

Devon And Cornwall Police Authority

MINUTES

A meeting of the **Resources Committee** meeting was held in the Conference Room, Endeavour House, Woodwater Park, Exeter on Wednesday 28 September 2005 starting at 10.30 hrs.

Present

ChairmanMr B Greenslade.

Mr J Currie, Mr D Money, Mr Mike Nevitt, Mrs Jill Owen and Mr J Smith.

Officers In Attendance

Police Force:

Chief Insepctor C Downham (Plymouth Chief Inspector), Mr F Graney (Director of Finance and Administration), Superintendent S Swani (Superintendent Partnerships), Mr M Walton (Head of ICT), Mr H Durrant (Force Technical Architect), Mr B Watts (Force Claims Handler).

Police Authority:

Mr J Glasby (Treasurer), Mr S Mellor (Finance Manager) Mrs E Tanner, (Administrator).

R/458 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr B Preston and Mr W Thomas.

R/459 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item	Minute ref	Interest	Details	Action taken
J Currie	(20) Truro Safety Shop	R/480	Personal	Cornwall County Council Member	N/A

R/460 Minutes of the Resources Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 27 July 2005 were confirmed as a correct record.

R/461 Minutes of the Property Sub-Committee

RESOLVED to note the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2005.

R/462 Financial Monitoring 2005-06

The overall financial position was satisfactory and the budget was under control. The revenue spend was within budget and an overall underspend for the year was anticipated. The major operations budget was under pressure but under control. Reserves were available to draw from if required.

The capital programme was behind schedule. It was recommended that it should be critically reviewed, resized based on tangible delivery plans and a revised programme for 2005-06 be submitted to the next meeting.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Progress on the Airwave contract negotiations.

RESOLVED

1. to note the latest financial position as set out in the report;
2. to receive a revised capital programme at the next meeting.

R/463 Budget Working Party

The notes of the meeting held on 22 September were tabled. Matters discussed at the meeting included:

- Progress against budget.
- Development of a programme of potential savings.
- The medium term financial plan – which was very important, especially in light of the additional recruitment of PCSOs due by 2008-09.
- Extension of the publication of the Lyons Review to December 2006.
- Changes to the funding formula
- 2006-07 budget consultation
- Spend to save – long term cost saving projects were being considered for implementation in the short term.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The need to consult with the business communities before setting the budget for 2006-07
- Options for consultation with communities, voluntary organisations, political partners and use of sample surveys.

R/464 Closed Items - Exclusion Of The Press And Public

RESOLVED that the item detailed in the table below be considered as a closed item:

Minute No	Report Title	Relevant Act	Relevant section
R/464	Devon Drug and Alcohol Action Team	Freedom of Information Act	Section 33 FOIA Public Audit/ Audit functions

R/465 Devon Drug and Alcohol Action Team

Members were provided with an update on the current performance of the Devon Drug and Alcohol Action Team. Waiting times for treatment programmes had reduced considerably with treatment readily available through GPs and the Devon Partnership Trust. Therefore, the need for the Constabulary to purchase additional treatment programmes was open to debate.

Whether or not the Constabulary continued to purchase treatment programmes from the DAAT, the Devon DAAT would continue to receive a grant from the Home Office and therefore the Constabulary would continue to have an active part in monitoring performance.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The need for careful consideration be given to other support options should purchase of drug treatments from Devon DAAT be withdrawn.
- The possibility of an external review of the DAAT performance in light of concerns about ongoing performance improvement.
- Member involvement in the performance monitoring of the DAAT would be welcomed.

RESOLVED

1. that the Chairman of the Committee make an enquiry through the Devon County Council Health & Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the performance of the Devon DAAT;
2. a letter be sent to the governing body for the Devon DAAT and to Devon County Council expressing the Police Authority's concerns about ongoing performance;
3. that twelve months notice should be given should withdrawal of the purchase of treatment programmes be agreed; and
4. the Vice-Chairman of the Authority to meet with Supt. Partnerships to address and progress items of concern.

R/466 Reconvention of open session

RESOLVED that the meeting reconvene in open session.

R/467 Overview of Devon & Cornwall Constabulary's ICT Strategy

There was a need for the Constabulary to adopt a strategic framework for ICT provision. Members received a presentation outlining the strategy which addressed four main areas of ICT provision:

- Desktop management
- Server and Storage Consolidation
- Network & Telephony Convergence
- Application Architecture

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- That provision of ICT was essential to delivery of strategic policing
- Centrally delivered initiatives removed the option for choice

RESOLVED to note the report.

R/468 Formula Grant Distribution Consultation

The Government had published a consultation paper setting out options for changes to the grant distribution formulae from 2006-07. Included in the paper was information on the introduction of 3 year settlements.

The Treasurer reported that all proposed options disadvantaged Devon & Cornwall.

It was recommended that the response should be brief, identifying the preferred option and making a strong case for the retention of the rural grant.

RESOLVED

1. that the Police Authority Treasurer, in consultation with the Chair of Resources Committee, prepares a response to the consultation document in support of the position of Devon & Cornwall Police Authority;
2. that this should include the case for recognising the problems of rural policing and the need to give greater priority to sparsity within the formula and / or to retain the current specific rural grant.

R/469 Quarterly Treasury Management Report

Members considered the Treasury Management report. Both Fund Managers continued to exceed the benchmark 7 day rate for the year to date and investment returns from Devon County Council on day to day cash balances were also good. Any additional income was welcomed since additional expenditure against legal fees for the Airwave contract and JE reviews was expected.

The Authority had borrowed £2.5m towards the capital programme. However due to slippage in the capital programme the need for future borrowing in the current year would need careful consideration.

The annual meeting with Fund Managers was due and it was agreed that a meeting would be arranged in due course.

Members were asked to consider the recommendation that the Treasurer be authorised to deal in money market funds where they carried an AAA rating to take advantage of marginal additional returns for short term investments.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Underspending on programmes – Members were assured that capital spend would increase when the capacity to progress programmes improved.

RESOLVED

1. that the Treasury Management report be accepted;
2. to approve the use of Money Market Funds as detailed in the report.

R/470 Statement of Accounts

Members considered the report which recommended amendments to the Statement of Accounts resulting from the receipt of revised police property valuations.

RESOLVED that the amendments to the Statement of Accounts as detailed in the report be approved.

R/471 Vehicle Replacement Programme

Members had previously asked for a detailed report on vehicle utilisation and reasons for increases in the vehicle replacement budget. The report included the vehicle replacement programme through to 2008-09. Actual vehicle replacement for the current year was lower than planned. Budget holders had assessed the need for individual vehicles to be replaced and had concluded that replacement of 31 be deferred to 2006/07. Budget holders had been tasked with undertaking a similar exercise for 2006/07 and a report would be presented to the next meeting of the committee with the results of this exercise.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Hire vehicle spending had reduced. Changes to the policy for use of hire vehicles for major incidents had resulted in a significant reduction in spend in this area. Further work to reduce spending on hire vehicles was required and it was anticipated that devolving of the hire budget to Geographic Chief Inspectors would realise further savings.
- It was proposed that expenditure on replacement of vehicles should be brought forward rather than deferring the expenditure to 2007-09 when there were other potential significant demands on budgets. However, workshops were already working at full capacity.
- A Member who sat on the Vehicle User Group was not satisfied that a satisfactory vehicle utilisation management programme was in place. It was possible to analyse vehicle mileage using the current management system however vehicle utilisation required the maintenance of manual data logs which were not always completed. Automatic vehicle location systems were a possible but costly solution.
- An analysis of vehicle requirements for new staff had not been undertaken.
- There were peaks and troughs in demand for police vehicles due to shift patterns, for example.

RESOLVED to note the progress on the preparation of the capital budget for vehicle replacement for 2006/07 and to receive a further report at the next meeting.

R/472 MacFarland Review of PITO

Since the report on the key points of the MacFarland Review had been written, many of the issues discussed within it had been advanced. The findings of the Review had been key in shaping the more recent Home Office report 'Closing the Gap' and recommended regional structures with ICT delivery moving from away from local delivery towards regional or national provision.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Sharing of information with partners and the Bichard recommendations.

RESOLVED to note the report.

R/473 Closed Items - Exclusion Of The Press And Public

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

Minute No	Report Title	Relevant Act	Relevant section
R/474	Update on progress on Force Intranet System	Freedom of Information Act	Section 43(2) Prejudice the commercial interests of any person including the public authority holding it.
R/477	Civil Claims – Regional Training Exercise	Freedom of Information Act	Section 42, Professional Privilege
R/478	Civil Claims Annual Report 2004/05	Freedom of Information Act	Section 42, Professional Privilege
R/479	Charging for Police Services	Freedom of Information Act	Section 43(2) Prejudice the commercial interests of any person including the public authority holding it.
R/480	Truro Safety Shop	Freedom of Information Act	Section 43(2) Prejudice the commercial interests of any person including the public authority holding it.

R/474 Update on progress on the Force Intranet System

Members received an update on the implementation of the Force Intranet. Progress was positive with work being completed as per the revised schedule. Quality assurance would take place in October. It was estimated that the ability to run the overtime programme on the Intranet would realise savings of approximately £200,000. Exact figures would be reported to the next meeting.

RESOLVED to note the recent progress on the intranet project.

R/475 Update on Revised Capital Budget 2005-06

This report was withdrawn. A revised capital budget would be brought to the next meeting.

R/476 Bichard Recommendations

This paper was deferred to the next meeting.

R/477 Civil Claims – Regional Training Exercise, update on July 2002 report.

Members considered the report.

RESOLVED to give approval to the Avon & Somerset Police Authority to make a payment in the sum of £37,981.21 on behalf of the Devon & Cornwall Police Authority to fully and finally settle all claims and liabilities arising out of the Showerings Pavilion incident on 28 November 2001.

R/478 Civil Claims Annual Report 2004-05

Members considered a report on the Constabulary's Civil Litigation experience during 2004-05. The number of civil claims received by the Constabulary was low in comparison with other Forces and it was considered that this was due to effective risk management.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Risk management in civil litigation and how it is aligned to the central risk management process.

RESOLVED to note the report

R/479 Charging for police services

The Association of Chief Police Officers had recently produced guidance on 'Charging for Police Services' and Members welcomed this. The guidance advocated full cost recovery for every police employee who is on duty as a result of a commercial event. The report discussed the problems associated with this guidance, especially in relation to the charging for policing of football matches.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Potential problems in achieving full cost recovery for policing of football matches
- The lack of statutory legislation to impose full cost recovery
- The introduction of common charging standards
- The need to apply charges fairly for all commercial operations.

RESOLVED to note the report.

R/480 Truro Joint Safety Centre

Members were updated on the current situation in respect of the Truro Joint Safety Centre.

RESOLVED to note the report.

R/481 Date of next meeting

Due to the requirement to accommodate a change to the date of the next full Police Authority meeting, it was suggested to swap the dates on which the next Resources Committee and full Police Authority are held.

RESOLVED that the date of the next meeting be held on 9 December 2005.

The meeting closed at 13:30 hrs.