

**CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY
ACCOMMODATION WORKING GROUP**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Accommodation Working Group held at 2.00 pm on Friday 25 February 2005 at Police Headquarters, Carleton Hall, Penrith. .

PRESENT

Mrs L L Shaw (Chair)

Mrs C A Egan
Mr T Heslop

Mr W Smith
Mr R Watson

Also Present:

Assistant Chief Constable (Organisational Development and Partnerships)
Director of Finance and Resources
Estates and Facilities Manager
Deputy Clerk
Administration Manager

32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs L Slavin, Mr A R M Toft and Acting Chief Constable Mrs C Twigg.

33 DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Mrs C A Egan declared a personal non-pecuniary interest as her husband was an officer with Carlisle City Council.

Mrs L L Shaw declared a personal non-pecuniary interest as her husband was a member of Cumbria County Council.

Mr T. Heslop, Mr W Smith and Mr R. Watson declared personal non-pecuniary interests as members of Cumbria County Council.

34. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Accommodation Working Group held on 5 October 2004 had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

With reference to Minute 30 (CJS co-location), the Director of Finance and Resources pointed out that the rationale for the proposal still existed, but in practice it was not likely to proceed.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the Accommodation Working Group held on 5 October 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

- (ii) the nomination of two Members of the Authority to serve on the Constabulary Project Board, which would consider options for the future of policing in Carlisle, be submitted to the Authority at its next meeting

36. LOCAL POLICING TEAMS: UPDATE

(a) CARLISLE

The Director of Finance and Resources presented a report by the Chief Constable regarding the Local Policing Team (LPT) accommodation in Carlisle together with the Area Commanders report. The report, which had been prepared for the January meeting of the Working Group, provided Members with cost comparisons of the two suggested sites for Carlisle LPT which were Morton School and Shady Grove Road. Since the production of this report the Police Authority had given approval to the acquisition of the accommodation in Shady Grove Road and was now occupied by the LPT.

The Estates and Facilities Manager explained that the intention was to take over occupation of all four of the houses in the block and negotiations were taking place with Cumbria County Council regarding access to the rear of the properties for vehicles. It was anticipated that parking for approximately six cars would be made available if approval was given.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

(b) MINTO CENTRE

The Director of Finance and Resources presented a report on the LPT accommodation in Workington, which had been circulated with the agenda and papers for the meeting. He explained that this report was intended as an update and showed more clearly the costs of the project which were set out in Appendix 1. Members expressed concern at the continued expenditure required for these premises and requested a list of costings for all LPT accommodation for the next meeting of the Working Group.

Members decided that it would be advantageous to hold the next meeting of the Working Group at the Minto Centre, as it would enable Members to visit sites in the West of the county.

RESOLVED, that

- (i) the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) the Director of Finance and Resources submit a report setting out the ongoing costs of all LPT accommodation to the next meeting of the Accommodation Working Group; and

- (iii) arrangements be made for the next meeting of the

37. SILLOTH POLICE STATION: UPDATE

The Director of Finance and Resources presented a report by the Chief Constable providing an update on the paper which was previously submitted to the Police Authority in September 2004 regarding the disposal of Silloth Police Station. The building was not currently used for operational policing although there was a possibility that it could be used as an LPT facility.

Members discussed the various options set out in the report and requested that, before any decision was made, the views of the Area Commander be sought regarding the future of policing in Silloth and the use of the building. Members also suggested that contact be made with Silloth Town Council and the community to obtain their views.

Members suggested that an Estates Strategy for the Constabulary would provide useful background information when these issues were raised. Members discussed the timescale for the drafting of an Estates Strategy and the Director of Finance and Resources undertook to bring the first draft of the Strategy or an update on the position to the next meeting of the Working Group.

RESOLVED, that

- (i) the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) the views of the Area Commander be sought and submitted to the next meeting of the Working Group;
- (iii) contact be made with Silloth Town Council and the community to obtain their views on the future use of the building; and
- (iv) The Director of Finance and Resources submit the first draft of the Constabulary Estates Strategy or an update to the next meeting of the Accommodation Working Group.

38. PREMISES IMPROVEMENT FUND 2003/2004: UPDATE

The Director of Finance and Resources presented a report by the Chief Constable circulated with the papers for the meeting., which sought to update Members on the progress made with the various projects being undertaken under PIF.

The Estates and Facilities Manager gave Members progress reports on each project and expressed concern at the high tender prices being received.

The Director of Finance and Resources informed Members that the Home Office had been asked for further funds to cover the additional costs and they

had agreed that they will meet 50% of these. This information has been included in the financial summaries to the Police Authority.

Members thanked the Estates and Facilities Manager for his continued efforts with the projects.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

39. ESTATES TEAM AND RESOURCES

The Director of Finance and Resources presented a report informing Members of the current situation regarding the resources available to the Estates Team. This item had previously been discussed at the Accommodation Working Group in October 2004 when Members had expressed concern relating to the resources available within the Estates Team and their ability properly to address the competing demands on the unit. He reported that, as a result of funding approval, the appointment of an additional two members of staff would be possible, although the posts were still being evaluated by the HR department.

The Director of Finance and Resources undertook to provide Members with an update for the next meeting of the Working Group.

RESOLVED, that

- (i) the contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) the Director of Finance and Resources submit a report regarding the recruitment of additional staff to the next meeting of the Accommodation Working Group

40. WHITEHAVEN POLICE STATION – RENDER REPAIRS

The Estates and Facilities Manager presented a report which updated Members on the situation at Whitehaven Police Station. It included, in an appendix, copy survey report photographs taken of the building in September 2004. He informed Members legal advice had confirmed there was no opportunity to make a claim against either the contractor or the design team because the timescale for making such a claim had expired a number of years ago.

Most of the work has been completed and the scaffolding had been removed from the front of the building.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

41. HEADQUARTERS ACCOMMODATION

The Acting Chief Constable was to have presented this verbal report to the Working Group and, in her absence, the Director of Finance and Resources informed Members of the current situation regarding accommodation at Headquarters. He explained that there was constant pressure on the accommodation and currently there were two areas where changes would need to be made.

There would be a requirement for the Constabulary to provide training facilities at Headquarters and they had identified the current Stores building on the site as being most fit for this purpose. He indicated that the stores facilities could be relocated to the garage premises on the site with the staff and machinery from the garage being transferred to NTU in Carlisle. The effects of these relocations would be to make more accommodation available for the development of the training facility and it was anticipated that the cost of these moves would be in the region of £50 - £60,000. The Home Office have given an indication that funding available for IPDLP would be in the region of £60,000 to meet capital costs and £100,000 to meet training costs.

RESOLVED, that

- (i) the report be received; and
- (ii) Members receive an update on the situation at the next meeting of the Accommodation Working Group.

42. HILLTOP SITES

The Director of Finance and Resources presented a report by the Chief Constable which set out the proposals for the disposal of various Hill Top sites. These sites would no longer be required when the Airwave communications system was in use, as O2 had obtained their own sites and transmitters with commercial operators who had greater coverage.

He explained that in 2003 external advisors Strutt and Parker had been asked to evaluate the three main towers. Their advice had been to market the sites and he asked that Members consider this proposal. He also undertook to submit progress reports to a future meeting of the Working Group so that Members were kept informed.

Members discussed the issue and asked that the Treasurer of the Authority be asked for his views on the disposal of the hill top sites.

RESOLVED, that

- (i) the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) the views of the Treasurer of the Police Authority be sought regarding the disposal of the Hill Top Sites; and

- (iii) the Director of Finance and Resources submit progress reports, as necessary, to future meetings of the Working Group.

43. UNIFIED COURTS PROGRAMME - UPDATE

The Estates and Facilities Manager gave a verbal update to Members of the Working Group and drew their attention to the background papers which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. He informed Members that although various sites had been specified in the documents only Rickergate in Carlisle was to be transferred. Plans included with the letter from the Department of Constitutional Affairs were incorrect. The Estates and Facilities Manager had written to the Department for Constitutional Affairs to have the errors on the plans corrected.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

44. SCHEDULE OF ITEMS CONSIDERED BY THE ACCOMMODATION WORKING GROUP

The Chair of the Working Group explained that this item was included on the agenda so that an up to date record of items discussed was available at each meeting.

The Estates and Facilities Manager informed Members that a further Joint Suite for Interviewing Vulnerable and Intimated Witnesses was to be developed near Workington and work would begin later in 2005. An update regarding this project would be provided at the next meeting of the Working Group.

Members enquired about the progress being made with the storm damage at the Occupational Health unit. The Estates and Facilities Manager assured them that work was progressing satisfactorily and also with the Firearms building.

Members expressed concern regarding the possible future flooding of the Occupational Health Unit and Firearms Building because they were at the lowest point on the site, and discussed ways of protecting the buildings from ingress of water. The Estates and Facilities Manager undertook to report to the next meeting of the Working Group regarding this issue.

45. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members noted that future meetings of the Accommodation Working Group had been included in the Diary of Meetings for the Authority for the period September 2005 - July 2006, which is at present in draft format awaiting approval by the Police Authority.

The meeting ended at 4.25 p.m.

NOTE: Prior to the meeting Mrs L Shaw and Mr R Watson had visited the Citadel, Rickergate and Portland Square in Carlisle before returning to Penrith for the meeting.