

Chief Officer Group

19th January 2009

Minutes

OPEN

Present:

Craig Mackey	Chief Constable
Christine Twigg	Deputy Chief Constable
Graham Sunderland	Assistant Chief Constable (Crime)
Mike Thompson	Director of Finance and Resources
Joanna Bancroft	Director of Personnel and Development
Kevin Greenhow (part)	Head of Marketing and Communications
Paul Hussey (part)	Director of Strategic Development
Matt Kennerley	Acting Inspector
Nina Robinson	Minute Taker

1 Apologies for absence

T/ACC Andy Davidson

2 Minutes of meeting of 5th January 2009

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

Performing Rights Society update – Mike Thompson informed the group that since the last meeting a letter has been received from PRS with a proposal which minimises administration and costs going forward. This amounts to a reduced annual cost of £9,000. COG agreed that this was an acceptable cost.

3 Declaration of any other business

There were two late papers from Strategic Development tabled:-

Action owner(s)

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Public Confidence Target – it was agreed to discuss this paper, Paul Hussey to join the meeting.

Revised Policing Plan – copies of the paper were circulated and it was agreed that it would be considered outside the meeting, with any comments returned to Paul Hussey by Friday 23rd January.

4 Action updates

See action sheet – all actions ongoing.

5 Minutes to note

Strategic Risk Group

Minutes from the meeting on the 13th January 2009 were noted.

Force Learning Panel

Minutes from the meeting on the 12th January were noted. Non-attendance is an ongoing issue, and it was noted that proposals for changes to Personal Safety Training would be taken to Ops Board. For regradings only it is proposed to reduce PST to eight hours to allow first aid training to take place without further extraction.

Christine Twigg highlighted concerns over changes to IPLDP qualifications and the potential for over qualification of officers. Other members of COG shared these concerns and it was noted that the situation will be monitored.

6 Standing Items

a) COG diary commitments and command cover

These were considered and discussed. It was noted that the first event of the Constabulary's Women's Network is taking place on Friday 23rd January.

b) Press issues

Kevin Greenhow updated COG on national and local media issues and reporting.

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National

Situation in Gaza – there have been no local developments or concerns, but there may be issues for Prevent.

Reporting of increase in crime levels – an article has appeared in The Independent which cites an inaccurate rise in crime in Cumbria. The Marketing and Communications department are looking in to this and will ensure that correct figures are reported locally.

Local

Operation Osprey – officers have commented that there has been a very good public response to requests for information, which is seen as a good reflection on the Marketing and Communications Department.

New Students – there has been good media coverage of the swearing in of the first intake of policing students at the University of Cumbria.

The 'What If' event on BBC Radio Cumbria was a success, with a good Constabulary representation by Sergeant Joanne Caffrey. It is expected that this may develop further in the future.

Neighbourhood Policing Week – this starts on 16th February and BCUs are working with the Marketing and Communications department on marketing.

Police Authority Budget meeting – work is being carried out in preparation for internal and external communications later in the week.

Craig Mackey informed the group that he will be speaking at the County Council's full meeting on Thursday where the media will be present.

Agenda Items

7 Budget Update

Mike Thompson gave a brief update following the Police Authority Seminar on 16th February. The Police Authority shares Constabulary concerns regarding changes in partnership funding. A discussion followed regarding

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withdrawal of Local Authority funding of PCSOs and the impact this may have.

8 PMU Executive Report

COG identified concerns over the high levels of green gradings and overall accuracy of the of the matrix. In particular, concerns were raised over the E-Learning project which have also been identified by the Police Authority. Craig Mackey requested an update on E-Learning for the next meeting, giving a complete picture of the progress of the project, including risks and timescales. Concerns were also raised over the accuracy of gradings for MoPI and SDHP.

The issue of the freezing of recruitment in PMU was raised, and it was noted that some recruitment has occurred since this decision and that the message needs to be reinforced.

Any other business

Public Confidence Target

Paul Hussey joined the meeting and a briefing paper on the Public Confidence Target 2009-11 was circulated. Paul summarised the reason for the paper and the concerns that have been raised over the public confidence target notified by the Home Office on the 24th December. Craig Mackay added that both ACPO and the APA share these concerns.

There are a number of issues with the measure and the target which are detailed in the paper. The target for Cumbria of 63% is believed to be unrealistic and unachievable, and the measure not fit for purpose. It is suggested that there should be a national standard at around 55%. Other issues surround the accountability of the police for a target that has dual responsibility with local authorities.

COG agreed to support these robust comments and feed back to the Home Office and ACPO, and that the strategic risk should be owned by the ACC (TP).

Not Protectively Marked

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It was agreed that it is important for BCU commanders and local SMTs are able to explain issues around the public confidence target to partners, and that this could be discussed through SMF and Ops Board.

COG thanked Paul Hussey and his team for this good piece of work.

Closed agenda

Date of next meeting

Monday 2nd February 2009

Not Protectively Marked