

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Minutes

A meeting of the **Resources Committee** was held on the 9 September 2008 in the Conference Room, Police Authority, Endeavour House starting at 10:00 hrs.

Present

ChairmanMr B Greenslade
Mr M Bull, Mr D Money, Mr B Preston, Mr J Smith.

Officers in Attendance

Police Authority

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

Force

ACC S Taylor, Mrs S Goscombe, (Interim Director of Resources & Administration), Mrs A Daveney (Head of Technical Accounting), Mr A Morris (Head of Estates), Mr N Grech Cini (Building Services).

R/ 728 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Nevitt and Mrs A Malcolm.

R/729 Declarations of Interests

The following declarations of interest were received:

Name	Agenda Item	Minute ref	Interest	Details	Action taken
Mr B Greenslade	10 Estate Strategy and Programme Update	R/738	Personal	Member of Devon County Council present at meeting to discuss delivery of a control base in Teignmouth	Spoke & voted
Mr J Smith	10 Estate Strategy and Programme Update	R/738	Personal	Member of Devon County Council present at meeting to discuss delivery of a control base in Teignmouth	Spoke & voted

R/730 Chairman's Announcements

There were no Chairman's announcements.

⌘ R/731 Resources Committee Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 18 June 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

⌘ R/732 Financial Monitoring

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

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The financial health sheet included in the report was a new item and member's opinion on its usefulness and the format was sought.
- Ill-health retirements – there was a need to make a lump sum payment into the pensions account for every officer retired on ill-health grounds. It was anticipated that the increase in investment profits could well balance this out.
- The process for ill-health retirements and subsequent reviews. The Police Authority makes decisions on ill-health retirements based on a specialist's report. Reviews are undertaken and pensions can be reduced depending on the outcome of such reviews.
- Vehicle replacement programme.
- Funded post profile and a request for numbers to be clarified.
- Fuel and utility costs and the need to be as robust as possible in relation to energy savings and to make changes wherever possible to do this.
- The impact on the revenue budget of police staff pay in relation to vacancy management (which was yielding savings), the movement of 200 officers to front-line duties and backfilling of posts. It was suggested that there may be an underspend in this area due to the inertia in the system.
- Capital budget – the reduction in the programme by some £5m to bring greater realism into the forecasts.
- Capacity within the Estates team to deliver the programme and the need to identify blockages in rectifying this issue.
- Financial Health Indicators and the inclusion of asset recovery – it was felt that this item should not be included in the report because it was not possible to accurately predict income.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the financial targets, health indicators and acceptable variations be approved;
- (ii) That the latest revenue projection for 2008/09 be noted;
- (iii) That members authorise the use of the Ill Health Pensions reserve up to £500k, subject to the overall outturn position for 2008/09;
- (iv) The revised capital programme and financing as set out in Appendix 2 be approved;
- (v) A report on the ill health pension reserve, comparison with other forces and procedures etc, be brought to this committee;
- (vi) A email briefing for members on ACPO staffing numbers and vehicle numbers be provided together with an email briefing on steps being taken to reduce energy costs / consumption.

⊞ R/733 Treasury Management

The report provided details of the treasury management performance for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 July 2008.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Interest receipts had exceeded the budget target by approximately £0.5m to date.
- It is hoped to reduce the actual rate paid for borrowing further below the existing budget so yielding further savings.
- The Devon & Cornwall Investment Fund was outperforming the market and the external manager.
- The performance of the external manager was satisfactory.
- The suggested investment strategy was working very well and the recommendation was that it should continue without change.

- The annual meeting with the investment manager, and the opportunity to deliver training for members on investment management on the same date.

RESOLVED that the treasury management performance for the period 1 April 2008 to 1 July 2008 be noted.

⌘ R/734 Budget Working Party

Members were reminded of the dates of the budget working party.

RESOLVED to distribute the dates of the budget working party to all members.

⌘ R/735 Summary of ICT Services: August 2008

This report summarised ICT performance at August 2008 and identified ongoing risks and issues that were being managed.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Performance and customer satisfaction levels were high.
- Disaster recovery provision for key IT systems and the potential for shared services.
- Roll out of new desktop computers.
- Mobile data bid.
- Concerns about the centralised control of ICT developments and the convergence of ICT. There was a target to achieve convergence by 2015 however this was thought optimistic. The NPIA was driving this forward. There were concerns around cost and previous difficulties experienced in collaborative working in this area. It was proposed that the Chairman of the Authority include the Authority's concerns in relation to the centralisation of control of ICT for the police service in his response to the recently issued Green Paper.
- ICT service review was looking at different ways of delivering a service to the Force. Concern was expressed in relation to data protection and the use of external organisations in the ICT review.
- It was confirmed that some of the projects listed had not been completed, for example Socrates.
- The provision for members to log onto the force network remotely – interest had been low.
- The case prep and custody application, which was implemented as a free solution from the Home Office and was now being billed at £350,000 for the first year, and nearly double that in year two by that organisation. It was proposed that Mr Greenslade raise this at a National level. The Force are looking at alternatives and proposals would be brought to the committee in due course.
- Members asked for a formal recognition of Mike Walton's contribution to consistent ICT delivery and it was proposed that the Chairman write to him on behalf of the Authority.
- The need for an ICT strategist.

RESOLVED to note the update.

⌘ R/736 Mobile Data

This report provided details of the second bid to the Home Office for funding for a mobile data devices. The aim was to provide 750 devices to all neighbourhood policing teams. The recommended option was Airwave with Tetra mobile devices.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The option to use Airwave Tetra devices was an ideal opportunity to capitalise on previous investment in Airwave because this was a cheaper option.
- A regional bid with Wiltshire, Avon & Somerset, Dorset and Gloucester Forces had been put forward for £6.7m.
- Funding requirements and the need for the Treasurer to review figures prior to any decisions being taken.
- The need to drive through the benefits of the devices if the bid was successful
- Cultural changes.
- The need for compatibility with Socrates to benefit crime scene investigators on site.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Resources Committee notes the bid for grant aid for mobile data devices and supporting infrastructure from the National Police Improvement Agency;
- ii) That a further report be brought once the decision on grant aid is known.

⌘ R/737 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/738	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).
R/739	Procurement 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).
R/740	Annual Report Of Devon & Cornwall Police Claims Experience 2007 / 08	Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to information) Act 1985	Schedule 12A, paragraph 5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
R/741	Police Staff Handbook	Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to information) Act 1985	Schedule 12A, paragraph 4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.

NB. Mr J Smith took the Chair.

⌘ R/738 Estate Strategy & Programme Update

NB Mr B Greenslade and Mr J Smith both declared a personal interest in this item.

This report provided an update on the progress of the long-term Estate Programme. It highlighted the achievement of important milestones and major issues that were likely to threaten the delivery of any individual scheme.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- There had been a significant increase in the number of people visiting Tiverton police desk since the shop-front was opened in the town centre.
- Proposals for the use of the police station at Tiverton for partnership co-location.
- The need to bring a number of items back to committee when more detail was available.
- Pod cells.
- Replacement computer suite and the need to bring this into the financial programme.
- Torbay/Paignton collaboration and proposed locations – objections were raised to having all major resources based within the two proposed locations.

RESOLVED

- i) the Estate Programme highlight report be noted;
- ii) Resources Committee approve the acquisition of the site in Devonport, Plymouth at the cost detailed within the report subject to the Planning and Project Board's approval;
- iii) Resources Committee approves the acquisition of a lease in the new Torbay Council Development One Stop Shop (Station Road) at the cost detailed within the report.

NB Mr B Greenslade took the Chair.

⌘ R/739 Procurement Update

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

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Standing orders for Contracts were under review and would be presented to the Corporate Governance Committee.
- Whether or not the provision of body armour included to the Special Constabulary.
- Use of consultants and associated costs – these were considered small in relation to the substantial area of business being looked at.
- Courier services and collaborative working. A meeting was planned for later in the month with all major councils with a view to agreeing a strategic commitment to shared services and developing a programme of work. It was suggested that the Police Authority should be represented at this meeting.

RESOLVED to note the report.

⌘ R/740 Annual Report Of Devon & Cornwall Police Claims Experience 2007 / 08

This report provided a briefing on the way in which civil claims were handed by the Constabulary and summarised significant claims issues that had arisen during the period.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- In-house handling of civil litigation had resulted in considerable cost savings.
- Case management software has recently been implemented and this will enable statistical information in relation to the progress and outcome of civil claims. This will also enable areas of risk which can then be proactively managed and result in further savings over time.
- Comparison between costs before cases were dealt with in-house and afterwards, in light of new appointments within the team. A future report would provide comparisons over 1, 5 and 10 years to show where savings had been made.
- Proposals to explore in-house handling of motor-liability claims.
- Availability of a duty legal advisor scheme to police officers and staff – roadshows were planned to advertise this and the eXpert Intranet site, alongside a marketing campaign and contribution to the training of new recruits. This information would assist in reducing claims because it is a proactive solution to ensuring information and advice is available early to police officers.

RESOLVED to note the report.

⌘ R/741 Police Staff Handbook

This report provided an update in respect of the police staff handbook costs following implementation. The key theme throughout the report was that of strong control.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The correct annual variance of cost and the reason for the initial reported variance. The correct variance was considerably lower than had at first been calculated.
- Further variations were expected because of changes to working patterns to meet business need. Effective forecasting and monitoring would be required into the future.
- Overall, implementation had been successful and with limited overspends and members asked for formal recognition of this to the team that had overseen the project.

RESOLVED that the Police Authority Resources Committee notes the projected outturn position in respect of the Police Staff Council Handbook costs based on July salaries.

The meeting closed at 13:00pm