

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Minutes of the **Resources Committee** meeting held in the Conference Room, Endeavour House, Woodwater Park, Exeter on Tuesday 14 June 2005.

OPEN SESSION

PRESENT

Mr B Greenslade, Mr D Money, Mrs Jill Owen and Mr John Smith.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr J Glasby, Mr F Graney, Mr S Mellor, Mr C Papworth, Mrs E Tanner and Mr M Walton.

R/426 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that **MR BRIAN GREENSLADE** be elected Chairman.

R/427 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that **MR DAVID MONEY** be elected Vice-Chairman.

Mrs Owen was thanked for her contribution to the committee during her term as Vice-Chairman.

R/428 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr T Evans, Mr M Nevitt, Mrs A Talbot, and Mrs C Ryan.

R/429 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

R/430 RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2005 be confirmed as a correct record.

R/431 PROPERTY SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the property-sub committee held on 8 June 2005 were tabled and considered. A few amendments were requested to the minutes prior to them being submitted to the next Property Sub-Committee meeting for approval.

Member attendance at meetings of the Property Sub-Committee was, on occasion, limited. It was suggested that a report be taken to the next meeting of the Chairmen's group suggesting a re-organisation of this committee.

R/432 PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2004-05

The Treasurer was pleased to report that the final proposed out-turn for 2004--05 showed an underspend against budget of £12,000. This was reported as an excellent achievement, given the many challenges faced by the Force throughout the year.

An overspend on the major operations budget of £1.135m had been offset by a corresponding underspend of £1.325m against corporate programmes. Spending against the major operations budget would continue to be monitored closely during 2005/06. The capital programme for 2005-06 would also require reviewing as to what realistically could be delivered and a revised programme would be submitted to the committee at their next meeting.

It was confirmed that the Budget Working Party would continue to meet during 2005-06 the membership of which would be confirmed at the next meeting of the Chairmen's group. It was requested that this membership be drawn from the Resources Committee.

RESOLVED

- i. to agree the draft report as the basis for the out-turn report to the Police Authority;
- ii. that the Budget Working Party continue to meet during 2005-06.

R/433 FINANCIAL MONITORING 2005-06

The approved 2005-06 budget included elements of expenditure, which on closer examination, were unlikely to be incurred in the current year but which should be set aside to meet known commitments.

The following virements were therefore recommended:

	<u>To</u> £000	<u>From</u> £000	<u>Reason</u>
General balances	100		Maintains balances at around 2.5% of net revenue expenditure
PC Replacement Reserve	350		Contribution towards cost of complete PC replacement in 2008-09 in line with ICT strategy
Helicopter Replacement Reserve	200		Continuing policy of setting aside funds to contribute to future replacement of helicopter
Service Commitment Reserve	791		To provide funding for the capital programme, in line with the medium term financial plan
Service Commitment Reserve	500		Reduced contribution needed from reserve
Operational spending		1,941	Level of expenditure unlikely to be incurred in current year

In addition, the budget for operational spending included an amount of £236,000 towards the cost of the Launceston improvement scheme. It was thought more appropriate to classify this spending as capital. Accordingly, it was proposed that the stated amount be recorded as a revenue contribution to capital spending.

RESOLVED to recommend to the Police Authority that the virements detailed above be approved.

R/434 TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Committee was updated on the performance on Treasury Management. The annual Treasury Management report would be presented to the full meeting of the Police Authority on 15 July. Both investment companies had achieved the benchmark during the year, however interest rates had provided little opportunity for significant gains.

Investment income had exceeded expectations due to higher interest rates than budgeted and slower spending on the revenue and capital programme than anticipated.

The Authority had borrowed £2 million during the year in line with capital spending requirements.

It was confirmed that the Authority would continue to use the services of both investment companies during 2005-06. Members would have an opportunity to meet with representatives of both companies later in the year.

RESOLVED to note the report.

R/435 POLICE STAFF PENSIONS

The Authority had put into place a recovery plan which provided for an increase of contributions in a stepwise fashion over 6 years. Assumptions behind the plan included the Government's proposals to tighten up pension scheme. The Treasurer reported that the Government had now revoked the proposed changes and the Authority's recovery plan was now unlikely to be sufficient. Members were alerted to the fact that this would result in additional payments to the fund being required at some stage in the future.

The next valuation of the scheme by the Actuary was due in 2007 at which time the issue would be re-addressed.

RESOLVED to note that government decisions not to implement the intended change to the police staff pension scheme will impact significantly on future financial planning.

CLOSED SESSION

The following items were considered in closed session 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 disclosed.

R/436 SUMMARY OF ICT PERFORMANCE IN 2004-05

Members considered a report updating them on the performance and achievements of the Force ICT services in 2004-05.

ICT priorities in 2004-05 included:

- Maintaining availability of radio, telephony and IT services.
- Transition to the new managed services provider.
- Integration of Airwave digital radio into the Constabulary's ICT infrastructure.

Reliability and availability of all services was paramount. Radio, telephony and business critical IT systems achieved 99.9% availability throughout the year and this had been maintained during the difficult transition period to the new managed service provider.

Speed of response for services remained high with over 60% of help desk calls resolved on first call. Customer satisfaction was reported as good with 90% of customers rating ICT fault fixing service as good or excellent and 96% of customers rating work request services to be good or excellent.

Cost savings had been made during the year and included:

- Rationalisation of data circuits.
- Reduction in number of certain fault call-types by introduction of IT Infrastructure library (ITIL) best practice processes.
- Transition to new managed services contract.
- Rationalisation of information storage.

Members considered the major achievements during the year, which included the smooth transition to the new managed services contract.

Challenges for the future included planned changes to ICT processes and tools as a result of the new managed services contract which would improve performance, and progression of the Intranet project.

National ICT strategies included working towards regional / national police ICT services to achieve economies of scale.

Members were impressed with the scope of work covered by the Constabulary ICT department.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Standard desktop computers for the Constabulary and the ICT hardware catalogue – various specifications will be available depending on requirement.
- Implementation of Transform following the Best Value Review of Engineering – there were no IT issues preventing implementation. Members would be updated on progress in due course.
- Intranet Phase II – a report would be presented to the next meeting of this committee.
- The outcome of the transfer of staff during the transition to the new managed services contract under TUPE – in total, 110 members of NIS and Force staff had successfully transferred to the new contractor under TUPE.

RESOLVED to note the performance of ICT in 2004/05.

R/437 FORCE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (FIMS)

Members received a verbal update on the implementation of the Force Integrated Management System.

One of the requirements of the FIMS system was to enable in-house payroll. The aim was to have this part of the system ready for testing by October and fully functional by February 2006 at the latest. A significant amount of effort was being put into ensuring that this deadline was achieved however in the event of any slippage, there was a need to consider alternative payroll arrangements.

A further report would be included on the agenda of the next meeting of this committee to provide Members with an update on progress and to detail proposed alternative payroll arrangements should they be required (which would depend on the progress made). This would allow time to put any necessary arrangements in place.

R/438 REFURBISHMENT OF BARNSTAPLE POLICE STATION

Members considered a report updating them of the progress of the contract and the subsequent adjudication process in relation to Barnstaple Police Station.

It was confirmed that the building work at Barnstaple Police Station was now complete apart from some minor snagging.

RESOLVED

- i. to note the report;
- ii. to give delegated authority to the Treasurer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Resources Committee, to agree the full and final settlement figure to be offered to the contractor concerned.

The meeting closed at 16.00.