

**DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY**

**RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Resources Committee was held on 22 November 2007.

***Further information on the items referred to below is contained in the agenda, report and minutes for the meeting on 22 November 2007.***

**The following recommendations arose from the meeting.**

**[R/678] Delegated Powers**

The Police Authority had previously agreed the Terms of Reference for the Committee and these were proposed as appropriate for the Resources Committee to approve with delegated powers. However, there was a need to reconcile such delegated powers with urgency procedures and responsibilities of other parts of the Police Authority.

The proposed delegated powers were:

- Monitoring of the budget for the current financial year
- Initial consideration of the draft budget for the forthcoming financial year
- Approval of business cases for major projects
- Capital financing
- Information systems
- Airwave
- Property Strategy
- Acquisitions and Disposals
- Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Treasury Management
- Budget virements and use of reserves

**RECOMMENDATION that**

- (i) Resources Committee delegated powers are as listed in the Resources Committee Terms of Reference;
- (ii) the Authority determine the issues around urgency procedures and potential duplication of responsibilities.

**[R/684] Banking Contract**

**RESOLVED to recommend to the Police Authority that**

- (i) Standing orders be suspended to permit a further extension of the banking contract with the existing supplier for 3-5 years.
- (ii) Authority to agree the detailed terms be delegated to the Treasurer in consultation with the Chair of Resources.

### **[R/686] Estate Management**

This item dealt with the overall management of the police estate in relation to the future of policing and subsequent impact on estate requirements. A ring fenced fund to start to establish the long-term development values and opportunities was recommended, funded from the existing Force Development Reserve. Members raised the need for pro-active communication and consultation strategies.

It was recommended that spending against the reserve be delegated to the Police Authority Lead Member for Property and the Chair of Resources Committee to enable decisions to be made in a timely manner. It was felt there was a need to work through the detail of progressing this issue and a working group of members be convened to manage this.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- (i) to establish an estates reserve of £750,000 from the Force Development Reserve;
  - (ii) that decisions on the deployment of this reserve be delegated to the Lead Member of Property and the Chair of Resources in consultation with the Treasurer;
- These resolutions to be subject to a property strategy briefing meeting with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Resources and the Lead Member.
- (iii) That the development strategy is led by a pro-active communication strategy to ensure that the objectives of betterment and the enhancement of our service are understood by stakeholders.

An update was given on property projects where the Committee was required to agree funding against the capital programme. The Committee resolved the following:

- (iv) to purchase the land for a public protection unit in Poole.
- (v) to negotiate heads of terms and price establishment of an identified property in Ashburton for the relocation of MCIT from Seale Hayne.
- (vi) to note the situation in relation to the Devonport project and await the outcome of the scheduled meetings before resolving the way forward.

#### **Matters discussed (with minute references shown in brackets) included:**

### **[R/679] Financial Monitoring**

Members considered the report which included the capital and revenue expenditure statement for the 2007/08 financial year and the police officer funded post profile. The revenue budget was on target and a balanced budget was forecast at year-end.

The Committee also considered progress and the financial implications of the implementation of the Police Staff Handbook. The Human Resources Committee have resolved that delegated authority be given to the Chairmen's Group to approve the terms to be put to Trade Union members in the ballot on the Staff Handbook.

**The Police Staff Handbook and the recommendations arising from both the Resources Committee and the Human Resources committee are dealt with as a substantive item elsewhere on this agenda.**

The Committee resolved

- (i) That the latest financial projections for 2007/08 be noted;
- (ii) That the planned budget saving of £150k for communications be reduced to £50k in order to progress external and internal communication arrangements to help deliver the organisational change programme in 2007/08.
- (iii) That the Police Authority be recommended to request the Chief Constable to bring proposals to the Chair's Group on 19<sup>th</sup> December as to how the additional costs arising from the Police Staff Handbook can be met from existing resources.
- (iv) To welcome the initiatives being made towards fleet management.

#### **[R/682] Treasury Management**

The report provided information on fund management performance and implications for the budget. Members were updated on treasury management issues which included an update following the decision to disinvest from one of the fund managers, the forecast of performance for the remaining fund manager and the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Investment Fund. Members requested information on data handling practices and that they be provided with a briefing on the outcome of the credit card working practices audit.

#### **[R/685] Forensic Services Collaboration Update**

Members were updated on the current progress being made by the Forensic Services Collaboration project team. The update included the issues discussed and agreed at the recent meeting of Procurement Managers and Scientific Support Managers from the participating Police Authorities. Potential savings for Devon and Cornwall, should the Authority enter into the collaborative agreement, were provided and it was felt that there was also potential operational benefits. Governance issues needed to be considered and agreed. There was a need to appoint a Police Authority Member with delegated powers to sit on the Consortium Management Committee.

**Further information and the recommendations to the Police Authority arising from this item are dealt with as a substantive item elsewhere on this agenda.**

Other issues discussed included: *[R/677] Business Benefits Measurement and Monitoring Force Development Programme, [R/681] Budget Working Party, [R/687] Bodmin Project – progress report.*

**Mr Brian Greenslade  
Chairman, Resources Committee**