

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY (CPA) RECENT ISSUES

TO: Cambridgeshire County Council
DATE: 18th October 2011
FROM: Chairman, Cambridgeshire Police Authority

1. NEW POLICE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, proposes police authorities are replaced by elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) and Police and Crime Panels.

The PCCs will be elected by members of the public and the candidates, who will serve for four years, are expected to be high profile individuals.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill became an act in September when it successfully passed through Parliament. PCC elections will therefore take place in November 2012. This had originally been scheduled for May 2012.

We are seeking to set up shadow Police and Crime Panels before the elections.

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Authority's Medium Term Financial Plan identifies budget gaps totalling £10m over the next three years:

2012/13 - £5m
2013/14 - £3m
2014/15 - £2m

The budget gaps 2012-2015 are being addressed by two major strands of work – Operation Redesign (Cambridgeshire only) and Strategic Collaboration (with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire). These projects are described later in this report. In broad terms it is estimated that Operation Redesign savings will bridge the 2012/13 budget gap, £3m of which have already been made. Collaboration savings will be achieved from April 2013.

3. OPERATION REDESIGN

Operation redesign has a target saving of £4.7m, to be achieved by March 2012. It is expected to deliver on these savings. Savings will come reducing the number of staff by redesigning organisational and operation support function. There will also be a decrease in numbers of police officers in supervisory ranks, which will be reduced to average levels when compared to all forces. The reduction will be possible as acting and temporarily promoted officers will return to their substantive ranks. Leavers from the force will also be taken into account.

4. COLLABORATION

Savings of up to £3m per year across three forces will be achieved following the recent agreement to establish four new joint functions for Bedfordshire Police, Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Hertfordshire Constabulary.

The three organisations' police authorities have given the go-ahead for joint Firearms, Major Crime, Professional Standards and Scientific Services units to be established early next year as the 'Strategic Alliance' between the three forces continues to develop and strengthen.

By 2015, it is anticipated that a wide range of joint operational functions and support services, comprising more than 50% of policing business, will be saving money and bringing economies of scale and increased resilience.

The only areas of policing that will not be considered for joint working are:

- local policing (incident response, neighbourhood policing and volume crime investigation) as these need to be tailored to local priorities of the communities we serve and styles of delivery, and
- 'Protecting Vulnerable People' functions which are best delivered in partnership with locally based agencies.

5. PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The satisfaction rate of victims of crime has continued to improve and currently stands at the highest level on record (84.2%).

Data shows the perception of high levels of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) to be very low. This has fallen from 1.8% of respondents to 1.4% for the 12 months to July 2011. Notwithstanding the successful performance regarding this performance measure the Constabulary continues to seek improvements to how reports of ASB are dealt with.

Building on significant improvements in previous years, the constabulary crime rate has improved significantly. Data for the 12 months to July shows a 4.8% improvement compared to the 12 months to March 2011. Offence levels of Serious Acquisitive Crime and All Violence with Injury have fallen significantly.

Detection rates also continue to improve with the combined rate standing at 31.6% - the highest recorded level.

6. LOCAL POLICING PLAN (LPP) PROGRESS

The Constabulary has 12 LPP objectives. These objectives are known by the Constabulary as 'corporate plans' and they are updated and tracked.

The 12 objectives are:

- 1/ Maintain local policing performance
- 2/ Deliver policing within the available budget
- 3/ Police and partnership response - Vulnerable individuals/ communities
- 4/ Good information sharing and joint case management between agencies (ASB)

- 5/ Incidents of anti-social behaviour are dealt with to the same standard as investigating a crime
- 6/ Integrated Offender Management
- 7/ Tackling organised crime
- 8/ Proportionate investigation using restorative justice (RJ)
- 9/ Domestic abuse
- 10/ Serious sexual offences
- 11/ Counter terrorism
- 12/ Maintaining the resilience of protective services

Of the 12 corporate plans, ten are on course to be delivered by the target date, with liaison ongoing with the owners of the two remaining plans (Domestic Abuse and Maintain local policing performance) in an effort to support their delivery by the target date and ensure completion.

7. HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY (HMIC) CUSTODY INSPECTION

In May 2011, HMIC/HMIP (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons) conducted a joint inspection of all custody suites within Cambridgeshire. This was a no notice follow up inspection to that conducted in November 2008.

The HMIC/ HMIP report, which was published on 28th September, indicated three main recommendations, relating to:

- Lines of responsibility and accountability and staffing levels;
- Rigorous implementation of observation, when risk assessment indicates the need for constant observation; and
- Mental health in-reach arrangements to enable detainees with mental health problems to be identified and diverted into mental health services as appropriate, and police custody suites should not be used as places of safety for Mental Health Act Section 136 assessments.

Eighteen other minor recommendations and eighteen 'housekeeping' points were raised and will be dealt with, but overall the draft report is very encouraging.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Documents	Location	Contact
Police Authority Minutes	Cambridgeshire Police Authority Room G038 Cambridgeshire Constabulary Headquarters Hinchingsbrooke Park Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 6NP	Anna Horne Anna.Horne@cambs.pnn.police.uk