

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

MINUTES

A meeting of the **Resources Committee** was held in the Conference Room, Endeavour House, Woodwater Park, Exeter on Wednesday 20 September 2006 starting at 14.00 hrs.

Present

Mr B Greenslade, Mr J Currie, Mr B Preston, Mrs A Malcolm, Mr M Nevitt and Mr J Smith.

Officers In Attendance

Police Force: Miss T Bush (Force Legal Advisor) (R/569 to R/579 only), Mr F Graney (Director of Finance and Administration), Mr C Papworth (Head of Finance), Mr A Morris (Head of Estates) (R/569 to R574 only), Mr B Mines (Organisation Support Programme Manager) (R/583 only).

Police Authority:

Mr J Glasby (Treasurer), Mr A Rutter (Interim Finance Manager), Miss J Norris (Assistant Chief Executive) (R/569 to R/574 only), and Mrs E Tanner (Office Manager & Member Services).

A representative from the Western Morning News attended the meeting for item R/579 only.

R/569 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr D Money, Mr M Bull and Mr W Thomas.

R/570 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received:

Name	Agenda Item	Type of interest	Nature of Interest	Action
Mike Nevitt	Agenda No 4 Property Sub- Committee Minutes	Personal	Retired from Devon Fire and Rescue Service	Spoke and voted
Bryan Preston	Agenda No 14 Force Policy D257 Charging for Police Services	Personal	Season ticket holder for a local football club	Spoke and voted
John Smith	Agenda No 14 Force Policy D257 Charging for Police Services	Personal	Season ticket holder for a local football club	Spoke and voted

R/571 RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Resources Committee held 26 July 2006 be signed as a correct record.

R/572 CLOSED ITEMS - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

Agenda No	Minute No	Report Title	Relevant Act	Relevant section
4	R/573	Property Sub-Committee minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bodmin Project – Progress / Stage report; • Proposed disposal of land for a Fire Station at Police Headquarters, Middlemoor; • Mead House. 	Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to information) Act 1985	Schedule 12A, paragraph 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
15	R/574	Review of Intranet Project (IP2)	Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to information) Act 1985	Schedule 12A, paragraph 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
12	R/575	Update on the performance of the Devon Drugs and Alcohol Team [Devon DAAT]	Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to information) Act 1985	Schedule 12A, paragraph 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
13	R/576	Sale of DCPA Owned Masts	Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to information) Act 1985	Schedule 12A, paragraph 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
Urgent item	R/577	Funding for the Force Helicopter	Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to information) Act 1985	

R/573 CLOSED PROPERTY-SUB COMMITTEE MINUTES

Members considered the following recommendations arising from the Property Sub-Committee meeting.

Bodmin Project – Progress / Stage report.

The Property Sub-Committee had considered the detail of this project at their meeting on 19 September and a comprehensive briefing pack had been circulated to Members of the Resources Committee prior to this meeting. Miss J Norris provided members with the key issues raised by the Property Sub-Committee.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The Force had adhered to the OJEU procurement protocol.
- A rigorous and detailed process had been followed at all stages of the project.
- Significant planning had been undertaken to mitigate risks.
- The suggested way forward could potentially reduce the build time by 3 months.
- Increases in cost were because of the inclusion of Workshops on the basis of capital expenditure by the Authority. The option of leasing the building would also be considered.
- The proposals for the existing site in Bodmin which was currently owned by the Authority and the estimated sale value.
- The Property Sub-Committee were satisfied with the recommendations in the report.

RESOLVED to recommend to the Police Authority that

- (i) The Preferred Bidder, as recommended in the report, be approved to provide the new Bodmin Police Station and Workshops;
- (ii) that the bidders be informed of their current status as either Preferred Bidder or Reserve Bidder
- (iii) to note the total forecast project costs of £11.6M;
- (iv) that the project is given the authority to move forward to the next stage;
- (v) that sufficient funds of up to £750,000, as part of the £11.6M, are released to enable the completion of Stage 2 subject to the intellectual property rights of the designs passing to the Police Authority together with any pre-ordered materials to the value of £750,000.

Mead House

The Property Sub-Committee had considered the detail of this project at their meeting on 19 September and the report considered at that meeting had been circulated to Members of the Resources Committee prior to this meeting. Miss J Norris provided members with the key issues raised by the Property Sub-Committee.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The reasons for the disparity in costs between the original business case and the current forecast.
- The building necessarily required a very specialist fit out to satisfy requirements and this complexity had not been anticipated in the original business case.

- Comparisons had been made with similar buildings used by the National Crime Squad and comparisons in cost per square foot had been undertaken. Subsequently, the deal offered in price per square foot for Mead House was considered reasonable.
- The Treasurer had received reassurance on the terms of the lease.
- Support for the recommendation at (iv) that the Chief Constable be required to investigate the circumstances giving rise to the estimate discrepancy with the purpose of preventing a recurrence.

RESOLVED to recommend to the Police Authority

- (i) that the Police Authority recognises that the requirement for Mead House is still valid;
- (ii) the capital budget for the scheme is increased to meet the disparity between the original budget of £985,000 and the current cost profile of £1,797,814 which totals £812,814 required in additional funds to deliver the preferred option;
- (iii) the Authority considers authorising the termination of the lease agreement with the Developer at the end of phase one, if the building is not fit for purpose and legal advice is supportive;
- (iv) That the Chief Constable be requested to investigate the circumstances giving rise to the estimate discrepancy with the purpose of preventing a recurrence.

Proposed disposal of land for a Fire Station at Police Headquarters, Middlemoor

The Property Sub-Committee had considered the detail of this project at their meeting on 19 September and the report considered at that meeting had been circulated to Members of the Resources Committee prior to this meeting. Miss J Norris provided members with the key issues raised by the Property Sub-Committee.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Devon Fire and Rescue had been looking for a site in the Middlemoor area for some considerable time; the location was an axial point for the fire service for Exeter and its environs.
- The proposal protected the value of the police estate for the future.
- It would increase rather than jeopardise the potential for further development on the Middlemoor site should there be a need for this in the future.

RESOLVED to Recommend to the Police Authority that the offer detailed in the report from Devon Fire and Rescue Service for the lease of a site at Middlemoor for a new fire station be accepted, subject to satisfactory finalisation of the detailed Heads of Terms.

R/574 REVIEW OF INTRANET PROJECT (IP2)

Members were provided with an update on the current situation in relation to the contract. In order for negotiations to proceed as smoothly as possible, it was proposed that the Authority delegate authority to the Treasurer in consultation with the Chairman of the Police Authority and the Chairman of the Resources Committee to agree the sum to be received by the contractor in settlement of the claim.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The pros and cons of mutual disengagement
- The mediation process already undertaken

RESOLVED to recommend to the Police Authority that authority be given to the Treasurer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Police Authority and the Chairman of the Resources Committee, to agree the sum to be received from the contractor in settlement of this dispute.

R/575 UPDATE ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE DEVON DRUGS AND ALCOHOL TEAM (DEVON DAAT)

A number of factors had coincided which together had enabled a 'root and branch' review of the functions of the Devon DAAT. The review was progressing very well with the positive engagement of all partners and with the assistance of an external facilitator. Officers were confident a 'fit for purpose' and efficient structure would emerge which would deliver improved criminal justice drug and alcohol interventions.

RESOLVED to note the report.

R/576 SALE OF DCPA OWNED MASTS

This report provided Members with an update on the proposed decommissioning and sale of the analogue radio infrastructure.

The Authority does not have the in-house expertise to enable it to evaluate the market potential for its radio masts, and an accurate estimate of the level of potential income available was unavailable. It was therefore proposed that the services of an independent consultant be sought to provide the Authority with the detail required to decide to proceed (or not) to market the sale of masts that were no longer required.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The proposal was to sell both masts and the land on which they were sited.
- The potential for income from the lease of masts on some sites.
- Proposals and considerations required for masts sited on operational / occupied police sites.
- The need for decisions to be made promptly as there were cost savings to be made.

RESOLVED to recommend to the Authority to approve the provision of £10,000 as the sum required to return a full independent consultant's report to provide the Authority with the detail required to decide to proceed (or not) to market the sale of the majority of DCPA owned masts.

R/577 BID FOR FUNDING FOR THE FORCE HELICOPTER

The Chairman advised members that having regard to the special circumstances pertaining in this matter – namely the potential to be awarded a larger share of the Home Office police helicopter fund, he was of the opinion that, despite its non-inclusion on the Agenda, the matter of a bid for funding for the Force Helicopter should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency.

The current timescale for the bid for part funding of the replacement of the Force helicopter from the Home Office was 2009/10. Members were advised that there was a potential that an increased share of the fund could be available if the bid were submitted for 2007/08 financial year and were asked to consider supporting the bid in advance of a detailed business case being prepared.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The percentage of the fund that was potentially available in 2007/08 (estimated at 40%) compared with the percentage of the fund potentially available in 2009/10 (estimated at 12%)
- The potential for additional kit installed on the current helicopter to be transferred to the new one.
- The delivery time for a new helicopter was approximately 2 years.
- The need to consider only whether a bid should be submitted at this moment in time – proposals for purchase would be looked at in considerable detail at a much later date.

RESOLVED to support the submission of a bid to the Home Office for part funding of a replacement helicopter.

R/578 RECONVENTION OF OPEN SESSION

RESOLVED that the meeting reconvene in open session.

R/579 FORCE POLICY D257 CHARGING FOR POLICE SERVICES

This matter was last reported to the Police Authority at their meeting in July 2003 following the publication of ACPO guidance for charging for policing. There was now a need to review the current policy following the successful appeal through court by Reading Festival, and some adverse publicity received by the Force following the charging for some events.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- £5000 covered around 100 hours of policing.
- The current policy provided for 24 hours of free policing, however on the 25th hour, 50% of 25 hours was payable.
- It was accepted that there were inconsistencies across BCUs on what was and was not being charged for and this was inequitable.
- The proposed charging matrix focussed on whether the event was commercial or if it was a charitable or community event.
- The Force would be working with event organisers to assist them in providing some of the services previously provided by the police, for example traffic management.
- The impact on the revenue budget.
- The recent meeting with MPs, which was attended by the Chairman of the Authority and a Force Legal Advisor Miss Bush.
- Examples of how the charges would be decided in practice and how commonality would be achieved across the Force area.
- The fine line between satisfying public concern about council tax being spent on policing special events, and public concern about charges being levied for policing special events.
- A note had been received from the Chairman of the Police Authority, who was unable to attend this meeting, but who wished to stress opinion that there should be full Police Authority involvement in sensibly developing the policy for charging for police services.

RESOLVED to recommend to the Police Authority to support the intention of the Force to apply a de minimis threshold of £5000 for non-commercial charitable and community events.

R/580 BUDGET MONITORING 2006-07

Members received an update on the current revenue position and performance against the capital programme for the 2006-07 financial year. It was advised that a more detailed report for the first half of the year would be presented at the next meeting of the committee.

Issues raised during consideration of this item included:

- The capital programme included the projects considered earlier on the agenda
- There was a potential for a delay in the Totnes project
- The staffing of Surveyor posts within the Estates team
- Police Officer numbers

RESOLVED to

- i. note the revenue and capital position forecast at the end of August 2006, prior to receiving a detailed report for the first half-year.
- ii. approve the virement for ACPO recruitment costs as set out in the report
- iii. approve the transfer from reserves set out in the report.

R/581 TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members considered the report which provided information on the performance against the LIBID benchmark by external fund managers for the first five months of the year. The two fund managers continued to follow different strategies and performance for the year was expected to meet budget targets, and there was a potential to exceed targets if interest rates were to rise.

Members met annually with fund managers, and expressions of interest in attending this year's meeting were sought. It was agreed that John Smith, Mike Nevitt and Alison Malcolm would attend the meeting which would be arranged for mid December.

RESOLVED to note the progress of the Authority's Treasury Management Strategy in the first five months of 2006-07.

R/582 2005-06 ACCOUNTS: AUDIT OPINION

The Corporate Governance Committee had recently considered the Auditor's Annual Governance Report. The report was extremely positive and the Treasurer had been advised that the Police Authority's accounts were likely to be signed off without qualification. Members expressed satisfaction with this result and recorded their thanks to the finance officers concerned.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The beneficial impact of the recently implemented FIMS (Force information Management System), on the preparation of the accounts and the anticipated benefits of the system for future account preparation.

R/583 AIRWAVE BENEFITS DELIVERY - INTERIM REPORT

The Force Senior Business Analyst had been asked to look in detail at the benefits of Airwave and had produced an interim report using the original PITO benefit analysis to identify where the anticipated benefits had come through. Members now considered this report.

Implementation of the Automatic Person Locator System (APLS), which was a part of the Airwave system, was still awaited and this would be achieved within the next few months. Once implementation was complete, a full business benefits review would be undertaken and presented to the committee.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The replacement of mobile phones by Airwave handsets, and the benefits of the Airwave handset over mobile phones.
- Airwave and the force helicopter
- ACPO plans for mobile data handling by police forces.
- Systems for logging and tracking airwave handsets within the Force

RESOLVED to note the report.

R/584 THE DEVELOPMENT SURVEYOR ROLE

This item was deferred.

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting

R/585 TRIAL OF JOURNEY DATA RECORDERS

Members considered two reports which provided an update on the journey data recorder trial which had been ongoing within the Force since 1 August 2006. A detailed report on the outcome of the trial was expected to be taken to the Force Vehicle User Group early in 2007.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Concerns over the delays which had been experienced throughout this trial
- Whether or not the enforcement of simple recording methods could provide sufficient information to manage the fleet and negate the need for a more complicated technical solution.
- The involvement of a Police Authority Member in taking the trial forward. It was agreed that Mike Nevitt would represent the Police Authority at future meetings of the Force Vehicle User Group.

RESOLVED to

- i. note the contents of the report
- ii. request a copy of the report and findings from the Force Vehicle User Group

R/586 UPDATE ON SERVER STORAGE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

The report provided members with an outline of the work planned for improvements to server and electronic data storage capacity within the ICT infrastructure programme during 2006-07.

The current strategy was to manage storage requirements of Force applications according to need and this was in contrast to the previous approach which was to procure sufficient storage for the first 5 years of an applications life at the implementation stage. This often resulted in unutilised storage which attracted an annual maintenance cost in the same way as used storage. Significant cost savings would be achieved under the new strategy.

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Members were asked to note current progress against the strategy. A further report seeking approval for the funding required to implement the next stages of the strategy would be presented to a future meeting of the committee.

RESOLVED to

- i. note the report.
- ii. receive a report on the anticipated cost savings once identified.

The meeting closed at 16:35hrs.