

GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD

Committee Room 2, Town House House, Aberdeen, 6th July 2012 - Minute of Meeting of **GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD**.

Present:-

- Councillor Ron McKail, Convener
- Councillor Fraser Forsyth, Vice Convener
- Councillor Ron Shepherd, Vice Convener
- Councillor Marie Boulton
- Councillor Nan Cullinane (as substitute for Councillor Evison)
- Councillor Jackie Dunbar
- Councillor Martin Greig
- Councillor Allan Hendry
- Councillor M Tauqueer Malik (as substitute for Councillor Young)
- Councillor Douglas Ross
- Councillor Cryle Shand (as substitute for Councillor Blackett)
- Councillor Angela Taylor
- Councillor Chris Tuke
- Councillor Iris Walker

In Attendance:-

- Mr Colin McKerracher, Chief Constable, Grampian Police
- Mr Colin Menzies, Deputy Chief Constable, Grampian Police
- Mr Simon Blake, Assistant Chief Constable, Grampian Police
- Mr Billy Gordon, Assistant Chief Constable, Grampian Police
- Ms Karen Williams, Director of Corporate Services, Grampian Police
- Mr Martyn Buckley, Acting Head of Finance, Grampian Police
- Chief Inspector Andy Toddy, Staff Officer, Grampian Police
- Ms Jane MacEachran, Clerk
- Ms Karen Donnelly, Depute Clerk
- Ms Fiona Smith, Policy and Advice Officer, Aberdeen City Council

OPENING REMARKS

The Convener welcomed all Members to the Board Meeting. He offered the congratulations of the Board to Mr Colin McKerracher, Chief Constable who was awarded an Honorary Doctors of Laws Degree by the University of Aberdeen on 5th July 2012. The Convener further offered the congratulations of the Board to Mr Colin Menzies, Deputy Chief Constable who was awarded the Queens Police Medal in the June 2012 Birthday Honours List.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Geva Blackett, Councillor Alison Evison, Councillor Ian Tait, Mr Barry Jenkins, Treasurer and Mr Gary Craig, Director of Finance, Grampian Police.

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY FOR SCOTLAND (HMICS)

2. The Convener welcomed Mr Andrew Laing, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland and Supt Paul Bullen, Inspection Manager, HMICS to the Board Meeting and invited them to address the Board.

Mr Laing thanked the Board for providing an opportunity for Supt Bullen and himself to attend the Board Meeting. He advised that he wished to use this opportunity to introduce the role of HMICS to Board Members, to update the Board on the current activities of HMICS and to advise Members of the support available from HMICS to the Board and Force.

Mr Laing and Supt Bullen provided a detailed overview on these topics. There followed an opportunity for a question and answer session and Members were provided with additional information about the HMICS role in monitoring policing performance, the future inspection regime and the independence which underpins the HMICS remit.

MINUTE OF GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD MEETING – 8TH JUNE 2012

3. The Board had before it, and approved as a correct record, the minute of the meeting held on 8th June 2012.its

The Board resolved:-

To approve the minute as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

4. With reference to Item 5, Cllr Greig sought an update with respect to arrangements for recruitment of more volunteers to participate in the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme. The Depute Clerk advised that this matter has not been progressed given the limited time period between the last Board Meeting and this one and will be attended too over the summer recess.

The Board resolved:-

To note the matters arising.

GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD - UPDATED BUSINESS STATEMENT

5. The Board had before it the updated Board Business Statement dated 6th July 2012.

The Depute Clerk advised that, in relation to 12/04, the Force confirmed that the requested information had been provided to Cllr Hood and therefore the Board agreed that this item was concluded and could be removed from the statement.

In relation to 12/05 to note that Sub Committee appointments are awaited from Aberdeenshire Council and the Board requested that those Members from Aberdeenshire advise the Depute Clerk of appointments as quickly as possible.

In relation to 12/06, to note that Cllr Hendry had been provided with the information sought and therefore the Board agreed that this item was concluded and could be removed from the statement.

The Board resolved

To remove items 12/04 and 12/06 from the statement; and to otherwise note the statement.

POLICE REFORM PROGRAMME

6. The Board received a verbal report from the Chief Constable and the Depute Clerk which provided an update on the Police Reform Programme.

Ms Donnelly advised that the Police Reform (Scotland) Bill passed stage 3 of the Scottish Parliamentary process in early July and that Royal Assent is now required.

The process for the recruitment of the Chair of the Scottish Police Authority has commenced and the recruitment processes for Authority Members and the Chief Constable will commence shortly.

Ms Donnelly further advised that a national information event for Police Board Members regarding Police Reform is presently being organised for late August 2012 and that further details on this will be forwarded to all Members once available.

The Chief Constable confirmed that much work is on-going in developing the Police Service for Scotland although much of the future shape of the service will not be known until the Chief Constable is appointed. Grampian Police are very much involved in many aspects of forward planning for services in the Police Service for Scotland.

The Board resolved:-

To note the update provided.

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

7. The Board had before it a report from the Chief Constable and the Treasurer which presented the Revenue Budget Monitoring report for the period to 31st May 2012.

The Director of Corporate Services introduced the report which detailed the Force's annual budgeted revenue expenditure, associated funding and actual spending as at 31st May 2012, as provided at Appendix A to the report.

It was noted that it is very early in the financial year, however an underspend of £0.162m as at 31st March 213 is presently being projected.

The Board resolved:-

To note the report.

CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

8. The Board had before it a report from the Chief Constable and the Treasurer which provided an update on the 2012/13 Capital Plan.

The Director of Corporate Services introduced the report and advised that the 2012/13 Capital Plan had a total budget of £8.418m which was funded by a combination of capital grant, capital receipts and a contribution from the revenue budget. Appendix B to the report presented the Capital Plan for 2012/13 and the three subsequent years.

The report advised that the largest project within the Capital Plan was the construction of a new custody facility within Aberdeen. The Director of Corporate Services advised that the planning application for this has now been lodged with Aberdeen City Council and it is still hoped that building work will commence in late 2012.

The Board resolved:-

To note the content of the report and approve the revised Capital Plan; and

EFFICIENCY STATEMENT 2011/12

9. The Board had before it a report from the Chief Constable which sought approval from the Board of the Efficiency Savings achieved by Grampian Police during 2011/12 as outlined in the Efficiency Statement.

The Director of Corporate Services introduced the report and outlined that the Grampian Police efficiency savings target for 2011/12 was 3%. Total savings achieved by the Force amount to £3.320m which equates to approximately 3.5% of GAE.

The report detailed the areas in which efficiency savings had been made including the reshaping of the work force through the Force Priority Service Reconfiguration, the delivery of an updated Property Asset Management Plan and the development of procurement arrangements to improve value for money.

The Director of Corporate Services further advised that the majority of achieved efficiency savings are invested into front line services.

Members welcomed the report and congratulated the Force on the excellent work undertaken to achieve the efficiency savings detailed within it.

The Board resolved:-

To note the report and approve the Efficiency Savings achieved by Grampian Police in 2011/12.

2011/12 ANNUAL FORCE PERFORMANCE REPORT

10. The Board had before it the Annual Performance Report from the Chief Constable which summarises the Force's performance during 2011/12. The report is to be considered in conjunction with the document 'Continuing our Platform for Success 2011/12' which outlines the Force's strategic direction for the year.

The Deputy Chief Constable introduced the report and detailed the highlights identified within it. These included the high level of satisfaction to service response, a decrease in road casualty figures, a decrease in group 1 – 4 crimes and the targeting of organised crime groups operating in the Grampian area.

The Deputy Chief Constable summarised for Members information the purpose of the report and the way in which it is prepared. He thereafter provided an overview of the detail of the report and invited Members to seek further information in any area of interest.

The Depute Clerk noted that the content approved by the Board previously relating to the activities of the Grampian Joint Police Board in 2011/12 had been incorporated into the report at section 1.2.

Cllr Douglas Ross sought further information in respect to waiting times for calls to the Service Centre to be answered and asked what the reasons for the rise to 40 seconds waiting were.

Assistant Chief Constable Simon Blake advised that the overall performance of the Service Centre is high however issues relating to turnover of staff and the intensive nature of initial training and mentoring for new recruits does have some impact. The Service Centre management team constantly review the operation

of the Service Centre to ensure that available staff resources are properly allocated.

Cllr Martin Greig sought further information in respect of complaint numbers. The Deputy Chief Constable noted that recorded levels of complaints fell slightly during 2011/12. He further noted that Grampian Police have a very open approach to dealing with complaints and that complaints are, where possible, resolved by Local Commanders. However, he noted that the recorded fall in complaint numbers could be a one-off and he would be more encouraged if the number continued to fall in 2012/12.

Members requested that information on the Forces compliance with the timescales detailed in the Freedom of Information Act when responding to information requests could be included in future reports alongside details of the number of requests received. It was confirmed that this will be explored with appropriate Officers.

The Convener, on behalf of the Board, congratulated the entire Force for the excellent results achieved during 2011/12. He asked the Chief Constable to ensure that these congratulations were passed back to all those involved in achieving those results.

The Board resolved:-

To note the report.

POLICE APPEALS TRIBUNAL

11. The Board had before it a report from the Depute Clerk which sought the Boards approval of a change in membership of the Police Appeals Tribunal appointed by the Board on 8th June 2012.

The Depute Clerk introduced the report and advised that, due to a change in availability, the Tribunal Chair appointed on 8th June 2012 was no longer able to fulfil that role. The report further advised that Mr Stuart Gale QC had been approached and had agreed to Chair the Tribunal. The report sought the Boards approval of that change.

The Board resolved:-

To approve the appointment of Mr Stuart Gale QC as Chair of the Police Appeals Tribunal.

GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD – SCHEME OF FUNCTIONS DELEGATED TO OFFICERS

12. The Board had before it a report from the Depute Clerk which presented a draft Scheme of Functions Delegated to Officer to the Board for approval.

The Depute Clerk introduced the report and advised that, following the review of the Boards Standing Orders conducted in 2010/11, the Scheme of Functions Delegated to Officers also required to be reviewed. The adoption of an updated Scheme of Functions Delegated to Officers will ensure that the Board's business is conducted in as efficient a way as possible.

The Board resolved:-

To approve the GJPB Scheme of Functions Delegated to Officers.

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 press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items so as to avoid disclosure of the information of the class described in the following paragraphs of Schedule 7(A) to the Act:- article 19 (paragraph 1), articles 20, 21 and 22 (paragraphs 8, 9 and 10) and article 23 (paragraph 1).

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

13. The Assistant Chief Constables provided a verbal update to Board members with respect to a range of current operational matters.

The Board resolved:-

To note the update.

FORENSIC LABORATORY ABERDEEN

14. The Board had before it a report from the Chief Constable which updated Members on the current and future accommodation requirements of the Forensic Laboratory in Aberdeen.

The Chief Constable introduced the report and summarised the key information contained within it including relating to the relocation of staff to the Forensic Laboratory and the minor works required to facilitate this move.

The Board resolved:-

To note the report.

- Councillor R McKail, Convener