

## **CABINET**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Luttrell Room - County Hall, Taunton, on Monday, 20 February 2017 at 2.00 pm

**Present:** Cllr J Osman (Chairman), Cllr D Hall (Vice-Chairman), Cllr A Groskop, Cllr W Wallace, Cllr C Le Hardy, Cllr F Nicholson, Cllr H Siggs and Cllr D Fothergill

**Other Members present:** Cllr A Bown, Cllr R Brown, Cllr A Dimmick, Cllr C Lawrence, Cllr N Pearson and Cllr D Yeomans

### **Apologies for absence:**

#### **663 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 2**

Members of the Cabinet declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Member of a District, City/Town or Parish Council:

Cllr A Groskop      South Somerset District Council

Cllr J Osman      Mendip District Council  
Wells City Council

Cllr H Siggs      Mendip District Council  
Wells City Council

Cllr W Wallace      South Somerset District Council

Cllr Fothergill declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 as his daughter works for Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

#### **664 Minutes from the meeting held on 6 February 2017 - Agenda Item 3**

The minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 6 February 2017 were agreed and signed as correct.

#### **665 Public Question Time - Agenda Item 4**

There were no questions.

#### **666 Demand Management and Predictive Analytics - Agenda Item 5**

The Chairman introduced the Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Constabulary Andy Marsh and the Police and Crime Commissioner Sue Mountstevens. He explained that each of them would give a briefing and would answer questions before the confidential presentation for members.

The Chief Constable explained he had been in the post for about a year. In that time there had been a lot of proactive work. Approximately 200 search warrants had been issued with regard to drug dealing, other notable successes had included the conviction of Charlie Broadway for the murder in Ilton last year,

doubling the size of the child internet abuse team which has resulted in more than double the amount of warrants issued on this case and the introduction of mental health professionals for taking police force triage calls.

Concerns included the increase in knife crime and domestic violence as well as rape and serious sexual offences which had doubled since 2012. There was also a major increase in cyber-crime and hate crime. To address these crimes better digital solutions were increasingly being used as desktop resolving crime was becoming more popular as a quicker and more successful way of solving crimes. The Police and Crime Commissioner had given money to the force to equip officers with technology to use away from the office. This would also help to save money. A 3 year financial plan would be in place by April and would help to better meet demand. Better ways were being found to work with partners and there was an assurance that there would be no reduction in the number of neighbourhood police officers and police community support officers. The Constabulary had also been subject to a recent inspection and overall had been graded good.

The Chief Constable then handed over to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) who highlighted the difficult financial context. She also explained that a new funding formula was being discussed at the moment. It was uncertain as to whether this would lead to further funding cuts for the police. The Constabulary had been tasked with finding £20m in savings over the next 4 to 5 years and the PCC had tasked the organisation with finding an additional £5m for investment for the future. There was a need to work smarter and new tools would help spread money more wisely. It was likely that the Constabulary would ask for a 1.99% increase in their share of the council tax precept. It was also felt that a Community Safety Plan which could be shared across all the county authorities would be helpful.

The following points were made during the debate:

- The key priorities for the PCC were protecting the most vulnerable, strengthening and improving local policing teams, ensuring the Constabulary had the right people with the right kit and culture, and to work together with other local authorities effectively.
- Increasing collaboration with the local Fire Authorities and ambulance service
- New governance opportunities were being explored
- The Constabulary move to Taunton Deane Borough Council
- The need to continue with more communication and collaboration between the local authorities sharing data and analytical capabilities.
- Problems faced with Wi-Fi connectivity in some places in Somerset. Every police vehicle was to have a Wi-Fi booster installed to overcome this.
- Meeting public demands for police officers on the streets and public perception of crime. Police were attending public meetings and were investing in technology to allow them to be out and about in the community.
- Underreporting of crime – this was being addressed and had seen a great improvement recently.

- Educating people about parking on yellow lines – police officers can take enforcement action in the case of vehicles causing an obstruction.

The Cabinet then agreed to pass a resolution under Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information (England) Regulations 2012 to exclude the press and public from the meeting on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, within the meaning of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The exempt information likely to be disclosed is described as:

- Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

Sean Price, Head of Performance at Avon and Somerset Constabulary, then gave a presentation to members on demand management and predictive analysis. He showed members the technology being used and informed them this was a problem solving tool.

Further points raised included:

- Areas of greater crime activity and resources allocated. Members were informed that this was not disproportionate to population size and were also reminded of the amount of resources that were deployed for the recent murder case in Ilton.
- The technology was being used to drive business differently. Hot spots were more identifiable.
- It was hoped the police could work more effectively with planning authorities on ensuring housing schemes were more suitable for the future. The police met with local planning authorities every 7-8 weeks but there were no statutory duty for the authorities to listen to the police advice.
- The need for all local organisations technologies to be able to communicate effectively with one another.
- This technology could offer opportunities for the county council and something which it could also contribute to.

The Chairman thanked the PCC, Chief Constable and Mr Price for attending the meeting and assured them that the council would always be a willing partner to them. He looked forward to continual improvements and felt that it would be useful for the Council's business intelligence team to get in contact with the constabulary regarding the new technology. He praised the work of the police officers.

The Cabinet welcomed the update from the Avon and Somerset Police on their use of new technology systems to assist demand management and predictive analytics to support the prevention and prosecution of crime.

The Cabinet also thanked the Chief Constable and the Police & Crime Commissioner for their update on policing priorities and partnership working.

**667 Children's Services update - Agenda Item 6**

The Director of Children's Services gave a presentation to Cabinet updating the improvements that had been made to Children's Services.

The following points were highlighted:

- Regional Adoption Agency in partnership with Devon, Plymouth and Torbay was progressing
- Third Quarter achievements/performance of CYPP reported to Member Scrutiny – Action Plans were being developed for 17/18
- High level meetings were taking place with Avon & Somerset Constabulary
- With regard to improved management capacity, South Somerset Area has caught-up with the improvement journey of the rest of the County
- Succession Planning now in place - Principal Social Worker secured - 3 Permanent Team Managers recruited – 75% were now permanent
- Two new Children's Strategic Managers recruited from outside the South West had started

It was agreed that the average length of time would be included in the children looked after graph for the next presentation.

The Chairman thanked Mr Wooster for the presentation and said it was good to see progress right across the board.

The Cabinet welcomed the update regarding Children's Services from the Director of Children's Services and noted the improvements that had been achieved.

**668 Any other urgent items of business - Agenda Item 7**

There were no other items of business.

**(The meeting ended at 3.58 pm)**

**CHAIRMAN**