

HUMBERSIDE POLICE AUTHORITY

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

7 SEPTEMBER 2011

PRESENT:-

Lay Independent Members:- Mr J Goolden, and Mrs A Thomlinson

Police Authority Members:- Mrs H Spencer

Officers:- Mr K Sharp, Chief Executive and Mr N Kingston, Strategic Development Manager (Assistant Chief Executive).

The Committee met at Pacific Exchange, Kingston upon Hull.

- 1 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR – Resolved** – That Mr Goolden be appointed Chair of this Committee for the ensuing year.

Mr Goolden then took the Chair.

- 2 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR – Resolved** – That Mrs Thomlinson be appointed Vice Chair of this Committee for the ensuing year.

- 3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/OFFERS OF GIFTS OR HOSPITALITY –**
The Chair reminded Members of the need to record any personal or prejudicial interest in items on the agenda and to disclose any relevant receipt or offering of gifts or hospitality.

There were no declarations or disclosures made.

- 4 **APOLOGIES** – Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr Liversedge and Councillor Rudd.

- 5 **MINUTES – Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2010 having been printed and circulated amongst the Members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Chair.

- 6 **UPDATE ON THE MINUTES** – The Chair reported that in an interview with HMIC regarding integrity in the Police service, he had advised that a proportionate approach was taken to Standards matters within the Authority and meetings were held only when required.

He referred to minute 6 and advised that he had recently downloaded the

latest version of the Members' Register of Interests from the Authority's website and although there were some minor issues, which mainly related to information being declared in the wrong boxes, the completion of the Register was much improved and he had been able to advise HMIC that he had no concerns regarding this matter. He did indicate that the Register had been a little hard to locate on the website and suggested that a copy also be placed in the section relating to Members.

A Member queried whether any research had been conducted into the travel allowances paid by other Police Authorities and the Strategic Development Manager (Assistant Chief Executive) advised that at the time a limited amount of research had been undertaken which had shown that the rates paid by the Authority were broadly comparable with other authorities. Members agreed that it would not be an appropriate time to increase any allowances.

The Chief Executive referred to minute 8 and thanked the Independent Lay Members for their attendance at Police Authority meetings. He indicated that he felt that the attendance had been proportionate and was useful.

A Member also referred to minute 8 and to the suggestion that Police Authority performance be considered against the Leadership, Behaviour and Styles and the Team Working and Co-operation Sections of the ethical governance toolkit. She indicated that this could not be done by observation alone and that interviews would need to be conducted. This was therefore a significant piece of work and she queried its value in the current climate. Members agreed that it was felt to be unnecessary at the moment and would only confirm that there were no current problems. The Chief Executive referred to the national HMIC integrity inspection and suggested that it might be useful to review the outcome report when it was published. Reference was made to questions raised by the inspection team relating to (i) the Chief Officer hospitality register which the Chief Executive advised would be appropriate for him to look at annually and to raise any issues with the Chair, and (ii) the Authority's approach to handling requests from the media which may be an issue for this Committee to consider.

The Strategic Development Manager (Assistant Chief Executive) referred to minute 10 and advised that at the AGM both the Authority's Scheme of Delegations and Financial Regulations had been updated.

The Chief Executive referred to minute 12 regarding the HMIC/Audit Commission inspection of Police Authorities and advised that a national thematic report had been published which had indicated that Police Authorities needed to improve in terms of ensuring Value for Money and setting strategic direction. It was as a consequence of this report that the Authority's Committee structure had been amended in March 2011 to try to address these issues.

Resolved – (a) That the updates be noted; (b) that a copy of the Members'

Register of Interests also be placed in the section on the website relating to Police Authority Members; (c) that in light of the current assessment of behaviour and styles in the Authority, and the imminent changes it be considered that further work on the ethical governance toolkit is not necessary at this time; (d) that the HMIC inspection report into integrity in the Police Service be copied to Members of the Standards Committee when available.

- 7 **(1) PRESENTATION – LOCALISM BILL** – Mr Goolden gave a presentation on the Code of Conduct, the Hearings procedure and the Localism Bill.

He advised that the Localism Bill was likely to be enacted before the abolition of Police Authorities and the Authority therefore needed to be ready to introduce arrangements for the adoption of a Code of Conduct, if required. This could be the same as the model Code that the Authority currently adopted. A mechanism for the handling of any complaints would also need to be put in place.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

- 8 **(1) POLICE REFORM AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY BILL** – The Chief Executive submitted a report that provided the latest information with respect to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, in particular that section of the Bill (part 1) that dealt with Police and Crime Commissioners.

He advised that the Bill was expected to receive Royal Assent in a couple of weeks, however, the implementation date for Police and Crime Commissioners was now likely to be postponed until November 2012.

Resolved – (a) That the report be noted and further reports be received on the progress of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill.