

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Resources Committee was held on 24 April 2008.

Further information on the items referred to below is contained in the agenda, report and minutes for the meeting on 24 April 2008.

The following recommendations arose from the meeting

[R/707] Treasury Management Report

Members noted that the current Treasury Management Strategy had functioned extremely well during 2007-08 despite the troubled financial climate. In excess of £1m of additional interest /cost-saving had been achieved.

The meeting **RESOLVED** that the current success of the Treasury Management Strategy be noted and that returns for the Euro fund be transferred to the Helicopter Replacement Reserve.

RECOMMENDATION that the following changes to the Treasury Management Strategy be approved:

- i. That the Police Authority allow short term borrowing and an upper limit for fixed rate debt maturing in less than 10 years is set at 33% of all debt.
- ii. That borrowing be incurred for short term assets subject to appropriate provision being made within the annual revenue budget to set aside funding to repay the debt over the life of the asset.

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

[R/708] Airwave Service Business Benefits Summary

The summary of the business benefits of the Airwave Service considered by the meeting was based on user experience, the management team and from information received on other Force experiences. It was also based on results from a recent survey of Airwave users. The summary of benefits realisation provided only an opinion of whether or not a benefit had been realised. This was because neither the business benefits nor the way in which those business benefits would be measured had been established prior to the commencement of the project.

Members expressed their dissatisfaction with this situation and the need for improved project management. A further report was requested to include evidence showing the reasoning for deeming that benefits had been realised, and also progress on achieving those benefits not yet deemed to be met. It was requested that this report also include how the technical and cultural issues influencing the realisation of benefits from Airwave were being addressed.

[R/709] Introduction of Mobile Data Resulting from NPIA Initiative

Members considered a report that identified the benefits and implications of rolling out mobile data access to the Neighbourhood Policing Teams should the Force be successful in its bid to

Government for a share of the NPIA funding initiative. . A decision as to whether or not the bid was successful was expected in early May.

[R/710] Police Authority Members' access to Restricted Devon & Cornwall Constabulary Data via email.

Three options were presented that would enable Members' access to restricted information by email. It was **RESOLVED** to pursue the PNN3 Remote Access and Citrix solution and to delegate to the Treasurer the identification of funding to pursue this solution.

[R/713] Mercury Project

The Mercury Project aimed to manage the replacement of the current command and control and crime and intelligence systems with commercial 'off the shelf' products. Members considered the reasons for the replacement need, the estimated cost of replacement and proposals for the tendering process. It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the project to conduct the invitation to tender phase of the project on behalf of the Police Authority as the 'contracting authority'. The meeting also resolved to endorse the decision by the project board to adopt the EU restricted tendering process based upon external legal advice and internal professional knowledge and to endorse the invitation to tender approach to seek an integrated IT solution rather than specified systems in order to transfer the risk of integration issues.

[R/714] Estate Strategy and Programme Update

Members considered the new style report which combined an updated Estate Strategy, and an overview of progress on the whole of the estate programme. Under delegated powers, Members **RESOLVED** the following at the meeting:

- (i) To defer approval of the Estate Strategy until the next meeting of the committee when an amended draft would be presented;
- (ii) the Estate Programme highlight report be noted;
- (iii) to approve that Financial Regulations and Standing Orders be waived for the potential sale of the existing Bodmin Police Station site, with the final details of the transaction to be subject of a further report;
- (iv) that if an acceptable end date is not forthcoming, an alternative scheme to Redrow for Devonport be progressed, that short-term accommodation be secured as a matter of priority and that the costs of this accommodation be funded from the overall capital budget allocated for the scheme.
- (v) To approve the use of up to £180,000 from the £750,000 Estates Development Fund in order to progress the Estate Strategy for Exeter and Truro as set out in the report;
- (vi) To waive Financial Regulations and Standing Orders to allow the Police Authority to appoint the developer's firm of architects to finalise the Truro development options.

Other issues discussed included: [R/706] Financial Monitoring, [R/712] Update on Plymouth Head Camera Project R/714.