

## **DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY**

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **Devon and Cornwall Police Authority** held at Police Headquarters, Middlemoor, Exeter on **Wednesday 27 October 2004**.

### **Present:**

Mrs J Owen (Chairman), Mr D Money (Vice Chairman)  
Mr L D Brokenshire, Mr M I R Bull, Mr C Bulley, Sir Simon Day, Mrs O Dendy, Mr B C Greenslade,  
Mr S M Malloni, Mr M Nevitt, Mrs C J Ryan, Mr J Smith, Mrs A Talbot, Mr W D Thomas, Mr P Tregunna  
and Mr C L Wallin.

### **P/885 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from;  
Mr T Evans and Mr M Hicks.

### **P/886 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **P/887 ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION**

In the opinion of the Chairman there were no items that should be considered by the meeting as a matter of urgency.

### **P/888 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 9 July 2004 were signed as a correct record.

### **P/889 MATTERS ARISING**

[P872] Mrs Dendy asked if the Authority could be provided with updates on matters discussed in presentations to the Authority. Mr Davey AGREED that this would be beneficial and could be organised.

### **P/890 PRESENTATION – NORTH CORNWALL FLOODS**

The presentation was opened with video footage being shown to members on the events during the flooding of Boscastle.

Four smaller presentations followed covering all aspects of the operation and personal accounts of the events.

Sgt Tony Blatchford, Neighbourhood Team Sergeant, Camelford, detailed his main task of bringing order to the chaos, Setting up key areas of communication between other Authorities and the community.

Constable David Green, Neighbourhood Beat Manager, handled the fear of crime concerns and community engagement. He commented that spirits had remained high throughout.

Sgt Mike Rose, Search Team Co-ordinator, co-ordinated the Search and Rescue operation with assistance from the military. Sgt Rose commented that the teams were well equipped and that there was a strong history of training and preparation.

John Wood, Media Services Manager, organised the media personnel attracted to the scene. Images from Boscastle were broadcast world-wide which put the service under close scrutiny. VIP visits attracted further media attention.

### **P/890 PRESENTATION – NORTH CORNWALL FLOODS (cont'd)**

A Cartoon signed by John Prescott and Mrs Wallis is to be auctioned and the proceeds will be donated to the Boscastle Appeal.

Mrs Ryan commented on the location of Silver control being at the doctor surgery, Mrs Wallis confirmed that whilst the doctors had been extremely helpful to offer the surgery as an initial base, in order to minimise disruption to the practice so Silver Control was subsequently moved to the village hall.

Mr Greenslade commented that consideration should be given to future presentations being broadcast onto the Worldwide Web.

Mrs Wallis restated her pride in the way the event had been dealt with and thanked all the staff involved and also informed members that the feedback from Ministers and Communities had been excellent.

### **P/891 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT**

Mrs Wallis commented that it had been a busy summer.

It was agreed that a letter received by the Chairman from Mr Blunkett regarding the Home Office Regional Visit to the South West on the 16 and 17 September 2004 would be circulated to all Members.

#### Major Incidents and Policing Diary

Mrs Wallis informed members that the number of murders were following a local trend and the amount of knife crime was following a national trend, although the majority of murder cases in the region had been solved.

There have been 22 fatal Road Traffic Collisions in Devon and Cornwall between June and October resulting in 22 deaths. 12 of these were riders or passengers on motor cycles and 3 were pedestrians.

#### [1.35] Operation Portia – Boscastle

A major rescue operation was launched when severe flooding hit in the North of Cornwall on 26 August Hazel Blears, the Minister of State for Crime Reduction, Policing and Community Safety had praised the operation.

[1.74] Mr William Goad from Plymouth has now been convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for a series of sexual assaults over a 30 year period.

#### Operational Priorities

[2.1 – 2.4] Devon and Cornwall Constabulary is one of only two forces across the country managing to meet standards in every area of work. The findings were given in the annual Police Performance Monitoring Report, produced by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to compare the performance of all 43 Forces. Mrs Wallis gave her thanks and congratulations to all involved for their part in improved performance throughout the Force

[2.12] Seven roadblocks equipped with Automatic Number Plate Recognition were set up along the M5 on regional ANPR day to target criminals on the move. In relation to the recovered counterfeit and stolen goods the correct figure is £1000.00 not £100.00

[2.18] Devon and Cornwall Constabulary and Victim Support have drawn up new guidelines to offer counselling to more people affected by crime and to ensure that their views are made clear during the investigations and subsequent court cases. Mrs Talbot asked whether the victim support could assist with victims of Hate Crime. Mr Arnold agreed to speak with Mrs Talbot after the meeting to work through the issue.

#### **P/891 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT (cont'd)**

[2.26] Restorative Justice places the victim at the centre of the process, allowing them to express how the crime or behaviour has affected their life. Mrs Wallis reiterated to Members that Devon & Cornwall Constabulary was the first in the UK Force to initiate training in Restorative Policing for all of its Neighbourhood Beat Managers.

[2.29] Camborne Traffic Unit and the Vehicle Operator Services Agency have returned to St Mary's to continue their campaign against unfit vehicles. Mrs Wallis was very pleased with the work carried out and enforced the fact that unroadworthy vehicles would not be tolerated.

#### Successes and Challenges

Mrs Wallis was proud that the figure for the number of casualties & fatalities resulting from Road Traffic Collisions was down by 13.2%

[4.6] Total assets ordered by the Courts in the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary area from defendants between 01/04/04 and 06/09/04 was £973,668.71. Mrs Wallis congratulated staff on all the work put in so far. Mr Smith informed Members that the feedback from communities was one of appreciation.

On discussing the Personnel tables at the back of the report Mrs Ryan asked if all the tables could be presented in the same format, Mrs Winter confirmed that this would be done for the next report.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

#### **P/892 URGENCY COMMITTEE**

Members noted the decisions taken by the Urgency Committee.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

#### **P/893 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

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

1. A meeting of the **Best Value Committee** was held on 15 September

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee.

2. A meeting of the **Human Resources Committee** was held on 10 September.

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority  
27 October 2004

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee. Sir Simon drew Members attention to HR/84 (Water and Environmental Hygiene) and emphasised the fact that the Force must be protected.

3. A Meeting of the **Performance Management & Audit Committee** was held on the 8 September.

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee. Mrs Ryan had nothing further to add.

4. A Meeting of the **Planning and Consultation Committee** was held on the 19 October.

An oral update was given by Mr Money. Items discussed by the committee included;

- Authority and Force community engagement
- Whether current model is effective.
- Statutory Plans – Members to review plans, wording and phraseology.

#### **P/893 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES (cont'd)**

5. A Meeting of the **Professional Standards Monitoring Group** was held on the 21 July.

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee.

6. Meetings of the **Resources Committee** were held on 26 July and 21 September

A meeting of the Resources Committee was held on the 26 October which raised the following issue to be resolved at the Full Authority.

#### **[R/395] Safety Camera Partnership**

Approval was sought for the acquisition of a leased building at Brooklands Court, Budshead Road, Plymouth for the provision of suitable accommodation for the relocation of the Safety Camera Partnership (SCP), currently working out of Crownhill Police Station.

**RESOLVED** that delegated powers be given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Police Authority and the Chair of Resources to approve the acquisition of the lease for Brooklands Court.

#### **[R/370] Financial Monitoring**

**RESOLVED** that the Police Recruitment Fund balance of £1.822m is transferred to the Service Commitment Fund to help fund the planned increase in police officers in the next financial year.

#### **[R373] Facilities Management Contract**

**RESOLVED** that delegated authority be given to the Resources Committee to agree the preferred supplier.

#### **P/894 POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETINGS**

Members noted the meetings that had taken place since the last meeting of the Police Authority. The following issues of note were discussed:-

- Public Engagement at meetings
- The parking of police vehicles at stations

- The policing of late night shopping

Members were advised that these issues would be best addressed at their BCU meetings and Members were welcome to add items to the Agendas for those meetings.

Mr Nevitt commented that the meeting he hosted in Axminster was most enjoyable and the rapport with the police and the public was good, Mr Nevitt felt that the meetings could be better used to promote the role of the Police Authority.

Mr Smith confirmed that the meeting in Teignbridge had gone well.

Mrs Talbot expressed concern at the low attendance rate at the Penwith meeting in September.

Mr Wallin asked if future meetings could avoid being scheduled for Fridays due to low attendance, and policing commitments. Mr Davey agreed that that would be the case.

Mr Thomas informed members that he had had positive responses to the police presence in Braunton.

Mr Greenslade also added that the public had been pleased to see more police officers on the beat.

#### **P/895 Statement of Internal Control**

This was an oral update given by the Treasurer. Mr Glasby informed Members that arrangements were in place for the signing of the accounts by the spring of 2005. Mr Glasby suggested the possibility of starting an Audit Sub Committee and Members were invited to inform the Chief Executive if they would like to become members of that committee.

Sir Simon and Mr Money commented that signing should be done by more than one signatory i.e. the Treasurer, The Chairman and the Chief Executive. It was agreed that this issue would be addressed at the next Chairmen's meeting.

**The meeting closed at 13.05 hrs.**