

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES of a meeting of the **Devon and Cornwall Police Authority** held at Police Headquarters, Middlemoor, Exeter on **Friday 26 September 2008, commencing at 10:00hrs**

Present

Authority

Mr J Smith.....Chairman
Mr M Bull, Mr C Bulley, Sir Simon Day, Mrs L Dunn, Mr B Greenslade, Mr G Hicks, Mr M Hicks,
Mr M Hodge, Mrs A Malcolm, Mr D Money, Mr M Nevitt, Ms J Norton, Mrs J Owen and
Mr C Wallin.

Officers in Attendance

Mr S G Davey (Chief Executive), Mr J Glasby (Treasurer) Miss J Norris (Assistant Chief Executive) Miss N Walters (Personal Assistant to the Chief Executive)

Force

Mr T Melville (Deputy Chief Constable), Mr R Stowe (Assistant Chief Constable) Mrs S Taylor (Assistant Chief Constable), Ms D Simpson (Assistant Chief Constable) Ms S Goscomb (Interim Director of Finance and Resources) and Mr M Stamp (Director Legal Services)

P/2262 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs V Pengelly, Mr J Rowe and Mr B Preston.

P/2263 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reminded everyone that the meeting would be Webcast live. The Chief Constable was absent from the meeting due to his National ACPO Lead. ACC Dick Stowe will be retiring from the Police Service in March 2009.

P/2264 Declarations of Interest

Members declared the interests detailed in the table below.

Name	Agenda Item	Minute ref	Interest	Details	Action taken
Sir Simon Day	All	All	Personal	Member of Devon County Council	Spoke & voted
Mr B Greenslade	All	All	Personal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Member of Devon County Council,Director of Exeter Airport	Spoke & voted
Mr G Hicks	All	All	Personal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Member of Cornwall County CouncilMember of Kerrier District Council	Spoke & voted
Mr M Hicks	All	All	Personal	Member of the Council for the Isles of Scilly	Spoke & voted
Mr M Hodge	All	All	Personal	Member of Torbay Council	Spoke & voted

Name	Agenda Item	Minute ref	Interest	Details	Action taken
Mrs J Owen	All	All	Personal	Member of Devon County Council	Spoke & voted
Mr J Smith	All	All	Personal	Member of Devon County Council	Spoke & voted

P/2265 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

Green Paper Response

Members agreed the Green Paper response that had been circulated prior to the meeting for submission to the Home Office.

RESOLVED that the Green Paper response on behalf of the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority be finalised and sent to the Home Office.

Items for Part 2 Agenda

The Treasurer asked for two urgent items to be raised under part 2 of the agenda.

- Credit Crisis
- Insurance for the Air Ambulance

Members Allowances

The chair asked for a report on Members Allowance to be discussed until item 9.

P/2266 Questions raised under Standing Order No.8

Two questions were raised under Standing Order No.8

- Could the Chief Constable outline the strategy in place for Devon & Cornwall Constabulary to uphold the Hunting Act? Could he also confirm that the Police have not brought any prosecutions under this Act?
- A number of issues in relation to rural crime

RESOLVED that the Deputy Chief Constable provide written responses for the two questions that were asked.

P/2267 Minutes

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Minor typing and grammatical amendments to the minutes
- The hearing of the complaint made by Mr M Nevitt
- Procedure for complaints

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

P/2268 Performance Management Committee

The Committee Chair reported upon the meeting held on 20 June 2008 and highlighted matters of special interest.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Implementation of SOCRATES; all forensic sampling will be entered onto the SOCRATES system which went live in July 2008.
- Improvement of Public Satisfaction trends
- Sanction Detection Rate target

P/2269 Update on Performance Report

This report presented by the Deputy Chief Constable summarised the performance activity of the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary to meet targets set by the Authority in its Annual Plan and used iQuanta to benchmark with most similar forces.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Noted that the Force are 10th nationally within the Force Performance Targets April to August 2008
- Areas that have seen a significant improvement in performance
- Clarity needed on Serious Violent Crime
- Consistency of the BCU's performance
- Cornwall BCU's statistics with regards to Sexual Offences
- Funding for Police Community Support Officers
- Domestic abuse – a forum of partner agencies had been established chaired by the Chief Constable to look at developing a coherent approach to tackling domestic violence
- The current national position of the Force in relation to Road Traffic Casualties
- Trends in relation to Road Traffic Casualties

RESOLVED to note the reports.

P/2270 Committee Minute Pack

This pack provided minutes of the Committee Meetings that have taken place since the last meeting of the Authority on 27th June 2008. This item included the Annual Governance Report which the Corporate Governance Committee recommended be signed off by the Authority.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The need for one material and a number of minor amendments to the accounts had been identified by the audit and subsequently attended to. The Auditors proposed an unqualified opinion on the accounts which meant that they were satisfied with them
- The Auditors were satisfied that the Authority was providing value for money
- A recommendation to change some wording within the Financial Regulations

- Best value procurement processes
- The opportunity for Members to make any comments on the Minute Pack at future meetings

RESOLVED

- (i) That the minute pack be noted.
- (ii) That the Annual Governance Report be welcomed and the adjustments and action plan identified in the report be noted
- (iii) The letter of representation be agreed to enable the auditors to issue their opinion, conclusion and certificate
- (iv) That Financial Regulations be amended to include the following wording:

SECTION D - MANAGEMENT OF RISKS AND RESOURCES

(To follow on from the existing section on management of projects :-)

USE OF CONSULTANTS

The Chief Constable may appoint specialist consultants or external experts to assist with the delivery of revenue and/or capital projects contained within the approved revenue budget or capital programme. Above the limits specified in Section G, specific approval shall be required from the Resources Committee or the Chairs' Committee depending on the subject matter.

SECTION G – DELEGATED LIMITS

USE OF CONSULTANTS

The Chief Constable may appoint consultants/external experts up to the limit shown. Above this, proposals must be referred to the Resources Committee or the Chairs' Committee depending on the subject.

Contracted cost - individual projects	£150,000
Cumulative contracted costs awarded in any one year (separate limits apply for the revenue and capital budgets)	£450,000

P/2271 Chief Constable's Report

This report provided a general update on policing issues since the last meeting of the Police Authority.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The recent complimentary HMIC Report for the Force
- Positive results surrounding cases involving drugs
- Police Officer establishment
- Strength of Police Officers within Plymouth BCU
- Police Staff reduction
- Award ceremony's/presentations in place for Police Staff/Officers
- Congratulations to those who have achieved awards
- Two sided printing of the report to keep in line with the Green Agenda
- Mobile data bid delayed until possibly November

- Police Authority involvement with Cadet Ceremony's
- The impact that foreign nationals potentially have on the Force.
- The role and value of Police Community Support Officers in tackling anti social behaviour
- The limited number of Neighbourhood Policing Officers in Exeter

RESOLVED to note the report.

P/2272 Committee Memberships

A proposed list of Memberships in relation to the Authority's Committees, Task and Finish Groups and Working Groups were presented to Members.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The number of Members on each Committee, in particular the Performance Management Committee
- Force representative on each Committee
- Allocation of new Members to Committees

RESOLVED that paragraph 3.5 of the constitution be amended to read "The Chairman in consultation with the Chief Executive will determine the membership of individual Committees and Groups.

P/2273 Members Allowances

A report outlining that effectively all Members are paid a basic allowance with additional payments to reflect roles held such as Committee Chairman or Lead Member was distributed to Members prior the meeting. The amounts paid are up-dated annually in line with the police staff pay award. The current rates are a basic allowance of £6769 and an allowance for Lead Member role of £2256 – a total of £9025.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Future changes may occur to the allowances pending the outcome of the APA scheme
- Whether or not the Authority need to be in line with the national APA scheme

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Members' basic allowance be increased to £9,025 pro rata with effect from 1 October 2008.
- (ii) That the allowances for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Committee Chairmen remain as at present
- (ii) That no other allowances are paid at this stage and that the matter be reviewed when a new Members' Allowances scheme is agreed later in the year

P/2274 Quest

Operation Quest is a Home Office initiative, sponsored by the Value for Money Unit, to provide specialist support (KPMG) for selected forces to improve their operational policing processes. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary is one of four forces which have been selected to participate in the latest round of Quest. There have been 3 rounds of Operation Quest to date with 10 Forces having participated and significant performance, efficiency and customer satisfaction improvements reported.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- At the planning meeting in July 08 the Chief Officer Group (COG) agreed that continuous process improvement was a strategic building block which would need to be put in place if the organisation was to become a top performing force by 2012
- The initiative would need to extend to both back office and operational policing services and the Force have therefore launched a scoping study to identify all of our key processes throughout the Force
- Participation will secure approximately £700K of Home Office funding with D&CC required to provide up to £310K match funding for the six month deployment phase
- Some examples of Home Office figures for performance improvements generated through Operation Quest
- Whether Quest would be value for money
- That Operation Quest would have to be well managed in terms of personnel
- Staff involvement in the operation would be valuable
- Whether Operation Quest could be completed in house

RESOLVED that Devon and Cornwall Police Authority endorses the Force's decision to participate in Operation Quest.

P/2275 Standing Orders

At the last meeting Members were presented with a set of revised standing orders for adoption and concerns were expressed in relation to standing order 22 (2) regarding starred minutes. An amended standing order was discussed at and is now recommended by the Corporate Governance Committee for approval.

RESOLVED that the Standing Orders as submitted are adopted and included within the Authority's Constitution.

P/2276 Standing Order Contracts

The presented Standing Order Contracts had been considered by the Corporate Governance Committee and were recommended for adoption by the Authority. These Standing Orders will be included within the Authority's Constitution.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Minor typing and grammatical amendments to the Contract
- Revised environmental considerations and data security requirements

RESOLVED that the revised Contract Standing Orders as submitted be adopted and be included within the Authority's Constitution.

P/2277 APA Structure

The Chief Executive presented his report on the recent structure change of the APA. The previous policy groups have now been replaced by four Network Groups. Representation on these groups is shared around the region and the groups were listed in the report with an indication of which member sits on them.

RESOLVED That the revised APA Structure was noted.

P/2278 Independent Custody Visiting Bi-Annual Report

The presented report summarised the output from independent custody visiting for the period 1 January to 30 June 2008.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Records indicate that 138 of the programmed 149 visits were undertaken during the period 1 January to 30 June 2008, during which there were 825 detainees held in custody
- Clarity around visit reviews
- Formal thanks to the Custody Visitors

RESOLVED that the Authority noted the content of the Report.

P/2279 Meeting Dates for 2009

The Chief Executive presented a report proposing dates for Police Authority Meetings during 2009.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Dates for joint Police Authority/Chief Officer Group Seminars –13th October 2008, 21st November 2008 and 9th December 2008

RESOLVED that the dates for meetings in 2009 and the first meeting in 2010 be as shown in the report.

- 13th February
- 24th April
- 26th June
- 18th September
- 12th February

P/2280 Consideration to Excluding the Press and Public

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

Agenda item No	Minute No	Report Title	Relevant Act	Relevant section
15.	P/2281	Approval of people to be appointed as Independent Members	Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to information Act 1985)	Schedule 12A, Paragraph 1. Information relating to any individual.
3.	P/2282	Credit Crisis	Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to information Act 1985)	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

3.	P/2283	Insurance for the Air Ambulance	Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to information Act 1985)	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
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P/2281 Approval of people to be appointed as Independent Members

The Authority has been running a process to recruit 3 independent members of the Authority. The Selection Panel undertook a paper sift assessing the applications against the APA /Home office competencies and invited 21 People to attend an initial interview. Following the Initial interview the Selection Panel nominated 6 people (as required by legislation) for final interview. The Interview Panel met on 18 and 25 September and interviewed the nominated 6 people assessing skills against the APA /Home office competencies.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Expressed thanks to all of those who were involved in the process
- Police Authority Induction Day on 9th October 2008 for the new Members

RESOLVED that Mrs Lynda Price, Ms Linda Williams and Mrs Jayne Zito be appointed as independent members of the Police Authority with effect from 1 October 2008.

P/2282 Credit Crisis

The Treasurer announced to Members the impact that the credit crisis could have on the Authority.

RESOLVED that the lending limit to the Debt Management Office of Government be increased from 10 million to 25 million.

P/2283 Insurance for the Air Ambulance

The Treasurer informed Members of the need to make appropriate insurance arrangements in relation to the Devon Air Ambulance.

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman be given delegated authority to make appropriate insurance arrangements for the Devon Air Ambulance.

P/2284 Operation Tay

Members were advised that the disciplinary matters relating to Operation Tay were being processed.

The meeting closed at 13:14hrs

<p>Signed.....</p> <p>Date</p>
