

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

MINUTES

A meeting of the **Resources Committee** was held in the Conference Room, Endeavour House, Woodwater Park, Exeter on Thursday 27 April 2006 starting at 10.00 hrs.

Present

ChairmanMr B Greenslade.

Mr J Currie, Mr Mike Nevitt, Mrs Jill Owen, Mr B Preston, Mr J Smith and Mr W Thomas.

Officers In Attendance

Police Force:

Deputy Chief Constable N Arnold (for items 500 to 504), Mr F Graney (Director of Finance and Administration) Ms A Sutton-Vane (Collections Officer) (for item 513) and Mr M Walton (Head of ICT) (for items 500-506)

Police Authority:

Mr J Glasby (Treasurer), Miss J Norris (Assistant Chief Executive) and Mr A Rutter (Interim Finance Manager).

R/497 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr D Money.

R/498 Declarations of Interest

Name	Agenda Item	Minute ref	Interest	Details	Action taken
Mr B Greenslade	Treasury Management	R/511	Personal	Member of Devon County Council	Spoke & voted
Mrs J Owen	Treasury Management	R/511	Personal	Member of Devon County Council	Spoke & voted
Mr J Smith	Treasury Management	R/511	Personal	Member of Devon County Council	Spoke & voted

R/499 Resources Committee Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2005 be confirmed as a correct record.

R/500 Property Sub Committee Minutes

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- [PS/246] Training College Refurbishment, the Chairman of the Human Resources Committee has asked the Learning and Development Manager to prepare a report outlining whether or not the refurbished Training College will meet future needs.
- [PS/251] Section 106 – planning gain agreements
- [Ps/251] the proposed shop front facility in Redruth will not be proceeding.

- [PS/252] Refurbishment of Barnstaple Police Station - lessons learnt about dealing with contractors and sub contractors.

RESOLVED to note the minutes of the meetings held on 12 January and 6 April 2006.

R/501 Closed Items - Exclusion Of The Press And Public

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

Agenda No	Minute No	Report Title	Relevant Act	Relevant section
7	R/502	Meeting the Challenge Programme (Socrates project Summary)	Freedom of Information Act	Section 43.2 Exempt information if its disclosure would prejudice the commercial interests of any person or public authority holding it

R/502 Meeting the Challenge Programme (Socrates Project Summary)

The report contained the outline of the Business Case and the Business Benefits of the Socrates forensic tracking system.

RESOLVED that the business case and funding arrangements for the Socrates project be approved as part of the Force Strategic Programme for 2006/07.

R/503 Reconvention of Open Session

RESOLVED that the meeting reconvene in open session.

R/504 Meeting the Challenge Programme

The report set out the financial framework for the Projects and Programmes budget.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- regular progress reports should be submitted to the Budget Working Party;
- the impact of the recruitment of additional Police Community Support Officers on property issues;
- the National Custody System is still awaiting a government decision regarding funding;
- in future reports it would be helpful if the property issues were shown separately;
- the projects listed as a priority have been assessed and selected against criteria which indicate to what extent they enhance protective services and will assist Devon & Cornwall in becoming a strategic force.

RESOLVED

- (i) to note the initial budget for the Force Strategic programme for 2006/07;

- (ii) to note the initiatives which are likely to come forward for consideration for funding once the business cases have been finalised;
- (iii) that progress on the spending of the Force Strategic Programme is monitored by the Budget Working Party with Police Authority members appointed to look at specific business cases.

R/505 Closed Items - Exclusion Of The Press And Public

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

Agenda No	Minute No	Report Title	Relevant Act	Relevant section
13	R/506	Review of First 12 months of ICT Managed Services Contract	Freedom of Information Act	Section 43.2 Exempt information if its disclosure would prejudice the commercial interests of any person or public authority holding it

R/506 Review of First 12 months of ICT Managed Services Contract

The report summarised the issues arising from the delivery of ICT services through the first 12 months of a new Managed Services contract. The Head of ICT gave a short presentation which highlighted some of the issues outlined in the paper.

RESOLVED to note the encouraging performance of ICT services during the first 12 months of new Managed Services contract.

R/507 Reconvocation of Open Session

RESOLVED that the meeting reconvene in open session.

R/508 Budget Working Party

The Committee considered extending the membership of the Budget Working Party.

RESOLVED that membership of the Budget Working Party be extended to include Mr J Currie, Mr B Preston and Mr W Thomas.

R/509 Budget Monitoring

The budget monitoring report provided information to Members as reported to the Force Executive.

Issues discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- currently the target of 3,500 has been slightly exceeded but the Human Resources Department monitor the fluctuations in staffing levels and recruitment is planned accordingly;

- reduction in overtime;
- the target savings for 2005/06 have been exceeded;
- predictions for the 2005/06 outturn indicate a small underspend;
- capital spending has not been as high as predicted and this is an ongoing issue;
- pension transfers;
- expenditure/funding of partnerships
- the way in which the budget is calculated, spent and monitored

RESOLVED

- (i) to note the financial issues for 2005/06 and 2006/07;
- (ii) to commend the work of everyone involved in the budget setting and monitoring process;

R/510 Capital Programme 2006/07 to 2008/09

The report presented the re-appraised capital programme.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- there are 3 major schemes scheduled for starting in 2006/07 which will not be completed until 2007/08;
- the vehicle replacement programme;
- vehicle utilisation and information on the “usage” pilot;
- suitability of vehicles and the need to “think outside the box” e.g. in rural areas some types of vehicle could also be used as a mobile office;

RESOLVED that the re-appraised capital programme 2006/07 to 2008/09 as detailed in the report presented to the Committee be approved.

R/511 Treasury Management

The report made recommendations to change the balance between funds placed on overnight deposit and those on short-term deposit with external fund managers.

Issues raised during consideration of this item included:

- performance of the fund managers;
- the number of external fund managers

RESOLVED

- (i) that the progress during 2005/06 of the Treasury Management Strategy be noted;
- (ii) that up to £7.5m be moved from overnight deposits with Devon County Council to short-term deposits with the Authority’s approved externally-managed funds;
- (iii) that the additional sum(s) be placed with Investec Ltd;
- (iv) that the average duration limit on funds be increased from 3 to 5 years.

R/512 HMIC Baseline Assessment 2005 Recommendations

The 2005 Baseline Assessment produced 158 recommendations of which 97 have now been actioned. The report updated the committee regarding progress on the 11 recommendations relating to resources.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Recommendation 123 - the employment of a professional who is qualified and able to work between estates and procurement for the benefit of purchasing and surveying building materials and alterations;
- Recommendation 116 - to consider the devolvement of salaries to the lowest appropriate level within the Constabulary;
- Recommendation 125 - to review the allocation and disposition of resources to ensure that deployment matches need and that there is the ability to respond dynamically to changing policing demands

RESOLVED to note the report

R/513 Devon and Cornwall Constabulary Force Museum Five Year Plan

The report provided information on the current status and proposed future plans for the Force Museum.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- positive media interest in the activities relating to the Force Museum particularly those involving young people;
- the operation and facilities offered by other Force Museums
- the possibility of a Police Authority section;
- marketing;
- funding.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

R/514 Invest to Save

The Treasurer reported upon the trials that had been taking place in Plymouth with mini “head cameras” and that there had been world-wide interest in the trials. It was likely that Plymouth BCU would be making a bid under the Invest to Save initiative to purchase a number of the cameras.

R/515 Closed Items - Exclusion Of The Press And Public

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

Agenda No	Minute No	Report Title	Relevant Act	Relevant section
14	R/516	Assessment of the Use of Resources	Freedom of Information Act	Section 33 – exempts the disclosure of information which would prejudice the exercise by any public authority of its auditing functions.
15	R/517	Business Rates	Freedom of	Section 43.2 - exempts

Agenda No	Minute No	Report Title	Relevant Act	Relevant section
			Information Act	information if its disclosure would prejudice the commercial interests of any person or public authority holding it.
16	R/518	Review Status of T590/02 – Portal Project (IP2)	Freedom of Information Act	Section 43.2 - exempts information if its disclosure would prejudice the commercial interests of any person or public authority holding it.
17	R/519	Provision of Type II Police Station in Devonport	Freedom of Information Act	Section 43.2 - exempts information if its disclosure would prejudice the commercial interests of any person or public authority holding it.

R/516 Assessment of the Use of Resources

The HMIC Baseline Assessment includes an Audit Commission on how the Police Force / Authority uses its resources. As part of this process a self-assessment of the audit commission Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) has to be undertaken.

Issues discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- the positive use of peer review;
- the self-assessment process

RESOLVED

- (i) to note the self-assessment on the use of resources;
- (ii) that a report be presented to the Committee recommending the elements of best practice that should be implemented;.

R/517 Business Rates

The report provided Members with information about savings that have been made through the proactive management of Authority business rates. The Committee welcomed the report and its contents.

RESOLVED

- (i) that savings from non-domestic rates up to 2005/2006 be transferred to the Invest to save reserve;
- (ii) that savings in 2006/07 be considered in the first budget monitoring report of 2006/07.

R/518 Review Status of T590/02 – Portal Project (IP2)

The report provided members with an update on the Force Portal project.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included;

- Police Authority representation in the negotiation process

RESOLVED to note the report

R/519 Provision of Type II Police Station in Devonport

The report provided information on progress relating to the provision of a replacement Police Station in Devonport.

Resolved to recommended to the Authority

- (i) that the Heads of Terms as presented in the report are agreed;
- (ii) that the Estates Department be instructed to formalise the legal position and acquire the site indicated in the report.

The meeting closed at 12:55 hrs.