
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

17th February 2010

Report of
Cllr Tim Sawdon

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Police Authority

1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report sets out details of the work of West Midlands Police Authority over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

2.1 To note the contents of this report and that this appointment is made through the West Midlands Joint Committee.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

3.1 The Police Authority has a number of functions and the main ones include:

- Maintaining the effectiveness and efficiency of West Midlands Police
- Overseeing police accountability to the community, and checking that the force is achieving its targets and offering value for money
- Agreeing the budget for policing in the area
- We also work with Community Safety Partnerships to help reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime. The Authority has a lead member that sits on all the 7 partnerships across the West Midlands.

The Authority is a strategic body and the Chief Constable is responsible for operational matters.

3.2 Since my last report in May 2009 I have been elected as Vice Chair of the Authority. I now have weekly meetings with the Chief Constable as well as frequent briefing meetings with the Chairs of other Committees.

3.3 Chris Simms has replaced Paul Scott-Lee as Chief Constable and embarked upon the 'Paragon Project'. The main impact on Coventry is the replacement of the three 'OCUs' by one Local Policing Unit (LPU). I have been involved in a number of meetings with colleagues and partners to ensure that the project achieves the objectives of improving public confidence in the Police as well as providing Value for Money.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 The City Council has a seat on the strategic body to which the Chief Constable is accountable for policing matters and therefore can raise issues that arise locally as well as influencing the Strategic Policing Plan for the region, and the performance targets that are set alongside the plan. The City Council, as a precepting authority also has important representation during the discussions around precept setting during budgetary discussions.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 Attendance at present stands at 74% for scheduled meetings but Councillor Sawdon also attends numerous meetings with the Chief Constable and other bodies such as Coventry CDRP which sometimes clash with scheduled meetings.

5.2 Remuneration for the appointment is £14,475 as Vice Chair of the Authority.

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper
Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies

Location CH 60