

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

Minutes

A meeting of the **Resources Committee** was held on 7 February 2008 in the Conference Room, Endeavour House, Exeter starting at 10:00hrs.

Present:

Chairman.....Mr B Greenslade

Mr M Bull, Mrs A Malcolm, Mr D Money, Mr M Nevitt, Mr B Preston and Mr J Smith.

Officers in Attendance

Mrs A Daveney (Head of Technical Accounting), Mr J Glasby (Treasurer), Miss J Haycock (Business Analyst), Mr A Morris (Head of Estates), Mrs E Tanner (Administrator), Mr M Walton (Head of ICT) (R/701 only), Mr R Wheeler (Head of Business Accounting).

R/688 Chairman's Announcements

[R/682] Data Protection – The Chairman announced that the report on the mitigation in place to prevent misuse or mishandling or loss of restricted or personal data requested at the last meeting was to be considered by the Corporate Governance Committee in March.

R/689 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies of absence received.

R/690 Declarations Of Interest

The following declarations of interest were received.

Name	Agenda Item	Minute ref	Interest	Details	Action taken
Mr B Greenslade	Treasury Management	R/693	Personal	Member of Devon County Council	Spoke & voted
Mr J Smith	Treasury Management	R/693	Personal	Member of Devon County Council	Spoke & voted
Mr B Greenslade	Police Staff Pension Fund	R/694	Personal	Member of Devon County Council	Spoke & voted
Mr J Smith	Police Staff Pension Fund	R/694	Personal	Member of Devon County Council	Spoke & voted

R/691 Resources Committee Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.

R/692 Financial Monitoring

Members considered the report which detailed the latest projection of the potential financial position for the year ended 31 March 2008. The revenue account remained under control with

a small underspend anticipated. There were no issues to report in relation to the capital programme, however an underspend of £2.75m was forecast.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Pressure on the major operations budget, an overspend of £250,000 was anticipated.
- Slippage on programmes and projects.
- Police Staff Handbook – additional cost had been factored in, including the protective period.
- Interest receipts were better than expected.
- The Budget Management Fund would be fully utilised.
- The Judicial Review of police pay and potential impact of retrospective payments.
- Capital – review of vehicle replacement and fleet management generally, PC replacement and building projects.
- Capital forecasting and the fact that capital spend against the forecast was consistently slipping, with historically large underspends against budget. A draft revised capital strategy (to be considered later in the meeting) aimed to address this issue, and Members were asked to share any ideas with the report authors for consideration and inclusion in the final capital strategy document.
- Costs of hiring vehicles. A report on how this spend has reduced over time was requested for the next meeting.
- Spending by BCUs, in particular South & West and the impact of the amalgamation of the Devon BCUs.
- Executive Support and Service Development budget lines.

RESOLVED that the latest financial projections for 2007/08 be noted.

R/693 Treasury Management

The report provided the overall performance of the fund manager and the Devon and Cornwall Investment fund, and associated budgetary impact for 2007-08. Members were advised that the revised Treasury Management Strategy was working extremely well and producing useful budget savings that offset spending pressures elsewhere in the budget.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Treasury management had produced some very pleasing returns, with additional returns as a result of a slow down in spending, slippage against capital spend, delays in revenue spend and returns on investments.
- As a result of investment decisions by the Treasurer during the financial year, there was a degree of protection against reducing interest rates for a period of around two years.
- The Euro fund was performing well as a result of the decrease in value of the Pound against the Euro.
- A Treasury Management Strategy would be presented to and considered by Members at their full meeting on 15th February. This would set out the management strategy and also ask for authorisation for the Treasurer to create and maintain a counterparty list to include building societies that do not have credit ratings. This is because of the decreasing number of credit rated organisations that are willing to borrow small deposits. Members discussed the methods of evaluating suitable building societies and risk around deposits.

- Member competency and the benefits of providing Members with further information about investment.

RESOLVED that the performance of the Fund Manager and the Devon and Cornwall Investment Fund along with the overall functioning of the Treasury Management Strategy be noted.

R/694 Police Staff Pension Fund – Actuarial Valuation

Following the actuarial assessment in April 2007 of the Police Staff Pension Fund administered by Devon County Council, the formal results were still awaited from the Actuaries. However, Devon County Council had supplied some limited information and from this it was understood that solvency rates for the whole of the Devon fund had increased significantly. Nevertheless, increased employer contributions were necessary and a stepped approach to achieve a 15.7% rate by 2010/11 was proposed.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The Three-year Financial Strategy took account of this proposal.
- The next assessment was due in 2010.
- The performance of the actuaries, who were employed by Devon County Council.

RESOLVED to approve the 3 stepped option to increase employer pension contributions as follows:

Year	Rate	Extra cost
07/08	13.5%	0
08/09	14.2%	£0.35m
09/10	15.0%	£0.70m
10/11	15.7%	£1.05m

R/695 Budget Working Party

Members considered the notes of the Budget Working Party meeting held on 14 January 2008.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Police precepts for 2008-09 being mooted by Police Authorities nation-wide.
- It had not proved possible to arrange a meeting with the Minister responsible for capping.
- The effect of a range of increases to the police precept on the ability to deliver the Strategic Three Year Policing Plan.
- Sir Ronnie Flanagan's report, in relation to number of police officers.
- Communication.

RESOLVED to note the report.

R/696 Interim Report on the Development of the Capital Strategy 2008 - 2016

Members considered the draft Interim Capital Strategy for the period 2008 – 2020 and which sets out the strategic context for the Capital Programme included in the Three Year Financial Strategy to be presented to the Police Authority on 15th February. The Estates Strategy Working Group had guided the development of the Estates Strategy and the principles and direction of the Estates Strategy were reflected in the overall Capital Strategy.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The strategy was incomplete with some parts not fully developed. Members were asked to take this opportunity to influence the Capital Strategy.
- Members considered the flowchart which showed the process for managing capital investment.
- The strategy would enable the operational policing vision to be translated into concrete needs in terms of investment.
- More work was required in relation to the transport strategy.
- The Estates Strategy Working Party had contributed to the Capital Strategy, however it was important that the policing need must be clarified before the estate is put in place to support it.
- The point at which Police Authority Members were involved in the strategic decision making in relation to capital projects. Mike Nevitt was the present Lead Member for property issues. Mr Nevitt and the Treasurer were Members of the Estates Strategy Working Group. Decisions needed to be taken around how much involvement Members had, and how information resulting from this involvement was fed back into the Committee.
- The wording used in the report in the section on equipment in relation to body armour was misleading and needed to be redrafted.
- Whether or not stab proof vests were issued to PSCOs. There was some debate around the role of the PCSO in terms of non-confrontational policing and subsequently the need for body armour, with no consensus of opinion being reached.
- Mobile policing and the recent invitation from Government to bid for funding. The Lead Member for ICT provided an update on progress made in relation to this bid. Members noted that financial regulations state any bid for funding of this magnitude required Police Authority approval and, with the deadline currently set for 4th March, delegated authority to approve the bid would be required. Any decision to bid for the funding should be made on the understanding that in all likelihood, additional resources would be required from within to provide back-office support. This was not currently accounted for in the Three-year Financial Strategy.
- Collaboration in relation to mobile policing and the concerns in relation to potential negative impact on delivery against tight timescales.
- The completed Capital Strategy would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee for ratification.

RESOLVED

- i. That the progress with the Interim Capital Strategy is noted.
- ii. That the Treasurer quantify and identify the necessary resources that would be required to support any funding awarded as a result of a bid to Government for mobile policing.

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- iii. That delegated authority be given to the Treasurer in consultation with the Chairman of the Police Authority, and the Chairman of the Resources Committee, to approve (or reject) a bid to Government for mobile policing funding.

R/697 Closed Items (Items considered 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 discussed)

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

Agenda No	Minute No	Report Title	Relevant Act	Relevant Section
10	R/698	Estates Strategy	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).
11	R/699	Readiness for Change	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	R/700	Ashburton Operational Hub	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	R/701	Summary of the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary ICT Service 2007.	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/698 Estates Strategy

An extensive review of the Estates Strategy had been undertaken over the last 12 months, and Members considered this. The document was well advanced, but not fully developed. The document included a new reporting format which provided a diagrammatic overview of the current status of key properties owned by the Police Authority within the context of changing operational requirements, potential development and shared-service opportunities. A flow chart had been developed to show the 23 stages of scheme / project implementation and this included the stages at which the Police Authority were required to give approval.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

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- An Estate Board was to be established by the Constabulary and this meeting would review projects before they were presented to the Resources Committee. The Lead Member for Property would be invited to the meetings of the Estate Board.
- The role of Lead Members generally, including delegation of powers, role in Constabulary Board meetings and the reporting lines to the Committee and full Authority. The Police Authority Protocol Group was currently considering these issues and would welcome the thoughts of the Lead Member for Property.
- The need for a decision on delegation of authority to individual Members in relation to property issues for both Members and the Constabulary and for this to be clearly defined for all parties.
- The point at which the Police Authority are involved in capital projects. It was clarified that the Authority were involved at a strategic level when considering the Capital Programme. The involvement of the Authority at this early stage enabled them to influence projects that may have community or political implications before any resources were committed.
- Any proposed changes to the Capital Programme would be brought before this committee.
- If further information on a scheme / project was required, it could be provided within the text of the covering Estates Strategy report to Resources Committee.
- It was requested that the flow chart identifying the various stages of projects be re-titled to make it clear that it detailed the individual projects already approved and prioritised for development by the Police Authority.
- The completed Estates Strategy document would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee for ratification.

RESOLVED to note the current status of the Estates Strategy.

NB. The Chairman left the meeting and the Vice-Chairman took the chair.

R/699 Readiness for Change

The Treasurer updated the meeting on the work being undertaken to test the capacity and capability of the Force to deliver the change programme. The leader of the team tasked with carrying out this work had been interviewed and approved by Members of the Police Authority.

RESOLVED to note the report.

R/700 Ashburton Operational Hub

Members considered a report which provided four potential property solutions to meet the accommodation requirements for the Major Crime Investigation Team, currently located at Seale Hayne. The licence for this facility was due to expire and an urgent solution was required to maintain business continuity.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The four options identified to meet user requirements and the Constabulary's preferred options for progression. There were two options that were preferred options for further investigation and negotiation.
- There was a general discussion about the business case, and a request for the overall net cost to be provided, however not all associated costs, and savings had yet been worked through. For example potential savings in rents as a result of staff moves down the line

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had not yet been investigated. A comprehensive business case, which would include detailed costings and net savings, would be brought back to.

- The Authority had already considered this project as part of the Capital Strategy. The required resources to fund this project were identified in the Three-year Financial Strategy.

RESOLVED to support options 2 and 4 as presented in the report to allow negotiations to be concluded in order to enable the final Business Case to be submitted for approval.

R/701 Summary of the Devon & Cornwall ICT Service for 2007

Members received the report which provided a summary of the ICT service for 2007. This included key achievements during the year, and ongoing improvements.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The installation of Automatic Person Locator System in control rooms for all Officers.
- Computer and server replacement.
- Work undertaken towards the 'Green Agenda'.
- Cost savings.
- The Government funding for mobile policing, progress made towards drawing up a bid for funding and associated back office support and the need for further detailed financial information prior to approving the bid.
- Automatic Numberplate Recognition System and software glitches.
- Limitations on the ability to transmit restricted documents to Members and IT equipment that are not connected to a restricted network. These arise from information security policies that cause some emails to be blocked automatically by the MailMarshal tool. Members were particularly frustrated about the problems experienced in receiving documents from the Police Authority and Constabulary by email and formally requested that a solution be found as a matter of urgency and that a report on progress or issues be brought back to the next meeting of the Resources Committee.

RESOLVED to note the ICT service in 2007.

The meeting closed at 12:45pm

Signed:
Dated: