

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

MINUTES

A meeting of the **Resources Committee** was held on Thursday 19 November 2009 in the Conference Room, Devon and Cornwall Police Authority, Endeavour House, Woodwater Park, Exeter, starting at 10:30hrs.

Present:

Chairman Mr B Greenslade

Vice-Chairman Mr M Bull

Members: Mr M Clayton, Sir Simon Day, Mr M Hodge, Mr D Money, Mrs L Price, Mrs J Stanhope.

Mrs J Norton and Mr W Jenkin attended as observers.

Officers in attendance:

Police Authority

Mr S Barrett (Interim Treasurer), Mrs E Tanner (Administrator).

Constabulary

Ms A Daveney (Head of Technical Accounting), Mrs S Goscomb (Interim Director of Finance and Resources), Mr P Lea (Head of ICT Service Management), Mr A Morris (Head of Estates), Mr G Newsome (Force Energy Manager – Item R/832 only), Mr R Wheeler (Acting Head of Finance), Ms L Seymour (Force Legal Advisor - Item R/832 – R/836only).

R/822 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs V Pengelly.

R/823 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made in respect of any item on the agenda.

R/824 Chairman's Announcements

There were no announcements by the Chairman.

R/825 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2009 were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

R/826 Financial Monitoring

The Interim Director of Finance and Resources introduced the report. Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Delays in payment of invoices – this issue was now fully resolved.
- The reference to recruitment of staff in relation to the Counter Terrorism Grant loss of income referred to internal postings and not external recruitment.
- Police Officer recruitment – retirements were reasonably predictable and a rolling three-year recruitment programme was in place. The programme was sometimes amended in light of circumstances such as resources and actual police officer numbers.
- It was crucial to keep a close eye on under / over spending.

RESOLVED

- i) That the financial targets, health indicators and acceptable variations be noted;
- ii) That the latest revenue projection for 2009/10 be noted;
- iii) That the revised capital programme for 2009/10 be approved;
- iv) That the latest capital projection for 2009/10 be noted;
- v) The latest Police Officer staffing levels be noted.

R/827 Efficiency Plan Monitoring

Members considered progress made against the three-year efficiency plan. Progress against the target was good and forecast to exceed the £9.1m required.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Quest had yielded efficiency savings but only half of what had been anticipated. This was because savings had been estimated very early on in the programme. Quest continued and further savings in the longer term were expected.
- Quest had not been predicated on achieving a certain amount of savings.

RESOLVED that the progress in achieving the targeted efficiency savings for period April 2008 to March 2011 be noted.

R/828 Treasury Management

Members considered the report that provided an update on the treasury management performance for the period 1 April 2009 – 31 October 2009.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Treasury Management training would be offered to all Members in early January and would be combined with a meeting with the external fund managers.
- Members would be asked to approve the Treasury Management Strategy for 2010/11 in the New Year.
- Net interest receipts were below forecast as a result of the current risk-averse environment.
- It would be necessary to borrow to fund the capital programme and advantage of low rates would be taken where possible.
- The lending amounts to the counter party list had been increased from £3m to £6m as a result of increased confidence.
- External fund manager returns were measured on a different basis to the internal fund managers.
- Maturity dates and re-investment – the medium term strategy forecast for 2010/11 onwards did take account of investments that were due to mature, and those that had matured recently and an element of reduction on returns had been built in.
- In the short-term, funds were not being re-invested but were being utilised to avoid borrowing.
- Returns on investments were anticipated to be relatively low because of the volatility of rates.

RESOLVED that the treasury management performance for the period 1 April 2009 to 31 October 2009 be noted.

R/829 Budget Working Party

The notes of the Budget Working Party held on 13 October 2009 were considered.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The Comprehensive Spending Review and anticipated reduction in grant.

- The low resource base – Devon and Cornwall continued to be one of the lowest taxing in the country.
- The decision to progress with the agreed three year Medium Term Financial Strategy in order to protect the good work already done. The increase in police precept for 2010 is planned at 4.94%.
- The need to build a Medium Term Financial Strategy following 2010/11.
- A decision from central government on funding as soon as possible would enable the Authority to plan. It was unlikely that the Authority would be able to maintain an establishment of 3500 police officers for very long if funding was reduced.
- Police Force mergers were being discussed in the media.
- Members to be provided with a regularly updated briefing sheet / handy guide to assist with answering questions from the public about funding and council tax.

RESOLVED to note the report.

R/830 Airwave Business Benefits Summary Update Report

The report provided an update on the current state of benefits realisation of the Airwave Service. Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- There had been no significant milestones reached since the last report.
- Following the decision to procure a widely used command and control system there was better potential to deliver Airwave benefits.
- Costs / charges of Airwave.
- It was requested that the focus be on delivering mobile technology.
- Benefits were not identified prior to the project commencing hence scrutiny of benefits delivery was difficult.
- It was suggested that Airwave and Mobile Technology be considered together and for a focus shift from looking back to looking forward towards further developments in mobile solutions.
- Members requested a presentation at a future seminar on the future of mobile technology.

RESOLVED to note the report.

R/831 Update in respect of Devon & Cornwall Constabulary's ICT Service Management Activities

The report provided an update on ICT Service Management activities following the move of the Projects functions to Business change.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Change of responsibilities within the ICT department – the ICT Service Delivery and Administration function reports to Resources Committee, whilst the Project Management, Systems Analysis and Technical Architect roles which are involved in the support of the 2012 Programme now report to the Chairs' Committee. Both ICT Departments work closely together.
- The report provided significant details of deliverables within the ICT Service Management Plan. Future reports would likely be shorter but would identify status, risk and objectives for ICT Service Management.
- Two Members attended Force Strategic meetings dealing with ICT.
- Recommendations from the Corporate Services Transformation Phase II in terms of ICT included the need for closer alignment with policing business and an audit of disaster recovery processes.

RESOLVED to note the report.

R/832 Energy Management – an overview

A presentation providing an overview of the challenges, both financial and practical facing the Constabulary and Authority as a result of Government Energy Legislation was provided.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included.

- How targets were predicted and whether they were achievable.
- The vehicle fleet was responsible for the majority of carbon emission at 55%. Consideration was being given to reducing the fleet and mileage during 2010/11.
- The need for discussion on changes that will need to be made to achieve the reductions in carbon emission required.
- A change to fundamental operational requirements was anticipated.
- The penalties for non-compliance.
- Initiatives already progressing.
- Financial implications to achieve imminent targets were estimated at £200,000 in 2009/10 and £100,000 in 2010/11. These costs had been built into the capital programme. There would be likely to be further revenue costs of carbon trading in 2011/12.
- Specific areas were being focussed on in an attempt to reduce consumption. All areas were being closely monitored to avoid increased consumption elsewhere.
- There were several grant streams available to help organisations.
- Systems were in place to enable reductions achieved to be recorded and evidenced.
- Pilot sites had achieved between 11 – 20 % savings on work carried out so far.
- Comparison with regional, national and world-wide police forces was not possible since many had not established their baseline.
- The need for the Committee to continue to monitor progress on a regular basis.

RESOLVED to note the presentation.

R/833 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
12	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)
13	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)
14	Annual report of Devon & Cornwall Police 2008/09	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/834 Procurement Update

The Committee was updated on recent procurement activity, and also considered the Procurement Strategy.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Good work and savings made.
- The Procurement Strategy presented for approval was based on the ACPO procurement strategy.
- The Strategy allowed for regular re-letting of contracts to enable the Authority to gain maximum cost saving benefit, for example the contract for the supply of paper was re-let every 6 months.
- Contracts were let not just on price, but on ethical and environmental considerations.
- How decisions to let to local or national suppliers were made.
- A suggestion that some wording in the Strategy could be improved.
- The Procurement Strategy was not subject to efficiency savings targets because of the real difficulty in achieving such targets. Savings made as a result of procurement were recorded subsequently through the Efficiency Plan. It was suggested that in future, it might be necessary to start setting efficiency targets for procurement which could be planned into the budget from the outset.

RESOLVED

- i) to note the contents of the report**
- ii) to approve the Procurement Strategy**

R/835 Estate Strategy and Programme Update

Members were updated on the delivery of the Capital Building Programme and Estate Strategy. The Committee was asked to consider granting approval for two projects.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The Estates Strategy had gone through a number of revisions to ensure alignment with core strategies.
- There was a need to rationalise the estate in terms of square footage.
- Recent updates to the capital buildings programme.
- The delay to Pool PPU was as a result of late instructions and contractor performance.
- The Teignmouth and Dawlish projects were progressing well however an overspend was forecast.
- Planning had now been approved for Beacon Park Road.
- The proposed location of a new Criminal Justice Centre and Strategic Policing Hub for Exeter. There was a general consensus that insufficient information supporting the proposal had been provided, and that the proposal reversed a decision already approved by the Authority.
- The Lead Members for property in Devon and in Cornwall expressed their disappointment that the Constabulary was not properly involving them in some decision-making processes.
- No progress had been made on the South Devon PPU project however work towards realising this opportunity continued.
- The location of the Police Authority's Offices and proposals for co-location with the Constabulary.
- A suggestion that some wording in the Strategy could be improved.
- The Lead Member for Property in Cornwall had some concerns regarding two property issues in Cornwall that he wished to raise after the meeting. It was confirmed that the Performance Management Committee had discussed the re-location of the sexual referral units in depth.

RESOLVED

- i) to note the Estate Programme highlight report**
- ii) to approve the Estate Strategy as set out at Appendix B**
- iii) to delegate the approval of the increased funding for the delivery of the Teignmouth Scheme as detailed within the report to the Chairman of Resources Committee and the Chairman of the Authority.**

- iv) to delegate the approval of the utilisation of part of the Middlemoor site for the provision of a Criminal Justice Centre and Strategic Policing Hub to the Chairman of Resources Committee and the Chairman of the Authority.

R/836 Annual report of Devon & Cornwall Police 2008/09

Members were briefed on the way in which civil claims are handled and on some significant issues affecting the handling of civil claims within Legal Services.

There were no issues raised during consideration of this item.

RESOLVED to note the report.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 13:00hrs.