

## DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Minutes of the **Resources Committee** meeting held in the Conference Room, Endeavour House, Woodwater Park, Exeter on Thursday 24 March 2005.

### **OPEN SESSION**

### **PRESENT**

Mr B Greenslade – Chairman, Mr D Money, Mr M Nevitt, Mrs Jill Owen, Mrs C Ryan and Mr John Smith.

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr J Glasby, Mr F Graney, Mr P Hutton, Miss E Lewis, Mr S Matthews, Mr S Mellor, Mr T Melville, Mr A Morris and Mrs E Tanner.

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr T Evans, Mrs A Talbot and Mr W Thomas.

### **R/411 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest were received:

Name	Agenda Item	Minute number	Interest	Nature of Interest	Action
B Greenslade	(12) Holsworthy Police Station	R/425	Personal & Prejudicial	Property Portfolio holder, Devon County Council	Left the room
J Smith	12) Holsworthy Police Station	R/425	Personal & Prejudicial	Social Services Portfolio holder, Devon County Council	Left the room
J Owen	(12) Holsworthy Police Station	R/425	Personal	Devon County Council Member	N/A

### **R/412 RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2005 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to two minor amendments.

[R/403] It was confirmed that members would be advised when a response from Plymouth City Council had been received.

### **R/413 PROPERTY SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Members considered the recommendation at [PS/192].

**RESOLVED** to recommend to the Police Authority to amend the Terms of Reference for the Property Sub-Committee to include:

- i. the approval of detailed business cases relating to property matters;
- ii. the authority to sign off schemes at the tender stage and to handle variations within set parameters.

#### **R/414 EXTENDED POLICE FAMILY STRATEGY**

Members considered a strategy whose purpose was to inform the direction, pace and extent of adoption and integration of the Extended Police Family within the Force.

The five key strategic principles were:

- i. The Force will, where it has primacy, manage and utilise the Extended Police Family based on the Neighbourhood Policing Model to deliver the strategic objectives;
- ii. They will be allocated and deployed according to need;
- iii. A mapping process will be applied to the whole force (utilising geodemographic profiling, crime, British Crime Survey and Index of Multiple Deprivation etc) to identify and prioritise vulnerable locations;
- iv. This strategy will adopt evidence based good practice from the national Community Cohesion Pilot; and
- v. The Extended Police Family resources may be shared with and part funded by partner agencies where appropriate.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The need for a clear communication strategy within the policy to ensure proper dissemination throughout the Force.
- It was suggested that there should be a meeting between the appropriate local authorities and the Police to discuss the decriminalisation of parking enforcement. Mr Melville is to take the lead in this area and will engage with partners.
- The strategy was welcomed because it addressed the need for a clearer definition of roles.
- It was hoped that in future, there would be closer Member involvement in the formulation of such policies, especially with those Members who undertake a lead role in the subject.
- The Community Safety Accreditation scheme pilots were due to end in the summer. Evaluation of these pilots would follow. The aim was to strengthen the link between Community Wardens and the police.
- It was considered that there was a need to keep a close watch on the implementation of community accreditation schemes.
- Contractual issues – in particular the possible need for a review of duties for members of the extended police family.
- The need to consult with disability, LGBT and BME groups in due course.

**RESOLVED** to recommend to the Police Authority that the strategy be adopted.

**R/415 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT 2004-05**

Members noted the anticipated outturns against individual budget headings.

**RESOLVED** to recommend to the Police Authority to the virement of £1m out of the programmes budget into the Service Development Fund.

**R/416 BVACOP REVENUE ACCOUNT ANALYSIS**

The required revenue account for the budget in accordance with the format of the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice was presented to Members.

**RESOLVED** that the BVACOP revenue account analysis be approved.

**R/417 OPERATIONAL ESTATES STRATEGY**

Minor amendments had been made to the strategy following the previous meeting of the committee. These amendments were now summarised for members' approval. It was requested that a slight amendment be made to query 1 and query 3.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The average space per employee in relation to the national average, the impact of the introduction of mobile communication equipment, and the need to ensure that business plans produced to support strategic decisions included all ongoing costs, especially future space requirements.

**RESOLVED** to recommend to the Police Authority that the Operational Estates Strategy be approved.

**R/418 ETHICAL POLICIES IN THE CONSTABULARY'S PROCUREMENT PROCESSES**

Members considered a report outlining the Constabulary's approach to ethical issues in its procurement policies and practice.

The processes outlined in the report were of a generic nature and would necessarily be tailored to suit specific tenders.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Mrs Talbot had submitted some suggested amendments to the 'Respondents Questionnaire' and these were passed to the Constabulary for consideration.
- It was suggested that the Constabulary include a specific question in relation to minimum wage in the respondent's questionnaire.
- Systems for reporting and measuring compliance with the statutory obligations contained within the Race Relations Act, the Sex Discrimination Act and the Disability Discrimination Act in the provision of goods, services and works (post contract award) were expected to be in place in early 2006.

**RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report.

#### **R/419 FUNDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT – THE LYONS REVIEW**

One of the outcomes of the Government's Balance of Funding Review was that a further review was required. This was now being undertaken by Sir Michael Lyons and would reach a conclusion in late 2005. The Police Authority has taken a lead in raising concerns about the current Council Tax system and would wish to continue this in its response to the Lyons Review. The Treasurer had been made aware that responses were now being sought however the deadline for receipt was 11 April 2005. Members were therefore alerted to the need for urgency procedures to be put into place to agree the Authority's response due to there being no decision making meetings scheduled prior to this date.

The Treasurer advised Members that there were likely to be a number of issues that would require Police Authority approval prior to the next meeting of the Authority.

**RESOLVED** that the Authority's response be resolved by the urgency procedures and that a meeting of the Urgency Committee be held on 22 April 2005.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

The following items were considered in closed session by the committee with only members of the police authority, appropriate officers and expert advisors present, on the grounds that exempt / confidential information may be disclosed.

#### **R/420 CRIME CO-LOCATION**

Members received an update on the current situation regarding the co-location of a number of crime department units. A possible venue had been identified and a further report would be submitted in due course.

#### **R/421 UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF BICHARD PROPOSALS**

Detective Superintendent Matthews gave a presentation on the implementation of the Bichard proposals by the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The aim for a National IT system is to enable checks to be easily undertaken which was being driven by the IMPACT programme. A meeting of the National IT Directors was due shortly and would focus on responding to the Bichard recommendations.
- The introduction of new codes of practice for the Police National Computer System and a new target for logging arrests. PNC was to be upgraded to PNC II by 2008.
- A national register for sex offenders was in operation.
- New ACPO guidelines for the retention and disposal of information were due in May 2005.
- Interagency co-operation and associated issues.
- Police Force representation on the Children's Trust.

It was felt important that Members continued to monitor the progress of the implementation of the recommendations. It was also requested that a presentation be given to Members at a future seminar.

**R/422 COURTS ACT 2003**

Members considered a report which advised on the implications of the Courts Act 2003 and the consequence of the Unified Courts Administration Programme (UCAP) in regards of the Force Estate. Although there had been some initial concern about the possible implications of this Act, following negotiations with the Home Office, Police Property Services Managers Group and the Department of Constitutional Affairs, these concerns had now been minimised. Local negotiations had resulted in a Memorandum of Agreement being prepared for one police property and this was submitted for members' approval.

**RESOLVED** to recommend to the Police Authority that the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement for the police property concerned be approved.

**R/423 TRURO SAFETY CENTRE**

The progress of the provision of a joint Safety Centre in Truro was discussed. There was an issue around the level of Private Funding Initiative (PFI) credits required to fund the project in full. Discussions were taking place between Cornwall County Council, the Home Office and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. A decision was awaited. A further report would be submitted in due course.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

**R/424 INSURANCE**

The Authority's insurance premiums were due for renewal. Members were advised of the proposals put forward by the broker. As they were either within the long term agreement or very well below industry levels, the decision to agree insurance lay with the Chief Constable. However Members' involvement was welcomed.

Issues around the services offered by the current brokers were discussed. It was agreed that an alternative supplier be trialled for a period of time leading up to the marketing of the long term agreements in 2006.

**RESOLVED** to

- i. approve the insurance proposals as presented
- ii. trial an alternative supplier for brokerage services.

**R/425 HOLSWORTHY POLICE STATION**

Mr Greenslade and Mr Smith left the room. Mrs Owen took the Chair.

The options for the provision of a larger police station in Holsworthy were discussed.

**RESOLVED**

- i. to arrange a special public meeting in Holsworthy where the options would be presented for consultation.
- ii. that a further report be submitted for Members consideration and approval based on the outcome of the above consultation.

The meeting closed at 13.20pm.