

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Resources Committee

13 September 2007

Open for the purposes of FOI

Report of the Treasurer

Formula Grant Consultation

Recommendation:

That the attached draft response be made to the Government's consultation exercise.

1. Devon and Cornwall Police are critically dependent on government grant. In 2007/08, basic grant amounted to £177.5m, some 69% of our net budget. In addition, we receive £23.7m in specific grants. Clearly changes in grant could have a major impact on the resources for policing in years to come.
2. Government are now consulting on possible changes to the current arrangements to run from 2008 to 2011. This is a complex debate but some of the possible changes could have profound and long-term implications for the level and quality of policing in this area. Devon and Cornwall appears to lose out on almost all the options and our opportunity to make good any losses via council tax is likely to be heavily constrained.
3. A possible response to the consultation is attached. The suggested wording is deliberately forceful. Rural authorities risk losing out yet again and we have nowhere else to go. Losing out again would be bad news in times of plenty. Now, with the likelihood of very difficult overall grant settlements ahead, it could seriously undermine our position. It is vital that a Devon and Cornwall view is recorded with Government and with the APA. Members can be assured that many of those who could gain from possible changes will be making their views known.

John Glasby
Treasurer