

CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cumbria Police Authority Programme Management Working Group held on Wednesday 8 March 2006 at Police Headquarters, Penrith commencing at 10 a.m.

Deleted:

PRESENT

Mrs C A Egan (Chair)

Mr A L Barry
Mrs M Johnson

Mrs L Slavin
Mr R Watson

Also present:

Assistant Chief Constable (Mr N Rhodes)
Programme Director (Supt. M Connolly)
Clerk & Chief Executive (Mr C R Alcock)
Administration Manager (Mrs L Rowbotham)

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Ash and the Chair noted that Mr A L Barry would be late arriving for the meeting.

26. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONEL INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest in any items on the agenda.

27. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Programme Management Working Group held on Thursday 5 January 2006 had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on 5 January 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

87. PROJECT STATUS MATRIX

A table outlining the current status of the major projects being worked on by the Constabulary's Programme Management Unit was circulated at the meeting.

The Assistant Chief Constable informed Members that changes had been made to the format of the matrix which would enable a wider range of information to be presented. These included sections, for each project, on Benefits Realised, Benefits Not Yet Realised and also the extra columns Members had requested at

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previous meetings which showed the systems used by both Lancashire and Merseyside Forces.

(Note: Mr A L Barry joined the meeting)

Members discussed the additional information provided on the matrix for the meeting and decided that

- (i) it would be helpful to extend the information given in the "Benefits Not Yet Realised" section to include reasons why this had not been possible;
- (ii) the "Progress expected during the next 6 months" column be amended to read "Progress expected during the next 12 months"; and
- (iii) information relating to the systems used by Merseyside Constabulary should be deleted from the matrix.

Members felt that the suggested changes would help with the overview of changes encountered during the amalgamation of Cumbria and Lancashire Forces.

Airwave

The Programme Director informed Members that progress was being made with the project. He provided an up to date list of Work in Progress which it was agreed, would be appended to the Minutes for the meeting.

SICCS (Software Integrated Communications Control System)

The Programme Director advised that the project was progressing well. He informed Members that Lancashire Constabulary were using a programme that was not compatible with the system used by Cumbria and the Constabulary's Director of Information Directorate had been tasked with preparing a report which would be presented to the next meeting of the Working Group.

NSPIS-HR

The Assistant Chief Constable commented on the Duty Management System (DMS). He informed Members that although many problems had been encountered with the early versions of software supplied the latest version of software (5.4.1) appeared to be working better than had been anticipated.

The Programme Director informed Members that 50 users of DMS had been contacted through a survey and that most were happy with the system.

He informed Members that a report on the Duty Management System would be submitted to the next Project Board meeting scheduled for 9 March 2006.

NMIS

The Programme Director reported that problems were being encountered with the Phase 1 software and that Phase 2 would not be introduced until these had been resolved.

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He informed Members that the systems at the Home Office, which received information sent by all Forces, had not yet been constructed therefore information could not be received at the Home Office. It was anticipated that the work would be completed in 2007.

Non Emergency Telephone Number

The Assistant Chief Constable updated Members on the use of the Non Emergency Number (NEN). The use of the NEN had exceeded initial estimates and that as part of the staged marketing the number would be included in the Yellow Pages telephone directory due to be published in March.

He informed Members that there had recently been a problem with the NEN which had since been resolved. Members raised various points to which the Assistant Chief Constable responded.

Promat

The Programme Director reported that this project would shortly be closed. No information was available on the systems used by Lancashire Constabulary and The Programme Director undertook to include the information on the matrix to be submitted to the next meeting of the Working Group.

Business Continuity

The Assistant Chief Constable reported that the aim of the Business Continuity project was to ensure that the Constabulary were properly compliant with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. A report on the progress made would be submitted to the Chief Officer Group in March.

The Programme Director informed Members that HMIC would make an inspection within the next three months.

Citizen Focus

The Programme Director updated Members on the Citizen Focus Project. A conference had recently been held at Rheged which had proved successful.

He informed Members that a member of the Citizen Focus team had been seconded to the Press Office. It was thought that this would not impact on the project.

Members noted that Lancashire Constabulary had been a pilot force and were ahead of Cumbria in implementing Neighbourhood Policing.

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NSPIS Custody/Case Preparation

The Programme Director updated Members on progress made since the system had gone live in Workington and Kendal.

Rollout of the system to Barrow was to be carried out when the refurbished custody facilities became available and it was anticipated that the building work would be completed in late April. Roll out in Carlisle was dependent on the availability of suitable custody facilities.

(Note: The Clerk & Chief Executive joined the meeting)

Home Office Code of Practice for Police Use of Firearms.

The Assistant Chief Constable reported that the project was progressing well. Members noted that both Merseyside and Lancashire Forces were using the same system.

Carlisle Police Estate

The Assistant Chief Constable gave an overview of the four work streams relating to Carlisle Police Estate.

- (a) Ownership of the Rickergate site. The Clerk & Chief Executive reported that work was continuing to resolve the issue of ownership of the Rickergate site. Discussions were ongoing with both Cumbria County Council and the Department of Constitutional Affairs.
- (b) Insurance. The Assistant Chief Constable outlined the current position regarding the insurance claim made after the storms in January 2006. He informed Members that the Constabulary's Director of Finance was taking this forward.
- (c) Current and Long Term Future. The Assistant Chief Constable updated Members on:
 - (i) Durranhill site - A planning application had been made for the development of this site and it was hoped that, subject to the planning approval being granted, the lease for the site would be available for signature by 20th March 2006. Police Authority approval for the signature of the lease would be required and it was decided that, subject to the necessary planning approval being obtained, a paper be submitted to the Authority meeting on the 22 March 2006.
 - (ii) Houghton site – Discussion was continuing regarding the planning appeal for the siting of modular custody facilities on this site.
 - (iii) Rickergate –planning permission had been sought, and obtained for the temporary siting of modular custody facilities at Rickergate for up to 15 years.

The Assistant Chief Constable informed Members that final tenders for the provision of the modular custody units were due to be submitted in March 2006.

Information Management Programme (IMP)

The Programme Director informed Members that the compliance with Bichard goals for 31 December deadlines would be achieved. Problems had been encountered with some IMP projects including CATS Programme and RMS Niche.

He informed Members that the Project Manager for CATS had left the Constabulary and a replacement would be sought internally. There was a need for the system to be implemented in the North but this work will not take place until May/June 2006.

A report had been submitted to the Chief Officer Group recommending that the Constabulary would no longer proceed with the Niche system. Members were informed that Lancashire Constabulary were at present using a modified version of Sleuth and that this would be considered by IMP.

Activity Based Costing (ABC)

Members noted that Activity Based Costing (ABC) had been removed from the matrix. The Programme Director indicated that, in future, reports would be submitted to the Authority's Audit and Performance Committee. The project had been moved from Programme Management Unit to Strategic Development and Mrs J Johnstone from that department would be the lead on ABC.

The Assistant Chief Constable advised Members that The Programme Director would take over as Director of Strategic Development and Programme Management Unit and would be joined by Mrs J Sauntson who would be Deputy Director of Strategic Development and Mrs H Thompson as Deputy of the Programme Management Unit.

Members thanked the Assistant Chief Constable and the Programme Director for their reports.

Members commented that the amended format of the matrix had proved very informative and anticipated that the introduction of the additional information to the matrix for the next meeting would provide an improved overall picture of each project.

29. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members noted that the next meeting of the Working Group would be held on Wednesday 14 June 2006.

The meeting ended at 11.50 a.m.