCAMP). In addition the report outlined that an additional £18,000 projects have been approved from the

previous unallocated sum within the plan meaning that £262,000 now remains unallocated.

In noting that the Board remains committed to the future provision of forensic laboratory services in the North East, Cllr Collie welcomed the continued inclusion of the renovation of the laboratory within the Capital Plan. The Chief Constable advised that the commitment to joint fund this work with the SPSA would remain meantime.

The Board Resolved:

To note the Report

FORCE QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE REPORT 2010/11

8. The Board had before it a report from the Chief Constable summarising the Forces performance during quarter 1, 2010/2011. The report complies with requirements to provide updates on performance against indicators and presents information in line with previous reports submitted to the Board.

Assistant Chief Constable Derek Penman introduced the report. He outlined that this report covered the period during which the Force made the move to Local Policing Teams (LPT) and that the Force did anticipate that this change would have some impact on performance levels. The Assistant Chief Constable summarised that in a number of categories the levels of crimes have increased, some of this is thought to be due to the increase in local presence leading to more crimes being reported. However the Chief Constable confirmed that any increase in crime and decrease in detection is of concern and is highlighted for review. He advised that all the performance figures are analysed in Force on a regular basis in order that the operational, tactical and strategic response of the Force is tailored to the present situation.

The Assistant Chief Constable highlighted a number of positive areas identified in the report including the award of a Safety Award to the Operation Zenith currently targeting motorcyclists in an effort to reduce road injuries and fatalities.

Cllr Webster recognised that increased in levels of crime are of a concern to the Board and requested that future reports highlight what action can be taken by the Board to address this.

Cllr McKail requested information on the impact on performance levels of forthcoming budget cuts. The Chief Constable confirmed that this was not known at present, however recognised that this would present challenges to the Force in maintaining and increasing detection levels.

The Convener welcomed the report, indicating that it highlighted a range of positives as well as identifying the challenges facing Grampian Police and the North East in general.

The Board Resolved:

To note the report.

BODY WORN VIDEO PILOT

9. The Board had before it a report a report from the Chief Constable which provided an update on the use of the Body Worn Video (BWV) cameras and early evaluation results.

Assistant Chief Constable Penman introduced the report and advised that the BWV pilot continues to run. The implementation date for the pilot was 1 June 2010. Mr Penman reported that early evaluation of the pilot indicates a number of positive outcomes including reports from officers that the BWV cameras decrease the threat of physical assault from aggressive individuals; a small number of complaints being received and the quick resolution of complaints where BWV footage is available; and a saving in Officers time due to early guilty please being made due to the presence of BWV footage. Mr Penman advised that the pilot will be formally evaluated once concluded prior to the future consideration of the BWV cameras within the Force.

Cllr Collie noted that he supported the use of BWV cameras despite being sceptical when they were first suggested. He noted that the positive outcomes appear welcome and stated that he looked forward to receiving the evaluation report in due course. Cllr Hendry echoed his comments. In respect to complaints, Cllr Hendry enquired if BWV footage could be used for investigating complaints, including being submitted to PCCS is necessary. Mr Penman confirmed that this could be done.

The Convener noted that the BWV cameras are clearly a welcome addition to the crime fighting tools available. The Chief Constable advised that, pending the outcome of the formal evaluation, a business case would have to be developed looking towards the future use of the cameras, including identifying where savings could be made by incurring costs for introducing them.

The Board Resolved:

To note the report.

INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME

10. The Board had before it a report from the Depute Clerk which provided a further update in relation to the development of an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme (ICVS) in Grampian.

The Depute Clerk introduced the report and advised that it provided a summary of the position to date, identified the staffing issues within the Clerks Office which have

prevented a more speedy introduction of the scheme and outlined the project plan that has been developed which will enable visits to commence by the end of 2010.

The Depute Clerk further advised that the identification of Members to sit on the ICVS Sub Committee was of crucial importance to the success of this plan as it is Members who will appoint the volunteers to the scheme. Following discussion, Cllr Greig, Cllr Collie and Cllr McKail volunteered to sit on the Sub Committee. It was agreed that one further Member from Aberdeenshire Council and two Members from Moray Council would be sought from those Members not in attendance.

Finally, the Convener advised that he, in the absence of any other volunteer, would act as the Scheme Link Member meantime.

The Board Resolved:

To note the report

BOARD REPORT FORMAT

11. The Board had before it a report from the Depute Clerk which sought the Boards approved for a revised format to be used for all future Board Report.

The Depute Clerk introduced the report and advised that the intention of the revised format is to ensure clarity of presentation and to provide succinct details of the recommendations and potential impacts to Members which will aid consideration of the report contents. The report provided a template of the revised report format in Appendix One and an actual report in the revised format in Appendix Two.

Following discussion, the Board approved the revised Board Report Format detailed within the report.

The Board Resolved:

To approve the revised Board report format and instruct Officers that it be used for all future reports to the Board.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS – 2011

12. The Board had before it a report from the Depute Clerk which sought the Boards views in respect to arrangements for Board Meetings during 2011.

The Depute Clerk introduced the report and advised that the dates proposed for Board and Sub Committee meetings had been prepared following consultation with the Council Diaries for the three constituent authorities and with the Force.

The Board agreed the meeting dates proposed for Board Meetings and Sub Committee Meetings in 2011.

The Board Resolved:

To approve the Board Meeting dates and Sub Committee Meeting dates for 2011 as those listed within the report.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Prior to considering the remaining items of business the Board resolved that in terms of section 50 A (4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration on the items on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the nature of proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the consideration of these items that there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of part 1 of schedule 7 A of the said Act.

VERBAL UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

13. Assistant Chief Constable Derek Penman provided the Board with a verbal update on current operational matters including details on on-going high profile enquiries, recent crime detection successes and relevant legislative changes. The Assistant Chief Constable also displayed to the Board some footage from the Body Worn Video cameras in order to demonstrate the high level of quality of the footage gathered.

The Board also received an update with respect to the work on-going in Force regarding Service Reconfiguration in light of the financial challenges which are forecast in the coming years.

The Board Resolved:

To note the update

**COUNCILLOR M GREIG
CONVENOR**