

MINUTE of MEETING of **TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Monday 16 November 2009 at 9.30 am.

**Present:** Councillors IAN MACKINTOSH, ARCHIBALD MACLELLAN, Bailie GEORGE REGAN, Councillors DAVID BOWES, JAMES BLACK, (substitute for Councillor ELIZABETH FORDYCE), ANDY DAWSON, KENNETH LYALL, PETER MULHERON, ROBERT MYLES, CHRISTINA ROBERTS, LEWIS SIMPSON, ALEXANDER STEWART, SANDY WEST and Bailie HELEN WRIGHT.

Councillor MACKINTOSH, Convener, in the Chair.

## 1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor ELIZABETH FORDYCE.

## 2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

## 3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### (a) **Tayside Joint Police Board**

The minute of meeting of the Board of 24 August 2009 was submitted, approved as a correct record, and signed by the Convener.

### (b) **Personnel Sub-Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee of 7 September 2009 was submitted and noted. **(APPENDIX I)**

### (c) **Audit & Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Audit & Scrutiny Sub-Committee of 7 September 2009 was submitted and noted. **(APPENDIX II)**

### (d) **Complaints Sub-Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Complaints Sub-Committee of 7 September 2009 was submitted and noted. **(APPENDIX III)**

## 4. **TIMETABLE OF SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2010**

The Board agreed that Sub-Committee meetings would be held on the following dates:-

<b>Personnel &amp; Complaints Sub-Committees:</b>	15 February 17 May 6 September 6 December
<b>Finance Sub-Committee:</b>	29 March 13 December
<b>Audit &amp; Scrutiny Sub-Committee:</b>	29 March 21 June 6 September 13 December

## 5. TAYSIDE POLICE DISABILITY EQUALITY SCHEME

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 12 November 2007, there was submitted Report No PB59/09 by the Acting Chief Constable which provided members with a copy of the revised Disability Equality Scheme for the period 2009-2012. The Report indicated that Tayside Police had carried out a three yearly review to produce a revised scheme and action plan for the next three years which would build on:

- improved policing services;
- ensuring Tayside Police was an employer of choice for people with disabilities;
- ensuring staff were aware of disability issues;
- improved community and staff confidence;
- an improved sense of inclusion for disabled employees, customers and stakeholders; and
- compliance with legislation.

The Board welcomed and noted the contents of the Report.

## 6. THE SCOTTISH POLICE SERVICES AUTHORITY (SPSA)

There was submitted Report No PB60/09 by the Acting Chief Constable updating the Board on the current services supplied by the Scottish Police Services Authority (SPSA).

The Board noted that the SPSA had been formed in April 2007 and was funded by the Scottish Government. The Report covered a number of services provided through the SPSA, namely:-

- **Forensic Services**

This service provided a national forensics solution and pulled together the existing forensic capability in Scotland, providing services across the country in relation to scene examination, chemistry, biology, DNA, drugs, fingerprints and specialist services (toxicology, firearms, documentation and handwriting). One of the authority's four forensic laboratories was situated within the Police Headquarters building in Dundee, however, purpose built premises were on schedule for completion in April 2010 at Discovery Quay in Dundee. A Service Level Agreement was in place between Tayside Police and the SPSA to formally record the understanding of both organisations in relation to the service delivery expectations.

The Board noted that there had been a number of challenging issues in relation to scene examination, for volume crime, however this had been addressed through a joint improvement plan which had allowed the SPSA to develop a new shift model which appeared to have improved the situation. The Force had committed an additional £20,000 per annum to facilitate this enhanced service delivery.

- **SPSA - Information Services (SPSAIS)**

This service developed, maintained and managed the integrated criminal justice solutions across the Scottish police service and associated agencies. The business area was divided into two - Criminal Justice and Information and Communication Technology, with the Criminal Justice section managing and supporting the established national systems.

With the transition of staff from Tayside Police to SPSAIS which had taken place in April 2008, a number of demands had been faced by all Forces across the country and from ongoing national projects. The work had therefore been prioritised and staff deployed, however, Tayside Police had suffered as a result of this shift in balance.

The Force had therefore engaged with the SPSA at executive level in order to improve service delivery and progress was being made towards a collaborative working relationship.

- **Training**

The Staff Development Unit (SDU) and the wing of the SPSA responsible for delivering training nationally was the Scottish Police College. There was a necessity for close links between the two and the current relationship was required to progress in a positive direction. There was currently no Service Level Agreement between the Scottish Police College and Tayside Police but this was being progressed in order to enhance planning and liaison.

After members questions had been answered, the Board noted the contents of the Report.

## **7. REVIEW OF CHARGES FOR SERVICES OF POLICE OFFICERS 2009**

There was submitted Report No PB61/09 by the Acting Chief Constable recommending increases in the charges for services of police officers with effect from 1 September 2009, taking into account the recommendations from ACPOS Finance Management Business Area.

The Board approved the increase in charges for the services of police officers as set out in the Report, with effect from 1 September 2009.

## **8. OPERATIONAL POLICING UPDATE**

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 24 August 2009, there was submitted Report No PB62/09 by the Acting Chief Constable providing members with an update of operational matters of interest since the last meeting of the Board.

The Report detailed a number of particular matters, including the operational highlights for Eastern, Western and Central Division.

The Report also detailed further matters of interest, including:-

- Drug Enforcement Activity
- Operation Cougar
- Operation Lynchpin
- Taser Provision
- Scottish Police Awards

Discussion took place and a number of questions were answered by the Acting Chief Constable, after which the Board agreed to note the contents of the Report.

## **9. CHILD PROTECTION**

There was submitted Report No PB63/09 by the Acting Chief Constable providing members with an update in relation to Child Protection Services.

The report indicated that in 2008 Public Protection Units had been established in each Division which dealt with child and adult protection, domestic abuse, serious sexual crime and offender management with the aim of protecting the most vulnerable in communities from the most likely to harm them. The Report detailed a number of factors which had been raised recently with the agencies in respect of child protection and the measures the Force had been taking to significantly change policy and operational issues throughout.

A number of future developments had been planned which included additional Detective Sergeants in each area, new training for Public Protection Officers and an evaluation of the Sex Offenders Disclosure Pilot.

The Board noted that there may be financial implications resulting from the improvements to the service but, at this stage, it was unclear how much investment, if any, was required.

The Board welcomed the Report and noted that further Reports would be submitted to keep the Board advised of the progress made in respect of Child Protection in Tayside.

## **10. THE ADVANCE PROGRAMME AND INCREASING PUBLIC VISIBILITY**

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 25 August 2008, there was submitted Report No PB64/09 by the Acting Chief Constable which detailed progress made by the Force in implementing the recommendations from the Best Value Review of Our People, increasing visibility of police officers to the public and augmenting service provision through the delivery of the ADVANCE programme.

The Report indicated that the Best Value Review (BVR) had identified £1.9 million of Police Officers posts which could either be replaced with Police staff or removed altogether as the posts did not require Police powers or were not viewed as core Police roles. This consisted of 47 posts that could be civilianised and 12 posts that could be removed from the establishment without any detrimental impact on service delivery.

The Board noted that the cost of civilianisation was estimated at £1.2 million, leaving approximately £700,000 to fund posts identified within the ADVANCE programme. A total of 34 new posts, consisting of nine Police Officers and five Police Staff were identified which would augment service delivery to the public. Implementation of the ADVANCE programme was progressing and it was scheduled to conclude in 2010/11. There had been significant improvement in the ratio between officers deployed in Level 1 and Level 2 activities and those deployed in support roles (as detailed in paragraph 3.7 of the Report).

The implementation of the ADVANCE programme had led to significant service improvements and completion of the programme would achieve further enhancement and improve the visibility of Police Officers to the public. In addition, the Force would continue to review its operations and resources as part of its commitment to continuous improvement.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the Report; and
- (ii) to welcome the improvements made in implementing service delivery and increasing the visibility of Police Officers to the public.

## **11. 2010/2011 REVENUE BUDGET TIMETABLE**

There was submitted Joint Report No PB65/09 by the Chief Constable and Treasurer advising the Board of the timetable to be set for the preparation of the 2010/2011 Revenue Budget.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to instruct the Chief Constable and the Treasurer to agree the budget principles and prepare the 2010/2011 Revenue Budget in accordance with the timetable set out in the Report.

## **12. AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009 AND THE AUDITOR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS**

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 29 June 2009, there was submitted Joint Report No PB66/09 by the Acting Chief Constable and Treasurer to which was appended the Audited Statement of Accounts for the Board's financial year ended 31 March 2009, and the External Auditor's Report to Members and the Controller of Audit for 2008/09.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report and the Audited Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2009;
- (ii) to approve the Audited Statement of Accounts 2008/2009;

- (iii) to note the contents of the External Audit Report to Members and the Controller of Audit for 2008/2009; and
- (iv) to note that this Report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

**13. ACPOS LGBT REFERENCE GROUP - BIENNIAL CONFERENCE - 17 DECEMBER 2009**

The Board noted that members had been invited to attend the third Biennial conference of the ACPOS LGBT Reference Group on 17 December 2009 at the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan Castle.

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