

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

MINUTES

A meeting of the **Resources Committee** was held on Thursday 11 June 2009 in the Conference Room, Devon and Cornwall Police Authority, Endeavour House, Woodwater Park, Exeter, starting at 10:00hrs.

Present:

Chairman Mr B Greenslade

Members: Mr M Bull, Mrs A Malcolm, Mr B Preston and Mrs L Price.

Officers in attendance:

Police Authority

Mr J Glasby (Treasurer), Mrs E Tanner (Administrator).

Constabulary

Ms S Goscomb (Interim Director of Resources and Administration), Mr A Morris (Head of Estates),

Mr R Wheeler (Acting Head of Finance).

R/789 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D Money. Mr J Smith was not present because his membership had ceased as result of the recent Council elections.

R/790 Declarations of Interest

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/800	Personal	Member of Devon County Council	Spoke & voted
Mr B Preston	12 Replacement Station Enquiry Office and Neighbourhood Policing Base, Truro.	R/801	Personal	Member of Cornwall Council	Spoke & voted

R/791 Chairman's Announcements

- The Interim Director of Finance would deliver a presentation on financial planning at the end of the meeting.
- At the last meeting members requested a report on the firearms inventory project. This subject fell under the remit of the Corporate Governance Committee and therefore was not included on the agenda.

R/792 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 2 April 2009 were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

⌘ R/793 Provisional Revenue and Capital Outturn 2008-09.

A number of significant challenges had been faced during the 2008-09 financial year. In addition to the requirement to achieve £5.3m of savings, unanticipated events such as the Exeter bombing had put the budget under significant pressure. However, a combination of strong financial management and significantly higher than expected interest receipts had prevented an overall overspend.

Members considered the key issues detailed in the report, including the revenue and capital outturn and the carry-forward requirements.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Members wished their congratulations and thanks to be passed on to the people responsible for achieving this remarkable outturn.
- As a result of the 196/200 process, over 200 extra police officers had been posted to front-line policing and this was very pleasing.
- The 10 redundancies had not been voluntary however each member of staff had been through the full redeployment process.
- Some additional redundancies were expected as the process continued.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the revenue and capital outturn for 2008-09 be approved;
- (ii) That the suggested treatment of balances and reserves be approved;
- (iii) That the revenue carry-forwards of £1,112k as determined by the Force be approved and transferred into the Budget Management fund;
- (iv) That the overall underspend of £120k be transferred into the Revenue Smoothing Fund;
- (v) That the capital carry-forwards of £1,848k be approved.
- (vi) To congratulate and thank the Police Authority and Constabulary Officers and staff responsible for delivering this excellent outcome.

R/794 Budget Working Party

- RESOLVED to hold a meeting of the Budget Working Party on the following dates:
- 13 October 2009
 - 11 December 2009
 - 8 January 2010

R/795 Treasury Management 2008/09

The Treasurer presented a report that updated members on the performance of the Treasury Management Strategy. 2008/09 financial year had seen a lot of turbulence in the capital markets and significant changes in interest rates. However, the strategy had overachieved by £1m as a result of extra interest receipts achieved by fund managers, and avoiding costs by tightly managing borrowing. Overall the strategy was working well.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Devon County Council was applauded on their management of the Authority's daily cash balances.
- The performance of the Devon and Cornwall investment fund was ahead of benchmark.

- The external manager's performance was well above the budget forecast and benchmark, however this was as a result of the decline in market rates and subsequent improvement in the valuation of holdings.
- Borrowing had been limited as a result of slippage in the capital programme.
- Interest earned by the fund managers was added to the internal cashflow rather than being re-invested in the fund.

RESOLVED to note the performance of the Treasury Management Strategy.

R/796 Vehicle Procurement

Issues discussed during this item included:

- Despite the recent price increase of vehicles through the national framework, the deal continued to be good value for money compared with forecourt prices.
- The driver for the price increase was reported as being due to the exchange rates, which were not favourable in the current financial climate.
- SouthWest One had looked into the contract and could not compete.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

R/797 Force Helicopter

The policy of hedging adopted by the Police Authority had helped to mitigate the impact of currency variations experienced over the last year however had not managed to offset the full likely scale of unprecedented falls in sterling.

The helicopter purchase was necessarily in Euro, therefore the exact cost would not be known until the dates of payment because it would depend on the sterling / Euro / dollar exchange rate at the time. Based on current predictions it was anticipated that the total cost in pounds could be within the range of £7m - £7.5m.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The options to fund any additional increase in cost as a result of the exchange rate included using reserves or borrowing against part of the machine. There were ramifications with either option. It was suggested that the actual financing decision be put to one side for the time being and a decision taken when the full amount and scale of impact was known.
- The next stage payment was expected at the end of July. It was hoped that the exchange rate would have improved by then. Approval for financing within the range of £7 to £7.5m was requested on the understanding that should the situation change the issue would be resolved through urgency procedures.

RESOLVED

(i) capital programme approval for the Force Helicopter be enhanced to reflect actual currency variations,

(ii) the Treasurer be authorised to determine the optimum financing arrangements in the light of prevailing market conditions.

R/798 Force Estates Asset Management Plan

Members considered the report. The full Asset Management Plan, of which this was a part, covered estates assets, communication equipment, IT, the vehicle fleet and the force helicopter and formed a suite of

strategies / plans that were designed to facilitate the delivery of policing services in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The plan was in line with the Audit Commission Police Use of Resources (PURE) requirements.

RESOLVED to

- i. note the progress on the preparation of the Force Asset Management Plan
- ii. note the contents of the draft Estates Asset Management Plan.

R/799 Exclusion of Press and Public

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

Agenda Item	Report Title	Relevant Act	Relevant Section
11	Estate Strategy and 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	Replacement Station Enquiry Office and Neighbourhood Policing Base, Truro	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	Procurement Update Commercial Interests	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/800 Estate Strategy and Programme Update

n.b Brian Greenslade declared a personal interest in this item.

The Head of Estates presented the report and highlighted the following points:

- Bodmin was ahead of schedule and under budget.
- Pool was progressing well.
- The design for Devonport had been agreed under delegated authority by the Treasurer and the Director of Finance and was now progressing.
- A preferred site had been identified in Teignmouth for a neighbourhood policing base. Heads of terms needed to be agreed. The committee was asked to consider giving approval to progress or to give delegated authority to the Treasurer. The associated costs were provided.
- The location of the preferred site in Teignmouth was provided. Members were reassured that the building was in a well established and prosperous town centre area. Footfall past the building was significant.
- A price for the land at Tavistock had been agreed under delegated authority. A full business case would be brought to this committee in September. It was hoped that this project could now progress such that the base would be operational by the end of the financial year.

- Members discussed in general the existing police station in Tavistock.
- There was a preferred option for the progression of the Beacon Park Road project. It was not intended that this base would be open to the public.
- A full business case for the Exeter criminal justice centre and policing hub, and for Middlemoor would be brought to the committee in September.
- Members were asked to approve the following projects that fell outside of the agreed capital programme:
 - Acquisition of a leased unit and fit out for the video processing unit in Plymouth.
 - Arrangements for combining two property stores in Cornwall.
 - Improvements to the heating and cooling systems at Launceston.
 - Relocation of the safety camera partnership.
- Members discussed the practicalities of the relocation of the Safety Camera Partnership to Crownhill Police Station. Members were reassured that all parties involved in this were satisfied with the proposal and that there was sufficient space available.

RESOLVED to

- approve the refurbishment & extension of Beacon Park Road Rd within the costs detailed within the report;**
- approve the acquisition and fit out of a new unit to relocate the Video Processing Unit, within the cost detailed within the report;**
- approve the disposal of two property stores in West Cornwall and the acquisition and fit out of a new property store, within the cost detailed within the report and subject to COG approval.**
- approve the funding detailed within the report to bring Launceston Custody Centre and the Learning Development Centre to completion;**
- support exercising the break clause on the Safety Camera Partnership building with the intention of integrating their operation in accommodation provided in Crownhill Police Station;**
- approve the partial acceleration of the Crownhill refurbishment within the costs detailed within the report.**
- approve the acquisition of the lease for the identified property in Teignmouth and funds to refurbish and fit out the property to provide a neighbourhood policing base, subject to the approval of the Command Team and within the cost detailed at the meeting.**

⌘ R/801 Replacement Station Enquiry Office and Neighbourhood Policing Base, Truro.

n.b Bryan Preston declared a personal interest in this item.

Members considered the proposal for a new Neighbourhood Police Base with public reception in Truro. It was reported that the identified building was very well placed within the Town Centre. The existing enquiry office was within temporary buildings on the police station site. The move would realise around £50,000 of savings.

RESOLVED to approve the acquisition and fit out of a new unit to provide a Neighbourhood Police Base with Public Reception in Truro Town Centre within the cost detailed within the report

R/802 Procurement Update

The Interim Director of Finance presented the report and highlighted the following points:

- The bidders day for the 2012 ICT procurement had been very positive. This initiative was reported as being innovative but challenging.
- The modernisation of the canteen at police headquarters was proving successful with increased receipts reported.

- Force Medical Examiners contracts.
- Savings had been achieved on the mobile phone contract.
- It was reported that Devon & Cornwall Constabulary was seen as a leader in the region for innovation in procurement.
- The procurement function was very important in realising savings.

RESOLVED to note the report.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.30hrs