

## Devon And Cornwall Police Authority

### Minutes

A meeting of the **Devon and Cornwall Police Authority** was held at Police Headquarters, Middlemoor, Exeter on Friday 14 October 2005 at 11.00hrs.

#### Present:

Mr D Money .....(Chairman)

Mr J Smith .....(Vice-Chairman)

Mr M I R Bull, Mr C Bulley, Mr J Currie, Sir Simon Day, Mr I P A Doggett, Mr T Evans, Mr G Hicks, Mr M Hicks, Mr B C Greenslade, Mrs A Malcolm, Mr S Malloni, Mr M Nevitt, Mrs J Owen, Mr B Preston, Mrs A Talbot, Mr W D Thomas and Mr C Wallin.

#### P/1079 Apologies For Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

#### P/1080 New Police Authority Member

Mrs Alison Malcolm had been appointed as the new Independent Member.

#### P/1081 Declarations Of Interest

The following declaration of interest was received:

Name	Agenda Item	Minute number	Interest	Nature of Interest	Action
G Hicks	10) Police Community Support Officer Funding	P/1091	Personal	Member of Kerrier District Council	N/A

#### P/1082 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

#### P/1083 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 15 July and 26 September 2005 were signed as a correct record.

#### P/1084 Matters arising

[P/1078] Neighbourhood Policing Fund

- It could not be guaranteed that the Government would accept the bid for PCSOs however this was unlikely since increasing the number of PCSOs nationally was a Government initiative.
- All PCSOs would be issued with permanent contracts.
- Government and Members would limit potential increases in council tax.
- There was a need to update the resolution because the formal invitation to submit the bid had not been received from Government.

**P/1084 Matters arising (Cont'd..)**

**RESOLVED** to extend the delegated powers given to the Chairmen's Group on 26 September 2005 to submit a bid to the Neighbourhood Policing Fund when required.

**P/1085 Chief Constable's Report**

The Chief Constable reported a change to the Chief Officer portfolios.

Deaths of Serving Members

It was with regret that Mrs Wallis reported the deaths of the following:

Lorna Caldwell on 22 July 2005. Born on 5 February 1949, Lorna joined the Constabulary as a call handler in January 2002. Most recently, Lorna worked as a call taker within the Crimestoppers Team at Police Headquarters. Lorna was an enthusiastic and devoted member of staff and would be sadly missed.

Patrick Boyle on 25 July 2005. Born on 17 January 1958, Paddy joined the Constabulary in 1987 and retired from ill-health in April 2004. He served in St Austell, Charles Cross, Crownhill, Devonport, Plymstock and most recently worked in Crime Department Firearms Unit at Police HQ. Paddy leaves a partner, Caroline Denton, who is an Officer with the Constabulary. His death came as a great shock and a very sad loss to his family and friends, the Force and the community.

Anthony Mead on 14 September 2005. Born in 1968, Tony joined the Constabulary in 1987 aged 18. He served at Plymouth, Newquay, Redruth, Camborne, Truro and Ilfracombe. Most recently Tony was in Barnstaple CID. Tony died whilst participating in a charity cycle ride in aid of Paddy Boyle. He leaves a wife and young son. Tony was an extremely popular officer and well known across the Force for his professional ability and sporting prowess and would be greatly missed.

Forensic Fraud Award Ceremony

Crime Department had held an award ceremony for good work in investigative forensic fraud.

Major incidents and Policing Diary / Operational Priorities

Members considered the content of the report.

Issues raised in discussing the above included:

- There had been a slight increase in the number of road traffic collisions compared with the same period last year. The number of fatal and serious road traffic collisions was reducing and the Constabulary was on course to reach the ACPO target.
- It was sometimes necessary to temporarily extract Neighbourhood Beat Managers from their beats to provide additional policing support in other areas. Deployment of additional PCSOs to neighbourhood beats should reduce the need for extractions thereby assisting in securing a permanent police presence within communities.
- Boat licences and the need for suitable legislation.

### **P/1085 Chief Constable's Report (Cont'd..)**

- Policing arrangements for Bonfire Night. An update on the policing of these events would be given at the next meeting.
- The success of the East Devon CDRP taxi marshal initiative. Members who wished to highlight good news stories such as this were asked to contact the writer of the report so that they could be included in the Spotlight on Success section for future meetings.

#### Awards and Commendations

Members noted the Long Service and Good Conduct Medals awarded at presentations held on 26 July and 2 August.

The Chairman reported that the Chief Executive had completed 30 years in public service.

#### Successes and Challenges

During the year to date, the Constabulary had recorded an 8.8% decrease in crime against a target reduction of 7%. This included a 9.9% reduction in theft from vehicles and a 25% reduction in common assault. Total recorded crime has also fallen by 7.3%.

Violent crime had reduced by 10.2%.

26.5% of recorded total crime had been detected and the sanction detection rate was 23.3% which was above the year-end target of 22.1%.

Issues raised in discussing the above included:

- It was reported that residents had welcomed recent improvements to Neighbourhood policing in North Devon.
- The need to challenge the public perception of lack of police presence on the streets because it was undermining the good work that was being done in neighbourhood policing. It was necessary for Neighbourhood Beat Managers to raise their profile with communities and stakeholders such as local councils and Police Authority Members.

#### Personnel

Members noted the personnel snapshot on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2005. It was requested whether it was possible to have a snapshot of numbers of Officers on duty and it was agreed that the practicalities of satisfying this request would be investigated.

#### Spotlight on Success

Inside Justice Week to promote the No Witness, No Justice initiative was taking place during the week commencing 17 October. The Constabulary had produced promotional No Witness, No Justice wristbands and a variety of promotional events were taking place.

Members noted the letters of thanks received by the Constabulary.

## **P/1086 Reports of Committees**

The Authority received reports of the Committee meetings that had taken place since the last meeting of the Authority.

1. A meeting of the Human Resources Committee was held on 7 October.

Mr John Smith was elected Chairman and Mrs Aurora Talbot Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

There were no recommendations arising from the meeting.

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee.

Issues raised in discussing the above included:

- Sickness absence
- Restorative Justice and the need to promote RJ as a sanction detection.

2. Meetings of the Performance Management Committee were held on 19 July and 9 September.

There were no recommendations arising from the meetings.

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee.

Issues raised in discussing the above included:

- Whether the Annual Policing Plan should be discussed at the Human Resources Committee.
- SOCRATES

3. A meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee was held on the 20 September 2005.

Mr Mike Nevitt was elected Chairman and Mr Simon Malloni was elected Vice-Chairman.

There were no recommendations arising from the meetings.

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee.

Issues raised in discussing the above included:

- Youth consultation – it was very encouraging that young people knew the name of their Neighbourhood Beat Manager and Police Community Support Officers.

4. A meeting of the Professional Standards and Complaints Monitoring Group was held on the 5 July 2005.

There were no recommendations arising from the meeting.

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee.

5. Meetings of the Resources Committee were held on 27 July and 28 September 2005.

### **P/1086 Reports of Committees (Cont'd...)**

The following recommendation arose from the meeting:

#### **[R/4457] Torrington Police Station**

**RESOLVED** to approve the business case to facilitate the refurbishment of the whole of Torrington Police Station, together with provision of DDA compliance within the financial year 2005-06.

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee.

6. A meeting of the Standards Committee was held on 7 October 2005.

There were no recommendations arising from the meeting.

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee.

Issues raised in discussing the above included:

- The retirement of Mr De Beer, Chairman of the Committee. Mr De Beer was commended for his contribution to the Committee during his term of office.

### **P/1087 Appointment of Independent Members to the Standards Committee**

#### **RESOLVED that**

- i. The appointment of the three members to be appointed to the panel to shortlist and interview candidates to the Standards Committee be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman and;
- ii. following the interviews, the Panel submits its appointment recommendations to the Authority for consideration.

### **P/1088 Independent Custody Visiting Scheme**

**RESOLVED** that the revised guidelines for the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Independent Custody Visiting Scheme be approved.

### **P/1089 Police Authority Liaison Meetings**

Members noted the meetings held since the last meeting of the Police Authority.

Issues raised in discussing the above included:

- The success of the new joint Police Authority Liaison meetings held with Mid Devon District Council.
- The Police Authority Liaison Meeting for Torbay due to be held on 24 October would follow a new 'drop in' format and would be held at the local cinema in Paignton.
- Call handling issues had been raised at the meeting held in Hayle. Work was ongoing to improve call handling performance. Mike Bull, Lead Member for call handling, agreed to report back to the member concerned in due course. A briefing on call handling performance, which could be used by Members to respond to future questions at Police Authority Liaison Meetings, was requested.
- Policing Boards – the Plymouth Policing Board had proved successful. A date had yet to be agreed for the North Devon Policing Board.

**P/1089 Police Authority Liaison Meetings (Cont'd...)**

- It was requested whether a digest of issues arising at Police Authority Liaison Meeting could be included with the report in future.

**P/1090 Closed Items - Exclusion Of The Press And Public**

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

<b>Minute Number</b>	<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Relevant Act</b>	<b>Relevant section</b>
P/1091	Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) funding	Freedom of Information Act	Section 22 – Information intended for future publication
P/1092	Capital Programme Update	Freedom of Information Act	Section 43 - Commercial Interest (2) Prejudice the commercial interests of any person including the public authority holding it.
P/1093	Totnes Refurbishment	Freedom of Information Act	Section 43 - Commercial Interest (2) Prejudice the commercial interests of any person including the public authority holding it.
P/1094	Force Restructuring	Freedom of Information Act	Section 22 – Information intended for future publication
P/1095	Proposals for the Training College Refurbishment	Freedom of Information Act	Section 43 - Commercial Interest (2) Prejudice the commercial interests of any person including the public authority holding it.
P/1096	Business Case for Operational Estate in Bodmin	Freedom of Information Act	Section 43 - Commercial Interest (2) Prejudice the commercial interests of any person including the public authority holding it.
P/1097	Refurbishment of Barnstaple Police Station	Freedom of Information Act	Section 43 - Commercial Interest (2) Prejudice the commercial interests of any person including the public authority holding it.
P/1098	Proposed Sale and Leaseback of Teignmouth Police Station	Freedom of Information Act	Section 43 - Commercial Interest (2) Prejudice the commercial interests of any person including the public authority holding it.
P/1099	Proposals for the Covert Operations Branch	Freedom of Information Act	s.31 – Law enforcement

**P/1091 Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Funding**

Members were provided with an overview of the funding issues that currently existed with regards to mainstreaming of posts, achieving the Home Office uplift of 458 posts and identifying and obtaining partnership funding.

### **P/1091 Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Funding (Cont'd...)**

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The major financial commitment involved and the Police Authority's ability to manage the financial implications.
- Implications for health and safety as a result of increased numbers of officers - The Home Office provided a grant to Police Authorities for each PCSO for initial training and equipment needs. Decisions on allocation had not yet been made therefore health and safety issues in relation to front-line policing had not yet been fully worked through.
- Justification for the proposed initial allocation of PCSOs to Neighbourhoods and the need to take the opportunity to re-address existing allocations. A mapping exercise currently being undertaken by the Constabulary would assist in identifying areas that would benefit from additional policing resources such as PCSOs.

### **RESOLVED**

- i. To note the update from the Neighbourhood Policing Fund (NPF) meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> September 2005.
- ii. That the Police Authority mainstream the part funding of PCSOs recruited under Rounds 1, 2 and 3 and Round 1 of Neighbourhood Policing Fund until 2008 and full funding thereafter.
- iii. That all PCSOs be issued with substantive permanent contracts.
- iv. That BCU Commanders, on behalf of the Force, sell the benefits of PCSOs to partners and secure partnership funding assistance for current and future posts wherever possible.
- v. That the Police Authority receives a further report on the deployment of PCSOs at a future meeting.

### **P/1092 Capital Programme Update**

Members noted the report that provided a context for the decisions required on the individual property projects included later on the agenda. Members were reassured that the proposals that were put forward in the reports were still appropriate despite recent discussions around police force restructuring.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

### **P/1093 Totnes Refurbishment**

Members considered the recommendation to undertake a full refurbishment of the basement and ground floor at Totnes Police Station.

**RESOLVED** to approve an increase of the budget for Totnes Police Station refurbishment (ground floor and basement) – increase from £400,000 to £680,000.

### **P/1094 Force Restructuring**

Members received an update from Chief Superintendent McGrath on the discussions that had taken place around Force restructuring. The timescales involved and the options that were being considered were outlined.

### **P/ 1095 Proposals for the Training College Refurbishment**

Members considered the business case for a programme of refurbishment for the Training College at Police HQ. In light of the uncertainty around Force structures, it was considered sensible to keep the options open. It was therefore proposed that option 4 be progressed but that all options be reconsidered in January / February 2006 before the final commitment was made.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The non-inclusion of other training work in the business plan.
- The possibility of using buildings owned by other organisations within the Force area for police training purposes.
- The need for residential training facilities on the Exeter site.

#### **RESOLVED** that

- i. Option 4 as detailed in the Training College Refurbishment Business Case be pursued.
- ii. A further report be presented to the Property Sub-Committee following receipt of tenders to discuss which of the options should be recommended to the Police Authority for approval.

### **P/1096 Business Case for Operational Estate in Bodmin**

Members considered a business case in support of improvements to the operational estate in the Bodmin area. This was the first large scheme to be considered under the new Operational Estates Strategy and had involved a considerable amount of work.

#### **RESOLVED**

- i. that the business case and recommended option be approved;
- ii. that the Property Sub-Committee be required to approve any proposed solution prior to implementation.

### **P/1097 Refurbishment of Barnstaple Police Station**

- Members were provided with an update detailing the settlement offer made to the contractor. Procedures had now been put in place to ensure that similar problems were not experienced in the future.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Strategic Risk Management
- Standing orders for tenders and contracts
- Concerns regarding this issue and the substantial overspend that had resulted

#### **RESOLVED**

- i. to note the report;
- ii. to approve the additional expenditure.

### **P/1098 Proposed Sale and Leaseback of Teignmouth Police Station**

Approval for the sale and leaseback of Teignmouth Police Station was sought. The Operational Estates Strategy and South & West Devon BCU had previously identified and agreed that a replacement for Teignmouth Police Station was both necessary and a high priority. Sale and leaseback would allow the policing of Teignmouth to continue as at present while the long-term future of Teignmouth and Dawlish

**P/1098 Proposed Sale and Leaseback of Teignmouth Police Station (Cont'd...)**

is delivered in line with the Operational Estate Strategy. The proposal would provide impetus for the final resolution.

**RESOLVED** to approve the sale and leaseback of Teignmouth Police Station on the terms set out in the report.

**P/1099 Proposals for the Covert Operations Branch**

The Constabulary Covert Operations Branch currently operated out of three different sites. There was a need to deliver level 2 requirements and local deployment was essential. Therefore, the proposal was not affected by potential changes to Force structures.

**RESOLVED**

- i. That the business case and recommended solution be approved;
- ii. To note the need to fund any additional revenue costs from savings within the revenue budget.

**P/1100 Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting, scheduled for 9 December, clashed with a regional debate on Force structures. Availability on the 29 November was not satisfactory.

**RESOLVED** that the date of the next meeting be 30 November 2005.

The meeting closed at 13.20hrs