

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES of a meeting of the **Devon and Cornwall Police Authority** held at Police Headquarters, Middlemoor, Exeter on **Friday 5th December 2008, commencing at 10:00hrs.**

Present

Authority

Mr J Smith.....Chairman

Mr M Bull.....Vice-Chairman

Sir Simon Day, Mrs L Dunn, Mr B Greenslade, Mr G Hicks, Mr M Hicks, Mr G Hicks, Mr M Hodge, Mrs A Malcolm, Mr D Money, Ms J Norton, Mrs J Owen, Mr B Preston, Mrs V Pengelly, Mr J Rowe, Mrs L Williams and Mrs L Price

Officers in Attendance

Mr S G Davey (Chief Executive), Mr J Glasby (Treasurer) Miss N Walters (Personal Assistant to the Chief Executive)

Force

Mr S Otter (Chief Constable), Mr T Melville (Deputy Chief Constable), Mr R Stowe (Assistant Chief Constable) Mrs S Taylor (Assistant Chief Constable), Ms D Simpson (Assistant Chief Constable) Mr P Netherton (Assistant Chief Constable) Ms S Goscomb (Interim Director of Finance and Resources) Mr C Haselden (Director of Human Resources) and Mr M Stamp (Director Legal Services)

P/2285 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr G Hicks (after 11am) and Mr C Bulley

P/2286 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reminded everyone that the meeting would be Webcast live.

P/2287 Declarations of Interest

Members declared the interests detailed in the table below.

| Name | Agenda Item | Minute ref | Interest | Details | Action taken |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|----------|--|---------------|
| Sir Simon Day | All | All | Personal | Member of Devon County Council | Spoke & voted |
| Mr B Greenslade | All | All | Personal | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Member of Devon County Council,Director of Exeter Airport | Spoke & voted |
| Mr G Hicks | All | All | Personal | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Member of Cornwall County CouncilMember of Kerrier District Council | Spoke & voted |
| Mr M Hicks | All | All | Personal | Member of the Council for the Isles of Scilly | Spoke & voted |
| Mr M Hodge | All | All | Personal | Member of Torbay Council | Spoke & voted |

| Name | Agenda Item | Minute ref | Interest | Details | Action taken |
|----------------|-------------|------------|----------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Mrs J Owen | All | All | Personal | Member of Devon County Council | Spoke & voted |
| Mr J Smith | All | All | Personal | Member of Devon County Council | Spoke & voted |
| Mr J Rowe | All | All | Personal | Member of Cornwall County Council | Spoke & voted |
| Mr B Preston | All | All | Personal | Member of Cornwall County Council | Spoke & voted |
| Mrs V Pengelly | All | All | Personal | Member of Plymouth Council | Spoke & voted |

P/2288 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

The Chairman welcomed new Members, L Williams and L Price to the Devon & Cornwall Police Authority.

P/2289 Questions raised under Standing Order No. 6

One question was raised under Standing Order No. 6

Under section 42 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 a person commits an offence if he or she obstructs or damages a fire hydrant, and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £500.00.

Would the Chief Constable please inform the Police Authority if it is the responsibility of the Police to enforce this legislation, and if so, how many people in the force area have been convicted for this offence in the last 5 years?

Items discussed during consideration of this item included:

- That this is a reportable offence but no previous records are held
- That the Constabulary/Fire Service have no knowledge of any prosecutions
- That the matter is taken very seriously by the Constabulary

P/2290 Minutes

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Whether an update was available on mobile data – it was agreed to discuss this item under part 2 of the agenda.
- Page number future minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

P/2291 Performance Management Committee

The Committee Chair reported upon the meeting held on 26th November and highlighted matters of special interest.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- SOCRATES is now up and running and working well

- Thanks expressed to the Scientific Services (including Forensics) Working Group for their efforts
- The areas where performance has fallen for example Sanction Detections
- The Home Office one headline performance target for public confidence – it is hopeful that the actual ‘wording’ for the target will be set in the near future
- The importance of having an objective measure to see if the strategic vision for the force has been achieved or not
- The concerns of having to rely on other partners to achieve the target

P/2292 Update on Performance Report

This report presented by the Deputy Chief Constable summarised the performance activity of the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary to meet targets set by the Authority in its Annual Plan and used iQuanta to benchmark with most similar forces.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The different performance trends
- How the Force are working towards a 3 year target
- The wording of The Home Office one headline performance target
- Concerns were raised that if the target does change baseline data will no longer be available
- Noted the content of the public confidence – a wider issue PowerPoint slide
- Clarified that the data used for the public confidence target is from the British Crime Survey – three sweeps take place a year
- Whether or not the points within the PowerPoint slide should be made available for public consumption - so that the achievements can be recognised
- A lengthy debate around the ‘Ease of Contact Satisfaction’ – public perception of the telephone system
- A Public Service Strategy will be looking at the possibility of reporting non-emergency crimes via the internet
- The promoting of the non emergency 08452 number – budget implications
- Liaising with Hampshire Constabulary to share good practice
- That the ‘out of office assistant’ should be used if a Police officer/member of police staff are away from the office
- Whether or not there is a target set for answering emails
- Call Mercury and Operation Quest will make a difference with the call management system – a substantial amount of work is ongoing in this area
- Brief look at the Policing Pledge – it was decided to have a more lengthy discussion at the Seminar on 9th December 2008
- The fluctuation in trends for the ‘Satisfaction of Victims of Racist Incidents’ target – this is due to the small number of crimes being reported in this area
- Violent Crime figures
- The reduction in Road Traffic Collisions – Members asked if there was a reason why there had been a reduction – The Road Policing Unit have been promoting a high profile campaign which is hoped to try and educate the public. It is also thought that partnership working has also helped but it is difficult to define one factor why it has improved
- Action plan for Plymouth in relation to ‘sexual offences’
- How much of a part do drugs play in ‘Serious Acquisitive Crime’ figures – drugs are currently an area of concern and a substantial amount of work is taking place to improve this

RESOLVED to note the reports.

P/2293 Chief Constable's Report

This report provided a general update on policing issues since the last meeting of the Police Authority.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The Force ran the first 'Whole Community Event' in Plymouth on 7th October 2008
- The Chief Officer Group have run a series of staff Roadshows across the Force area aiming to inform staff about the 2012 strategy and to give staff the chance to share their thoughts about how the organisation will become a top performing force by 2012
- The Force has been awarded the Charter Mark
- Brief update on Operation Quest – the Chief Constable invited Members to visit the Quest Team to gain a better understanding
- Brief update on Operation Bastin – the investigation into the Exeter bombing
- That the Force ran its third day of action on 31st October 2008
- That the 'Head Cam' project was nominated as one of the finalists for the 'Better Regulation Award' category at the National Business awards 2008
- On the 6th November the Constabulary ran the annual Ex-Force Members day – The Chief Constable informed Members that they are more than welcome to attend this event in future
- That the Constabulary has won a major award for its successful 'Cop Cards' initiative

RESOLVED to note the reports.

P/2294 Decisions Taken Under Urgency Procedures

The Treasurer announced that the Urgency Committee met and approved a partnership development for Policing in Ottery St Mary.

RESOLVED to note the decision made by the Urgency Committee.

P/2295 Government Grant Settlement 2009/10

The Treasurer informed Members that The Government has announced the provisional finance settlement for local government including Police Authorities.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- That Devon and Cornwall's overall grant will increase by 2.5% next year and in 2010/11. This is exactly as forecast and included in the Authority's current 3 year financial plan
- As this year, there has been some limited application of the formula that would have distributed resources away from rural Authorities. Devon and Cornwall along with many similar forces are receiving the lowest increase
- The Crime Fighting Fund for officers remains the same without allowance for inflation. The Neighbourhood Policing Fund for PCSOs rises by 2.7%
- The Basic Command Unit grant which totals £0.7m will cease after 2009/10 to be replaced by a 'Community Safety Fund' with partners. Details are awaited so it is not known if this will place any extra demands on Police Authorities or partnerships.
- At this stage, there are no absolute rules or clear guidelines on capping but there are the usual exhortations/threats :

“The Government is clear that there is no excuse for excessive increases in precepts on council tax next year. The Government will not hesitate to use its capping powers to deal with excessive council tax increases in 2009/10, including requiring authorities to re-bill if necessary.”

- The Figures have not been given but Authorities capped this year will be limited to an increase of 3% next year.
- The understanding around the delivery of savings, the budget, Council Tax and the earnings of interest – negative rates of interest at this time
- Budget Working parties taking place for Members to attend

P/2296 Annual Audit Letter

The annual letter of the Audit Commission summarised the conclusions and significant issues arising from the recent audit of the Authority. Members were informed that the Annual Audit Letter would be considered by the Corporate Governance Committee at their meeting on 11th December. Alun Williams from the Audit Commission presented the Audit Letter to Members.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- That there was one material error found within the Financial Statements which related to the liabilities for police pensions and a small number of non trivial errors were identified
- The Police use of Resources scores
- Financial Management
- How a Strategic Asset Management Plan is being developed during 2008/09 that should provide clear forward looking strategic goals for its property assets and show how land and buildings will be used and developed to help deliver corporate priorities and service delivery needs
- That a detailed review of Partnership arrangements has been undertaken
- National Fraud Initiative
- The importance of the report
- The need to clarify the Member Appraisal Scheme
- The positive score the Authority achieved

RESOLVED to note Annual Audit Letter

P/2297 Partnership Strategy

Members were informed that this report was intended to go to the Corporate Governance Committee on 25th November 2008 but as the Committee was postponed it was agreed that the strategy should be brought to the Authority meeting to raise awareness in wider Membership.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- That Partnerships is a critical area for the Authority to develop and will form part of the inspection process in late 2009
- The legal involvement with CDRP's – there is APA Guidance to support this
- Member involvement does take place but where the Authority is engaging there currently is no system to enable appropriate feedback
- The funding regime
- Setting up a system for an annual report to be taken to the Community Engagement Committee so the Authority can assess performance of partnerships

- The need for future internal audit reviews of partnerships
- The importance of considering the separate roles of the Constabulary and Authority
- The importance of engaging with CDRP's
- Research where the Authority is currently engaged with local partnerships and where it should be engaging
- The need to identify partnerships which members are currently engaged with

RESOLVED for the Partnership Strategy to be referred to the Corporate Governance Committee on 11th December 2008.

P/2298 Committee Minute Pack

This pack provided minutes of the Committee Meetings that have taken place since the last meeting of the Authority on 26th September 2008.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Minor typing error within the Performance Management Committee minutes
- Highlighting the 'Vice Chair's' name as well as the 'Chair's' at the top of each set of Committee Minutes

RESOLVED

- (i) That the minute pack be noted.

P/2299 Consideration to Excluding the Press and Public

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

| Agenda item No | Minute No | Report Title | Relevant Act | Relevant section |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 5. | P/2300 | Mobile Data | Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to information Act 1985) | |
| 14. | P/2301 | Report on Workforce Modernisation | Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to information Act 1985) | Schedule 12A, Paragraph 1. Information relating to any individual. |

P/2300 Mobile Data

The Assistant Chief Constable gave Members an update on the implementation of Mobile Data.

P/2301 Report on Workforce Modernisation

This report updated Members on the Workforce Modernisation Project.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Ensuring Managers have the appropriate skills/knowledge to deal with the change and staff care
- The briefings that have been held by the Constabulary for Managers to gain knowledge in this field
- Appropriate support that has been put in place for staff

The meeting closed at 12:45hrs

| |
|-------------|
| Signed..... |
| Date |