

## DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **Devon and Cornwall Police Authority** held at Police Headquarters, Middlemoor, Exeter on **Wednesday 15 February 2006**.

### Present:

Mr D Money..... (Chairman)

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

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

### P/1119 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Sir Simon Day and Mr Bryan Preston.

### P/1120 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received.

Name	Item	Minute ref	Interest	Details	Action taken
B Greenslade	(12) Closed minutes - [P/1116] Holsworthy Police Station.	P/1131	Personal	Devon County Council Member	N/A
J Owen	(4) Property Sub-Committee minutes - [P/1116] Holsworthy Police Station.	P/1131	Personal	Devon County Council Member	N/A
J Smith	(4) Property Sub-Committee minutes - [P/1116] Holsworthy Police Station.	P/1131	Personal	Devon County Council Member	N/A

### P/1121 ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION

The Chairman certified that having regard to the special circumstances pertaining to the matter noted below, he was of the opinion that, despite its non-inclusion on the Agenda it should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency.

- Force Structures

The Chief Constable, Chief Executive and Mr Brian Greenslade (APA representative on the Structures Agenda) provided members with an update on the current situation with regard to Force Structures.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The business case for Devon and Cornwall Constabulary to remain as a standalone Force had been submitted to the Home Secretary on 23 December 2005.

### P/1121 ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION (CONT'D...)

- Independent consultants employed to review submissions from police forces had reviewed the Devon and Cornwall submission and had been very impressed.
- The Home Secretary had issued a ministerial statement for the proposed amalgamations for the Welsh Police Forces, North East, North West and West Midlands regions. Discussions for affordability and implications for the police precept would follow.
- Force structure proposals for the remainder of the country were expected in March.
- The Association of Police Authorities had estimated the cost for restructuring at £650m nationally. Potential savings from restructuring had been considered and debated by the APA and the general feeling was that it was unlikely savings would ever repay the costs. A contribution of £125m from the Home Secretary towards restructuring was expected.
- The Chairman placed on record his thanks to Officers and Staff who had been involved in preparing the business case for the Constabulary, and to the Councils and Members of Parliament who had supported it.

### P/1122 OPEN MINUTES

The open minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2005 were signed as a correct record subject to two alterations as follows:

[P/1103] Force Structures – namely the need to agree the way forward for the *structures proposals*.

[P/1106] The Authority *have* 3 Lay Justice Members; one appointment was due to expire on 30 April 2006 and the other two on 31 March 2007. ....

### P/1123 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET REPORT 2006-07

Members considered a report setting out the key issues relating to the budget for 2006-07. Members were required to determine the revenue budget requirement, capital programme and council tax levels for 2006-07, along with the associated financing issues. A budget booklet setting out much of the detail and the medium term financial forecasts was presented for consideration.

As always, there had been Member involvement in both the budget setting process prior to this meeting and also budget monitoring throughout the year.

The 2006-07 budget was critical to paving the way for achieving strategic force status. The illustrative budget had been prepared with the flexibility to change throughout the year to meet strategic aims.

The Final Police Grant Settlement of 3.1% on last year had reduced slightly from the provisional grant announcement. The Rural Fund and DNA expansion programme had been retained albeit with no provision for inflation.

The target number of 3500 police officers would be delivered within this budget. This was the highest number of police officers ever in the history of the Force. In addition, 180 Police Community Support Officers would be recruited early with one off costs in excess of grant being met from reserves.

Savings of £7m had been identified, however many of these had been in financing and associated adjustments and could not be repeated.

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The Treasurer recommended capital borrowing be restricted to total no more than £22m over any three year period and that existing capital proposals and potential new schemes be reassessed. Borrowing

**P/1123 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET REPORT 2006-07 (Cont'd...)**

for short term assets should be avoided and therefore investment in vehicles and equipment should be restricted to that which could be funded from capital grants, reserves or revenue.

Members noted that Devon and Cornwall was well below the police authority average in terms of police precept levels.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The £7m savings identified had not been at the expense of front line services. Recent projects such as FIMS and Airwave had contributed significantly to the savings made.
- Members would continue to work with BCU Commanders to ensure that efficiency savings did not affect front line policing.
- Improvements in number of police officers, performance, implementation of Neighbourhood Policing and call handling were welcomed, however there was concern about the ongoing pressures on the budget and additional pressures in light of restructuring / working towards Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly becoming a strategic force.
- A lot of work had been done towards the capital programme, however further rationalisation was required to avoid the risk of over allocation of resources early in the financial year followed by a failure to deliver.
- The new arrangements for contribution to police pensions were welcomed.

**RESOLVED that**

- (i) the full year funding of the Authority's target of 3,500 officers be welcomed;
- (ii) 180 additional Police Community Support Officers be recruited starting immediately with one-off costs in excess of grant (up to £800,000) being met from reserves to enhance neighbourhood policing without impacting on next year's council tax;
- (iii) thanks be extended to Police Authority and Force key financial staff for their efforts to delivery yet more significant savings which have helped reduce the impact on council tax, to moderate operational requirements and to demonstrate restraint in the use of resources – all in the context of improving performance;
- (iv) the budget and budget requirement for 2006/07 be £246,273,836;
- (v) the budget lines for interest receipts and council tax receipts be each increased by £17,000;

**P/1123 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET REPORT 2006-07 (Cont'd..)**

- (vi) subject to (iv) and (v) above, the budget amounts, provisions, reserves, balances, financing adjustments and savings be approved as in the illustrative budget booklet together with the efficiency plan;
- (vii) the council tax for each of the eight property bands and the precepts on the billing authorities for 2006/07 be approved as in the attached sheet;
- (viii) the Treasurer's comments on the robustness of the budget estimates, the adequacy of balances and reserves and issues of risk be noted;
- (ix) the uncommitted balance of the programme and project budget be contributed to the Invest to Save reserve to be managed by the Resources Committee so that investment is shown to be clearly dependent on robust business cases and implementation plans;
- (x) the capital programme and funding for buildings, vehicles and equipment (including limits on borrowing) be approved in outline as in the illustrative budget booklet with a reappraisal of schemes in the light of affordability and Meeting the Challenge being brought to the Resources Committee to determine the detailed programme within these limits;
- (xi) the prudential indicators, including borrowing limits, in Appendix A of the budget report be approved with monitoring being delegated to the Resources Committee;
- (xii) the potential outcomes of the medium term financial plan be supported, including the number of officers, the treatment of provisions, balances and reserves and the future revenue spending commitments and the implications for subsequent years be noted with concern;
- (xiii) work start immediately on reviewing all commitments whether from revenue, buildings, vehicles, ICT or projects and initiatives to limit future demand;
- (xiv) the need for significant future savings be acknowledged and work begin immediately as a partnership between Authority and Force to monitor the savings currently identified and to identify new savings for 2007/08 and beyond;
- (xv) it be accepted that Meeting the Challenge will involve significant changes requiring robust and dynamic resource management.

**P/1124 POLICE AUTHORITY ANNUAL POLICING PLAN 2006-07, POLICE AUTHORITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2006-09**

Members considered the final draft texts for the Police Authority Annual Policing Plan 2006-07 and Police Authority Strategic plan 2006-09. The objectives and targets for 2006-07 included in the Annual Policing Plan were also considered. Both plans would be published as web-based documents again this year. Hard copy versions would be provided on request.

The production of a local policing summary was now mandated through the Serious, Organised Crime and Police Act and this had to reach all households within the Force area as soon as possible after the financial year end. An initial draft local policing summary was considered by members at the meeting.

**P/1124 POLICE AUTHORITY ANNUAL POLICING PLAN 2006-07, POLICE AUTHORITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2006-09 (Cont'd...)**

It was proposed that the Planning and Consultation Committee agree the photographic content of all plans.

The Chief Executive updated Members on the implications of the Police and Justice Bill on production of the Annual Policing and Strategic Plans. It was proposed that the legal responsibility to produce such plans would be removed, and the information leaflet would become the main vehicle to promote the work of the Authority and Constabulary. In addition, the leaflet would need to be informed by the work of CDRPs.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Photographic content.
- Posting arrangements for the local policing summary.

**RESOLVED to**

- i. note the contents of the report and draft contents of the Annual Policing Plan 2006-07, Annual Report 2005-06 and Strategic Plan 2006-09;
- ii. approve plans [allowing for minor amendment], for submission to the Home Secretary on 28 February 2006;
- iii. agree that the approval of photographic content within the plans be delegated to the Planning and Consultation Committee;
- iv. note the initial draft of the local policing summary.

**P/1125 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT**

Deaths of Serving Members

It was with regret that Mrs Wallis reported the death of Sgt Ian Warne on 14 December 2005. Born on 27 February 1958, Ian joined the Constabulary as a cadet in 1976 and had completed 29 years service with the Force. He worked most recently as the Community Safety Sergeant in Wadebridge. He leaves a wife and three children and will be sadly missed.

It was with regret that Mrs Wallis reported the death of Special Sergeant Nick Gardner on 11 February 2006. Born on 13 September 1957, Nick joined the Force on 8 June 1995. He served at Helston as a Special Constable before being promoted to Section Officer on 1 April 2003 and then Special Sergeant on 1 October 2003. He leaves three children and was a widower having lost his wife two years ago. Nick will be sadly missed.

Members considered the report of the Chief Constable and were updated on a number of incidents noted in the report.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

Major Incidents and Policing Diary

- During 2005/06 there had been 16 homicides to date, compared with 22 in 2004/05.

## P/1125 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT (Cont'd...)

- The total number of fatalities in road traffic collisions had risen in 2005 to 94 from 80. Of these, 23 were motorcyclists.
- Arson within schools. Members requested an update on the work of the Arson Task Force.
- Figures available so far indicated that the change to the licensing hours had resulted in police resources being required for longer periods throughout an evening. To date, less than ten premises had applied for 24-hour licences. A report would be brought to a future meeting of the Police Authority when more information about the impact of this new legislation was available.

### Court Successes

- The court case of the Firkin brothers had been held and guilty verdicts obtained. The Judge had praised the teamwork of those involved in the case.

### Operational Priorities

- The Chief Constable highlighted the very successful Exeter Prioritisation of Demand initiative.
- 80 new detectives were to fill posts in Plymouth, Bodmin, Camborne, Exeter and Torbay. The new detectives would provide specialist local knowledge and tactics and would release local officers to deal with local crime.

### Successes and Challenges – update

- In the period April to December 2005 the Force had recorded a 6.9% decrease in crime. It was anticipated that the year-end target from crime reduction would be exceeded. The Force had the 7<sup>th</sup> lowest level of crime per head of population.

### Personnel

- Sickness absence within the force was comparatively low compared with other Forces.
- ACC Winter provided an update on call handling performance. Current figures showed that 89.17% of emergency calls had been answered in 10 seconds. The 90% target was achievable by year-end.
- Victim Care Units in Exeter, Camborne and Plymouth had recently been opened. Feedback from victims had been very positive.
- The Police Authority had facilitated a conference on behalf of the British Association of Women in Policing. The event had been very successful.
- The Constabulary had written to the Nottingham Police extending their support following the shooting of the female probationer police constable Rachael Brown. It was confirmed that all officers in the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary were issued with bullet and knife resistant body armour. Body armour is worn at the discretion of individual officers. The Police Federation advised that a national survey is scheduled to take place shortly which will seek police officers views on carrying firearms.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

## P/1126 REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES

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

1. The meeting of the **Corporate Governance Committee** scheduled for 14 February had been cancelled. Mr Bull requested an opportunity to update members on two items due to be considered by the Committee, in the closed session of this meeting.

2. A meeting of the **Human Resources Committee** was held on 7 January 2006.

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee.

3. A Meeting of the **Planning and Consultation Committee** was held on 1 February 2006.

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- [PC/174] Neighbourhood Policing – A visionary day, to be led by ACC Melville, was scheduled to be held and would look at the way forward for Neighbourhood Policing following the introduction of additional PCSOs. Teams of PCSOs were proving to be both effective and popular with local communities.

- [PC/175] William Thomas had attended a recent attestation ceremony.

4. Meetings of the **Performance Management Committee** were held on the 9 December 2005 and 24 January 2006.

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee.

- [PM/374, PM/383] Members looked forward to receiving the evaluation results of the Plymouth Domestic Violence Investigation Unit.

5. Meetings of the **Professional Standards and Complaints Monitoring Group** were held on 1 December 2005 and 10 February 2006.

Members noted the items discussed by the Group.

6. A meeting of the **Resources Committee** was held on 5 December 2005.

The following recommendation arose from the committee:

**[R/488] FINANCIAL MONITORING 2005-06**

## P/1126 REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES (Cont'd...)

### RESOLVED

- (i) To welcome the progress made on managing the budget;
- (ii) That the budget virement in paragraph 4 of the Report be approved;
- (iii) That the revenue contribution to capital expenditure, as detailed in paragraph 7 of the report, be approved;
- (iv) That the contribution to earmarked reserves, as detailed in paragraph 9 of the report, be approved;
- (v) That the changes to earmarked reserves, as detailed in paragraph 12 of the report, be approved;
- (vi) That the outturn forecast for capital expenditure be approved as the latest approved programme for 2005-06.

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee.

7. Members noted the decisions taken by the **Urgency Committee** since the last meeting of the Authority.

## P/1127 RISK MANAGEMENT IN THE DEVON AND CORNWALL CONSTABULARY

This report was withdrawn as a result of the cancellation of the Corporate Governance Committee at which Risk Management in the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary and Police Authority was to be discussed.

## P/1128 VIOLENT CRIME PERFORMANCE

Members considered a report which provided an overview of current performance for violent crime in relation to crime levels and detection rates. Performance in early 2004-05 had shown an increasing trend in levels of violence. As a consequence the Constabulary had focussed on reducing crime levels and improving detection rates, in particular 'sanction' detections. Subsequently, violent crime had reduced by 9.7% during the period April to December 2005, and sanction detections for violent crime had improved to 40.1% for the same period.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Recent figures for violent crime in January 2006 showed the reduction trend continuing.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

## P/1129 POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETINGS

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

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

**P/1129 POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETINGS (Cont'd...)**

- Over 60 people had attended the meeting in Redruth. This meeting had followed a new 'drop in' format.
- Acting Chief Inspector Paul Davies had been warmly welcomed at the North Devon meetings.
- A presentation on call handling had been given at the Plymouth meeting.
- The meeting in Truro had been held at Cornwall County Council and had attracted a large number of attendees. The proposals for restructuring of the police service had been discussed at this meeting.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

**P/1130 Closed Items - Exclusion Of The Press And Public**

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

Minute Number	Report Title	Relevant Act	Relevant section
P/1131	Closed Minutes of the Police Authority meeting held on 30 November 2005	Freedom of Information Act	i. Section 40 – Personal Information. ii. Section 43 - Commercial Interest (2) Prejudice the commercial interests of any person including the public authority holding it. iii. Section 22 - Information intended for future publication
P/1132	Treasury Management Strategy for 2006-07	Freedom of Information Act	Section 43 - Commercial Interest (2) Prejudice the commercial interests of any person including the public authority holding it.
P/1133	Internal Audit Report	Freedom of Information Act	Section 22 – Information intended for future publication.
P/1134	Insurance Premiums	Freedom of Information Act	Section 43 - Commercial Interest (2) Prejudice the commercial interests of any person including the public authority holding it.

**P/1131 CLOSED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 NOVEMBER 2005**

The closed minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2005 were signed as a correct record.

**P/1132 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR 2006-07**

As part of the approved Treasury Management Policy, the Treasurer presented a Treasury Management Strategy to Members for 2006-07.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The performance of the investment managers employed by the Authority.
- Capital spending and long term borrowing, and short term investment in money markets.

#### **P/1132 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR 2006-07 (Cont'd...)**

- The need to monitor the investment strategy closely to realise the best returns.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Treasury Management Strategy be approved, specifically in relation to :

- i. retaining the services of Investec and Morley to invest surplus funds on behalf of the Police Authority, subject to satisfactory performance;
- ii. that in addition to the money market operations by Devon County Council, external managers be allowed to use triple A rated money market funds on a temporary basis up to 15% of their holding;
- iii. retaining the services of Devon County Council to provide day to day cash management on behalf of the Police Authority;
- iv. allowing the Treasurer the flexibility to invest funds directly and to vary amounts with different managers if this is to the advantage of the Police Authority. This action to be taken in consultation with the Chair of the Police Authority and Chair of Resources;
- v. dealing in specified and non specified investments, within the parameters as defined in the strategy;
- vi. undertaking long term borrowing in line with the approved capital programme and associated funding;
- vii. noting the use of Barclays as the Authority's bankers.

#### **P/1133 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

Mr Bull updated members on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the internal audit report discussed at the last meeting at P/1118. Progress had now been made towards implementing the recommendations and the Committee's original concerns had been allayed.

#### **P/1134 INSURANCE PREMIUMS**

Members were planning to consider proposals for insurance renewals, due to be implemented in April 2007, at the next meeting of the Corporate Governance Committee. However, the rescheduling of the Committee could create timing problems.

**RESOLVED** that authority to agree insurance renewals and the appointment of brokers be delegated to the Treasurer in consultation with the Chairman of Corporate Governance.

**The meeting adjourned at 13:10hrs and reconvened at 14:00hrs.**

#### **P/1135 PRESENTATION ON CALL MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Members received a presentation on Call Management and Communications.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Members welcomed the proposals to review the use of OIS, which it was proposed would release resources for front line policing.

The meeting closed at 15:00hrs.

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COUNCIL TAX INFORMATION AND PRECEPTS

	£
Police Budget to be met from Council Tax	74,915,081
Less Net Surplus on Council Tax Collection from Previous Years	(731,912)
Total Precept Payable by Billing Authorities	74,183,169

Tax Base, Collection Variations and Precepts

Billing Authority	Tax Base used by Councils	Precept Payable by Councils £	Surplus / (Deficit) on Collection £	Cash Amount due from Councils £
East Devon	55,930.00	7,020,893	0	7,020,893
Exeter	36,412.00	4,570,798	0	4,570,798
Mid Devon	26,676.00	3,348,638	108,290	3,456,928
North Devon	33,683.95	4,228,346	5,355	4,233,701
Plymouth	74,632.00	9,368,555	132,689	9,501,244
South Hams	37,071.92	4,653,638	29,000	4,682,638
Teignbridge	47,821.00	6,002,970	47,318	6,050,288
Torbay	47,992.23	6,024,465	97,220	6,121,685
Torridge	22,337.66	2,804,046	38,230	2,842,276
West Devon	19,428.65	2,438,878	48,783	2,487,661
Caradon	30,653.77	3,847,968	7,611	3,855,579
Carrick	34,501.04	4,330,916	7,660	4,338,576
Kerrier	32,099.12	4,029,403	113,031	4,142,434
North Cornwall	32,121.34	4,032,192	64,315	4,096,507
Penwith	24,736.51	3,105,174	(18,133)	3,087,041
Restormel	33,619.49	4,220,255	32,093	4,252,348
Isles of Scilly	1,243.00	156,034	18,450	174,484
Total	590,959.68	74,183,169	731,912	74,915,081

Police Council Tax due for each Property Valuation Band

Valuation Band	Government Multiplier		Council Tax by Band			Increase %
	Ratio	%	2006/07 £	2005/06 £	per week	
A	6/9	0.667	83.69	79.75	7.6 p	}
B	7/9	0.778	97.63	93.04	8.8 p	
C	8/9	0.889	111.58	106.33	10.1 p	
D	1	1.000	125.53	119.62	11.4 p	
E	11/9	1.222	153.43	146.20	13.9 p	
F	13/9	1.444	181.32	172.78	16.4 p	
G	15/9	1.667	209.22	199.37	18.9 p	
H	18/9	2.000	251.06	239.24	22.7 p	