

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES of a meeting of the **Devon and Cornwall Police Authority** held at Police Headquarters, Middlemoor, Exeter on **Friday 30 June 2006**.

Present:

Mr M I R Bull, Mr C Bulley, Mr J Currie, Sir Simon Day, Mr I P A Doggett, Mr T Evans (P/1166 onwards), Mr G Hicks, Mr M Hicks, Mr B C Greenslade, Mr S Hughes, Mrs A Malcolm, Mr D Money, Mr B Preston, Mr J Smith, Mrs A Talbot, Mr W D Thomas, and Mr C L Wallin.

P/1161 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr S M Malloni.

P/1162 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

P/1163 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman welcomed Mr Stuart Hughes, elected Member for Devon County Council, to his first meeting of the Police Authority.

The Chairman also welcomed a work experience student who was observing the meeting.

P/1164 ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION

The Chairman certified that having regard to the special circumstances pertaining to the matter of a potential referral to the Independent Police Complaints Commission, he was of the opinion that, despite its non-inclusion on the Agenda it should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency in Part II of the meeting.

P/1165 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 May 2006 were signed as a correct record.

P/1166 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT 2005-06

Members considered a report presenting the revenue and capital outturn figures for the financial year ending 31 March 2006. The Statement of Accounts setting out the overall financial position of the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority for the year was also presented for consideration. An addendum to the Statement of Accounts was tabled as a result of changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The Resources Committee recommendations had considered the report and Statement of Accounts at their meeting on 29 June. A briefing sheet providing the outcome of that discussion, including their recommendations was tabled.

P/1166 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTFURN REPORT 2005-06 (Cont'd...)

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The revenue outturn was within 1/100th of 1% of the target and was a credit to budget managers.
- The 2005-06 national Efficiency Plan targets had been comfortably exceeded.
- The proposed carry forward of £0.5M.
- The overtime target had been achieved.
- The number of police officers had reached and temporarily exceeded the 3500 target - a year early. The number of police officers at 30 April was 3494.4 slightly below target due to the difficulties of managing the vagaries of recruitment, retirements and resignations.
- Revenue reserves.
- Capital Programme – there was a need to critically review the capital programme. The Resources Committee had debated this at their meeting on the 29 June.
- The statement of accounts had been finalised one month earlier than last year to comply with statutory requirements.
- The treatment of transferee pension income.
- The treatment of capital charges.
- FRS17 obligation to record pensions liability.
- Compliance with one aspect of the statement of internal control in relation to reporting procedures of the Property Sub-Committee.
- Concerns over the underspend on projects.
- Operational and corporate spending – requirement for detailed breakdown to be provided in the report (tasked to Budget Working Party).
- Overtime targets had been achieved, however overtime levels were not following a downward trend.
- Capital expenditure financed from Revenue.
- Payments to small / medium creditors.
- DNA submissions administration costs.

RESOLVED that

- (i) all relevant officers of the Authority and Constabulary be thanked and congratulated on the outturn;
- (ii) the proposed revenue and capital outturn for 2005-06 be approved, including the suggested treatment of carry forwards, accruals, provisions, reserves, revenue financing and capital financing;
- (iii) the statement of accounts for 2005-06 be approved with the amendment to note 10 of the balance sheet to meet CIPFA June 2006 guidelines for pension disclosures;
- (iv) that delegated authority be given to the Treasurer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Resources, to make changes to the accounts that are driven by statutory requirements after discussion with Auditors.

P/1167 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

Members considered the report of the Chief Constable.

The Chief Constable reported on past and ongoing achievements which included the recruitment of additional police officers to reach the 3500 target, recruitment of PCSOs, the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing, handling of major operations, working towards Meeting the Challenge and the budget outturn.

P/1167 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT (Cont'd...)

Major Incidents and Policing Diary

- Assistant Chief Constable Winter and Assistant Chief Constable Melville updated Members on the success of the current knife amnesty. ACC Melville was the ACPO lead for Volume and Violent Crime and he reported on a draft strategy for knife crime that was being worked upon by the group. The Violent Crime Bill was also discussed.

There had been 859 articles handed in so far during the amnesty, the majority of which had been domestic implements. The amnesty – which ran from 24 May to 30 June, would see a final count announced by the 7 July. Subsequent to the meeting, it was reported that 3752 articles had been handed in during the amnesty.

The Constabulary had recently been successful in their bid for two Home Office grants that were available to tackle violent crime. One was to educate people on the dangers of carrying knives specifically for operation Columbus and the other was to purchase an educational DVD and lesson plans for use in schools.

- The number of homicides this year to date had decreased from 4 to 1. A small increase (an increase of four) of serious assaults during the same period was reported. Harassment incidents had increased significantly and this was being closely monitored.
- An increase in robbery / criminal damage was reported, however overall crime figures in Devon and Cornwall were amongst the lowest nationally.
- Between 1 April and 31 May 2006 it was reported that there were 15 deaths on the roads in Devon and Cornwall as a result of road traffic collisions. 19 people had been seriously injured during the same period. Overall, the Constabulary was on target to achieve the required reduction in road traffic accidents.

Awards and Commendations

Members noted the awards and commendations detailed in the report.

Successes and Challenges update

- It was reported that there was a continued reduction in domestic burglary and vehicle crime.
- Call handling performance continued to be monitored.

Personnel

Members considered the personnel snapshot as at 30 April 2006.

The number of PCSOs had increased to 91.3 (FTE). Further recruitment was planned to reach the target of 356.

P/1167 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT (Cont'd...)

Spotlight on Success

Members considered the letters of appreciation received by the Constabulary.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The Constabulary has a large compliment of Special Constables. Many Special Constables moved on to become Police Officers. Work was ongoing to attract volunteers to carry out other roles within the Constabulary.
- Work around forensics and use of PNDs was required to improve sanction detections, which were currently below target.
- Call handling performance (Force Enquiry Centre) continued to be raised at Police Authority Liaison Meetings.
- There had been a media report on the dramatic increase of rural crime nationally. Rural crime in Devon and Cornwall was not increasing dramatically; Devon and Cornwall had the 6th lowest crime rate nationally.

RESOLVED to note the report.

P/1168 REPORTS OF THE 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 **Corporate Governance Committee** was held on 16 May 2006.

The following recommendation arose from the committee:

[CG/36] The Composition of the Corporate Governance Committee

RESOLVED

- (i) that the committee size is increased to 7; and
- (ii) that representatives from all groups (councillors, lay justices and independent members) are on the Committee; and
- (iii) that the Chairs of the Authority's Committees, the Authority Chairman and Authority Vice-Chairman should not be eligible to be members of the Committee, (but they would be welcome to attend meetings of the Committee).

Members who were interested in sitting on the committee were asked to advise the Chief Executive.

Subsequent to the meeting, James Currie, Bryan Preston, Mike Hicks and Aurora Talbot were appointed as members of the committee.

Members noted the items discussed by the committee.

2. A meeting of the **Human Resources Committee** was held on 21 June 2006.

Members noted the items discussed by the committee.

P/1168 REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES (Cont'd...)

3. A meeting of the **Performance Management Committee** was held on the 16 May 2006.

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee.

6. Meetings of the **Resources Committee** were held on 27 April and 29 June 2006.

The following recommendation arose from the committee:

[R/529] Revenue and Capital Outturn Report 2005-06

The resolution was considered and resolved at P/1166.

[R/535] Committee Membership

RESOLVED that Alison Malcolm be appointed as a member of the Resources Committee.

Further expressions of interest to sit on the Committee were sought. Members were asked to advise the Chief Executive if they wished to be considered.

Subsequent to the meeting, Mike Bull was also appointed as a member of the committee.

Members noted the items discussed by the Committee.

P/1169 INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING BI-ANNUAL REPORT

Members considered the output report for Independent Custody Visiting for the period 1 February 2006 to 31 May 2006.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- A request for output reports for each custody unit
- Provision of food for detainees
- Feedback reporting procedures
- Recruitment of volunteers

Miss G Fice was thanked for her contribution to the administration of the scheme.

RESOLVED to note the report.

P/1170 POLICE DOG WELFARE SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT

Members considered the Police Dog Welfare Scheme annual report.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Post retirement costs for police dogs. It was requested that consideration be given to the provision of financial support for officers who retain retired police dogs.

RESOLVED to note the report.

P/1171 POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETINGS

Members noted the meetings held since the last meeting of the Police Authority.

RESOLVED to note the report.

P/1172 Closed Items - Exclusion Of The Press And Public

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

Minute Number	Report Title	Relevant Act	Relevant section
P/1173	Reports of Committees. Resources Committee held on 29 June 2006. Review of Intranet Project (IP2).	Freedom of Information Act	i. Section 43 - Commercial Interest (2) Prejudice the commercial interests of any person including the public authority holding it.
P/1174	North Devon Community Support Unit (CSU) – Replacement Video Interview Suite and CSU Staff Offices, Barnstaple.	Freedom of Information Act	i. Section 38 - Endanger the physical or mental health or safety of any individual. ii. Section 43 Commercial Interest (2) Prejudice the commercial interests of any person including the public authority holding it.
P/1175	Bodmin Property Project – Decision making process.	Freedom of Information Act	i. Section 43 – Commercial Interest (2) Prejudice the commercial interests of any person including the public authority holding it.
P/1176	Independent Police Complaints Commission	Freedom of Information Act	i. Section 40 – Personal Information (2) Personal information relating to a third party.

P/1173 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 29 JUNE 2006 - REVIEW OF INTRANET PROJECT (IP2)

Members were provided with an update on recent developments in respect of the Intranet Project. As had been resolved at the Resources Committee, Members were provided with further detailed information regarding the potential costs.

RESOLVED

- (i)
 - (a) to approve overall costs to a maximum of £50,000;
 - (b) to continue to take the negotiating position of seeking to terminate/ disengage from the Intranet project ('IP2') Contract;
 - (b) to authorise the use of Expert Determination as part of the process of seeking to terminate the Contract;
 - (c) that the Best Practice Group advisor and QC advice are retained for the purposes of the submission to Expert Determination and, if necessary, to Court;

**P/1173 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 29 JUNE 2006 -
REVIEW OF INTRANET PROJECT (IP2) (Cont'd...)**

- (ii) that a task group comprising Brian Greenslade and Mike Bull investigate the procurement processes which led to the drawing up of the contract and subsequent contractual disagreement.

**P/1174 NORTH DEVON COMMUNITY SUPPORT UNIT (CSU) – REPLACEMENT VIDEO
INTERVIEW SUITE AND CSU STAFF OFFICES, BARNSTAPLE**

This item was withdrawn. Members were advised that this item would be considered at the Property Sub-Committee in due course.

P/1175 BODMIN PROPERTY PROJECT – DECISION MAKING PROCESS

This item was withdrawn. Members were advised that this item would be considered at the Property Sub-Committee in due course.

P/1176 INDEPENDENT POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

Members were provided with a report outlining allegations received during the course of the Metropolitan enquiry in relation to Job Evaluation. The allegations related primarily to the Chief Constable Maria Wallis and Assistant Chief Constable Caroline Winter.

The Chief Executive advised members strongly that based on advice from both the IPCC and the HMI the appropriate way forward would be a formal investigation by another Force under the direction and control of the IPCC – a managed investigation. It was stressed that the decision to refer the allegations for investigation was a neutral act and no view as to their substance and accuracy was implied. The investigation would provide both officers with the opportunity to respond to the allegations made against them.

Members did not debate the allegations but sought clarification on a number of issues in relation to the process being followed.

It was agreed that members would be kept up-dated as appropriate on how the matter was progressing.

RESOLVED that the IPCC be asked to conduct a managed investigation in relation to allegations formally referred to them concerning the Chief Constable Maria Wallis and Assistant Chief Constable Caroline Winter.

The meeting closed at 13:00hrs

Signed.....

Date:.....