

CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

**Minutes of a Meeting of Cumbria Police Authority held on Monday 26
September 2005 at Police Headquarters,
Carleton Hall, Penrith commencing at 1.15pm.**

PRESENT

Mr R Watson (Chairman)

Mr M Ash	Mr J Mallinson
Mr A L Barry	Mr C S Moth
Ms S E Donnelly	Mr J Nicholson
Mrs C A Egan	Mrs L L Shaw
Mrs P M Halfpenny	Mr L Slavin
Ms J Lashmar	Mr W Smith

Also present:

Clerk & Chief Executive
Treasurer
Police Authority Performance and Policy Adviser
Acting Chief Constable
Assistant Chief Constable (Operations)
Constabulary Director of Finance and Resources
Deputy Clerk

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

48. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Cole, Mrs M Johnson and Mr J Woolley

49. 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 for consideration of Agenda Item No. 33 (Silloth Police Station) on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

50. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Mrs C A Egan and Mr C S Moth declared personal and prejudicial interests in Agenda Item Nos. 12 (Accommodation Working Group) and 13 (Programme

Management Working Group), in so far as they referred to Rickergate in Carlisle, as Magistrate Members of the Carlisle Bench.

The following Members declared personal, but not prejudicial interests, in Agenda Items No. 12 (Accommodation Working Group) and 13 (Programme Management Working Group) as far as they related to Rickergate in Carlisle, for the reasons stated –

Mr M Ash – Member of Cumbria County Council
Mr A L Barry – Member of Cumbria County Council
Mrs P M Halfpenny – Member of Cumbria County Council
Mr J Mallinson – Member of Cumbria County Council
Mr J Nicholson – Member of Cumbria County Council
Mrs L L Shaw – as the wife of a Member of Cumbria County Council
Mr W Smith – Member of Cumbria County Council
Mr R Watson – Member of Cumbria County Council and Carlisle City Council

Mr A L Barry and Mr J Mallinson declared personal, but not prejudicial interests, in Agenda item No. 16 (Police Authority Issues) and 18 (Formula Grant Distribution – Consultation) as Members of the Cumbria Pensions Committee:

51. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of the Authority held on 28 June and 22 August 2005 had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

With reference to Minute No.12 (Disclosure of Personal Interests) of the meeting held on 28 June Mrs L Slavin advised that she was a member of the Furness Bench rather than of the now defunct Cumbria Magistrates Courts Committee.

Mr Moth asked that the Minutes be amended to reflect the fact that both he and Mrs Egan had returned to the meeting at the end of Minute 37 (Carlisle Police Station).

RESOLVED, that, subject to the above amendments to the Minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 28 June, both sets of minutes be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

52. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Professional Standards Committee presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2005. In doing so he drew Members' attention to

the fact that at the next meeting of the Committee Members would be reviewing their role in relation to the monitoring of the handling of complaints.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

53. COMMUNITY AND RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

The Chair of the Committee presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2005.

With reference to Minute 7 (Feedback on the launch of the Cumbria Multi-Agency BME Consultation) the Chair advised that she was not aware of any response from IODA with regard to the development of conclusions based on the research contained within their report.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

54. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Committee presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2005.

With reference to Minute 8, Sickness Absence – Home Office Inspection, the Acting Chief Constable advised that the proposal by the inspectors from the Policing Standards Unit that return to work interviews should be conducted by telephone had been withdrawn.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

55. POLICING PLAN AND BEST VALUE COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Committee presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2005.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

56. AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Committee presented the Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 27 July and 9 September 2005.

In presenting the Minutes the Chair referred to the recommendations contained at Minute 26, Budget Outturn Report 2004/05, and 28, Collaboration Project with Lancashire Constabulary. The recommendation contained within the latter minutes was covered by a separate report later in the agenda.

In presenting the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September the Chair drew attention to the work undertaken on Activity Based Costing and informed Members that a further report would be submitted to the next meeting. With

reference to crime recording it was noted that there would be a further audit of this activity in October.

The Chair drew Members attention to the positive comments contained in the SAS 610 letter received from the Audit Commission and the positive outcomes of the audits undertaken by the internal auditor into the main financial systems and into the treasury management and pension functions. However the Committee had had some concerns in relation to the audit undertaken into IT Network Controls and further work was ongoing in this area.

Finally the Chair drew the attention of the Authority to Minute 42, Audit Committee Principles in Local Government, and asked that the Authority approve the recommendation set out within that Minute.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 27 July and 9 September 2005 be received and the following recommendations approved –

Minute 26, Budget Outturn report 2004/05

“The Authority be recommended to make the following determinations in accordance with the requirements of Part IV of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 in respect of the financing of 2004/05 Capital Expenditure –

- (i) useable Capital Receipts amounting to £628,000 applied to meet Capital Expenditure under Part IV of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;
- (ii) a sum amounting to £124,000 be set aside in the revenue account as a minimum revenue provision for credit liabilities.”

Minute 46, Audit Committee Principles in Local Government

“The Authority be recommended to approve and incorporate the following statement of purpose as an introduction to the Committee’s Terms of Reference;

“the purpose of the Audit Committee is to provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the Risk Management Framework and the associated control environments, independent scrutiny of the Authority’s financial and non- financial performance to the extent that it affects the Authority’s exposure to risk and weakens the control environment, and to oversee the financial reporting process.””

57. STANDARDS COMMITTEE

In the absence of the Committee Chair Ms J Lashmar presented the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 14 July 2005. In doing so she drew Members attention to the discussion at the Committee concerning

the declaration of gifts and hospitality received by Members, including hospitality at receptions and any annual conference attended by Members, regardless of the value of either the gift or the hospitality.

The Clerk & Chief Executive advised Members that his advice would always be that if there was any doubt with regard to the need to make a declaration it was safer for the item to be declared.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

58. CONSULTATION WORKING GROUP

The Chair of the Working Group presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2005.

In presenting the Minutes the Chair referred to the Working Group's disappointment at the quality of the staff consultation survey undertaken by e-mail during the summer of 2005 and expressed the Working Group's desire to see the staff consultation repeated in a more structured manner.

The Chair also drew attention to the consideration given by the Working Group to the outcome of the PASAIF Action Day held on 7 September and reported that those actions which fell within the remit of the Working Group would be reported back to the December meeting.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

59. ACCOMMODATION WORKING GROUP

The Chair of the Working Group presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2005.

The Chair advised Members that prior to the meeting Members of the Working Group had visited various police properties in the Carlisle area, including the proposed location of the temporary custody suite at Houghton.

The Chair also drew Members attention to the two recommendations contained within the Minutes, the first of which related to Silloth Police Station and would be considered on a separate report in Part II of the meeting, whilst the second recommendation concerning accommodation at the Headquarters site in Penrith would be dealt with within the Budget Issues report later in the agenda.

The Acting Chief Constable updated Members with regard to the work being undertaken at the Headquarters site and the Treasurer reminded Members that the works proposed were to be undertaken and funded within the current financial year.

The Clerk & Chief Executive advised that he had, on the previous Friday, received a letter from Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS) requesting that the

Police Authority grant a licence to HMCS for the use of the cells at Rickergate by the Magistrates Court. He suggested that the Police Authority accede to the request, subject to none of the refurbishments costs necessary to bring the cells back into use falling upon the Police Authority. In response to a question from a Member he advised that the granting of a licence by the Authority was further confirmation of its assertion that it did indeed own this property rather than it still being in the ownership of the County Council.

RESOLVED, that

- (i) the Minutes be received; and
- (ii) the request from Her Majesty's Court Service for a licence agreement for the use of the cells at Rickergate, Carlisle, by the Magistrates Court be approved and the Clerk & Chief Executive be authorised to make the necessary arrangements.

60. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

The Chair of the Working Group submitted the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2005.

The Chair referred to the level of attendance at recent meetings of the Working Group and, whilst acknowledging competing demands upon Members time, urged as many Members of the Working Group to attend future meetings as was possible.

The Chairman of the Authority advised Members that the outline planning application for the temporary custody facility at Houghton would be considered by Carlisle City Council on 20 October 2005.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

61. POLICE COMMUNITY LIAISON FORUMS

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

South Lakeland, 13 April 2005.
Barrow, 14 April 2005
Carlisle, 14 July 2005.
Eden, 25 July 2005.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

62. MEMBERS REPORT BACK

A written report by Mr Woolley on his recent attendance at the Standards Board for England Conference had been circulated to all Members.

Mrs Shaw reported her attendance on Saturday 10 September 2005 at the Induction Seminar held at Carleton Hall, Penrith, for newly recruited Independent Custody Visitors.

Ms Lashmar reported on her recent attendance at three events, namely a Regional Diversity meeting in Cheshire, an APA Policy Group in London, at which Cumbria's work on Gypsy and Traveller issues was referred to as best practice, and a meeting of the Cumbria Race and Diversity Partnership at Kendal. At that meeting a presentation on implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act had praised the work and approach of the Constabulary.

Mr Moth reported on his attendance at an APA Neighbourhood Policing Policy Group meeting in London on 21 September 2005. The APA were bringing together governance, neighbourhood policing and community engagement issues and would be providing feedback on the three areas as part of the Force Restructuring Proposals.

Mr Moth also referred to a forthcoming APA conference on Neighbourhood Policing which would provide valuable insights into Police Authority governance issues.

Mrs Egan reported on her attendance, in the company of the Authority's Performance Management and Policy Adviser, at the ACPO Performance Conference in Warwick. Papers from the conference were available in the Police Authority office for Members' perusal.

Mrs Slavin then informed Members that on the next day (27 September) she would be attending a meeting of the APA Performance Group at which, amongst other issues, the monitoring of CDRP Performance was likely to be discussed. This was an issue on which the APA and ACPO were in the process of agreeing a process but this had not yet been achieved. Mr Moth advised the Authority that he understood that ACPO, APA and LGA had written jointly to the Home Office expressing concerns at CDRP targets which were considered unrealistic and required review.

RESOLVED, that the reports be received.

63. POLICE AUTHORITY ISSUES.

Members considered a report by the Clerk & Chief Executive, copies of which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

(a) Membership of Committees.

RESOLVED, that Ms J Manners-Armstrong be appointed to the Policing Plan and Best Value Committee in place of Ms J Lashmar.

(b) Cumbria Pensions Forum

The Police Authority had been approached to see whether or not it wished to nominate a representative to one of the two places allocated on the Cumbria Pensions Forum for employer representatives of statutory bodies.

RESOLVED, that Mrs C A Egan be nominated as the Authority's representative to serve on the Cumbria Pensions Forum.

(c) Association of Police Authorities Conference 2005.

Members were asked to consider revising the Authority's representation at the forthcoming APA 2005 Conference.

RESOLVED, that the Authority's representatives at the APA Conference be Mrs M Johnson, Mrs L L Shaw and Mr R Watson.

(d) Standards Committee – Independent Members

The Authority was asked to consider extending the terms of office of the two statutory Independent Members on the Police Authority's Standards Committee. Their current terms of office were due to end as follows –

Mr Fryer – November 2005.
Mr Tonkin – November 2006.

In view of the fact that the role of the Committee was still evolving it was suggested that the term of office of each of the two existing statutory Independent Members should be extended for a further two years.

RESOLVED, that the terms of office of the two statutory Independent Members of the Standards Committee be extended as follows –

Mr Fryer – November 2007
Mr Tonkin – November 2008.

(e) Link Members – Operational Support Unit

The Authority currently had in place a "Link Members Scheme" that operated on a geographic basis with each of the three Basic Command Units. However no such scheme existed with regard to the Operational Support Unit which provided services on a county wide basis. Members considered that it would be appropriate for the Clerk & Chief Executive to discuss the matter with the Chief Constable with a view to reporting back to the next quarterly meeting of the Authority in December.

RESOLVED, that the Clerk & Chief Executive discuss this matter with the Chief Constable and report back to the December meeting of the Authority.

(f) Conferences

RESOLVED, that the Authority be represented at conferences as follows –

- (i) The Police Authority Performance Management & Policy Adviser attend the conference being arranged by the Home Office on “Achieving PSA1: the Challenges for Crime and Disorder Partnerships” on Wednesday 9 November 2005 in London as the Authority’s representative; and
- (ii) Mr C S Moth and the Police Authority’s Performance Management & Policy Adviser be authorised to attend the Association of Police Authorities Neighbourhood Policing Conference to be held in Leeds on Thursday 6 October 2005.

64. BUDGET ISSUES

The Treasurer presented a report prepared jointly with the Acting Chief Constable, the purpose of which was to provide Members with an updated position with regard to income and expenditure against the revenue and capital budgets as approved for the current financial year. The report also made a further assessment of the Authority’s possible financial prospects for 2006/07, based on a refinement of the projection as set out in the Medium Term Financial Forecast as presented to the Authority in June.

Members were reminded that a detailed report on expenditure against the approved budget had been submitted to the September meeting of the Audit and Performance Committee. A summary of the latest projections of net revenue spending for 2005/06 was shown at Appendix 1, and was based on actual income and expenditure to the end of July plus projections for the remaining months of the financial year. The statement showed net expenditure for the year amounting to £88.807million which was £309,000 inside the budget requirement as approved by the Authority in February. The position with regard to the capital programme was summarised in Appendix 2 to the report. The current value of the 2005/6 capital programme was £6.774m.

In accordance with financial regulations the Acting Chief Constable brought to the attention of Members an additional capital scheme, valued at £85,000, for works to create additional office space on the Headquarters site. If approved the cost of the scheme would be added to the 2005/06 capital programme. Funding for the scheme could be met from additional accumulated annual Home Office Capital Grants, compared to budget assumptions.

The Treasurer also briefed Members on the prospects for the financial year 2006-07 based on updates of the information submitted to the Authority in June.

Issues raised by Members in considering the report included the impact of recent petrol price increases on the budget, vehicle hire and actions taken to ensure that the budget was delivered. The Treasurer and Acting Chief Constable responded to the questions as appropriate.

RESOLVED, that

- (i) the report be noted;
- (ii) the latest estimates of expenditure against the revised capital programme approved by the Authority on 22 August 2005 be approved;
- (iii) the new capital scheme at Police Headquarters, estimated to cost £85,000 as set out in the report, be approved together with funding from accumulated Home Office Capital Grants; and
- (iv) the latest assessment of financial prospects for 2006/07, as set out in the report, be noted.

65. FORMULA GRANT DISTRIBUTION CONSULTATION.

Members considered a report by the Treasurer and Acting Chief Constable which briefed them on a major consultation paper issued by the Government setting out proposed revisions to the grant distribution methodology to be used in future financial settlements, in what amounted to a new grant distribution system and incorporating 2001 census data.

The Treasurer advised Members that under each of the options presented within the consultation paper the Police Authority faced the highest percentage loss of any Shire Police Authority, ranging from £7.110 m (9.95%) to £10.778m (14.5%). These losses were fully illustrated in Appendices 2 and 3 to the report as well as being detailed within the body of the report. The existence and continuity of a grant safety net would be of major concern to authorities, like Cumbria, which stood to lose significantly from the new proposals.

A draft response to the consultation had been circulated to Members.

Members thanked the Treasurer and Force Director of Finance and Resources for their comprehensive explanation and report.

RESOLVED, that

- (i) the report be received;
- (ii) the exemplified grant losses and distributional changes for Cumbria Police Authority and their

- impact on the potential funding and provision of policing services in Cumbria be viewed with concern;
- (iii) the Treasurer and Acting Chief Constable be authorised to finalise the Authority's response to the consultation proposals in consultation with the Chairman of the Authority; and
 - (iv) the Clerk & Chief Executive be authorised to circulate a copy of the report and the Authority's response to the consultation proposals to Members of Parliament for Cumbria and to other Local Authorities in Cumbria with a request for their support in any future representations to Ministers, and to provide a copy to ACPO.

66. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Treasurer presented a report prepared jointly with the Acting Chief Constable, the purpose of which was to report on the Treasury Management Activities, which had taken place between June and August 2005, as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

Whilst it was still early in the financial year to provide an accurate assessment of possible income at the year end it was likely that actual income from investments in the current year would exceed the budget estimates, possibly by up to £160,000. This had been factored in to the Budget Issues report considered at Minute 64 above.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

67. INITIAL WORK ON LOCAL PRIORITIES

The Acting Chief Constable advised Members that the report submitted for this item, together with those submitted for the following two agenda items, represented a suite of reports on local priority setting. The report submitted under this item brought to the attention of Members a long list of potential local priorities from which the local priorities for 2006/07 could be drawn.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

68. INITIAL WORK ON LOCAL PRIORITIES – IMPACT ON TARGETS

The Acting Chief Constable presented a report which considered the impact on current targets of the draft long list of possible local priority targets considered under the last item.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

69. INITIAL WORK ON LOCAL PRIORITIES – FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Acting Chief Constable presented a report which began the process of considering the possible financial impact of the long list of strategic priorities considered at Minute 67 above. This represented the first stage in setting priorities and targets and aligning one with another. Refinements and updates would be made up to January 2006, as more information became available.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

70. CONSTABULARY EFFICIENCY PLANNING 2006-08

The Acting Chief Constable presented a report which detailed efficiency planning work undertaken to meet the Constabulary Efficiency Targets for the period 2006-08. The report also contained cashable proposals to meet the Constabulary's efficiency plan for 2006/07 and noted some key areas where further research should assist to identify cashable efficiencies to meet the cashable element of the Constabulary's target for 2007/08. It also contained non cashable efficiency proposals to meet the Constabulary's non cashable efficiency targets in 2006/07 and 2007/08.

In response to a question from a Member the Acting Chief Constable advised that the police service had both regional and national procurement strategies.

RESOLVED, that

- (i) the report be noted; and
- (ii) the following be noted -
 - (a) projected cash efficiencies against target for 2006/07;
 - (b) projected cashable efficiencies against target for 2007/08;
 - (c) projected financial position against Medium Term Financial Forecasts 2006/08 and
 - (d) projected non cashable efficiencies against the target for 2006-08.

71. STATEMENT OF CURRENT RESOURCE USE AND PERFORMANCE RESULTS.

The Acting Chief Constable presented a report which linked information from Activity Based Costing (ABC) to information from the Policing Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF), to provide a picture of resource deployment achieved in 2004/05. The intention was to provide a context for priority setting and budgeting for the future, and support closer integration of performance and financial planning.

The position set out in the paper was very positive.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

72. COLLABORATION PROJECT WITH LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY.

The Acting Chief Constable presented a report to Members which had previously been submitted to the Audit and Performance Committee in July 2005. The paper proposed that the scope for collaborative working be further explored with Lancashire Constabulary, and recommended clear strategic criteria and governance arrangements for the work.

Work on collaboration with Lancashire Constabulary had been ongoing for approximately 12 months, and in the last six months work had been undertaken on specific areas where collaboration was considered to be most beneficial. This work had been very positive allowing the building of relationships between the two Constabularies and aiding collaborative working. It had also provided both sides with an opportunity to look at different ways of carrying out functions.

The proposed approach to developing collaborative work between the two Constabularies was set out in the form of governance standards appended to the report.

RESOLVED, that

- (i) the report be approved;
- (ii) the governance standards set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

73. POLICE AUTHORITY STRUCTURES

A report by the Clerk and Chief Executive had been previously circulated to all Members.

The Clerk & Chief Executive advised Member that the current process of review of Police Force Structures was likely to result in the biggest structural change in policing in Britain in the last 30 years. The potential for change was being driven by the current Home Secretary to address issues identified in a report commissioned from HMIC entitled "Closing the Gap: a Review of the Fitness for Purpose of the Current Structure of Policing in England and Wales". The conclusion of this report was that Forces of below 4000 police officers tended to, but did not always, fall below optimum performance standards in two key areas of policing. In particular it was suggested that they could not on their own achieve the required standards in policing Level 2 (i.e. serious and organised crime) Crime activity, or Major Incidents such as terrorist incidents causing serious infrastructure damage, without calling on assistance from other Forces. Larger forces had more capability than smaller Forces.

HMIC then viewed the effectiveness of various degrees of cooperation between Forces, concluding with the concept of merged “strategic” forces.

At a meeting of Chief Constables and Chairs of Police Authorities convened by the Home Office on 19 September 2005 the Home Secretary and Police Minister both stated their preference for the option of strategic forces and invited authorities and forces to consider what steps they could take towards that ideal. Since that meeting the Home Secretary had issued a letter, dated 22 September 2005, in which he set out in more detail the process to be followed in developing options for force restructuring. It was envisaged that the evaluation process would be completed by December 2005. In addition the Association of Police Authorities had produced a check list for the use of Police Authorities in working through the process.

A key element of the evaluation process was engaging with the community to obtain their views in relation to any proposed amalgamation or merger and to get an understanding of the issues local communities would wish to see taken into account as part of the process.

The Acting Chief Constable advised Members that the Constabulary was assembling a full-time team to work on this process for the next three months. The Acting Chief Constable invited the Police Authority to nominate a representative to attend meetings of the group.

The Acting Chief Constable believed that it was essential that on this important issue, and to safeguard the interests of the people of Cumbria, that the Constabulary and Police Authority worked together to achieve the best possible outcome for Cumbria.

Members supported the principle of working with the Constabulary to achieve outcomes which were beneficial to both the people of Cumbria and the staff employed by the Constabulary. However they noted that there would be some instances where it would be necessary for the Constabulary and Authority to work separately, and suggested that it would also be appropriate to identify areas where one or other of the two parties took the lead on a specific area, even when they were working together.

Members noted the criteria to be considered in developing proposals and considered that the timetable demanded that no debate was wasted on spurious options. They also noted that neighbourhood policing was not to be affected by the proposals and felt that it was important to ensure that this message was conveyed to the people of Cumbria to provide the necessary reassurance.

They considered that it was necessary to engage with other agencies, and stakeholders to ensure that they understood the proposals and any impacts for themselves. It was also important to make early contact with other authorities and forces within the region to ascertain their views.

Given the timescales it was considered appropriate that only a small number of Members were involved initially but that arrangements were made to ensure that the Authority was briefed, possibly by convening special meetings just to consider this matter.

Members noted that four of the Authority's six Police Community Liaison Forums were to meet in October and proposed that meetings with the other two also be convened within the month so that this matter could be discussed with people at those meetings.

The Acting Chief Constable, in responding to Members comments concerning staff, advised that a dialogue had already been commenced with Unison. The Chairman stated that the Authority was always open for discussion with all of the Staff Associations.

RESOLVED, that

- (i) the report by the Clerk & Chief Executive together with letters from the Home Office, Association of Police Authorities and the HMIC report be noted;
- (ii) the Authority will work closely with the Constabulary to ensure that any alteration in structure following the announcement by the Home Secretary, will achieve the best policing service for the people of Cumbria;
- (iii) that, in conjunction with the Constabulary, open dialogue with other authorities be commenced;
- (iv) the Chairman and Vice Chair be authorised to attend meetings both within Cumbria and with other Authorities, subject to report back to the full Authority; and
- (v) the Authority remained totally committed to neighbourhood policing within Cumbria, and acknowledges that the HMIC report does not specifically refer to any need to alter locally situated policing teams.

74. COMMUNITY SAFETY ACCREDITATION SCHEMES

The Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) introduced a report which informed Members of the successful application by the Vehicle Operator Service Agency to become the first Community Safety Accreditation Scheme within Cumbria.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

75. POLICE AUTHORITY SELF ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Clerk & Chief Executive presented a report which set out the outcome of the PASAIF Action Planning Day held on 7 September 2005, listed the eight key areas for action identified by Members and proposed a timetable for the undertaking of the work over the next twelve month period.

Members noted the report and suggested that given the resource available to the Authority and the likely workload required by the review of force structures the Clerk & Chief Executive might wish to reconsider the proposed timetable. They therefore proposed that this matter be referred to the Policing Plan and Best Value Committee on 18 October for review.

RESOLVED, that this matter be referred to the Policing Plan and Best Value Committee on 18 October for consideration.

76. UPDATING AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION.

Members considered a report submitted by the Clerk & Chief Executive which proposed some administrative amendments to the Authority's Scheme of Delegation.

RESOLVED, that the proposed amendments incorporated in Paragraphs 1.3, 3.7 and 11.1 to the Scheme of Delegation, as circulated with the report to the Police Authority, be approved.

77. UPDATE ON THE CONFIDENCE AND EQUALITY BOARD

The Acting Chief Constable submitted a report which provided Members with detail of the membership of the Confidence and Equality Board, its terms of reference and the terms of reference of the three working groups aligned to the Board. In addition the report also provided Members with an update on the establishment of the Diversity Unit within the Constabulary.

A report on progress towards the further development and delivery of the Race and Diversity agenda would be submitted to the December meeting of the Authority.

RESOLVED, that

- (i) the report be noted; and
- (ii) a further progress report be submitted to the meeting of the Authority on 15 December 2005.

78. CHIEF CONSTABLES PERIODIC REPORT.

The Acting Chief Constable presented the periodic report to the Authority. In doing so she highlighted, amongst other issues, the successful policing of the

Whitehaven Maritime Festival in June; the various operations throughout the County by the Constabulary to address the issues of drugs and violent crime; the demands placed on officer time by the new Licensing Act; and the awards made to members of the Constabulary which once again demonstrated the high calibre of both police officers and police staff within the Constabulary.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

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

79. INSURANCES

This item had been withdrawn and would be submitted to the November meeting of the Authority.

80. SILLOTH POLICE STATION

This matter had been considered by the Accommodation Working Group at its meeting on 12 September 2005. The report considered by the Accommodation Working Group was appended to an introductory report by the Clerk & Chief Executive.

The Treasurer reminded Members that the Authority's Financial Regulations required that any proposal to dispose of a property was subject to approval by the Treasurer. He confirmed that he had given his approval to the proposal when the matter first came to Members in 2004, when the matter had been deferred to allow for further discussions with the Town Council. There had been no change in circumstances or the financial considerations and the Treasurer confirmed his support for the proposal to dispose of the property.

RESOLVED, that

- (i) the use of accommodation at Silloth Fire Station as a Local Policing Team base be approved; and
- (ii) authority be granted for the disposal of the former Silloth Police Station.

The meeting ended at 4.05 p.m.