

CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cumbria Police Authority Programme Management Working Group held on Friday 3 November 2006 in Conference Room 2, Police Headquarters, Carleton Hall, Penrith commencing at 10.00am.

PRESENT

Mr M Ash
Mr A L Barry

Mr J Nicholson
Mrs L Slavin

Also present:

Assistant Chief Constable (Mr N Rhodes)
Programme Manager (Ms H Thompson)
Deputy Clerk (Mr S Edwards)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs C A Egan, Mrs M Johnson and Mr R Watson.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

It was moved and seconded that Mrs C A Egan be appointed as Chair of the Working Group for the ensuing year. There were no other nominations.

In Mrs Egan's absence, the Working Group appointed Mrs L Slavin as Chair for the Meeting.

RESOLVED, that Mrs C A Egan be appointed Chair of the Working Group for the ensuing year.

(Mrs L Slavin in the Chair)

3. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no disclosures of personal interest in any item on the Agenda.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on 8 March 2006 had been circulated with the Agenda.

Mr J Nicholson asked that his name be added to the list of those tendering their apologies at the meeting.

RESOLVED, that, with the above amendment, the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. PROJECT STATUS MATRIX

A table outlining the current status of the major projects being worked on by the Constabulary's Programme Management Unit had been circulated with the Agenda.

101 Project

The Assistant Chief Constable advised that the Project Team had been to London and presented the bid for inclusion within Wave 2. However, five days after the presentation notification had been received from the Home Office that Wave 2 would not be proceeding at the presenting time. Whilst disappointing, and definitely a missed opportunity, the project had been a positive experience of partnership working within Cumbria.

The Constabulary would now begin to market the non-emergency number of 0845-3300247, and a leafleting campaign was being contemplated.

Airwave

The Assistant Chief Constable advised that there was a £2.5m underspend on the Airwave project, as a result of savings and items which no longer needed to be undertaken. The savings which had been achieved had been identified in the course of the rollout of the project, for example the benefits gained by joining the Metropolitan Police Consortium for the purchase of handsets. The Chief Constable had agreed that £500,000 of this underspend should be earmarked for telephony and that £2m would revert back to the Police Authority for reallocation. The £500,000 retained by the Constabulary would be the subject of bids for individual items. Overall the project represented a significant achievement and vindicated the project management approach to Constabulary activity.

The Constabulary would continue to explore the development of Airwave functionality not yet adopted, such as telephony, PNC, ALS and mobile data.

NSPIS – HR

The Programme Manager briefed the Working Group on the rollout of the Duty Management System (DMS) which was keenly anticipated by users.

With reference to Self-Service, it had been identified that this system was more demanding on capacity than anticipated and, as such, was now on hold while it was reviewed. However, the current position was that it did not appear appropriate to proceed at the present time because of the cost of this work.

NMIS

This project was now coded as green. Members were reminded that it was a national project and whilst the Constabulary had delivered every element of the project required, the Home Office had struggled to achieve their goals. They had now developed a new plan intended to get this project back on track overall. The national deadline for this project had been put back by one year.

Business Continuity

The Assistant Chief Constable advised that this was a complex piece of work involving the identification of core business and establishing how it could be undertaken in the event of an emergency to ensure that the Constabulary complied with the Civil Contingency Act 2004. At the present time, the project was being scoped.

Neighbourhood Policing

This project was now graded at amber, as the mid-term targets for the project had not been met. However, the Constabulary was not too concerned at the present time, as it was anticipated that the project would be completed on time.

Members expressed some concern at the long term funding position for PCSOs and the Assistant Chief Constable advised that the Chief Constable was considering the possibility of submitting a paper to the Police Authority on PCSOs in the near future. He assured Members that the Constabulary was committed to using PCSOs imaginatively to the benefit of the people of Cumbria.

On a separate issue, the Constabulary was considering participating in a workforce modernisation pilot, which would help refocus on the deployment of PCSOs.

With reference to the Neighbourhood Policing project itself, the Assistant Chief Constable advised that a paper had been commissioned from the Project Manager to clarify the situation with regard to oversight of the project and its direction. Once the Chief Officer Group had confirmed the position with regard to the future of Neighbourhood Policing, he undertook to circulate a paper to Members.

NSPIS Case/Custody Preparation

The Assistant Chief Constable advised that the rollout of Custody across the County would be completed once the new custody facilities were commissioned in Carlisle in November.

Firearms

The Programme Manager advised that this was a small, fairly straightforward project which had slipped outside the original timescale. There was a statutory requirement on the Constabulary to comply with Home Office Codes of Practice on the police use of firearms and it was not anticipated that there would be any difficulties in the longer term.

Standardised Intelligence Management

The Assistant Chief Constable advised that these were a complicated set of projects, which were being taken forward in partnership with Lancashire Constabulary. That partnership was evolving and developing at this early stage in the process, though it was clear – given the strengths on both sides - that both parties would gain from the partnership. He assured Members that if it was not possible to proceed with SLEUTH – the system being developed with Lancashire – then there were alternatives. It was unlikely that the Constabulary would be in a position to come to the Authority on the SLEUTH project in the current financial year and the £2m included within the capital budget would be rolled forward as earmarked funding into the next financial year.

Members noted that all the individual projects under the Standardised Intelligence Management project were marked as green and that the CATS project had been completed.

IMPACT

The Programme Manager advised that this was another set of complex projects, not helped by changes in staffing. However, all the projects within this particular area were marked as green.

Nationally, no Force had indicated it would be able to comply with the April 2007 deadline originally set, and the main deadline had now been put back to 2010. It was anticipated by all forces that the introduction of the systems would have an impact on staffing.

Firearms

The Assistant Chief Constable advised that for many years Cumbria had operated an efficient and effective in-house system known as SHOGUN. The Home Office had decided to introduce a single national system to replace the individual systems operated by forces throughout England and Wales. Unfortunately, there had been a number of difficulties with the introduction of this system which had resulted in a deterioration in performance within the Firearms Section in Cumbria. Work was ongoing to address the problems that had been identified with the national product.

Effective Contact Management

The Assistant Chief Constable briefed Members on the Effective Contact Management project, which was currently being taken forward by the Constabulary's Best Value team. This work was now to be progressed as a Programme Management project and a Project Manager had been appointed. He would be developing a project plan, including the identification of costs. Progress on the project would be included within the Project Status Matrix submitted to future meetings of the Working Group.

Members asked that a presentation on the project be made to the November meeting of the Audit and Performance Committee.

Durranhill

The Assistant Chief Constable advised that Phase One of the project, the provision of a custody suite, was to be delivered on time and on budget in November. He advised Members of the various activities which would be taking place at the custody suite in the week before it became operational. He considered that the facility being provided for the North Cumbria BCU was of an excellent standard.

The Constabulary was now beginning the process of considering Phase Two of the development at the Durranhill site, namely the provision of a BCU Headquarters. Work on detailed specification for the building and broad costs had been undertaken and the Treasurer and Constabulary Director of Finance and Resources were investigating possible funding for the project.

In response to a question from a Member, he advised that this project would only be taken forward in the context of the Medium Term Financial Forecast and would be dependent on funding. Members' comments about other competing demands on the Authority's funding at a time of financial constraint were noted.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next meeting of the Working Group was scheduled for Tuesday 9 January 2007.

The Meeting ended at 11.35am