

Devon And Cornwall Police Authority

Minutes

A meeting of the **Devon and Cornwall Police Authority** was held at Police Headquarters, Middlemoor, Exeter on Friday 15 July 2005 at 10.30hrs.

Present:

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, Mr D Money, Mr M Nevitt, Mrs J Owen, Mr B Preston, Mr J Smith, Mrs A Talbot and Mr W D Thomas.

P/1047 Apologies For Absence

Apologies were received from Sir Simon Day, Mr S Malloni, Mrs C Ryan and Mr C Wallin.

P/1048 Declarations Of Interest

The following declarations of interest were received:

Name	Agenda Item	Minute number	Interest	Nature of Interest	Action
G Hicks	(6) Chief Constable's Report (item 1.21 Tetramast)	P/1052	Personal	Member of Kerrier District Council	N/A
G Hicks	(15) Police Community Support Officer funding in West Cornwall	P/1071	Personal	Member of Kerrier District Council	N/A

P/1049 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

An additional item for Part II was declared.

P/1050 New Police Authority Members

Cornwall County Council had now confirmed their two remaining representatives on the Police Authority and they were Mr Graeme Hicks and Mr Bryan Preston.

P/1051 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2005 were signed as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

[P/1030] Reports of Committees (Resources Committee) – change 'Authority' to 'authority' in the resolution.

[P/1042] Race Equality Scheme – add requirement for IMPACT assessment process training for relevant staff.

Members were advised that at [P/1040] Committee Memberships, the membership to committees would be agreed at the October meeting of the Authority.

P/1052 Chief Constable's Report

The Chief Constable updated Members on recent events.

London bombings

- Gold Control had been opened on the day of the bombings and was headed by ACC Stowe.
- There was no current intelligence to indicate that there was a bomb threat in Devon and Cornwall.
- High visibility policing had been implemented in all Basic Command Units (BCUs) especially in train stations and other busy centres.
- Particular attention was being paid to suspicious parcels / packages.
- Diversity officers were working hard to combat the risk of reprisals.
- A number of Police Officers had been deployed to London to assist the Metropolitan and City police forces.
- Devon and Cornwall Police Staff had assisted in manning the casualty bureaux.

Issues raised in discussing the above included:

- Work to avoid reprisals/ racial disquiet following the London bombings was diverse and included contact with Mosques, schools and colleges (including military colleges), international visitors, asylum seekers and refugees to provide reassurance and give advice on crime prevention.
- A racially motivated incident within a school had been reported to the police. The Constabulary had received complimentary feedback from the Monitoring Group for their involvement in this incident, which had used Restorative Policing techniques and had resulted in a satisfactory conclusion for both victim and offender.

G8

Police Officers deployed to Gleneagles had now returned having represented the Force admirably.

Police Bravery Awards

Police Officers had attended the Police Bravery Awards in London on the 12 July. Sgt Dave Jenkins and Constable Neil Hellens from Barnstaple attended the ceremony to receive an award for their actions in dealing with a fire incident where a man had attempted to set himself alight.

Death in Service

It was with regret that Mrs Wallis reported the death of Special Constable Angela Brent. Angela died on 10 July from cancer. Born on 20 November 1972, Angela joined the Special Constabulary in 1996 and served in Plympton and Crowhill, Plymouth. Angela leaves a husband, who is a police officer at Crownhill, and two children.

Members considered the content of the report and the following issues were highlighted:

1.12 There had been 6 fatal road traffic collisions between 29 April and 9 June 2005.

1.17 – 1.20 These items detailed successful drugs operations.

P/1052 Chief Constable's Report (Cont'd..)

- 2.1 The Catch A Rat campaign, which encouraged people in Exeter to provide information about local drug dealers, had proved to be a great success.
- 2.3 Police in Exeter were helping to reduce racist crime by visiting city takeaways. This initiative was also featured in the Spotlight on Success section of the report. It was suggested that the initiative could be extended to include Black and Minority Businesses generally, and it was agreed that this idea would be taken forward.
- 2.6 The Royal Visit to Devon County Show had been very successful and positive feedback had been received from the Royal party.

Successes and Challenges

- 3.1 In the period April to May 2005 the Constabulary had recorded a 10.3% decrease in the British Crime Survey Comparable Crime. This was a significant reduction however it was anticipated that an increase would be seen during the summer months. There had also been a 13% decrease in total violent crime. Detection of crime was at 26.9% of recorded total crime and there had been an increase in sanction detections of 22.3%.
- 3.6 Police Headquarters had been struck by lightning during a recent storm and the phone system had been put out of action. The Plymouth call centre had handled all 999 calls. Handling of non-emergency calls had been restored quickly. The Chief Constable was grateful to IT and call handling staff for their hard work in overcoming the problems experienced.

The recent court appeal of Francisco Arce Montes for the murder of Caroline Dickinson had been rejected.

The two killers of George Jenkins had been brought to justice and had received a total of 53 years imprisonment.

Issues raised in discussing the above included:

- Police Force areas in which there was a Royal residence received a grant from the Home Office towards related policing. The Devon & Cornwall Constabulary did not charge for policing Royal visits. Association of Chief Police Officer guidance, which the Constabulary adhered to, advised that charging for policing should only be made for events that were held by private, profit making organisations. It was agreed that the issue of charging for football events in Plymouth should be raised with the BCU Commander and would also be discussed at a future meeting of the Resources Committee.
- It was requested that the Local Criminal Justice Board report on the issue of Penalty Notices for Disorder be made available to a future meeting of the Performance Management Committee.
- The figures for Stop and Search would be made available to Members once the figures for the first three months of the year had been recorded and analysed.
- Although fatal road traffic collisions had increased, there had been a reduction in the combined number of fatal and non-fatal road traffic accidents.

P/1052 Chief Constable's Report (Cont'd..)

- It was requested that the time that Neighbourhood Beat Managers (NBMs) spent on the beat be included in the Chief Constable's report in future.

Personnel

The current NBM vacancies in North Devon were due to sickness leave and there were arrangements in place to ensure that these posts were filled. Long term sickness issues continued to be a problem however. It was requested Members be briefed on the policy for dealing with long term sickness and the impact on critical policing posts. It was agreed that this would be provided at a future meeting of the Human Resources Committee.

The formula for allocation of police officers to BCU areas was queried and it was confirmed that this would continue to be progressed through the Human Resources Committee.

Members considered the personnel snapshot for 31 May 2005. The number of police officers in North & East Devon, which was 13 below the funded post profile (target), was queried. Police officer numbers varied daily. It was Force policy that should numbers exceed + / - 5% then relevant action would be taken.

Members noted the information relating to seconded police officers. It was requested that a presentation be given about the range of operations that British police officers were seconded to at a future Police Authority seminar.

The number of special constables in Devon and Cornwall had reduced over the years. The Constabulary had an effective special constable recruitment programme in place and had achieved the highest number of special constables of all other Forces. A number of new recruits were currently going through training and had not yet been included in the statistics. However, it was not necessary to have high numbers of special constables. The Constabulary used mapping techniques to determine the ideal establishment for effective policing of the Force area.

Spotlight on Success

Members noted the letters of thanks received by the Constabulary.

It was requested that a diary of known forthcoming events be included in the report for future meetings.

P/1053 Revenue and Capital Outturn 2004-05

The Treasurer was pleased to report that the outturn for 2004-05 was within £12,000 of budget. The devolved budget performance was particularly notable with each of the BCUs recording small variations against budget and departmental budgets delivering savings in year.

Demand on the Major Operation budget had been high with an overspend of £1.35m and this spending had been offset by a corresponding underspend against corporate programmes and projects.

Capital spending was down and the reasons for this would be discussed and progressed through the Resources Committee. Borrowing had not reached levels expected because of the slippage in the capital programme.

P/1053 Revenue and Capital Outturn 2004-05 (Cont'd..)

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- As anticipated, pressure on the major operations budget during 2004-05 had continued and reserves built up in 2003-04 had been used in 2004-05 to offset this overspend. This action had been taken in preference to enhancing the budget for 2004-05 to keep the pressure on budget holders and to reduce pressure on the council tax. It was hoped that during the current year, similar reserves would be built up for 2006-07.
- The Authority had invested £37,555,000 during the year, against an anticipated £22,800,000. The additional investment had been possible because of available funds resulting from surplus funds arising from day to day cash management and the slippage in capital spending.
- The Authority was saving £200,000 per year towards the helicopter replacement and would achieve a total fund of £1.5m by 2010 when replacement was due. £1.5m was unlikely to be sufficient to fully fund the replacement however saving to contribute to future expected capital investment was common practice.

RESOLVED

- i. That the proposed revenue and capital outturn for 2004-05 be approved, including the suggested treatment of carry forwards, accruals, provisions, reserves, revenue financing and capital financing.
- ii. All relevant officers of the Authority and Constabulary be thanked and congratulated on this fine performance.

P/1054 Treasury Management Report 2004-05

Members had approved a Treasury Management Strategy for 2004-05 which incorporated the Investment Strategy required by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Members were updated on performance during the year against this approved strategy.

RESOLVED to note the report.

P/1055 Corporate Governance Committee Draft Terms of Reference

Members considered the proposed terms of reference for the Corporate Governance Committee. It was anticipated that this new committee would build on the work started by the Audit Committee (which had now disbanded). It would encompass audit, risk management and other review work and would serve to advise the Authority as to whether the systems by which the Police Authority and Constabulary were controlled provided adequate and effective risk management, internal control and governance.

Membership of the committee was proposed to comprise five members with the quorum being three.

RESOLVED

- i. To agree to the establishment of a Corporate Governance Committee in line with the constitution detailed in the report;
- ii. That delegated powers be given to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to appoint the required number of members to the committee;
- iii. That the draft terms of reference be approved.

P/1066 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 Human Resources Committee scheduled for 14 July had been cancelled.
2. 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.

3. A meeting of the Resources Committee was held on 14 June 2005.

The following recommendation arose from the meeting:

[R/433] Financial Monitoring 2005-06

RESOLVED that the virements detailed in the report be approved.

4. No meetings of the Chairmen's group had been held since the last meeting of the Police Authority and there were no meetings currently scheduled. It was proposed that all Members would be advised of dates in due course and given an opportunity to add any issues that they wished to be discussed at these meetings to the agenda.

P/1067 Appointment of Independent Member

There was a need to appoint a new Member following the resignation of one of the Independent Members on the Police Authority due to relocation out of the area. The Police Authority had recently undertaken a full-scale recruitment process and under Police Regulations there was no need to advertise the vacancy. The selection panel had therefore selected four names from the applications received earlier in the year and these had been sent to the Home Office for consideration.

The Councillor and Lay Justice Members were asked to consider their nominations to the interview panel which should comprise 4 Councillors and 1 Lay Justice.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The process for advertising casual vacancies was discussed. One member felt that the methods for advertising casual vacancies was flawed and did not provide sufficient advertising coverage over the two counties.

The appointment process for the bulk of Independent Members, which was undertaken every four years, comprised a comprehensive national advertising campaign spearheaded by the Association of Police Authorities. Regulations determined that since the Police Authority had recently undertaken a full recruitment process, there was no need to re-advertise in this instance. Members had been consulted at their recent seminar and no objections to the proposed process had been received.

P/1067 Appointment of Independent Member (Cont'd..)

It was agreed that the appointment process for casual vacancies would be considered and progressed through the Human Resources Committee.

RESOLVED that

- i. a panel of 5 Members comprising 4 Councillors and 1 Lay Justice be appointed with delegated powers to interview and appoint an Independent Member;
- ii. the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman, be given delegated powers to appoint members to the panel once names had been received from the Councillor and Lay Justice groups.

P/1068 Police Authority Liaison Meetings

Members noted the meetings held since the last meeting of the Police Authority. It was confirmed that chairmanship of these meetings was a matter for Members to decide amongst themselves.

P/1069 Dates of Future Meetings

RESOLVED that the dates for meetings in 2006 and the first meeting in 2007 be as follows:

Police Authority Meetings:

- Wednesday 15 February 2006
- Friday 5 May 2006
- Friday 30 June 2006
- Friday 29 September 2006
- Friday 8 December 2006
- Friday 16 February 2007

Police Authority Seminars:

- Wednesday 25 January 2006

P/1070 Closed Items - Exclusion Of The Press And Public

RESOLVED that under Section 40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following two items of business.

P/1071 Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Funding West Cornwall

This paper was withdrawn.

P/1072 Death of a Serving Police Officer

It was with regret that the Chief Constable reported the death of serving police officer Neale Jones and his wife who had been killed in a motorcycle accident in France whilst on holiday. Born in 1958, Neale joined the Constabulary in 1984 and most recently was the Neighbourhood Team Leader in Totnes. He leaves three daughters.

P/1073 Re-admittance of Press and Public

The closed session of the meeting being concluded, it was agreed that any member of the press and public be invited to re-join the meeting.

P/1074 National Neighbourhood Policing Project & Ilfracombe Community Cohesion Project

Members received a presentation on the National Neighbourhood Policing Project and the Ilfracombe Community Cohesion Project.

The meeting closed at 13.20hrs