

CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

Minutes of a Meeting of Cumbria Police Authority held on Wednesday 20 December 2006 in Conference Room 1, Police Headquarters, Carleton Hall, Penrith commencing at 2.00pm.

PRESENT

Mr R Watson (Chairman)

Mr A L Barry	Mrs M Johnson
Mr J Bland	Mr J Nicholson
Mr R S Cole	Mrs L L Shaw
Ms S E Donnelly	Mrs L Slavin
Mrs C A Egan	Mr W Smith
Mrs P M Halfpenny	Mr J Woolley

Also present:

Clerk/Chief Executive (Mr C R Alcock)
Treasurer (Mr D Thomas)
Chief Constable (Mr M Baxter)
Acting Deputy Chief Constable (Mr G Sunderland)
Constabulary Director of Finance and Resources (Mr M Thompson)
Constabulary Head of Marketing and Communications (Ms G Shearer)
Deputy Clerk (Mr S Edwards)

PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

76. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Ash and Ms J Lashmar.

77. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs indicated of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

Item No	Title	Paragraph No
22	Accommodation Working Group – Minutes	3 and 5
23	Strategic Estate – Business Case	3

78. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

The following Members declared personal, but not prejudicial, interests in Agenda Item No 22, "Strategic Estate – Business Case", for the reasons stated –

Mr A L Barry – as a member of Cumbria County Council.

Mr J Bland – as a member of Cumbria County Council.

Mr R S Cole – as a member of Cumbria County Council.

Mrs C A Egan – as a Carlisle Magistrate and wife of an officer of Carlisle City Council.

Mrs P M Halfpenny – as a member of Cumbria County Council.

Mr J Nicholson – as a member of Cumbria County Council.

Mrs L L Shaw – as the wife of a member of Cumbria County Council.

Mr W Smith – as a member of Cumbria County Council.

Mr R Watson – as a member of Carlisle City and Cumbria County Councils.

Mr J Woolley – as a member of Cumbria County Council.

Mr W Smith declared a personal, but not prejudicial, interest in Agenda Item No 21, "Chief Constable's Quarterly Report", as a season ticket holder of Barrow AFC.

79. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of the Authority held on 25 September and 15 November 2006 had been circulated with the Agenda.

With reference to Minute No 72, 2005/06 Police Performance Assessment, the Clerk/Chief Executive advised that a letter had been submitted to the Home Office as requested by Members.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the meetings of the Authority held on 25 September and 15 November 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

80. AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 7 September and 4 December 2006 were presented by the Chair of the Committee.

In moving the Minutes, the Chair highlighted the Constabulary's improving performance with regard to criminal damage and violent crime. She advised that the presentation on the Effective Contact Management Project, which was to have been submitted to the Committee in December, would now be made to the new Policing Plan and Performance Committee in January. She also asked Members to note that the Annual Audit Letter, which was to have been submitted to the Authority in December, would be submitted in January.

The Chief Constable indicated his support for the proposal contained in Minute No 30 of the meeting on 4 December that Members be invited to attend, as observers, BCU reviews and the Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) would manage that process. The Chair advised that the Members would be drawn from the

membership of either the Policing Plan and Performance Committee or the Link Members for the BCU.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

81. POLICING PLAN AND BEST VALUE COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Authority presented the Minutes of the meeting of the Policing Plan and Best Value Committee held on 17 October 2006.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

82. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Chairman presented the Minutes of the meetings of the Personnel Committee held on 5 October and 4 December 2006, copies of which had been circulated with the Agenda for the meeting.

With reference to Minute No 44, Promotion Processes 2006-07, the Chief Constable sought clarification as to the reasons why Members wished to attend Chief Superintendent interview panels as observers. Having received Members' views he advised that he would consider the matter and also consult with the Superintendents' Association and report back to the Authority in due course.

With reference to Minute No 43, PNB Update, the Chief Constable advised that the police staff pay settlement had been agreed.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

83. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Committee Chair presented the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2 November 2006.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

84. STANDARDS COMMITTEE

As one of the statutory Independent Members had been appointed as Chair of the Standards Committee Mr Nicholson moved the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 1 December 2006. Members' attention was drawn to the recommendation contained within Minute No 13, Appointment of Independent Members, that an additional statutory Independent Member be appointed to the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the Minutes be received; and

- (2) an additional statutory Independent Member be appointed to serve on the Authority's Standards Committee.

85. COMMUNITY AND RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Chairman moved the Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Race Relations Committee held on 31 October 2006.

The Clerk/Chief Executive advised Members that the Authority's Disability Equality Scheme had been produced by the required date and was now available on the Authority's website.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

86. CONSULTATION WORKING GROUP

The Chair of the Working Group presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2006. In doing so, she updated Members on the current position with regard to the consultation undertaken at one of the secondary schools in Penrith and proposals for future joint consultation with the Constabulary.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

87. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

The Vice-Chair of the Authority moved the Minutes of the meeting of the Programme Management Working Group held on 3 December 2006.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

88. POLICE COMMUNITY LIAISON FORUMS

The Chairs of the Police Community Liaison Forums presented Minutes of meetings as follows –

Allerdale, 6 September 2006
Barrow, 7 November 2006
Carlisle, 12 October 2006
Copeland, 7 September 2006
Eden, 11 October 2006
South Lakeland, 13 November 2006

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the Police Community Liaison Forums presented above be noted.

89. MEMBERS REPORT BACK

Mrs L L Shaw presented her report on the Independent Custody Visiting Association Annual Conference held in Cambridge on Saturday 4 November 2006. A copy of her report had been circulated with the Agenda for the meeting.

Mrs Johnson reported on her attendance at the APA Neighbourhood Policing Panel.

The Chairman briefed Members on a recent meeting of North West Chairs and Clerks held in Bolton to discuss collaboration and shared services. The meeting had very much been one of preliminary discussions, and he informed Members that the regions Chief Constables would be invited to join with Chairs and Clerks at the next meeting.

Mr Woolley then informed Members of his attendance at the Standards Board for England Annual Conference held in Birmingham in early November. He advised that changes with regard to standards matter were anticipated, with the Standards Board having targeted 1 April 2007 for their implementation.

Mr Woolley also reported on his recent attendance at a Constabulary Training Function Away Day held on the previous Monday, which he had found to be both interesting and informative. After the event there had been an informal opportunity for discussion with HMIC.

90. POLICE AUTHORITY ISSUES

(a) Yearbook Amendments

The Clerk/Chief Executive advised Members that following the recent restructuring of the Authority's committees, approved on 15 November 2006, some minor amendments were required to the Yearbook entries.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) Mr W Smith be appointed as Chair of the Communities, Equalities and Diversity Committee;
- (2) Mr M Ash be appointed as the Authority's representative on the APA Science and Technology Policy Group in place of Mrs L L Shaw; and
- (3) Mrs P M Halfpenny be appointed as Chair of South Lakeland Police Community Liaison Forum in place of Mr J Nicholson.

91. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES AND REMUNERATION SCHEME – ANNUAL REVIEW

The Treasurer presented his annual review of the Members' Allowances and Remuneration Scheme to the Authority. As the police staff pay award had now been agreed at 3%, the indexation of the Scheme for 2006, in line with the policy previously agreed by the Authority, could now take place, with effect from 1 September 2006. The inflation increases would add an estimated £5,200 in a full year, and approximately £3,000 in the current year, which was fully provided for in the budget. The consequential changes in Special Responsibilities following the changes in structure approved at the meeting of the Authority on 15 November

would add £3,500 in 2006/07, which could be met from the existing budget due to the fact that there were two Member vacancies, and increase the base budget requirement by £14,000 in 2007-08 and future years.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the increased rates of allowance payable from 1 September 2006 in line with the indexation provided for within the Scheme be noted;
- (2) the revised Scheme attached at Appendix 2 to the Treasurer's report be approved as the Members' Allowances and Remuneration Scheme for the period commencing 1 September 2006, and from 1 January 2007 in respect of the revised structure and range of Special Responsibilities; and
- (3) that the updated Scheme, as approved at (2) above, be advertised in accordance with the Regulations in order to allow the opportunity for public inspection before any payments are made in January 2007.

92. 2006-07 BUDGET UPDATE REPORT

The Treasurer presented a report prepared jointly with the Chief Constable, the purpose of which was to provide Members with an updated position of income and expenditure against the revenue and capital budgets as approved for the current financial year.

The latest projection of net revenue expenditure at the year end estimated £87.948m after taking account of budget transfers to and from reserves, which was £2.38m inside the budget requirement as approved by the Authority in February 2006.

Capital expenditure projections for 2006/07 had slipped by £909,000 in comparison with the position as last reported to the Authority in June, mainly as a result of re-profiling of expenditure on Sleuth.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the latest estimates of expenditure against the approved Capital Programme be approved; and
- (3) the proposal to "in principle" earmark elements of the 2006/07 surplus for specific capital purposes be noted.

93. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT AND POLICE GRANT REPORT 2007-08

The Treasurer presented a report prepared jointly with the Chief Constable which reported the implications for Cumbria of the recently announced Local Government Financial Settlement and the Police Grant Report 2007-08.

The Treasurer reminded Members that the Local Government Financial Settlement announced in 2005 had been a two year provisional settlement and this had been rolled forward in the announcement made for 2007-08 on 28 November.

The position with regard to police grant and revenue support in 2007-08, for the Police Authority, showed an increase from £61.766m to £63.989m, an increase of £2.223m compared to an increase of £2.083m in the current year. There were no amending grant repayments in 2007-08, and in consequence the grant increase was worth £2.684m or 4.4% at service levels. Both levels of grant benefited substantially from the "floor damping" mechanism which would protect against major grant losses following the introduction in 2006-07 of the new formula for determining "spending need" and for distributing grant. The protection in 2007-08 would be £11.8m compared to an adjusted £10.9m in 2006-07.

Within the special and specific grants, as in recent years, indexation had been withdrawn other than for the Neighbourhood Policing Fund. Total grant under these initiatives would be £7.1m, as compared to £6.5m in the current year.

Excluding "ad hoc" grants, capital grant would reduce from £0.935m in the current year to £0.743m in 2007-08, together with the same again supported borrowing allocation of £0.621m. These figures were also as published in January 2006.

The Treasurer then referred to that part of his report which dealt with the impact of the Settlement on Council Tax for 2007-08 and reported that the Minister had set out in the Settlement that Council Tax increases at Band D should meet the "below 5%" requirement, and this would be enforced with the use of capping.

The Treasurer then reminded Members that, as in the previous year, the Authority did have the option of making representations on the draft Settlement. Whilst it was difficult to make original comments in the second of a two year settlement, those comments made in the previous year were still valid and he suggested that, in consultation with the Chair, he be authorised to submit comments on behalf of the Authority by 5 January 2007, the end of the statutory period for consultation.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the contents of the report and the impact of the Provisional Settlement for 2007-08 on the budget of the Police Authority be noted;
- (2) it be noted that there are no Amending Reports for 2006-07 or earlier years; and

- (3) the Treasurer, in consultation with the Chairman, be authorised to formulate representations to the Minister in respect of the Provisional Settlement for 2007-08.

94. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES – SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2006

The Treasurer presented a report prepared jointly with the Chief Constable, the purpose of which was to report on the Treasury Management activities which had taken place between September and November 2006. This report was submitted in accordance with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management. The Treasurer advised that future reports would be submitted to the Governance Committee in line with the terms of reference adopted for that Committee from January 2007.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

95. STRATEGIC CHALLENGES AND INTERIM RESOLVE PROGRAMME FINDINGS

The Chief Constable presented a report which outlined the current position regarding the strategic challenges facing the Constabulary. It described the Resolve Programme process that had been undertaken to identify and assess the options for tackling those challenges. It introduced the options that the Resolve Programme had identified and the potential impacts.

Changes in the national and local environments had presented new problems, which were serious but not insurmountable. The Constabulary was a successful organisation and could continue its success by taking a balanced approach to managing risk over the medium term and by maintaining its focus on protecting communities in Cumbria from harm.

The Chief Constable then took Members through his report, initially highlighting the three main challenges faced by the Constabulary, namely the threat from serious, organised crime and terrorism, which was increasing; the fact that communities in Cumbria wanted policing services to provide a greater visible presence and to tackle anti-social behaviour; and that Government funding levels were expected to fall over the next few years. These matters were dealt with in detail in the report.

The Chief Constable then outlined for Members the approach adopted for the Resolve Programme, which had three main strands, namely, improving protective services, maintaining and developing neighbourhood policing and securing an affordable infrastructure. He detailed the strategic approach taken to addressing these issues. The Resolve Programme had used a risk-based methodology to assess the options for making savings and investments in protective services. Risk assessments had been carried out in accordance with the Constabulary's 5x5 risk assessment matrix. The Programme had also been mindful of the Office of Government Commerce guidance on "Managing Successful Programmes".

The Programme was nearing completion and it was his intention to present the draft programme to the January meeting of the Authority. At the present time, the interim findings focused on the following options –

Collaboration with other Forces on the provision of protective services.
Exploration of opportunities for shared services in support functions.
A review of the way support services were delivered.
Revision of the vehicle fleet.
Freeing up capacity in Basic Command Units and Operational Support for operational redeployment.
Reviewing executive management arrangements.
Workforce modernisation and workforce mix.
Operational reconfiguration.
Developing protective services.

All of the options had potential impacts and the risk-based approach adopted by the Constabulary was proving helpful in informing the decision making process. The risk-based approach now being adopted meant that all assessments were aimed at narrowing the protective services' gap identified in the autumn of 2005, rather than completely closing it as had been the intention of the amalgamation project. However, it was not possible to come to any conclusions at the present time and a further report would be submitted to the Authority in January 2007.

In concluding, the Chief Constable advised that 2007 would be a crucial year and the budget options taken in 2007 would have a significant impact on future years. 2007 would also be a year with considerable uncertainty and he was attempting to allay any concerns of staff within the Constabulary by keeping them as informed as was possible. He advised Members that the staff were responding magnificently in a time of uncertainty, as they had done during the amalgamation process. The Constabulary's performance was very good and had improved and for this staff were to be commended.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Constable for his report and supported his comments with regard to the efforts made by staff and results achieved over the preceding 12 months.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the Chief Constable's report be noted; and
- (2) a draft organisational change programme be presented to the Authority on 17 January 2007.

96. CHIEF CONSTABLE'S QUARTERLY REPORT

The Chief Constable presented his quarterly report to the Authority, the main themes of which were drugs trafficking and supply, the violent crime scene within the County and the numbers of people killed and seriously injured in road traffic collisions. He highlighted actions taken by the Constabulary throughout the County to address these issues.

The Chief Constable drew specific attention to the award to Constable Prom Gurung from Carlisle, who had won the prestigious national Student Officer of the Year Award for 2006. This Award had been made in November and followed his selection earlier in the year as Cumbria's Probationer of the Year. The Chief

Constable expressed the view that this award was richly deserved and that the officer was a fine example for both Cumbria and the service as a whole.

Matters raised by Members with regard to the report were the Streetsafe initiative, the benefits of the use of daylight running and fog lights on cars and work undertaken by the Constabulary in West Cumbria with regard to arrest warrants.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

PART 2 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

97. ACCOMMODATION WORKING GROUP

The Working Group Chair presented the Minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on 27 November 2006.

The Clerk/Chief Executive updated Members with regard to the position in relation to the Authority's premises at Rickergate, and tabled a letter addressed to the Chairman received from the Department of Constitutional Affairs.

He reminded Members of the complex issues surrounding ownership of the Rickergate site, which had still to be resolved. He also outlined the position with regard to the liability which would fall upon the Authority if it leased part of the site to Her Majesty's Courts Service, who had, under licence from the Authority, renovated some of the cells at Rickergate for their use. The current position adopted jointly by the Authority and Constabulary was that Her Majesty's Courts Service was being denied the use of those cells until ownership issues at Rickergate were resolved. He reminded Members that the Authority had made an offer of sale of the property to Her Majesty's Courts Service, which would, if ultimately accepted, present a sensible way out of the current impasse.

Members indicated their support for maintaining the position now adopted by the Authority and Constabulary.

The Chief Constable drew Members attention to a reference in the Minutes that appeared to directly task Basic Command Unit Commanders with providing information to the Working Group on their Neighbourhood Policing Accommodation needs. The Working Group Chair assured the Chief Constable that this was a matter of wording in the Minutes and that the normal protocols for requesting reports would be observed.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the Minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on 27 November 2006 be received; and
- (2) the Authority's current position of withholding a licence for HMCS to occupy the refurbished cells at Rickergate be reaffirmed.

(NOTE: Mrs L L Shaw and Mrs L Slavin left the meeting at this point)

98. STRATEGIC ESTATE – BUSINESS CASE

The Chief Constable presented a paper to Members setting out the draft business case, developed following a detailed study into the Constabulary's estate user requirements in North Cumbria, for the provision of a BCU headquarters at the Durranshill site. He acknowledged that it would benefit from further work.

The purpose of the paper before Members was not to seek a decision but to apprise Members of all the issues before a finalised report was submitted to the Authority at the January meeting.

The Treasurer advised that if Members were so minded then funding for the project would be agreed at the February budget setting meeting of the Authority. However, at the present time, it was important that both the Chief Constable and potential tenderers were aware of the Authority's intentions and the Authority was therefore asked to indicate its provisional support for this scheme.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Authority's in principle support for the project be noted.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The Chairman wished all Members and Officers a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

The Meeting ended at 4.00pm