

GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD

Committee Room 2, Town House Aberdeen. Minute of meeting of the **GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD** of 2 November 2012.

Present:-

- Councillor Ron McKail, Convener
- Councillor Fraser Forsyth, Vice-Convener
- Councillor Ron Shepherd, Vice-Convener
- Councillor Marie Boulton
- Councillor Alison Evison
- Councillor Martin Greig
- Councillor Allan Hendry
- Councillor Douglas Ross
- Councillor Angela Taylor
- Councillor Gordon Townson (as substitute for Councillor Jackie Dunbar)
- Councillor Chris Tuke
- Councillor Iris Walker

In Attendance:-

- Mr Colin Menzies, Deputy Chief Constable, Grampian Police
- Mr Billy Gordon, Assistant Chief Constable, Grampian Police
- Ms Karen Williams, Director of Corporate Services, Grampian Police
- Mr Gary Craig, Director of Finance, Grampian Police
- Mr Martyn Buckley, Acting Head of Finance, Grampian Police
- Chief Inspector Andy Todd, Staff Officer, Grampian Police
- Ms Rachel Browne, Audit Scotland, External Auditor
- Ms Arlene Deeming, Audit Scotland, External Auditor
- Ms Karen Riddoch, Committee Services Officer, Aberdeen City Council
- Ms Fiona Smith, Policy and Advice Officer, Aberdeen City Council

OPENING REMARKS

1. The Convener welcomed all members to the Board meeting. He highlighted that the Force Excellence Awards were held on 28 September 2012 and were a great success. The Force were pleased to confirm that following PC Kevin Lynch's nomination for the Northsound 'Local Hero' Award, as highlighted at the September Board meeting, he won the award on the night.

The Convener advised that earlier in October, the Aberdeen Division were runners-up in the Outstanding Contribution to Society category at the Grampian Chamber of Commerce Northern Star Business Awards. Aberdeen Division's nomination centred on the significant re-structure to the community focused model and their nationally recognised work around anti-social behaviour, the sex

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industry and the transformation of the city centre to one of the safest in the country.

The Convener further advised that back in August, PC Geoff Catto and PC Nikki Fowler, from the Rosemount Local Policing Team, were carrying out a routine patrol, when they were flagged down on Auchmill Road and found a woman in labour in the back seat of a car. They assisted the woman while they waited for the ambulance to arrive. Unfortunately the baby was being delivered in the breech position and the umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck. Once the paramedics arrived, PC Catto assisted by driving the ambulance to ARI, so the paramedics could concentrate on delivering the baby. Thankfully, baby Owen Farquharson was delivered safely and is now home with mum and dad in Inverurie.

The Board resolved:-

To note the information provided and to congratulate the staff involved.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jackie Dunbar, Ian Tait and Willie Young; Ms Jane MacEachran, Clerk to the Board, Mr Barry Jenkins, Treasurer; and Mr Colin McKerracher, Chief Constable and Mr Simon Blake, Assistant Chief Constable, Grampian Police.

MINUTE OF GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD OF 7 SEPTEMBER 2012

3. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 7 September 2012.

The Board resolved:-

To approve the minute subject to amending the sederunt to include Councillor Martin Greig and to amend the spelling of Councillor Allan Hendry's name.

MATTERS ARISING

4. (A) With reference to article 4 of the previous minute, the Convener requested an update on the arrangements for recruiting volunteers to participate in the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme whereupon the Depute Clerk advised that she had attended a further meeting with the Council's Press Officer and that information had been provided to the journalist who would be dealing with it. The Press Officer would like to meet with the current volunteers and then the Press the week after.

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The Convener further asked when the Board would know what was happening after 1 April, 2013, whereupon Ms Smith advised that the Scheme Administrators were to prepare a report on the Custody Visiting Scheme and that a meeting with the Chair of the Scottish Police Authority had been requested as they would be responsible for this area of work. Councillor Greig requested that an update be provided at the next meeting.

- (B) Councillor Boulton advised that after 1 April Taxi Inspectors that are currently provided by the Police were no longer going to be provided and requested an update on the position at the next meeting.
- (C) With reference to article 4 of the previous meeting, Councillor Hendry requested an update on the Forensic Laboratory, whereupon Mr Gordon advised that the SSPA had provided excellent support following recent events; that there were currently 43 members of staff based at Nelson Street; that the Procurator Fiscal had directed that all analysis was to go to Dundee.

Councillor Greig requested that the Forensic Laboratory be included on the agenda for the next meeting as it was important to know if facilities and staff were to remain in Aberdeen.

- (D) With reference to article 10 of the previous minute, Councillor Hendry asked how the Community Initiative Fund would operate after 1 April 2013, whereupon Mr Menzies advised that at present it was not known. Ms Williams advised that each area within the Force were allocated funding and that various bids had been received to date across all three areas which would be scrutinised soon. The Convener requested that a report be provided at the next meeting advising on the bids received and funding allocated.

Mr Craig advised that this was a Grampian Scheme and that there was no national scheme in place. The Depute Clerk advised that a letter could be sent to the Chair of the SPA introducing the Community Initiative Fund on behalf of the Board which would include details of where the money came from and what the funds were used for.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) To include the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme on the agenda for the next meeting;
- (ii) To include Taxi Inspectors as an item on the agenda for the next meeting;
- (iii) To include the Forensic Laboratory on the agenda for the next meeting;
- (iv) To instruct that a report on the Community Initiative Fund be provided at the next meeting; and
- (v) To instruct the Depute Clerk to write to the Chair of the SPA providing details of the Community Initiative Fund.

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GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD - UPDATED BUSINESS STATEMENT

5. The Board had before it the updated Board business statement dated 2 November 2012.

The Depute Clerk advised that item 12 on the agenda addressed the item on the business statement and therefore it could be removed.

The Board resolved:-

To remove item 12/08 from the business statement.

POLICE REFORM

6. The Board received an update from the Deputy Chief Constable relating to Police Reform. He advised that it was not known yet how the finance would be allocated and who would be accountable for it. The Organisation would have a Chief Constable (already in place) and four Deputy Chief Constables, one for each area of Crime, Territorial Policing, Events and a Designated Deputy to the Chief Constable, these roles and successful appointees would be announced at the end of November 2012. There would also be six Assistant Chief Constables. The Chief Constable had announced that there would be 14 operational divisions led by a Chief Superintendent and a designated local Commander. For this area Aberdeen would be a Division and Aberdeenshire and Moray would be a combined Division.

The Board also received an update from the Deputy Clerk wherein she advised that the 12 SPA members had been appointed and that the project was currently sitting at Amber as the staff to support the SPA had not been agreed yet. It was hoped that at a meeting in December all decisions would have been made and that the project would be signed off. The Depute Clerk advised that she would prepare a report and issue it to all members in advance of the meeting in January 2013.

Councillor Greig requested that the new Chief Constable and the Chair of the SPA be invited to a meeting of the Board to discuss the priorities for the North East. The Convener advised that this had already been done and requested that a further letter be sent to the Chair of the SPA.

The Depute Clerk advised that following 1 April, 2013, each local authority would be responsible and it would be useful to capture the knowledge of the Board to pass on the information to each local authority. She suggested that following the meeting in January, that the Board have a briefing session to identify best practice and gather information.

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The Convener requested that for future reports if it would be possible for the statistics and financial information to be broken down by constituency so that each local authority had a benchmark to compare with. The Deputy Chief Constable suggested that at the briefing session to be held in January that operational, financial and resources for each local authority be presented and discussed.

Councillor Ross sought clarification on the reduction of operational divisions to fourteen and how that would affect the current Pathfinders as the Moray one was different from the Aberdeenshire one.

The Depute Clerk advised that each local authority had to decide on how they would engage with the local Commander. The local Commander would be required to separate out the information as requested by each local authority.

Councillor Ross and Councillor Taylor requested additional information on the Voluntary Redundancy Scheme, whereupon Mr Craig advised that money had been set aside for this and that it was for Police Staff, not Police Officers.

The scheme would be consulted on with staff and trade unions before being finalised. Each Board and Force would be consulted to ensure that the needs for each area were supported. The number of staff nationally was to be reduced by approximately 1,500.

The Board resolved:-

To note the updates.

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

7. The Board had before it a joint report from the Chief Constable and the Treasurer which presented the Revenue Budget Monitoring Report for the period to 30 September, 2012.

Mr Craig introduced the report which detailed the Force's annual budgeted revenue expenditure, associated funding and actual spending as at 30 September 2012, as provided at Appendix A to the report.

It was noted that at this point in the financial year there was a projected underspend of £0.958million.

The Board resolved:-

To note the report.

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CAPITAL MONITORING - 30 SEPTEMBER 2012

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

Ms Williams introduced the report which detailed that the 2012/13 Capital Plan had a total budget of £8,457million which was funded by a combination of capital grant, capital receipts and a contribution from the revenue budget. Appendix A to the report presented the Capital Plan for 2012/13 and the two subsequent financial years.

Councillor Greig requested an update on the Peterhead Police Station and asked what the Board could do to ensure that the project was done following 1 April, 2013. Ms Williams advised that the land was currently being purchased and planning permission was being sought so that the project could be handed over to the new organisation and that it would be up to them to prioritise as they saw fit.

The Depute Clerk requested the Board to look at the priorities for the next meeting so that they could be passed to the SPA.

The Board resolved:-

To note that the police station at Peterhead was considered as a priority and that the Board had committed the project for the future.

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2011/12

9. The Board had before it a report from the Chief Constable which presented the audited and signed Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2011-12.

The report advised that Audit Scotland, the Board's external auditors had received the Draft Annual Statement of Accounts and had presented their findings to the Board's Stewardship Sub Committee on 17 September, 2012. The external auditors provided an unqualified opinion for the Accounts and stated the accounts had been prepared in accordance with statutory requirements, had adhered to professional accounting standards and that they gave a true and fair view of the Board's financial state of affairs.

Ms Williams thanked the auditors and the staff involved for the hard work undertaken in relation to the Accounts.

The Board resolved:-

To note the report.

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AUDIT SCOTLAND ANNUAL REPORT ON THE 2011/12 AUDIT

10. The Board had before it a report by Audit Scotland, external auditors which presented their audit findings for the 2011/12 Audit.

Ms Browne introduced the report and advised that Audit Scotland had given an unqualified opinion on the financial statements for the Grampian Joint Police Board for 2011/12. The Board had reported an underspend in 2011/12 of £2.996million which was transferred to the general fund balance which gave a total of £8,357million at 31 March, 2012, which had exceeded the maximum allowable cumulative carry forward balance of 8% which equated to £0.953million. The Board received ministerial approval to exceed the 8% carry forward limit.

The report advised that the Board had appropriate corporate governance arrangements in place and that there was a Members' Development Action Plan which members of the Stewardship Sub Committee had all received training to ensure the successful implementation of the plan.

Ms Browne thanked the finance staff for the assistance provided throughout the Audit process.

The Convener asked who would sign off the accounts for 2012/13 after 31 March, 2013 as the Board would not exist. The Depute Clerk advised that there would be three options, those being:- that the SPA would sign them off; the Board be extended for a period of time to ensure accounts were signed off; and that each local authority would be required to sign them off.

The Convener on behalf of the Board thanked Audit Scotland and all staff involved in the Audit for their hard work.

The Board resolved:-

To note the report.

2012/13 QUARTER 2 FORCE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2012/13

11. The Board had before it the Force Performance Report for Quarter 2 which summarised the Force's performance during Quarter 2 of 2012/13. The report should be considered in conjunction with the document "Platform for Success, Building the Future 2012/13" which outlined the Force's strategic direction for the year.

The Deputy Chief Constable introduced the report and detailed the highlights within it. These included a reduction in the number of on-duty closed allegations by 34 (17.4%); the number of Anti Social Behaviour Community

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Crimes had increased by 340 offences, however compared to the same period last year, this was an increase of 2 offences overall; there were seven fatalities arising from collisions on the roads as well as serious injuries being increased; recorded crime continued to show a downward trend with Groups 1, 2, 3 and 4 being below the baseline target figures and detection rates in Groups 2, 4 and 7 had increased;. Detection rates for Group 3 were being monitored by the Force Tactical Tasking and Co-ordinating Group. Within Criminal Justice and Tackling Crime category enforcement activity in relation to Organised Crime Groups had resulted in the recovery of Class A drugs with a street value of £140,035 and cash seizures under the Proceeds of Crime Act of £54,153.

There had been an increase in the number of children and young people who had committed crimes or offences which were dealt with by Police Direct Measures or reported to the Scottish Children's Reporter administration. The numbers had increased due to work prompted to resolve all outstanding detected cases. There was a 28% increase in the number of Anti Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Notices (740).

The Force had continued its period of recruitment with 48 Police Officers being appointed and 19 Cadets had been recruited.

Councillor Greig sought clarification on how complaints would be recorded and reported in the future whereupon the Deputy Chief Constable advised that the reply from the Head of Professional Standards on how this would be done in the future would be discussed at the Complaints Sub Committee and then submitted to the Board.

The Convener sought an explanation as to the reduced number of hours recorded by Special Constables, whereupon the Deputy Chief Constable advised that there was a new system in place to record hours and that some Special Constables were not using it correctly.

Councillor Evison asked if further work could be done in schools and within communities to educate young people and communities whereupon the Deputy Chief Constable advised that after 1 April, 2013, the emphasis was more likely to be enforcement rather than education.

The Convener sought clarification on whether accidents involving motorcyclists were local people or people from outwith the Force Area, whereupon Mr Gordon advised that he would circulate a breakdown to all members.

Councillor Greig sought clarification on whether Port Security was a burden of Grampian Police, whereupon the Deputy Chief Constable advised that is more about planning, not providing officers. Mr Gordon advised that he would circulate further information to all members.

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The Board resolved:-

- (i) To note that additional information relating to accidents involving motorcyclists would be circulated to all members;
- (ii) To note that additional information relating to Port Security would be circulated to all members; and
- (iii) To otherwise note the report.

MEETING DATES FOR 2013

12. The Board had before it a report by the Depute Clerk which presented the proposed meeting dates for the Board and its Sub Committees for 2013.

The Depute Clerk introduced the report and advised that as yet there had been no guidance regarding the requirements on Boards for winding up and that in addition to the dates presented it may be necessary to arrange further meetings of the Board.

The report presented the proposed dates for 2013, those being:-

Grampian Joint Police Board

- Friday 25 January at 10am
- Friday 29 March at 10am

Grampian Joint Police Board Complaints Sub Committee and Stewardship Sub Committee

- Monday 25 February at 2pm and 3pm

Grampian Joint Police Board Personnel Sub Committee

- Friday 18 January at 10am
- Friday 15 February at 10am
- Friday 15 March at 10am

The dates for the Personnel Sub Committee are scheduled monthly however will only meet if there was business to be considered.

Grampian Joint Police Board Independent Custody Visiting Committee and the Urgent Business Committee - Dates for these Sub Committees will be set as and when they are required to meet.

The Board discussed the dates and concluded that the date for the Grampian Joint Police Board for January be changed to 18 January if it was suitable for all three local authorities and that the meeting date for March be changed to 22 March due to 29 March being a public holiday.

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The Board resolved:-

To instruct officers to organise the meeting dates and venues and notify members as soon as possible.

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 information of the class described in the following paragraphs of Schedule 7(A) to the Act:- article 13 (paragraph 1); article 14 (paragraph 1); article 15 (paragraph 14); and article 16 (paragraph 8).

OPERATION DELPHINIUS

13. The Board received a presentation outlining Operation Delphinus.

The Board resolved:-

To note the presentation.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

14. The Deputy Chief Constable provided a verbal update to the Board with respect to a range of current operational matters. The Deputy Chief Constable also thanked Councillor Greig for his valuable input into the Custody Project at Kittybrewster.

The Board resolved:-

To note the update.

FORCE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

15. The Board had before it a report from the Chief Constable which provided an overview of the nominees and prize winners from the 2012 Grampian Police Excellence Awards.

The report advised that the awards ceremony has been held annually since 2005 and recognised the achievements of staff, teams and departments within the Force. The categories included:- People, Learning, Community Focus, Problem Solving, Partnerships and Operational Policing. Further awards are also presented for Probationer of the Year, Driver of the Year, Special Constable of

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the Year and also the Chief Constable's Award for Police Officer and Police Staff members for dedication, professionalism and outstanding commitment to the Force.

The report further advised that forty two entries had been submitted for the 2012 awards. The award ceremony was held at the Rox Hotel in Aberdeen where the achievements of staff teams and departments was recognised and honoured.

The report detailed the winners for each category and those that were Highly Commended.

Councillor Ross commended the Chief Constable for the organisation of the event and stated that the words from the Convener were well received by those in attendance.

The Board resolved:-

To note the report.

NEW TOMINTOUL OFFICE

16. The Board had before it a report from the Chief Constable which sought approval for a property project at Tomintoul in line with operational and reform objectives.

The report advised that the current office space or "bothy" which is used by Grampian Police was not fit for purpose and that the agreed Property Asset Management Plan had highlighted that an alternative opportunity to relocate to another facility in the vicinity should be investigated.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) To agree to a ground lease being entered into over land at the Tomintoul Fire Station and to the construction of a rear office extension at the building;
- (ii) Subject to the relocation to the new facility, that the Police House and current office be declared surplus to requirements; and
- (iii) To agree and commit the project for going forwards.

- COUNCILLOR MCKAIL, Convener.