

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

MINUTES

A meeting of the **Resources Committee** was held on Thursday 4th February 2010 in the Conference Room, Devon and Cornwall Police Authority, Endeavour House, Woodwater Park, Exeter, starting at 10:30hrs.

Present:

Chairman Mr B Greenslade
Vice Chairman Mr M Bull
Members: Mr M Clayton, Mrs L Price, Mr D Money.

Officers in attendance:

Police Authority:

Mrs S Howl (Chief Executive), Mr S Barrett (Interim Treasurer), Mrs G Clifton (Administrator).

Police Force:

Ms E Boutle (Police Authority Liaison Officer), Ms A Daveney (Head of Technical Accounting), Ms S Goscomb (Director of Finance and Resources), Mr A Morris (Head of Estates), Mr R Wheeler (Acting Head of Finance)

R/837 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Sir Simon Day, Mr M Hodge, Mrs J Stanhope, DCC Simpson and Mr S Jose (Head of Procurement)

R/838 Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were received:

Name	Agenda Item	Minute ref	Interest	Details	Action taken
Mr M Bull	7 Police Property Act Funds – Annual Report.	R/843	Personal	Chairman and Trustee of the Devon Community Foundation.	Spoke & voted
Mr M Clayton	11 Procurement Update	R/848	Personal	Member of Cornwall Council	Spoke & voted
Mr M Clayton	12 Estate Strategy Programme Update	R/849	Personal	Member of Cornwall Council	Spoke & voted

R/839 Chairman's Announcements

There were no announcements.

R/840 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 19 November 2009 were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

⌘ R/841 Financial Monitoring

The Director of Finance and Resources introduced the regular financial monitoring update of the revenue and capital budgets 2009-10. Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The projected Capital Outturn was outside the variation parameters because the Devonport project had not been completed. This money was allocated to that project and would be carried forward into next year.
- Rates achieved from cash on deposit was outside target at only 1.9% and borrowing rates had been higher than expected.
- Officer numbers had been higher throughout the year resulting in an overspend of £700k. However, numbers were expected to be within target by the year end at 3506 officers.
- Overall the budget showed a small underspend but was very close to the predicted outturn. This was due to the constant monitoring carried out throughout the year.

RESOLVED (i) that the financial targets, health indicators and acceptable variations be noted.
(ii) that the latest revenue projection for 2009-10 be noted.
(iii) that the revised capital programme for 2009-10 be approved.
(iv) that the latest capital projection for 2009-10 be noted.
(v) that the latest police officer staffing levels be noted.

R/842 Treasury Management

The Interim Treasurer introduced the report on the treasury management performance for the period 1st April 2009 to 31 December 2009. Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- There had been no significant movement in market conditions since the last report. It had not been expected that investment rates would have stayed so low throughout the year.
- Borrowing was below budget only taking up about 50% of the capital requirement. The capital programme was being financed temporarily from cash resources instead of reinvesting these as investment rates are low and borrowing rates high.
- A meeting had taken place on 15th January 2010 between Police Authority members and the investment bankers.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report

R/843 Police Property Act Funds – Annual Report

n.b Mike Bull declared a personal interest in this item

This report provided an update on progress on transferring the Police Property Act Funds to Devon Community Foundation and their subsequent distribution. Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- This was an update and further detail would be provided to the meeting of this Committee in June 2010.
- The permitted use of these funds was limited; they had to be donated to charitable organisations. The Devon Community Foundation (DCF) will administer the fund on behalf of the Force and make grants to appropriate organisations. They would provide an Annual Report each year and this Committee would set objectives for the next year.
- The funds resulted from the sale of lost property rather than the proceeds of crime and monies received would be transferred each year to the DCF.
- Although administered by the DCF funds would be available in Cornwall not just Devon.
- Organisations in receipt of grants do not have to be registered charities but do have to be properly constituted with appropriate governance arrangements.
- The fund is not usually fully committed and DCF is tasked with accessing the more difficult to reach groups. The Foundation is working with Neighbourhood Beat Managers to gain information on suitable projects and groups that might benefit through a grant from the fund.

- RESOLVED** (i) that the transfer of funds to Devon Community Foundation be noted.
(ii) that a paper outlining the initial distribution of funds for the 2009-10 financial year be brought to the Resources Committee in June 2010.

R/844 Charging for Police Services

This report outlined the charging structure for the use of special police services at various events. Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The Force was required under the Police Act to explain to the Police Authority what charges were imposed and how they were arrived at. The charges were levied for police services at football matches, County Shows and the like, for mutual aid to other forces and other fees.
- Forces used to charge very different rates across the country for police services. ACPO has now produced guidance on charges and Devon and Cornwall mostly comply with this.
- Mutual aid charges to other forces had become outdated and inconsistently applied; ACPO has recommended rates that should result in full cost recovery. This will be particularly important for assistance in Dorset when Britain stages the 2012 Olympics.
- Other fees have also been ratified for consistency across forces. Devon and Cornwall is the lead Force across the SW region where all the rates are now the same.
- Devon and Cornwall applies a de minimis of £5000. It is important that charges are proportionate and do not jeopardise events that do not make money. The final decision on the application of charges lies with the Director of Finance and Resources.
- Charges will be increased annually in line with pay rises and the RPI to avoid having to seek approval every year from this Committee. A full review report would be provided every five years.

- RESOLVED** (i) to note the contents of the report.
(ii) to approve the annual update of all charges in line with pay increases and the RPI with a full review taken to the Resources Committee every five years; next review February 2015.

R/845 Comprehensive Area Assessments (www.oneplace.direct.gov.uk)

This report provided a briefing on the new website that publishes the first set of results from the Audit Commission on Comprehensive Area Assessments. Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The site gives an overview for what will be an annual report. Flags are awarded recognising exceptional performance or good practice (Green Flag) and areas of significant concern (Red Flag).
- The Force received a green flag for "Protecting people during large scale emergencies" in Plymouth and "Domestic Violence" in Devon.
- Red flags for "Helping the worst off" were given to Torbay and for "Children Services" in Cornwall. These were areas that needed development.

- RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report.

R/846 Monitoring of Environmental Performance

The Committee was asked to decide whether a lead member or a full Committee approach was preferable in monitoring the financial implications of the Carbon Reduction Commitment and the development of a joint Environmental Strategy for the Force and the Authority.

- RESOLVED** that the Committee Chairman would represent the Resources Committee on the monitoring group and report back to the Committee on progress and financial impacts.

R/847 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that the Agenda items detailed in the table below be considered as closed items:

Agenda Item	Minute Number	Report Title	Relevant Act	Relevant Section
11	R/848	Procurement Update	Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985	Schedule 12A, Paragraph 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)
12	R/849	Estate Strategy and Programme Update	Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985	Schedule 12A, Paragraph 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)
13	R/850	Budget Working Party & Budget 2010-11	Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985	Schedule 12A, Paragraph 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

R/848 Procurement Update

n.b Mike Clayton declared a personal interest in this item.

The Director of Finance and Resources introduced the report that updated the Committee as to current progress on procurement activities. Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- A regional procurement plan had been agreed for key commodities. The Force would try to end existing contracts in a co-terminus way and assess the savings that can be made.
- Standardisation of some uniforms regionally will result in economies of scale. Standard uniforms for PCSOs had been agreed nationally.
- Buying locally often provides value for money. A local procurement strategy for Forensic Medical Practitioners is progressing following the breakdown of a regional contract.
- Discussions are underway with Cornwall Council to explore potential collaboration opportunities for commodities such as stationery.
- Different approaches were necessary for different goods and services to obtain the best value for money. Local contractors were being used as far as possible on the Bodmin contract so that the investment goes back into the community.
- The regional collaboration comprises 13 forces throughout the South West, Wales and the North West but does not include Avon and Somerset.
- Police Officers wear white shirts except when wearing body armour when they have the choice of wearing a black wicking shirt. A regionally standard uniform was being considered; most other forces would like to move towards Devon and Cornwall's uniform.
- The Treasurer recommended that future reports recognise the drivers for Value For Money thinking and analysis. It was requested that consideration be given to tabulating the procurement savings for comparison with Force and Government targets to enable the committee to keep a focus on progress.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

⌘ R/849 Estate Strategy and programme Update

n.b Mike Clayton declared a personal interest in this item.

Members were updated on the delivery of the capital building programme. The Committee was asked to approve the disposal of four assets and a revised budget for the Devonport scheme.

- The Pool project was complete and operational. The Committee was asked to approve disposal of the old building once planning consent for three residential units is obtained.
- The Devonport project had been ongoing since 2006. After failure to negotiate an acceptable position for the original site with Redrow an alternative site had been identified with Plymouth City Council. However, although the building costs would be lower, the land cost was higher and approval was needed for a revised budget of £3.491M. It is hoped that a reduction in the cost of the Beacon Park Road site will offset the increase for Devonport.
- The Teignmouth and Dawlish scheme was progressing well and should be completed by the end of the financial year.
- Planning consent has been achieved for the patrol base at Abbey Road, Tavistock. A strategy for the disposal of the existing site has been developed. Devon Historic Buildings has indicated that they are prepared to take on the ownership and liabilities for the consideration of £1. The Force was looking to rent back part of the building for a Police Reception Office at no cost for an agreed period to increase visibility and confidence by maintaining a presence in the town centre.
- There had been changes to the size of the planned facilities for the Exeter Criminal Justice Centre. A completed business case would be brought to the April or June meeting of the Committee. A meeting was due to be held on 5th February with the Courts to discuss selling the entire Heavitree Road building as one.
- English Heritage has stated that it is not their intention to list the existing Truro building.
- A local developer wishes to buy a strip of land near to the existing Police Station at Camelford subject to planning permission. Approval is sought from the Committee to dispose of this asset.
- The existing accommodation for Special Branch is inadequate and will need improvement. The potential to increase the space in the current building in Plymouth is being explored. The Exeter offices also need refurbishment; this will depend on the outcome of the Exeter Strategic Policing Hub project.
- The Treasurer recommended that identifying Value for Money from investment be built into future reports, tabulating scope for cash and other efficiency savings in the Estates Strategy. It was acknowledged that some of the benefits may be difficult to quantify financially as they are more social benefits. New business cases should include financial and other benefits.

- RESOLVED**
- (i) that the report be noted.
 - (ii) to approve the disposal of the existing Pool Public Protection Unit.
 - (iii) to approve a revised budget for the Devonport scheme as outlined in the report.
 - (iv) to approve the disposal of the existing freehold asset at Marlborough Street and the leased premises at Prynne Court following completion of the new Devonport Police Station.
 - (v) to approve in principle the disposal of Tavistock Police Station, in line with that detailed within the report, and delegate the agreement of the final terms of that disposal to the Chief Executive and Treasurer of the Police Authority.
 - (vi) to approve the disposal of the strip of land near Camelford Police Station as detailed in the report.

R/850 Budget Working Party & Budget 2010-11

The report presented the notes from the meetings of the Budget Working Party held on 11th December 2009 and 8th January 2010 and included proposals for the 2010-11 budget. These proposals had been covered at a recent police Authority seminar.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.10hrs.