

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES of a meeting of the **Devon and Cornwall Police Authority** held at Police Headquarters, Middlemoor, Exeter on **Friday 20 February 2004**.

Present:

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

APOLOGIES

Mr J Smith, Mr W D Thomas and ACC T Melville

P/839 ACC WINTER

The Chairman welcomed ACC Caroline Winter to her first meeting as the newly appointed Assistant Chief Constable.

P/840 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

P/841 ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION

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

P/842 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 December were signed as a correct record subject to a minor alteration to P/830 - Carl Wallin and Simon Malloni had been appointed as Lead Members for Criminal Justice.

P/843 MATTERS ARISING

[P/828] (2.12) DCC Arnold agreed to provide Mrs Ryan with details of the results of the drug testing machine that had been launched in Torquay, after the meeting.

[P/828] Recruitment campaign for Special Constables – the £39,000 grant had been spent on the employment of a co-ordinator and in marketing the initiative.

P/844 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2004-05 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Members considered a report setting out the key issues relating to the budget for 2004-05 and a budget booklet detailing an illustrative revenue budget requirement of £233,169,539.

There had already been considerable Member involvement in the budget setting process prior to this meeting; seminar discussions had been held and a working party had considered the proposals in detail. Substantial restraint had been exercised in deciding the requirements of the budget which had resulted in the potential implications for council tax increase being managed down to half the original amount. The Treasurer expressed his thanks to the Force and the finance team for achieving this, especially as the large number of major incidents prior to Christmas had put extensive pressure on reserves.

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(Cont'd..)**

The budget presented was part of a medium term financial strategy that covered the period until 2006-07 and the strategy would continue to roll forward each year. Forecasting this far in advance was not easy because of the difficulty in predicting future funding from Government, however prudent estimations of future funding had been made and the financial strategy, if supported, would provide the following: -

- An increase in police officer numbers to 3,500 by the end of March 2006, thus bringing forward the Police Authority's recruitment strategy by one year
- Increasing and then maintaining general balances to a level of 2.5% of the net revenue budget, with a view to increasing the percentage in the longer term as other reserves and provisions are used
- The introduction of the Airwave replacement communications system from January 2005, with a phased increase in the call upon the revenue budget
- Coverage for anticipated increases in pension costs for police officers and police staff over the medium term
- The establishment of a service commitment reserve to provide for items of committed expenditure, including unforeseen items, that may impact upon the budget in coming years
- Contributions towards the cost of a future replacement helicopter
- Annual increases in council tax below 10% over a three year period

Representations seeking additional funding from the Government had proved unsuccessful and the amount received was +3.3%. The amount included special grants that would have come to the area anyway making the actual figure much lower. Information on £14m of the £16m specific grants had not yet been confirmed and the Treasurer recommended that representations be made to Government to help ensure information was supplied earlier.

Members had previously been made aware of the removal of the ring fenced Airwave grant. The Government had now made specific allocations to individual police authorities for next year and this Authority had received £76,000 and not the expected £131,000 based upon the ready for service date. Members were asked to consider whether representation should be made to the Home Office to request that all previously promised earmarked funds be provided over the implementation cycle.

The national settlement did not provide for any additional officers and in fact, Government grant increases did not provide sufficient resources to cover inflation and existing commitments. The Police Authority had not benefited from the additional £340m announced in December by the Chancellor to keep council taxes down and Police Authorities had received the lowest grant increase of any class of authority, behind district, unitary and county colleagues.

The Police Authority had consulted with the communities of Devon & Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly by way of surveys and public meetings. Less than 10% of survey respondents wanted cuts in policing to keep the council tax down and around two thirds seemed prepared to pay a little more to get more police officers. Responses from the public at the series of public meetings had been mixed with some strong views being expressed by those opposed to increases. Overall, however, there seemed to be a groundswell of support for extra policing. Members were invited to comment on their perceptions of public meetings.

The illustrative budget supported increases in police officer strength by up to 104 officers by the end of the 2004-05 financial year. Further opportunities had been identified to re-deploy officers to frontline operational duties through civilianisation and this, along with a reduction in sickness levels equivalent to 10 officers, would result in an overall effective increase in operational officers of up to 154.

The Authority had consulted on potential increases of 15p to 25p per week for a Band D Council tax and a range of potential council tax increases and resultant budget requirements was presented to Members in the report.

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(Cont'd...)**

However, it was only possible to provide an illustrative budget for one budget, and one associated council tax level. The illustrative budget was based on an increase of 9.8% in Council Tax which was the equivalent of 19p per week for a Band D property, and 12p for a Band A property. This would result in a police precept of £113 per year per Band D property. It was noted that the average property band in Devon & Cornwall was probably Band C. Members were assured that Devon and Cornwall was the lowest taxing Police Authority in the South West and would continue to be if the proposed budget was agreed.

Attention was drawn to the possibility of capping and the responsibilities of the Authority and the Deputy Prime Minister and recent comments by ministers.

Illustrative Budget 2004-05 summary

	£m
Approved budget 2003-04	220.160
Inflation	6.154
Continuity commitments	5.992
External funding changes	1.106
Policy commitments	1.524
Policy decisions	<u>1.697</u>
Commitment budget	236.633
Additional police officers	1.794
Service development	2.366
Programme savings	(1.760)
Budget savings	(5.400)
Changes in contributions to reserves and balances	(0.463)
Illustrative budget 2004-05	<u><u>233.170</u></u>

The issue of additional funding being made available to the Authority from Council Tax on second homes and empty homes was addressed. For 2004-05 the Government had not taken account of any extra income raised by local authorities as a result of the new legislation. This funding was therefore in addition to that expected. For second homes, it was thought that the Government would continue not to account for it in the funding allocation, although how long this would last was not known. For empty homes, the situation was different and there would be a reduction in revenue support grant from 2005-06 onwards to reflect any additional income from empty properties. Once the billing authorities had made the decision to reduce discounts on second homes, the Police Authority were entitled to the police share. A number of representations had been made to spend this on affordable housing and to ringfence it within the District where it was raised. Members were advised that the Police Authority had no powers to spend on affordable housing. There had been some debate on whether the money should be ringfenced within Districts, however there was strong feeling that the money would be better used corporately to fund extra police officers for the benefit of the community as a whole and to reduce the impact on council tax payers. This policy was reflected in the illustrative budget. The additional income applicable to the Authority for 2004-05 as a result of the reduced discounts on second homes was £1m, or 1.5% on the council tax.

The 2003-04 budget involved savings and resource redirection of some £5m. Finding further savings would be difficult however the illustrative budget assumed further savings of £5.4m, or 2.5% of the budget. Members were advised that this was the most tightly drawn budget ever and there was no room for error. The Resources Committee would have a difficult task over the forthcoming year ensuring that it was spent to the best advantage.

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(Cont'd...)**

Analysis was considered on the robustness of the budget estimates and on potential risks. The main risks that could impact on the delivery of the 2004-05 budget were similar to those faced every year and included :-

- exceptional demands placed upon the service, particularly in relation to major incidents
- requirements of new legislation or government directives
- pay and price increases greater than allowed for
- delivery of major capital schemes
- impact of interest rate movements

In addition, there were particular issues around funding that could only be fully defined when the figures were finalised and these were: -

- levels of general government grant
- continuation of specific grants
- council tax base changes, including second homes income
- capital funding requirements
- keeping the goodwill of communities

The Government had undertaken a review of capital financing and new legislation for 2004-05 allowed greater freedom for local authorities in respect of their capital spending plans. CIPFA had issued a Prudential Code to back up this new legislation which aimed to ensure that capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable and that treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice and in a manner that supports prudence, affordability and sustainability. The Prudential Code set out a suite of performance indicators that are designed to support and record local decision making and to enable local comparison over time. The Authority were required to determine these indicators and a number of these needed to be agreed prior to the start of the financial year. Details of the specified indicators were included in the report for Members' consideration. The Resources Committee had already considered and supported the required indicators in detail because of their complexity and it was suggested that it would be this committee that would monitor them during the year.

In summary, the illustrative budget for 2004-05 considered by Members provided the following:-

- gave the potential to put around 100 extra officers on the street next year
- met all known commitments and obligations
- made a modest provision for inflation
- took advantage of the Government's more relaxed rules on capital spending
- delivered some £5.4 million in savings and redirection
- took a prudent view on reserves and balances
- increased the Band D council tax by 9.8%, some £10 per year or less than 20 pence per household per week.

During discussion of the report, the following issues were raised:

- It was suggested that the Authority consider adding a statement in the council tax leaflet alerting people that financial support from Government was available to those who were on low incomes.
- Because of the low base, there may be a benefit in providing the proposed increases in the police element of the council tax in terms of monetary amounts rather than percentages. In reality, the increase in the police precept amounted to below 1% of the council tax bill issued by local authorities.

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- Members were content that the Constabulary was delivering improved services following last year's increase, particularly in providing additional police officers, improving call handling and the implementation of neighbourhood policing. The public still demanded more Officers on the beat however and it was hoped that this budget would go towards achieving this.
- The consultation survey undertaken by the Constabulary was considered representative and the majority of respondents were content to pay a little more for extra police officers.
- Considerable savings had been made to enable the budget to be presented as illustrated.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the acceleration of the Authority's strategy of having 3500 police officers in post be welcomed with a budget which delivers the capacity for 104 extra officers in 2004-05;
- (ii) the results of the recent consultation exercise showing public support for additional policing even if this means a small cash increase in council tax be noted with the acknowledgement that such public support brings the responsibility to continue delivering service improvements and build on the improvements of the last year;
- (iii) thanks be extended to the Chief Constable, the Force and key finance staff for their efforts to deliver yet more significant savings which have helped reduce the impact on council tax, to moderate operational requirements and to demonstrate restraint especially in the aftermath of the recent spate of major incidents;
- (iv) the budget requirement for 2004-05 (as calculated in accordance with Section 43(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992) be £233,169,539;
- (v) the budget amounts, provisions, reserves, balances and financing adjustments be approved as in the illustrative budget booklet;
- (vi) the Council Tax for each of the eight property bands and the precepts on the billing authorities for 2004-05 be approved as in the illustrative budget booklet;
- (vii) the Treasurer's comments on the robustness of the budget estimates, the adequacy of balances and reserves and issues of risk be noted;
- (viii) the proceeds from council tax on second homes be used corporately to fund some of the extra officers thereby reducing the council tax increase;
- (ix) the potential outcomes of the medium term financial plan be supported, including the number of officers, the treatment of provisions, balances and reserves and that future revenue spending commitments and the implications for subsequent years be noted;
- (x) it be noted that several key grant figures have been supplied very late in the budget process and that representations be made to government, through the APA, to help ensure that all sources of government funding are notified to police authorities in a timely manner in future in order to permit proper service and financial planning;
- (xi) the capital programme and funding for 2004-05 be approved as in the illustrative budget booklet;
- (xii) the prudential indicators, including borrowing limits, in the Appendix to the budget report be approved with monitoring being delegated to the Resources Committee;

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(Cont'd..)**

- (xiii) the Chairman be authorised to write to government stressing the need for a full reinstatement of Airwave grants over the implementation cycle.

P/845 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2004-05

As part of the approved Treasury Management Policy, the Treasurer presented a Treasury Management Strategy to Members for 2004-05.

New Government guidance required an Annual Investment Strategy to be prepared before the beginning of the year and this needed to be agreed by the Authority. A section on investments was included in the Strategy to fulfil the requirement and this was presented to Members for consideration. Although it was expected that the Authority's surplus cash would fall by £5m during the year, primarily as Airwave expenditure came on line, it was still considered viable to retain the services of the two fund managers. Ongoing services would depend on them achieving satisfactory returns. Members were advised that interest on investments over the current financial year had been included in the budget and totalled some £1m.

New capital financing regulations and the freedom to borrow had already been discussed under the budget report. Funding for the proposed capital programme included a prudent £4m for borrowing.

Devon County Council was responsible for the day to day cash flow on behalf of the Authority. Cash levels varied daily and on occasion, there was the potential for short term investment or the need for short term borrowing. Members were advised that an opportunity for the Authority to invest funds directly with a UK bank or building society in the form of a specified investment at a fixed rate of interest may arise. It was proposed that the Treasurer be allowed to undertake such investments if he considered it advantageous to the Authority.

Significant cash flow deficits were expected towards the end of the financial year as Airwave spending commenced and was reflected in the Prudential Indicator for operational and authorised debt levels.

The report included a note that a new three year contract for banking services with Barclays had been agreed from 1 April 2004.

RESOLVED

- a) That the Treasury Management Strategy be approved, specifically in relation to
- (i) retaining the services of Investec and Morley to invest surplus funds on behalf of the Police Authority, subject to satisfactory performance;
 - (ii) retaining the services of Devon County Council to provide day to day cash management on behalf of the Police Authority;
 - (iii) allowing the Treasurer, in consultation with the Chairman, the flexibility to invest funds directly if this is to the advantage of the Police Authority;
 - (iv) dealing only in specified investments, as defined in the strategy;
 - (v) undertaking long term borrowing in line with the approved capital programme and associated funding;
 - (vi) noting the use of Barclays as the Authority's bankers.
- b) That these approvals be assessed as fulfilling the Investment Strategy requirements of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

P/846 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

Members considered the report of the Chief Constable and were updated on a number of incidents noted in the report.

It was with regret that Mrs Wallis reported the death of serving police officer, Dave Brown. He died on the 29 December 2003 following a short illness. Born in 1953, he joined the Force in May 1982 as a Police Constable. During his service, he had worked in Special Operations and was most currently working as a Resource allocation Officer in the IIMU, Exmouth. He was held in high regard and would be greatly missed.

It was reported that during a chase on foot, a PC had caught his wedding ring on a fence, damaging his finger. It had not proved possible to save the finger and an amputation had been carried out. The PC has been involved in a Health & Safety campaign promoting the removal of jewellery whilst operational.

Major incidents and Policing Diary

1.1 – 1.7 Murder / attempted murder – of the seven reported incidents, charges or arrests had been made in every case.

1.18 Drugs – The Torbay Proactive Unit had seized drugs with a street value of over £250,000. This was to be congratulated.

1.19 Arson to police vehicle – A rare event but costly. A small working group had been established prior to this incident to look at improving the situation at Marlborough Street and it was regrettable that this incident had occurred. It was suggested that there may be some benefit in contacting the company responsible for the Devonport Regeneration Scheme to investigate the possibilities of refurbishment.

The Arson Task Force, a multi-agency task force, was proving very successful. The number of reported arson incidents had risen this year and this was because there was a National drive to be more effective in identifying arson against accidental fires.

1.23 Stolen property recovered in Somerset – as part of operation Mackintosh to recover high value stolen vehicles in East and Mid Devon, six people had been arrested and a large quantity of stolen property had been recovered. This operation had been carried out in partnership with another police force.

1.26 – 1.29 Force paedophile unit – this department was facing increasing amounts of work.

1.28 French vessel lost at sea – the French authorities had instigated an investigation. The outcome was still awaited.

1.34 The driver caught on camera ten times for speeding had been travelling at considerably more than 30 mph. Mrs Wallis reiterated the Force policy to place speed cameras only in places where road traffic collisions were high. The motive was for preventing collisions and not for raising revenue.

Operational Priorities

2.2 Burglary fall - The constabulary has one of the lowest burglary rates in the country. In particular, Exeter Burglary Squad had achieved a 31% reduction in domestic burglary. This was a significant result.

2.10 Vehicle dumping – a protocol for dealing with abandoned vehicles had been adopted by the Force and other authorities.

2.11 The Police Community Support Officers enjoyed continued success in Honiton. The regular sports sessions set up by the PCSOs had won wide support from businesses within the community.

P/846 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT (CONT'D..)

Awards and Commendations

3.1 Elizabeth Riley, a special constable, had been awarded an MBE for services to the police following 16 years of service.

Successes and challenges – update

The Chief Constable's report included, for the first time, an update on the achievements of the Force and followed on from 'challenges delivered'. Specific items of note were:-

- Total crime had reduced by 8% in the period April to December 2003 with reductions of 18% in burglary, 10.8% in vehicle crime and 15% in robbery.
- Devon & Cornwall had the 7th lowest rate of crime per 1000 head of population nationally.
- The Force had the 9th highest detection rate.
- Road traffic collisions had reduced by 13.8% in the period April to December 2003 compared with the same period in 2002.
- The implementation of Neighbourhood policing was ongoing. There was an intention to appoint 334 beat managers across 305 neighbourhoods by 31 March 2004.
- Police Officer numbers had increased to 3300, the highest ever.
- The number of medical retirements had halved in 2002/03 and medical retirements for this year were on target.
- The introduction of the employee assistance programme was assisting in the Force's development of a healthy working environment.
- Call handling performance was improving with the year-end target being achieved early.

Force Strength

Members considered the personnel snapshot taken on 31 January 2004 which showed that the total number of police officers was 3299.4, an increase of 27 police officers since the last meeting. 93% of police officers were in operational roles.

It was confirmed that the Force used a wider code than the Stephen Lawrence code for classification of Black and Minority Ethnic, which did include eastern European races. It was of concern that the number of special constables from minority ethnic groups was low. It was confirmed that there was now one BME special constable in Cornwall.

P/847 DRAFT ANNUAL POLICING PLAN 2004-05 AND DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2004-09

Members considered the draft Annual Policing Plan 2004-05 and Strategic Plan 2004-09. The draft Strategic Plan was tabled at the meeting. The primary means of publication of the Annual Policing Plan this year would be electronic. Publication on the Authority and Force websites would take place by 31 March 2004 with printable and downloadable formats available. Hard copies would be available on request. Publishing the documents electronically was beneficial because updates and adaptations could be undertaken as required.

Members had already reviewed the Annual Policing Plan at their Seminar in January.

The requirement to publish an updated Strategic Plan for 2004 had been removed and if updating was necessary, there was no requirement to send it to the Home Secretary for approval. The draft plan was subject to final amendments for the Force annual and long-term targets as well as budgetary information arising from this meeting.

P/847 DRAFT ANNUAL POLICING PLAN 2004-05 AND DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2004-09 (Cont'd..)

Members comments on both plans were invited. The following issues arose:-

- A request was made for any amendments to the plans to be documented and for the version date to be included on the document.
- Suitable and sufficient advertising be undertaken to alert the public of the availability of the plans on the Force and Authority web sites. It was confirmed that the council tax leaflet, which would be sent to all residents in Devon and Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, did include a reference to both web sites.
- It was requested that the Annual Report to be less 'wordy' in future years to aid readability.
- The decision to provide a common glossary for both documents was welcomed.
- The ability to use a search facility in the documents published on the web would not be possible until 2005/6. This year's version would be published in PDF format.

Members were asked to inform the Police Authority office of any comments they had on the draft Strategic Plan to allow them time to review its contents.

RESOLVED to

- i) approve the draft Annual Policing Plan 2004/05 for submission to the Home Secretary by 28 February;
- ii) give delegated powers to the Planning and Consultation Committee, to finally approve each document for publication on Force and Police Authority Web sites by 31 March 2004.

P/848 NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Members considered a report updating the implementation of Neighbourhood Policing. Neighbourhood Policing was a Devon & Cornwall Constabulary initiative and was a completely new approach to policing which focussed on accountability and responsibility. It was not just about police officer numbers, it was also about extending the police family to include for example, Police Community Support Officers, Police Traffic Support Officers and Traffic wardens. It was also about engaging with members of the community and increasing social contact.

The intention to appoint 334 Beat Managers across the 305 identified Neighbourhoods had been achieved in early February and there was a commitment to continue growing the number of officers allocated to neighbourhood beats. The number of Beat Managers in Cornwall would soon increase from 97 to 102. The recent major crimes in Cornwall had impacted on their placement thus far.

Local communities were being made aware of who their beat manager was and how to contact him/her through the Force website (pilot by Plymouth BCU), local papers and other publications, corporate posters and business cards personalised for each sector and officer. Members were invited to view and provide feedback on the Plymouth BCU pilot of providing details of the Neighbourhood Beat Managers on the Force website.

Members considered the lists of Neighbourhoods and their respective Beat Managers appended to the report. It was considered that the list for South & West Devon was better presented than those for the other BCUs and it was requested that these others be reproduced in the same format.

A corporate guide to Neighbourhood policing was being compiled and would define the role and responsibilities of beat managers, set minimum standards and give guidance on local variations necessary to meet the needs of a community. The role profile was based on the Integrated Competency Framework, a National Model, as opposed to a job description. Members were advised that NHB Managers would be expected to attend parish council meetings although this requirement was not specifically referred to in the role profile.

P/848 NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING (Cont'd..)

Local training and development programmes for Beat Managers were evolving and the majority of officers had now received training on partnership working and problem solving. A Restorative Justice training package was to be provided as of Spring and would support resolution of individual and community problems through mediation and promote community capacity building.

The Constabulary had agreed to a national Community Cohesion pilot in the North & East Devon BCU. This would involve a strategic mapping process to identify areas of poor community cohesion into which the deployment of further beat managers and other agency resources may be prioritised. The national pilot would benefit from the existing good practice re data sharing (Amethyst) and mapping communities (Mosaic) that were already being progressed across the Force.

A series of NHB Manager road shows had been planned to which Members would be invited.

RESOLVED to note the report.

P/849 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 4 February 2004.

The following recommendation arose from the meeting:

[BV/301] Best Value Review of Leadership

RESOLVED that the Best Value Review of Leadership Final Report be approved.

Mrs Dendy raised the issue of leadership skills training and stressed that training needs should not be identified by self identification.

[BV/302] Best Value Review of Strategic Meetings

It was felt that the BVR Summary given to Members did not provide sufficient information for them to agree the review.

RESOLVED to delegate the approval of the Best Value Review of Strategic Meetings to the Chairman of the Police Authority, and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Best Value Committee.

2. A meeting of the Human Resources Committee was held on 27 January 2004.

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee. There were no recommendations arising from the meeting.

Sir Simon advised Members that he had agreed to sit on the Association of Police Authorities' Bureaucracy Member network. It was agreed that Sir Simon Day and John Smith be appointed as Lead Members for Bureaucracy issues.

3. Performance Management and Audit Committee was held on 23 January 2004.

The following recommendation arose from the meeting:

P/849 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES (Cont'd..)

[PM/278] Audit Plans 2004-05

RESOLVED

- (i) the draft Audit Commission Plan be approved, subject to consideration of the proposed performance review projects;
- (ii) the Treasurer and Chair of the PMA Committee be given delegated authority to approve the final version of the Audit Commission Plan;
- (iii) the Internal Audit plan be approved.

4. A meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee was held on 13 January 2004.

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee. There were no recommendations arising from the meeting.

Mr Money advised Members that work on updating the Authority website was ongoing.

Mr Graney agreed to provide Mr Evans with information on the Force advertising costs. Authority advertising was limited to statutory notices, ACPO and Independent Member appointments and situations vacant.

5. A meeting of the Professional Standards and Complaints Monitoring Group was held on 6 February 2004.

The following recommendation arose from the meeting:

RESOLVED that Mrs Aurora Talbot become a member of the Professional Standards and Complaints Monitoring Group.

6. A meeting of the Resources Committee was held on 6 February 2004.

The following recommendation arose from the meeting:

[R/314] Financial monitoring 2003-04

RESOLVED that

- i. the proposed virements/adjustments to balances and reserves be approved.
- ii. the opportunity to recruit additional police officers in March be taken.

The Authority was now less reliant on borrowing approvals and in response to a query raised over the sharing of prudential borrowing ability the Treasurer advised that it was unlikely that another Police Authority would approach us this year.

P/850 POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETINGS

Members noted the meetings that had taken place since the last meeting of the Police Authority.

DCC Arnold asked for a minor amendment to the record of senior officer attendance in the minutes of the Carrick meeting. Two minor amendments to the minutes of the meeting held in Plymouth were requested and related to attendance.

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P/850 POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETINGS (Cont'd..)

Members briefly discussed the future of the police authority liaison meetings. There was doubt over their value in the current format however it was not considered proper to discontinue them until a suitable alternative had been identified and implemented. The Planning and Consultation Committee was considering this issue in detail.

The recent round of meetings had been used to present information and seek comment from the public on the police budget. Senior police officers had been in attendance to answer budget related questions but had left after the dedicated open session had ended. On one occasion, further questions relating to the budget had been asked after the Officers had left and it was requested that they remain until the end of the meeting should the Authority repeat their budget consultation in the same format next year.

A protocol was requested that would provide information about the expectations of Members and Police Officers should Members be required to respond to questions raised in writing by members of the public and which required a Member to obtain information held by the police. It was agreed that the Chief Executive & Deputy Chief Constable would work together to deliver such a protocol.

P/851 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Schedule 12A of the Act, being information relating to

- i. Any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

P/852 DEVON & CORNWALL CONSTABULARY'S APPROACH TO TERRORISM

Members received a presentation on the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary's approach to terrorism. The presentation was given by Superintendent Mike Sarsfield and Chief Inspector Chris Leitch.