

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Resources Committee was held on 28 June 2004.

Brian Greenslade and Jill Owen were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

Further information on the items referred to below is contained in the agenda for this meeting, which has been circulated to all members.

The following recommendation arose from the meeting:

R/353 RENEWAL OF LEASE AT UNIT A EAGLE WAY SOWTON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE (EXETER VEHICLE WORKSHOP)

An extension to the current lease for the Sowton workshops had been sought following a recommendation arising out of the Best Value Review of Transport and Supporting Arrangements. Negotiations were now complete and had resulted in a proposal to let the current lease run until its existing expiry date at no additional rental cost with a new lease under new terms, commencing subsequently.

The Property-Sub Committee had followed the progress of this work and Mr Thomas commended the proposal to Members.

RECOMMENDATION that the lease at Unit A, Eagle Way, Sowton Industrial Park on the proposed new terms be renewed.

Other matters discussed included: -

R/347 FUNDING STRATEGY STATEMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

Recent Government regulations had resulted in a requirement for Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Administering Authorities to prepare and publish a Funding Strategy Statement. The Police Authority is an employer within the local scheme administered by Devon County Council, and the LGPS covered police staff. The draft scheme was considered.

The Treasurer was keen for the Police Authority to develop a closer relationship with the Administering Authority in respect of the fund management to ensure adequate involvement in contribution rate decisions and to protect its interests. It was suggested that Devon County Council be made aware of this requirement. The Treasurer was asked to draft a response to the Administering Authority in respect of the document to include the requirement for increased involvement in decisions over contribution rates.

R/348 FORCE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME BUSINESS BENEFITS

There was a requirement for the Force to improve in identifying and delivering business benefits as part of the Force strategic development programme process. The need to consider benefits as a mandatory activity before an initiative or proposal was developed, was emphasised. This was described as a 'top

down' approach to business change and was contrary to the 'bottom up' approach typically used at present.

A new benefits focussed programme report would be used to set out the following headlines for each programme:-

- What benefits the programme would deliver
- The costs involved
- The business benefits in cash terms
- The progress of the plan
- Details of spending
- Headline comments from programme managers.

The overall proposed approach was designed to focus programme managers into identify business benefits. This methodology would be extended throughout all Force business.

A National Forum had been created which looked to align and draw best practice amongst police forces. The next meeting of the forum was scheduled for September. It was suggested that a Police Authority Member may wish to take a lead role in this piece of work and attend these meetings.

R/349 INCREASED COST OF INVESTIGATING CRIMES

At a previous meeting of the Committee, concern had been expressed about the possibility of a trend emerging in increased major operations and whether there was a need to consider additional funding to respond to and resource such incidents.

In 2003-04, the cost of major operations had exceeded budget however this had been counterbalanced by lower demands on this budget in the previous year. In the first month of 2004-05, the spend level was shown to be similar to previous years, however because of the major operations carried over from 2003-04 and those commenced since 1 April 2004 there did appear to be an issue emerging around the current budget approval. This could result in a need to counterbalance the major ops budget from other budgets later in the year.

Management arrangements had been put in place in November last year to manage response and resources following the spate of major operations running at that time. It was becoming clear that the current level of serious incidents was becoming the norm and there was a need to improve at managing them.

**Mr Brian Greenslade
Chairman Resources Committee**