



REPORT TO LUTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

22 July 2008

1. MEETING

The Authority held its AGM on 16th May 2008

Set out below are some of the issues discussed.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Authority has re - elected Peter Conniff and Penny Fletcher to the above respective positions for 2008/09.

3. COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES

The programme of regional collaboration is progressing well and the current areas being focussed upon are Serious and Organised Crime, Air Support, Information and Communication Technology and Scientific Services.

In relation to Scientific Services, the Authority, has given approval in principle to the proposed the creation of a joint (Western) Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Scientific Unit aligned (in the East) to the existing Essex Unit. The creation of two Independent Units to service the three force sub region. provides a number of benefits which are in the main around the provision of additional resilience and capability to support volume crime, major incidents and counter terrorism investigations. The Joint Collaboration Team will ensure that new arrangements do not dilute the capability of each Force. A more detailed Business Case and Project Initiation Document (PID) for the Scientific Services project will now be developed for implementation by 1 April 2009.

In addition to the regional programme of collaboration a Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Collaboration Team led by Chief Superintendent Steve Ottaway from the Hertfordshire Constabulary based has now been established. The team is pursuing the establishment of joint Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire capability in the following areas:

- Firearms/Dogs,
- Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism,

- Civil Contingencies and Public Order Planning, (including Olympics planning)
- Strategic Road Policing,
- Professional Standards
- Legal Services

4. ANNUAL REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE

The Authority has considered the final end of year data in relation to its performance against the targets set for the year 2007/08.

The Authority's Performance Committee has scrutinised all areas of Police activity, looking for any welcome or unwelcome fluctuations in the Force's performance over the last twelve months. Members were pleased to see the reduction in overall crime, meaning that there were 5962 fewer crimes recorded in Bedfordshire and Luton during 2007-08.

The Authority is particularly pleased to see that the improvements witnessed over the last six months in terms of crimes detected have been sustained and are being improved upon still further. The figure has risen from 18% in 2006-07 to 22% overall in 2007-08. However, the current monthly figure is 26% and rising, illustrating how the acknowledged problems in the early part of 2007 impacted on the annual figure.

Key figures of interest include:

- All crime down 10% to 51325 recorded crimes, equating to nearly 6000 fewer victims of crime.
- Violent crime down 15% to 9238 recorded crimes, meaning 1675 fewer victims
- Robbery down by 7% (78 fewer crimes)
- Vehicle theft down by 10% (188 fewer crimes)
- Theft from a vehicle down by 6% (395 fewer crimes)

The Authority remains concerned about the 27% rise in the number of house burglaries, which have gone from 3560 last year, to 4506 in the year ending March 31st 2008.

The Chair of the Performance Committee, Councillor Brian Spurr has emphasised to the public that the Authority is cautiously pleased to see these results, which show that the processes put in place over the last year are beginning to pay dividends in terms of improvements. However, there are still challenges to be overcome, particularly in terms of addressing house burglary and the Authority will continue to watch progress in this area very closely indeed.

The upward trend is down to the dedication of Police Officers and Staff who have been working tremendously hard to achieve this and continue to work hard to improve the service

In relation to the performance around the Complaints and Professional

Standards the performance in 2007/08 had been highly productive as the year had seen public complaints stabilise, misconducts increase, an increase in intelligence via confidential email reporting, better marketing around complaints and misconduct prevention and increased awareness training for Officers and Staff. The IPCC (Independent Police Complaints Commission) have indicated that this performance will be favourably reflected in their Annual Report due to be published later this year.

REPORT OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY