

**Devon and Cornwall Police Authority
Minutes**

A meeting of the **Resources Committee** was held on the 5 February 2009 in the Conference Room, Police Authority, Endeavour House starting at 10:00 hrs.

Present

ChairmanMr B Greenslade
Vice-ChairmanMr J Smith
Mrs A Malcolm, Mr M Bull, Mr D Money, Mr B Preston, Mrs L Price.

Officers in Attendance

Police Authority

Mr J Glasby (Treasurer), Mr G Davey (Chief Executive) (Item R/772 only), Mrs E Tanner (Meeting Administrator)

Force

Mrs S Goscomb, (Interim Director of Resources & Administration, Mr R Wheeler (Head of Finance), Mr A Morris (Head of Estates), Mr S Jose (Head of Procurement), Cpt I Payne (item R/770 only)

R/757 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence received.

R/758 Declarations of Interests

The following declarations of interest were received:

Name	Agenda Item	Minute ref	Interest	Details	Action taken
Mr B Greenslade	11 Estate Strategy and Programme	R/768	Personal	Member of Devon County Council	Spoke & voted
Mr J Smith	11 Estate Strategy and Programme	R/768	Personal	Member of Devon County Council	Spoke & voted

R/759 Chairman's Announcements - Urgent Item

Having regard to the special circumstances pertaining in this matter – namely the need to take an urgent decision if it were agreed to take advantage of a property opportunity, the Chairman was of the opinion that despite its non-inclusion on the Agenda, the matter of the rationalisation of accommodation for the Police Authority should be considered by the meeting as a matter of urgency. The item to be considered in closed session.

R/760 Resources Committee Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 20 November 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

The following issues were raised:

- R/747 Firearms training – response to be provided direct to A Malcolm as to whether or not training had been re-instated.

- R/752 New police uniform – Members would have an opportunity to see the new uniform at a future meeting of the Authority.

⌘ R/761 Financial Monitoring

This report provided an update on the financial position based on the latest spend profile and included information on Financial Health Indicators, revenue budget, capital programme and police officer staffing levels. Members were briefed on the report content.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The debtors accounts target was set very high in comparison with other Authorities. This would be reviewed and a more reasonable target would be set and included in the next report to the committee.
- The Treasurer requested delegated authority to transfer any available funds at year-end to mitigate against interest losses expected during the next financial year.
- Underspending on projects and programmes – spending on programmes and projects appeared to be delayed. An update from the Chief Constable was requested for the next meeting of the Chairs' Committee.
- Police Vehicles – there appeared to be an increase in police vehicles. An update was requested since Members had previously asked for a review of the fleet and for numbers to be reduced. It was accepted that vehicle numbers would need to increase to some extent as a result of more police officers on the front line.
- Payment of invoices to small and medium sized businesses – there was flexibility to ensure that payment of invoices to SMEs were reduced to as short a time as possible.
- For some time, Members had been driving forward the need for a firearms asset management system that was fit for purpose. A transfer of £250,000 from the programmes and project budget to a specific reserve to support the implementation of such a system was proposed. It was hoped that the contract would be awarded in late May 2009. This project was part of the collaborative programme.
- Central DNA – There had been significant effort already to ensure that Devon and Cornwall benefited from this project however there was more work to be done before the full benefit would be felt.

RESOLVED

- i) That the financial targets, health indicators and acceptable variations be noted;
- ii) That the latest revenue projection for 2008/09 be noted;
- iii) That members approve the virement of £250k into a Firearms Asset Inventory Reserve;
- iv) That members note the reduced use of the Police Officers Ill Health reserve;
- v) That the latest capital projection for 2008/09 be noted;
- vi) That the Treasurer be given delegated authority to transfer funds available at yearend to mitigate against interest losses expected during the 2009-10 financial year.
- vii) That the action tracking sheet be used to update members on: fleet management / vehicle numbers and invoice payments for SMEs.
- viii) That the Chief Constable provide an update on progress of projects and programmes to a meeting of the Chairs' Committee.

R/762 Budget Working Party

Members considered the notes of the last two meetings of the group. Members were asked to take the opportunity to raise any issues that they might have in relation to the budget for 2009-10 formally at this

meeting.

Two graphs which provided information on budgeted police officer strength were tabled for information. The graphs showed that Devon & Cornwall had increased police officer numbers and was now more in line with their family of most similar police forces, and also were mid table in relation to the rest of the country.

Issues raised during consideration of this item included:

- Feedback on the Authority's 3 year financial strategy which had been approved in February 2008 and which had been raised at two recent Police Authority Liaison Meetings had been very positive. No members of the public present at either meeting had expressed dissatisfaction with the police precept.
- Member meeting with MPs regarding budget – there were no issues to report.
- Budget consultation with the business community in Exeter – the level of support was good in favour of the budget strategy adopted.
- There was a general expectation that many other police forces would be reducing front-line police officer numbers.
- Devon and Cornwall continued to have one of the lowest police precepts compared with others in the region.
- An explanation of de-civilianisation models was provided.
- The definition of 'front-line' – Members were keen that the definition of 'front-line' be made clear since currently many public facing roles were not defined as 'front-line'.
- Correspondence received from the Devon Pensioners Action Forum.

R/763 Treasury Management

The report provided details of Treasury Management performance for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 December 2008. The Treasurer reported that an additional £1m had been achieved as a result of interest receipts and reduced borrowing costs - this exceeded the budget forecast. In addition, an interest rate of 5.1% would continue well into the next financial year. In addition, pre-emptive action to lend out significant sums for longer periods when rates were high would benefit next year.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- A revised Treasury Management Strategy had been prepared and would be considered by Members at their meeting on 13 February 2009.
- Counter party list – some borrowers had been suspended whilst the managers had been released to use some foreign banks (use of all foreign banks had previously been suspended).
- There was a general discussion on the current financial situation.
- Concern was expressed that based on the counter party list, it was possible for all externally managed funds to be lent to banks outside of Britain at the same time. It was accepted that this was possible but had not happened in the past.
- The limit to investment in gilts was because of performance and not security.

RESOLVED

- i) the treasury management performance for the period 1 April to 31 December 2008 be noted.**
- ii) to note congratulations for performance to date.**

R/764 Airwave Business Benefits Summary Update Report

The report provided the current state of benefits realisation of the Airwave service.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The Authority was interested in how the benefits of mobile data could be driven out.
- It was considered essential that there continued to be innovative ideas to enable access to increasingly more data to take full advantage.
- There was good practice around the country that could be drawn upon by the Force.
- The current position was considered very positive, however it was felt necessary to continue to put pressure on the team responsible for driving out the benefits of the service.
- The benefits not met – more effective use of officers' time and more immediate PNC result were expected to be met by March 2010. Members wished to keep abreast of progress.
- A further update to the next meeting was requested as was the attendance of the Airwave Development and Services Manager.

RESOLVED to

- i) **note and accept the report.**
- ii) **receive an interim report at the September meeting of the committee on progress against benefit (8) and benefit (14).**
- iii) **receive a further update at the November meeting of the committee.**

R/765 Procurement Spend Analysis

Members considered the report which provided an update on work undertaken to analyse the procurement spend and supplier base.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Procurement strategy, the large number of suppliers, best value– the current strategy was under review as part of the 2012 programme. The intention was to introduce a central procurement hub which would pick up on small spend areas.
- National contracts were included in the £64m.
- Good use of local suppliers.

RESOLVED to note the report.

R/766 Procurement Update

The purpose of this report was to update the Committee as to current progress on procurement activity.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Mobile data – there was a benefit of regional implementation in respect of access to regional data.
- Action learning sets would benefit staff by developing learning skills.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

R/767 Exclusion of Press and Public

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

Minute number	Report Title	Relevant Act	Relevant section
R/768	Estate Strategy & Programme Update	Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to information) Act 1985	Schedule 12A, paragraph 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
12	Major Crime Investigation Team/ Major Incident Room / Strategic Crime Hub Accommodation Options In South And West Devon	Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to information) Act 1985	Schedule 12A, paragraph 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
13	Sale of Force Helicopter	Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to information) Act 1985	Schedule 12A, paragraph 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
14	Mobile Data Update	Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to information) Act 1985	Schedule 12A, paragraph 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
15	Urgent Item - Rationalisation of accommodation for the Police Authority	Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to information) Act 1985	Schedule 12A, paragraph 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

☞ R/768 Estate Strategy and Programme Update

NB. Mr J Smith and Mr B Greenslade declared a personal interest.

The report provided an update on the progress of the long-term estate programme and highlighted achievements and major issues likely to threaten delivery.

Issues raised during consideration of this item included:

- Bodmin main scheme - reinvestment into the local community
- Bodmin police base – good location identified.
- Pool public protection unit.
- Devonport – progress was slow.
- Teignmouth/Dawlish operational base – approval to acquire a lease at Brunswick Place was requested.
- Ashburton policing hub.
- Tavistock – a number of potential solutions were being progressed concurrently. Authority was requested to put forward a bid for the favourable option to a specified limit *. An alternative site was proposed by a Member during the discussion that might be worth pursuing should other options fail.

Members debated what would be an acceptable bid in light of other options being available however the general consensus was that this opportunity should not be missed.

- Ottery St Mary.
- Beacon Park Road.
- Heavitree Road – potential options had been identified. Analysis would be undertaken to ensure that the final location was of high operational benefit. The subsequent transfer from old to new site would necessarily be phased to ensure continuity of service and this would take time. The anticipated timescale to completion was 3-4 years.
- Truro
- Torbay / Paignton
- Computer suite
- Central file storage unit and video processing unit relocation. Although not programmed, the case for alternative accommodation was strong based on inadequate office accommodation and storage capacity nearing its maximum.
- Holsworthy / South Molton – new police stations had now been provided and a request to dispose of the old sites which had now received planning permission for residential housing was brought.

RESOLVED

- i) to note the Estate Programme highlight report;
- ii) to approve the acquisition of a lease in Dawlish to provide a Neighbourhood Police Base at the cost detailed within this report;
- iii) to approve the Heavitree Road Project Mandate and support the development of a full business case;
- iv) to approve in principle the acquisition of a new lease in Plymouth to house the Video Processing Unit;
- v) to approve the disposal of the old Police Stations at Holsworthy & South Molton;
- vi) to approve a bid up to the specified amount be submitted for the Pixon Lane property.

* Limit for bid for Pixon Lane is restricted information under section Schedule 12A, paragraph 3 of the Local Government Act – details contained in restricted letter from the Treasurer to Director of Finance.

⊞ **R/769 Major Crime Investigation Team / Major Incident Room / Strategic Crime Hub Accommodation Options in South West Devon.**

This report detailed the case for a permanent Force crime building in South and West Devon which would enable the co-location of specialist units and facilities. The report outlined the current situation, discussed options and costs of co-location of crime and investigation units for a 25 year life cycle.

Three options were included in the report which included the option to:

- do nothing;
- co-locate the major crime investigation team and major incident room or;
- co-locate the major crime investigation team, major incident room, high tech crime unit, child e-online investigation unit, economic crime unit, road crime unit, tactical aid group, dedicated source unit, and neighbourhood policing and patrol unit.

The report favoured the third option, however further financial analysis and discussion had proved that the second option to co-locate just the two specialist units provided better value for money.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The current situation at Seale Hayne.

RESOLVED to support the recommendation of the Chief Officers Group and approve all costs detailed within the Business Case that are associated with option 2 to co-locate the MCIT and the MIR.

R/770 Sale of Force Helicopter

Members considered the report which provided an update on the sale options for the helicopter in light of the current financial situation, and withdrawal of the option to part exchange.

Expressions of interest in purchasing the helicopter had been received and there was no concern that selling would be a problem when the time came. It was suggested that Government funding might be available to cover shortfalls.

The paper proposed that the valuation of the helicopter continued to be monitored and that all methods of sale options be kept open. Further updates to the committee would be given as appropriate particularly in regard to valuation and sale options.

RESOLVED note the report.

R/771 Mobile Data Update

The report provided an update on the progression of mobile data within the Constabulary. The bid submitted was through a consortium with other Forces in the South-West. A Chiefs and Chairs meeting in December agreed the distribution of funds between the collaborating Forces.

The mobile data project has been included within the High Priority Programme of work and a full business case is in progress. The business case will be brought to this committee in due course.

RESOLVED to note the report.

R/772 Rationalisation of accommodation for the Police Authority

Members considered the report.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Car parking.
- Existing and expected running costs.
- Impact on budget.
- Rent review imminent.
- Confidentiality / sound proofing.
- Public access.
- Catering facilities.
- Proposals for existing space.
- Internal and external demand for meeting space.
- Current arrangements for large meetings.
- Transportation of equipment between Middlemoor and Pynes Hill – health and safety, wear and tear, best use of time.

- Best use of resources in light of current climate.
- Potential for reduced expenditure.
- Reduce need for external venues for Authority or Force.
- Opportunities for income generation.
- The need for proposal to be cost neutral or cost saving.

Overall, the committee had sympathy for the concept however felt that the economic case had not been made.

RESOLVED

- i) the need for an economic case to show that the proposal is cost neutral or cost saving.
- ii) that a further report providing the economic case be taken to the Urgency Committee for resolution.

The meeting closed at 12:30pm