

CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

**Minutes of a Meeting of Cumbria Police Authority held on Wednesday 22
March 2006 at Police Headquarters,
Carleton Hall, Penrith commencing at 1.00pm.**

PRESENT

Mr R Watson (Chairman)

Mr M Ash	Mr C S Moth
Mr A L Barry	Mr J Nicholson
Mr R S Cole	Mrs L L Shaw
Mrs P M Halfpenny	Mrs L Slavin
Mrs M Johnson	Mr W Smith
Ms J Lashmar	Mr J Woolley

Also present:

Clerk /Chief Executive (Mr C.R. Alcock)
Treasurer (Mr D. Thomas)
Chief Constable (Mr M Baxter)
Deputy Chief Constable (Mrs C. Twigg)
Assistant Chief Constable (Mr N Rhodes)
Constabulary Director of Finance and Resources (Mr M Thompson)
Constabulary Head of Marketing and Communications (Ms G Shearer)
Constabulary Business Support Manager (Mrs S George)
Deputy Clerk (Mr S. Edwards)

MR C S MOTH

The Chairman informed Members that this was Mr Moth's last meeting after four years service with the Authority. Mr Moth had been an excellent Member acting as both the Chair of Policing Plan and Best Value Committee and the Professional Standards Committee. He had also represented the Authority at the Association of Police Authorities. He had undertaken sterling work for the Authority and had always been willing to take on the many tasks that fell to him. As Chairman he had always found him to be most helpful and supportive.

Mr Watson presented Mr Moth with an Authority paperweight to mark his time on the Authority.

The Chief Constable, in presenting Mr Moth with a Constabulary plaque, thanked him for his support, contribution and observations over his time as a Member of the Authority. He had welcomed his support of the Constabulary during his time as a Member of the Authority.

Mr Moth expressed his delight at the gifts with which he had been presented. He had enjoyed his time as a Member of the Authority and commended the way that the

Authority, under the leadership of the Chairman, had worked together as a team to address the issues it had faced. He thanked the Authority staff for their support during his time as a Member.

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

171. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Ms S Donnelly, Mrs C A Egan and Mr J Mallinson.

172. URGENT BUSINESS AND EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

(a) Urgent Business

The Chairman advised that there were no items of urgent business.

(b) 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 in Part 1 of Schedule 12a to the Act –

Item	Title	Paragraph
22	Draft Programme Management Structure	1
23	Record Management System	3
24	Lease for the Durranshill Site, Carlisle	3

173. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Mr R Watson declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in Agenda Item No 24, Lease for the Durranshill Site, Carlisle, as a member of Carlisle City Council.

174. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of the Authority held on 15 February and 24 February 2006 had been circulated with the Agenda.

Mrs L L Shaw asked that, under Minute No 156, Disclosure of Personal Interests, of the meeting held on 15 February 2006, her name be added to those declaring personal, but not prejudicial, interests in the Carlisle Custody Facilities item, as her husband was a member of Cumbria County Council.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the meetings of the Authority held on 15 February and 24 February 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

175. AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Audit and Performance Committee presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received

176. POLICING PLAN AND BEST VALUE COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Policing Plan and Best Value Committee presented the Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 13 January, 21 February and 16 March 2006.

In presenting the Minutes he highlighted for Members the process the Committee had followed in developing the Annual Policing Plan.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

177. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Personnel Committee presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2006.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

178. COMMUNITY AND RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Community and Race Relations Committee presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2006. In so doing she highlighted the work the Authority was undertaking on consultation with young people.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

179. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Committee presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2006. In doing so he drew Members attention to the new approach adopted for dip sampling complaints highlighting the fact, that all Members of the Committee were now involved in the process, and had received appropriate training.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

180. CONSULTATION WORKING GROUP

In the absence of the Working Group Chair Mrs L L Shaw presented the Minutes of the meeting of the Consultation Working Group held on 9 March 2006.

Mrs Shaw drew particular attention to work being undertaken on consultation with young people and the results of the survey conducted as part of the Best Value Review of Anti Social Behaviour. She also drew Members attention to the importance of developing links with Lancashire Police Authority to ensure that consultation undertaken over the next twelve months was co-ordinated where appropriate.

RESOLVED, that, the Minutes be received.

181. ACCOMMODATION WORKING GROUP

The Chair presented the Minutes of the meeting of the Accommodation Working Group held on 13 December 2005. It was noted that all items contained in the Minutes that had required action had been dealt with at the December meeting of the Police Authority. The next meeting of the Working Group would be held in Barrow on 8 May 2006

RESOLVED, that, the Minutes be received.

182. PROGRAMME MANAGMENT WORKING GROUP

In the absence of the Working Group Chair, the Chairman of the Authority presented the Minutes of the meetings of the Working Group held on 5 January and 8 March 2006. In presenting the Minutes the Chairman commended the programme management approach as adopted by the Chief Constable.

The Chief Constable reminded Members that the programme management approach to the Constabulary's major projects had been adopted approximately two years previously and was now showing its true benefits.

RESOLVED, that, the Minutes be received.

183. POLICE COMMUNITY LIAISON FORUMS

The Chairs of the Police Community Liaison Forums presented Minutes of meetings held as follows: -

Allerdale, 25 January 2006;
Barrow, 5 January 2006;
Carlisle, 12 January 2006;
Copeland, 24 January 2006;
Eden, 11 January 2006;
South Lakeland, 9 January 2006.

RESOLVED, that, the Minutes be received.

184. MEMBERS REPORT BACK

Mrs L Slavin reported on her recent attendance at a meeting of the APA Performance Management Group. At the meeting the importance of maintaining focus on performance during the forthcoming restructuring process was stressed and the Policing Standards Unit was producing a document for the benefit of Members, in which Cumbria was a case study. This document would be launched at the APA/ACPO Conference in May.

The APA was also arranging for work to be undertaken on citizen focus that would be reported to the APA conference in November.

The Chief Constable advised Members that the Audit Commission had recently undertaken some work on citizen focus and he expressed concern that there could be duplication with that now proposed by the APA. Mrs Slavin undertook to raise the matter with the Authority's Performance, Management and Policy Advisor who would take this matter up with the APA.

185. POLICE AUTHORITY ISSUES

(a) Police Authority Meetings – April 2006

The Clerk & Chief Executive advised Members that it was necessary to identify a date for a meeting of the full Police Authority in the week commencing 24 April 2006 to enable Members to consider the final draft of the Amalgamation Order and for the Authority to satisfy itself that the matters highlighted in the Amalgamation Resolution of 24 February had been met.

In addition a revised date was required for the meeting of the Policing Plan and Best Value Committee scheduled for 3 April 2006.

A paper concerning these matters had been circulated to Members.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) A special meeting of the Police Authority be held on Wednesday 26 April 2006 commencing at 10am;
- (2) The April meeting of the Policing Plan and Best Value Committee be held on Wednesday 26 April commencing at 1.30pm.

(b) Police Authority Member Vacancies

The Clerk & Chief Executive reminded Members that the Authority currently had a vacancy for an Independent Member and, with effect from 1 April 2006, there would be a vacancy for a Magistrate Member. On 27 February the Personnel Committee had considered these vacancies and decided that, given the recent decision to

amalgamate with Lancashire Police Authority it was no longer appropriate to proceed with the appointment process.

Members were advised that the latest advice from the Home Office, who had been notified of the position, was that the question of whether or not to fill vacancies occurring prior to amalgamation was a matter of judgement for the Authority.

RESOLVED, that the position be noted.

(c) Magistrate Vacancy

Members gave consideration to filling vacancies arising on Committees, Working Groups and outside bodies as a result of the forthcoming Magistrate vacancy.

RESOLVED, that the following appointments be made to Committees, Working Groups and outside bodies –

Policing Plan and Best Value Committee – Mr R Cole

Professional Standards Committee – Mrs L L Shaw

Consultation Working Group – Mrs P M Halfpenny

Eden Community Liaison Forum – No appointment

Best Value Board – Mr A L Barry

Citizen Focused Policing Project Board – Mrs M Johnson

Best Value Lead Member – Mr A L Barry

Customer Focused Policing Lead Member – Mrs M Johnson

APA Professional Standards Member Liaison Network – Chair of Professional Standards Committee (when appointed)

APA Neighbourhood Policing Policy Group – Mrs M Johnson

(d) Police Authority Diary of Meetings 2006/07

Suggested dates for meetings of the full Authority for the period September 2006 to July 2007 had been included within the Agenda papers. A draft set of dates for the Authority's Committees and Working Groups had been circulated separately to Members.

In considering the proposed diary of meetings for 2006/07 Members decided that they would discontinue the practice of holding a seminar on the morning of Police Authority meetings, and that from September 2006 meetings of the Authority would start at 10.30am.

RESOLVED, that the dates for the Police Authority, Committee and Working Group meetings for 2006/07, as circulated, be agreed.

(e) Rickergate Area Regeneration – Memorandum of Understanding

The Clerk & Chief Executive advised that Carlisle City Council had circulated a draft Memorandum of Understanding for signature by the partner agencies responsible for properties within the area of the proposed Carlisle Regeneration Project. A copy had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

It was not a legally binding document and was intended only to agree an accord to work together in good faith and in a spirit of trust and co-operation with the aim of securing the regeneration of the Rickergate area.

RESOLVED, that the Clerk & Chief Executive be authorised to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Authority.

186. ANNUAL POLICING PLAN 2006/07

The Chief Constable presented a paper appended to which was a draft of the Annual Policing Plan for 2006/07. This draft had been approved for submission to the full Authority by the Policing Plan and Best Value Committee on 16 March.

The Plan had to be “issued” by 31 March and, if it was approved by the Authority at this meeting, it would be placed on both the Authority and Constabulary websites by that date. After 31 March the document would be updated to reflect end of year performance and full publication including submission to both websites, would be completed by 30 June to meet statutory requirements.

He commended the plan to Members which again showed the Constabulary building on sound performance.

RESOLVED, that the Annual Policing Plan 2006/07, as submitted be approved for issue by 31 March 2006.

187. UPDATE ON POLICE FORCE AMALGAMATIONS

The Clerk & Chief Executive presented Members with a report that provided an update on developments in relation to the restructuring of police forces that had occurred since the Authority’s decision to seek voluntary amalgamation with Lancashire on 24 February 2006. Appended to the report were a series of supporting documents that provided further information for Members on the amalgamation process.

This was a fast moving area of activity and the Clerk & Chief Executive advised Members of further developments that had taken place since the report had been prepared and highlighted some future matters which would need to be addressed.

He reminded Members that earlier in the meeting (Minute No.185(a) refers) the Authority had agreed to hold a special meeting on 26 April to formally consider whether the matters highlighted in the resolution to amalgamate of 24 February had been met.

In considering the report Members paid particular attention to the process to be adopted for the appointment of ten Members from Cumbria to serve on the new strategic police authority. A suggested approach was set out in the report submitted by the Clerk & Chief Executive and following a full discussion Members agreed to adopt that procedure. An appropriate item would be included on the Agenda for the Special Meeting of the Authority scheduled for 26 April.

RESOLVED, that the update report be noted.

188. PROPOSED NAME OF AMALGAMATED CONSTABULARY

The Chief Constable presented a report suggesting that the new, amalgamated Constabulary be known as the "Cumbria and Lancashire Constabulary". This name had been proposed as both existing Constabularies had established close links with their communities and, from the public perspective such a name would serve to preserve the strong reputation and identity to which people could relate and which were important to them.

The proposal was supported by the Chief Constable of Lancashire. An identical report was being submitted to Lancashire Police Authority on 23 March.

RESOLVED, that the new constabulary be called Cumbria and Lancashire Constabulary.

189. UPDATE ON THE CONSTABULARY CONFIDENCE AND EQUALITY BOARD

The Chief Constable introduced a paper the purpose of which was to update Members on progress towards the development and delivery of the race and diversity agenda across the Constabulary. In doing so he suggested that in future rather than reporting to every quarterly meeting of the Authority reports should be submitted on an annual basis starting with the Annual Meeting of the Authority in June 2006.

The Deputy Chief Constable then took Members through the report in detail.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) The report be noted; and
- (2) In future annual reports on the work of the Confidence and Equality Board be submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Authority.

190. PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2005/06 AND 2006/07

The Treasurer presented a report prepared together with the Chief Constable that was legal and technical in nature. At its meeting on 15 February, when approving the Budget for 2005/06 and associated matters, including the revised position for the 2005/06, the Authority approved a range of Prudential Indicators based upon the Authority's anticipated capital programme for the period 2007/08, including the limits on borrowings which would apply during this period.

Since the Budget setting meeting in February the position had changed, as on the 24 February the Authority, together with Lancashire Police Authority, had resolved to request the Home Secretary to amalgamate the two Authorities and Constabularies from 1 April 2007, subject to an acceptable outcome on a number of matters which were to be agreed prior to the amalgamation order being made.

As part of the amalgamation process the Home Office had offered financial support by way of "Pathfinder Grant" totalling £14 million made up of £1.7 million revenue grant and £12.3 million capital grant. However, total start up costs for establishing the new Constabulary were estimated at £19.6 million, of which £11.4 million was revenue and £8.2 million was capital. This left a £5.6 million funding gap to be met by the new Authority and a shortfall of £4.1 million between the amount of revenue grant compared to revenue expenditure and an excess of £4.1 million in capital grant.

The Treasurers to both Authorities had examined the matter in detail and were satisfied that the funding of the respective capital programmes could be restructured so that the shortfall of £5.6 million could be met by revenue resources being released by additional borrowing and the mismatch of £4.1 million between revenue and capital grant compared to revenue and capital expenditure could be addressed in a similar way by borrowing, or alternatively by using the excess capital grant to meet the current capital programme thereby releasing an equivalent amount of revenue resource over the same period. The Treasurer reminded Members that the Authority currently budgeted for a £1.5 million annual contribution to its capital programme.

Central to the resolution of these problems was the substitution of borrowings for elements of funding within the existing capital programmes which were currently met from revenue contributions, or indirectly by the use of capital reserves originally sourced from revenue. Essentially Cumbria's capital programme required reprofiling so as to release up to £5.8 million in revenue resources, matched by a similar increase in borrowings. The cost of the borrowings, in interest terms, would be broadly offset by the increase in investment income, as the revenue resources would remain in hand. There would be an increase of up to £72,000 in loan repayment costs for Cumbria in 2006. Lancashire Police Authority would be similarly reprofiling its capital programme. There would be close liaison between the Treasurer and his counterpart in Lancashire to ensure there was no greater borrowing than required and that the timing of borrowings were undertaken to best effect for the existing and new Authority.

The revised funding profiles for the capital programmes for 2005/06 and 2006/07 were set out in Appendix 1 to the report, and a revised set of Prudential Indicators amended to reflect the potential for the increased use of borrowings, had been circulated as Appendix 2 to the report.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) The revised funding profile for 2005/06 and 2006/07 capital programmes, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report by the Treasurer and Chief Constable, be approved; and
- (2) The revised Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix 2 to the report by the Treasurer and Chief Constable, be approved.

191. CHIEF CONSTABLE'S PERIODIC REPORT

The Chief Constable presented his quarterly report to the Authority, a copy of which had been previously circulated. As with the Chief Constable's last periodic report in addition to listing incidents of note and awards and recognitions it was themed, the themes being reducing crime, investigating crime, promoting safety and providing assistance. In presenting his report the Chief Constable highlighted various items of note for Members.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

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

192. DRAFT PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE FOR AMALGAMATION

The Chief Constable presented a report which had been prepared jointly with the Chief Constable of Lancashire. The report set out for Members work undertaken to date by the two Constabularies towards the anticipated amalgamation in April 2007. Appended to the report were charts and terms of reference which clearly demonstrated work to date on a programme management structure.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

193. RECORD MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RMS)

The Chief Constable reminded Members that on 22 August the Authority had sanctioned RMS and IMPACT in the context of an overall information management programme. The strategy had been to implement RMS as a strategic intelligence solution, but the proposed voluntary amalgamation with Lancashire Constabulary had led to the re-evaluation of this decision and he presented a report which proposed an alternative solution for progression by the Constabulary towards meeting its strategic intelligence requirements.

RESOLVED, that SLEUTH be implemented as the Constabulary's strategic intelligence solution and that the Constabulary look to progressively adopting and integrating all underlying applications with Lancashire Constabulary.

194. LEASE FOR THE DURRANHILL SITE, CARLISLE

The Chief Constable reminded Members that a suitable site for the construction of a new custody complex for North Cumbria, to be followed by the construction of a new area headquarters, had been identified in Carlisle. The Police Authority had submitted an outline planning application for the site which was to be considered by Carlisle City Council on 24 March 2006.

Subject to planning permission, and prior to an order being placed for the construction of the custody complex, the Police Authority was required to enter into a lease for the site with the site's owners, if it was to take possession.

The Chief Constable presented a report to members, the purpose of which was to seek their conditional approval to the lease (a copy of which was attached for information, with an associated Licence, as Appendix 1 to the report), subject to planning consent first being received for the site. This approval would enable essential transactions to take place at the earliest possible opportunity, rather than being delayed while the matter was referred to a future meeting of the Authority.

The Clerk & Chief Executive advised that, under the Authority's Scheme of Delegation, this was a transaction which did require Police Authority approval. The Authority was being asked to agree in principle to a lease being taken on; not to agree or approve the specific detail of its projected terms, which were subject of a process of negotiation, vetting, and advice on its behalf by the Constabulary's property and legal professionals.

RESOLVED, that, subject to obtaining planning approval from the planning authority on Friday 24 March 2006, approval be granted to the Authority entering into a form of lease for the former Rathbone's Bakery site, Durranhill, Carlisle, as the site for a new custody complex and for construction of a new area headquarters for North Cumbria.

The meeting ended at 3.05 p.m.