

TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD

MINUTE of MEETING of the **TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD** held in the Council Chambers, Perth on Monday 17 May 2004 at 10.00 am.

Present: Councillors COLIN YOUNG, RON SCRIMGEOUR, Depute Lord Provost CHARLES FARQUHAR, Councillors JAMES BARRIE, JACK COBURN, JACK GIBB, ALAN JACK, IAN MACKINTOSH, Depute Provost STEWART McGLYNN, Councillors BOB MYLES, JOE MORROW (substitute for Lord Provost JOHN LETFORD), NEIL I C POWRIE, GEORGE REGAN, CHRISTINA ROBERTS, LEWIS SIMPSON and ALEXANDER STEWART.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Lord Provost JOHN LETFORD and Councillor DAVID SCOTT.

Councillor COLIN YOUNG, Convener, in the Chair.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Tayside Joint Police Board

The minute of meeting of the Board of 26 January 2004 was submitted, approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Complaints Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Complaints Sub-Committee of 9 February 2004 was submitted and noted (**Appendix I**).

(c) Personnel Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee of 9 February 2004 was submitted and noted (**Appendix II**).

(d) Finance Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee of 23 March 2004 was submitted and noted (**Appendix III**).

(e) Best Value Steering Group

The minute of meeting of the Best Value Steering Group of 23 March 2004 was submitted and noted (**Appendix IV**).

(f) Personnel (Grievance) Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Personnel (Grievance) Sub-Committee of 19 and 20 April 2004 was submitted and noted (**Appendix V**).

2. MOBILE POLICE OFFICE

The Board noted that the multi-purpose police office which had been purchased to be used in rural areas, towns and city centres or for specific crime prevention or recruitment purposes was unavailable for viewing prior to the meeting.

The Chief Constable intimated that the mobile police office would be available for members to view at a later meeting of the Board.

3. INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING - PROGRESS REPORT

There was submitted Report No PB24/04 by the Clerk which updated members on the progress of the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme in its first year of operation from May 2003 to April 2004.

The Report indicated that Custody Visitors carried out visits to police stations in pairs, without prior notice and at any time of the day or night. Detainees were not obliged to see the Custody Visitors but those who wished to could talk to them about their welfare and custodial arrangements. It was noted that during the previous 12 months, 97 visits had been carried out to the four designated police custody holding units and Custody Visitors had not identified any major concerns regarding the care of detainees or contravention of their rights. The Custody Visitors met regularly as a group which allowed for the opportunity to discuss the issues which Visitors had encountered in practice.

In the previous year Visitors had attended the Scottish Annual Conference held in Edinburgh and one Visitor from each area team attended the National Conference in Manchester in November along with the Vice-Convenor, Councillor Scrimgeour.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the success of the first year of Independent Custody Visiting;
- (ii) to the attendance of 18 Visitors, the Convenor and Vice-Convenors and any other members who wished to attend, at the second Scottish National Conference to be held in Glasgow on 21 August 2004;
- (iii) that a buffet be held for the Custody Visitors on Friday 18 June 2004 in order to mark the first year; and
- (iv) that a further report be submitted to the Board in due course.

4. OPERATIONAL POLICING UPDATE

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 26 January 2004, there was submitted Report No PB25/04 by the Chief Constable providing members with an update in relation to crime in the Force area, an overview of notable events since the last Board meeting and other operational matters of interest.

In connection with the overall reported crime, the Report indicated that recorded crime was down 2.5% on the same period last year with over 774 fewer crimes. The overall detection rate for this period was recorded at 55.6% compared to 42.4% for the corresponding period. The Force target was 43% and this out-turn exceeded that by more than 12%, with some 3,600 more crimes being detected in 2003/04 than in the previous year. This highlighted the second year of improvement in both recorded crime levels and the number of crimes detected by the Force. This provided evidence that the Force's commitment to the Tayside Policing Style, the National Intelligence Model and Partnership Working through Community Planning was beginning to work through into safer communities across Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross.

After members of the Board had welcomed the Report and the update, it was agreed that the Report be noted.

5. RACE EQUALITY SCHEME - ACTION PLAN UPDATE

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 26 January 2004, there was submitted Report No PB26/04 by the Chief Constable which provided members with an update on the progress of the Tayside Police Race Equality Scheme 2002-2005 and the underpinning Action Plan.

The Report detailed a number of objectives which had been progressed over the past 18 months which included issues related to leadership, policy and strategy, monitoring systems, employment duties, training of staff in connection with the duties imposed, partnerships and resources, processes, publishing the results of the assessments, consultations and monitoring and improving access to the Force information and services.

The Board agreed to note the contents of the Report.

6. WESTERN DIVISION COMMAND - CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT R MAIN

There was submitted Report No PB27/04 by the Chief Constable which advised that Chief Superintendent Main, Divisional Commander of Western Division would retire from the Force on 27 May 2004.

The Board agreed to note:-

- (i) that Chief Superintendent Main would retire from the Force on 27 May 2004; and
- (ii) that Superintendent M Hamilton (on promotion to Chief Superintendent) would be the new Divisional Commander of Western Division.

7. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Board resolved that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item in order to avoid disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

8. AIRWAVE PURCHASING CONSORTIUM

There was submitted Report No PB28/04 by the Chief Constable which advised members of the outcome of the tendering exercise undertaken by the Scottish Police Forces under the Airwave Consortium Management Agreement.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the favourable outcome achieved through the Board's participation in the Airwave Consortium Management Agreement;
- (ii) to note the estimated savings of £500,000 over the two financial years 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 against the estimates contained within the Board's Financial Plan 2004-2005 to 2006-2007; and
- (iii) to note the intention to monitor the overall position regarding the Airwave Project and report the conclusions to the Finance Sub-Committee as part of the Capital Monitoring process.