

**CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY**

**POLICING PLAN AND BEST VALUE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Policing Plan and Best Value Committee held on Thursday 16 March 2006 in Conference Room 1, Police Headquarters, Carleton Hall, Penrith commencing at 10.00 am.

**PRESENT**

Mr C S Moth (Chair)

Mrs C A Egan  
Mrs P M Halfpenny

Mr R Watson  
Mr J Woolley

**Also present:**

Assistant Chief Constable (Mr N Rhodes)  
Deputy Head of Strategic Development (Ms J Saunston)  
Head of Strategic Planning (Insp G Rutherford)  
Planning and Performance Administrator (Mr L Richardson)  
Treasurer (Mr D Thomas)  
Performance Management and Policy Advisor (Miss M Saunders)  
Deputy Clerk (Mr S Edwards)

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

**58. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs L Slavin and Mr W Smith.

**59. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no items on the Agenda for which the press and public were to be excluded.

**60. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS**

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

**61. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 February 2006 had been circulated with the Agenda for the meeting.

**RESOLVED,** that, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 February 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **62. FINAL DRAFT OF THE ANNUAL POLICING PLAN 2006/07**

The Assistant Chief Constable presented a report by the Chief Constable appended to which was a final draft of the Annual Policing Plan for 2006/07. He advised that the Chief Constable had yet to consider the draft but that any amendments would be reported to the meeting of the Police Authority on 22 March when the final draft would be submitted for approval.

The Head of Strategic Planning then advised Members of amendments made to the draft since it had last been considered by the Committee. In particular he asked Members for guidance in terms of whether, for consistency throughout the document, reference should be made to "BCU's", "Areas" or "Divisions", Members indicated their preference for the use of "Areas".

The Head of Strategic Planning advised that if the Plan was approved by the Authority on 22 March it would be posted on the Constabulary and Authority websites by the end of the month.

Members thanked all those involved for their endeavours in producing the 2006/07 Policing Plan.

**RESOLVED,** that the Annual Policing Plan 2006/07 be approved and submitted to the full meeting of the Police Authority on 22 March 2006 for final approval.

## **63. TARGET SETTING 2006/07**

Members considered a report by the Chief Constable that covered the target setting process for 2006/07 and outlined the estimated year end positions for 2005/06 in relation to the Constabulary's three year targets which were set in 2004/05.

The Head of Strategic Planning advised that he had met with Mrs Egan and the Authority's Performance Development and Policy Advisor to consider further the Local Domain grading proposals contained within the paper. At this meeting the targets had been accepted and the need for further development on the rationale and justification for the targets considered. The outcome of that meeting had been fed into the paper before Members.

Members thanked all those involved for their work in developing the targets for 2006/07

**RESOLVED,** that

(1) The estimated position regarding the three year targets be noted; and

- (2) The Local Domain proposals identified for measurement be approved.

#### **64. BEST VALUE PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Members received a paper that outlined the current status of the Best Value programme as at 7 March 2006.

**RESOLVED,** that the report be noted

#### **65. BEST VALUE REVIEW OF ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Assistant Chief Constable presented a paper by the Chief Constable appended to which were the proposed terms of reference for the Best Value Review of Anti Social Behaviour.

The Deputy Head of Strategic Development advised Members as to the background to the review which was intended to identify aspects of anti social behaviour that most concerned the public and recommend cost effective steps that the Constabulary could take to address them and to help BCU Commanders to improve performance by improving the effectiveness of the police service in tackling anti social behaviour.

As part of the Review it was likely that issues and actions for partner agencies would be identified. These would be passed on to partners, but the Constabulary would not be in a position to ensure that they were actioned.

One of the risks that had been identified as regards to taking forward the Review was that there could be impacts from developing work in relation to the amalgamation with Lancashire. The Deputy Head of Strategic Development then advised Members that the original timescale for the Review had been for completion by June, but the loss of one of the four people identified to work on the Review meant that it was now suggested that this timescale be extended to September. This was seen as a realistic extension of the timescale, that would still allow for actions identified to be addressed.

Members raised a number of issues in relation to the Review which were addressed by the Assistant Chief Constable and the Deputy Head of Strategic Development.

**RESOLVED,** that

- (1) The terms of reference for the Best Value Review Anti Social Behaviour be approved; and
- (2) The options from the Review be reported to the Best Value Board in September 2006.

## **66. BEST VALUE COST/ BENEFIT ANALYSIS**

The Assistant Chief Constable presented a report by the Chief Constable, the purpose of which was to provide a cost/benefit analysis of Best Value activity within the Constabulary since 2000. The analysis included a summary of overall organisational benefits derived from carrying out Best Value Review Activity, excluding those associated with specific individual reviews; an overall cost and efficiency analysis of Best Value Reviews, including implementation costs where these were known and efficiencies from improvement reviews; and individual costs/benefit analysis of all completed reviews, including qualitative business benefits.

Members noted in particular that identifiable recurring cashable efficiencies of £564,000 had been identified in the period covered by the report.

The Deputy Head of Strategic Development advised that this was a very pleasing report, and that in addition to the monetary benefits there were a considerable number of non tangible, soft benefits, including the fact that staff themselves worked to improve their own area of work. The Best Value process had also served to raise the profile of improvement activity within the Constabulary.

Members welcomed the report submitted by the Chief Constable, considering that the results it set out would stand the Constabulary in good stead in the forthcoming amalgamation with Lancashire as Cumbria was a Constabulary with a considerable amount to offer in this area in terms of practice, attitude and results.

**RESOLVED,** that the report be noted.

## **66. MR C S MOTH**

The Chairman of the Authority advised Members that this was the last meeting of the Committee that Mr Moth would Chair prior to standing down from the Authority at the end of March. In the time that Mr Moth had been Chair of the Committee he had done an excellent job for the Authority. On behalf of the Police Authority he wished Mr Moth all the best for the future.

The Meeting ended at 10.40am