

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

Minutes

A meeting of the **Resources Committee** was held on 26 April 2007 in the Conference Room, Endeavour House, Exeter starting at 10:00hrs.

Present:

Mr B Greenslade Chairman

Mr M Bull, Mrs A Malcolm, Mr B Preston, Mr J Smith and Mr W Thomas.

Officers in Attendance

Police Authority

Mrs A Daveney (Head of Technical Accounting), Mr G Davey (Chief Executive & Clerk)(R/613-R/620 only) , Mr J Glasby (Treasurer), ACC A Hollingshead (R/613 – R/629 only), Mr A Morris (Head of Estates), Cpt I Payne (Air Operations Unit) (R/627 only), Mr C Schofield (HR Consultant))(R/613-R/620 only), Mrs E Tanner (Administrator), Mr M Walton (Head of ICT) (R/628 only) and Mr Ben Watts (Force Claims Handler) (R629 only).

R/613 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr J Currie, Mr D Money and Mr M Nevitt.

R/614 Declarations Of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

R/615 Chairman's Announcement

Having regard to the special circumstances pertaining in this matter – namely the need to brief Members on potential cost implications of two projects, the Chairman was of the opinion that despite their non-inclusion on the Agenda, the matters of Forensic Collaboration and the Bodmin Contract Approval should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

R/616 Resources Committee Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.

R/617 Financial Monitoring

Members considered the monitoring report. The latest monitoring information suggested a modest underspend for 2006-07.

Significant issues faced in 2007-08 were detailed in the report and had been considered by the Budget Working Party at their meeting on 13 April. Members were advised that the Chief Officer Group were meeting shortly to discuss issues that would have an impact on the budget, but which would be managed within the budget.

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

R/618 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
4	R/619	<i>Financial Monitoring</i>	<i>Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to information) Act 1985</i>	<i>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.</i>

R/619 Financial Monitoring

The Treasurer briefed Members on the current situation in relation to the Police Staff Handbook.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- *Provision within the budget and potential cost implications.*
- *The actual cost of the Staff Handbook and the need for details of individual working patterns to enable this to be provided.*
- *The commitment to deliver the Staff Handbook and manage the cost implications.*
- *Possible mitigation of costs through better management of overtime and other savings.*
- *Capacity and capability issues.*
- *Unions and timescales for ballot.*
- *The democratic processes for resolving the way forward. The relevant Police Authority Officers would determine the best route for Member's approval of the Handbook.*
- *The need for a full report on cost and funding to the Resources Committee at its next meeting.*
- *That implementation issues would necessarily be considered by the Human Resources Committee.*

RESOLVED

- i. that the Resources Committee express their very grave concern at the situation described in the verbal report it received regarding the Police Staff Handbook.*
- ii. to recommend that future proposals relating to this matter be subject to robust scrutiny and that a communications strategy be put in place.*

R/620 RESOLVED to move to open session.

R/621 Budget Working Party

The Budget Working Party met on 13 April. Members considered the notes of the meeting. The Treasurer highlighted two key issues, namely the changes to the medium term financial strategy after the outturn report in the summer, and the recent political decisions on council tax capping.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- *Vehicle management*
- *Provision for the pay award within the medium term financial strategy and associated budgetary pressures.*

RESOLVED *to note the report.*

R/622 Treasury Management

Members considered the report. The Treasurer highlighted the key issues which included interest receipts of £600,000 over budget, the varied performance of the fund managers and reduced borrowing cost.

The Treasurer recommended that some of the extra income should be set aside to ease future budget pressures.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- *The performance of the fund managers.*
- *Arrangements for a meeting with the fund Managers. This would be arranged for December 2007.*
- *The fast pace of the money markets and the need for quick decisions by the fund Managers.*

RESOLVED to recommend to the Police Authority

- that a proportion of the earned income be set aside to ease future budgetary pressures.*
- that the performance of the fund managers and the functioning of the Treasury Management Strategy be noted.*
- that close monitoring of the Strategy continues in 2007/08 and that the Strategy be reviewed in the autumn 2007.*
- to arrange a meeting with the fund managers in December 2007.*

R/623 The Lyons Inquiry into Local Government

Members considered the report. The Treasurer expressed his disappointment at the content of the Lyons Review and its inability to address some of the real concerns around the present council tax system.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- *Impact of council tax capping regime on the numbers of police officers nationally in the future.*
- *The Association of Police Authority's response to the Lyons Review.*

RESOLVED to note the results of the Lyons Inquiry with concern that the financing of local government and the flaws in the council tax system still require action.

R/624 Statement of Accounts for 2006-07 – New Regulations

The Police Authority prepares its Statement of Accounts according to the Statement of Recommended Practice or SORP. Members were advised of the changes in the SORP.

The changes would have a major impact on the Statement that sets out the Authority's Income and Expenditure for the year. It was now a requirement to include liabilities not previously included, and the reporting of the surplus or deficit for the year shown in the bottom line of the Income and Expenditure Account could be misleading as a result. In addition, straightforward comparisons could not be made without first extracting these liabilities.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- *The most significant variation related to the recognition of pension costs which in fact fall on the government.*
- *Public relations*
- *Annotation of the accounts*
- *Compliance*

RESOLVED *that the changes to the regulations that govern the preparation of the Police Authority Statement of Accounts are noted.*

R/625 Forensic Collaboration

The Treasurer, Mike Bull and the Head of Technical Accounting had attended a meeting in Bristol where proposals for collaboration between a group of Police Authorities for the tendering of forensic services had been considered. In the past, forensic services had been solely provided by the Government. Subsequently it was privatised however there was only one supplier. In an attempt to create a market and benefit from group purchasing power, 14 police authorities were now looking at the possibility of collaborative arrangements.

The Treasurer reported that there were a number of issues of concern around the current proposal and that the Devon & Cornwall Police Authority may not benefit from these arrangements as well as other Authorities might.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- *The need to fully consider all options / alternative arrangements – it was understood that there could be a national call-off contract in place that some other Police Authorities may use.*
- *The need for an assessment of cost and impact.*
- *Devon & Cornwall Constabulary representation at the event in Bristol.*
- *The timescales for decisions to be made.*

- The project initiation document.
- Our limited experience of shared services and the need for strategic decisions on what and where shared services should be progressed, and the processes involved.
- The possibility of sharing experience of shared services with Devon County Council who it was understood have been operating in this way for some years now.

RESOLVED

- to note the report
- to receive a detailed report at the next meeting of the Committee.

R/626 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
9	R/626	Purchase of Replacement Force Helicopter.	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.

R/627 Purchase of Replacement Force Helicopter

Members considered the report. A business case for a replacement helicopter had been forwarded to Members in advance of the meeting.

The Chairman had received an email from Mr Currie, who was absent from the meeting. The content of the email was read to the meeting.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Comparisons between the E135 and the E145 models – including efficiency, load capacity, refuelling.
- Comparisons between models provided by different suppliers including safety and reliability.
- Lead times for delivery.
- Financial arrangements.
- Disposal of the current helicopter.
- Partnership arrangements with the Devon Air Ambulance Trust.

RESOLVED to recommend to the Police Authority

(i) A Eurocopter EC 145 helicopter be purchased for delivery in FY 2009 / 2010, following confirmed receipt of the first part of Home Office Capital funding.

(ii) A no obligation letter of intent to purchase an EC 145 helicopter to McAlpine Helicopters Limited be sent.

(iii) Subject to formal valuation, the Force agree to dispose of the BK 117 helicopter as detailed in the report.

(iv) In consultation with McAlpine Helicopters Limited, Force staff draw up a full technical specification for an EC 145 helicopter.

R/628 Refreshed ICT Strategy

Members considered the report of the Head of ICT. Key issues within the report were highlighted and included:

- *The efficiency of the ICT service within the Constabulary compared with other Forces.*
- *Interoperability*
- *ISS4PS*
- *Shared Services*
- *Information security / assurance*
- *Availability of service*
- *National Standards*
- *Corporacy*
- *Cost savings of shared services*
- *Hardware replacement*
- *Information sharing*
- *Remote access*
- *Affordability*

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- *Provision of ICT services to officers on the beat. The focus had been on getting information out to Officers rather than feeding back. A suitable solution to this issue was not easily identifiable, however work in this area was ongoing.*
- *Business benefits of Airwave. This would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.*
- *Provision of Airwave handsets to partners and associated accreditation issues. Parent organisations could apply for accreditation.*
- *Air to ground communications using Airwave.*
- *Email security.*

RESOLVED

- i. The underpinning principles upon which the refreshed ICT strategy is built are agreed.*

- ii. *The priorities for the delivery of ICT are noted and the key ICT projects for the next 3 to 5 years are noted as forming part of the Force Development Programme for the forthcoming years.*

R/629 Civil Claims Annual Report 2005/06

Members considered the report.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- *The need for a case management package to enable analysis of data to provide comparisons. This was being progressed.*
- *The settlement rate was still falling.*
- *Litigation trends and upcoming issues included average cost of settlements, which was continuing to rise, as was the cost of solicitors. Areas of litigation were also growing.*
- *Cases which had been lost. Those which resulting in payments of over £30,000 were reported to the Police Authority under the usual procedures.*
- *Legal aid and costs – the Constabulary was lobbying the Legal Services Commission regarding the provision of legal services.*
- *The legal services department.*

RESOLVED

- i. *to note the report.*
- ii. *to congratulate the legal team on their performance.*

R/630 Refurbishment of Sowton Vehicle Workshop

Additional funds for the refurbishment of the Sowton Vehicle Workshop were requested, and were required because of a disparity between the original pre-tender estimate and tenders received.

The Property-Sub Committee had been given an opportunity to make comment on the report prior to the meeting. No comments had been received.

Members considered the report which gave the reasons for the disparity.

No issues were raised.

RESOLVED to recommend to the Police Authority

- i. *Approval of an increase in expenditure on the Sowton Vehicle Workshop refurbishment as shown in the report.*
- ii. *The cost is included within the capital programme for 2007-08, subject to the total capital programme being managed within the Police Authority set limit of £15.3m. This will reduce the revenue budget for maintenance in 2007-08.*

R/631 Devonport Replacement Police Station [South Yard]

Approval for the Devonport project to proceed at the increased budget outlined in the report, including interest payments was sought. The reasons for the additional budget were outlined in

the report and included the need to relocate patrol and command from Beacon Park Road and additional space required for PCSOs to South Yard. It was suggested that the additional funds spent on this initiative would save money in the long term.

The Property-Sub Committee had been given an opportunity to make comment on the report prior to the meeting. No comments had been received.

Members considered the report.

- *The timing of the release of the freehold for the property from the developers.*
- *Stage payments / avoidance of interest payments and associated risks.*
- *Environmental issues – the Authority had attached a ‘Very Good’ rating to both the South Yard build, and the Bodmin build. Generally, the Authority was using ‘Very Good’ environmental strategies on all new builds.*

RESOLVED

- i. The contents of the report be noted.*

RESOLVED to recommend to the Police Authority to

- i Confirm the approval for the project to proceed at the enhanced budget shown in the report including interest charges.*
- ii Not approve the inclusion in the construction contract of stage payments.*

R/632 Bodmin Contract Approval

Members received a report which provided information in relation to previous approvals in connection with the Bodmin project. Currently, negotiations with the preferred bidder were underway which would lead to a conclusion with agreement on the Land Purchase Contract. The contract would, subject to granting of detailed planning consent, commit the Authority to a budget spend of the full forecast cost (which in itself was only a best estimate).

Members were requested to recognise this fact, and to note the total project cost profile.

The Property-Sub Committee had been given an opportunity to make comment on the report prior to the meeting. No comments had been received.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- *The need for the Police Authority’s approval for the scheme.*

RESOLVED

- ii. to note the report.*
- iii. that a detailed paper be presented to the Police Authority at their meeting on 11 May seeking approval for the scheme and associated costs.*

R/634 Property issues and the capital programme

The Director of Finance and Resources updated Members on discussions concerning the organisational arrangements in place for property issues and the need for a dynamic and progressive strategy for the Estate. There was a need for the arrangements for Police Authority

approvals of schemes and the management arrangements required to underpin such a strategy to be reviewed.

The meeting closed at 12:45pm