

CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Cumbria Police Authority held on Tuesday
28 June 2005 at Police Headquarters, Carleton Hall, Penrith
commencing at 1.00pm.**

PRESENT

Mr R Watson (Chairman)

Mr M Ash	Ms J Manners-Armstrong
Mr A L Barry	Mr C S Moth
Mr R S Cole	Mr J Nicholson
Ms S E Donnelly	Mrs L L Shaw
Mrs C A Egan	Mrs L Slavin
Mrs M Johnson	Mr W Smith
Ms J Lashmar	Mr J Woolley
Mr J Mallinson	

PRESENTATION TO FORMER MEMBERS OF THE POLICE AUTHORITY

The Chairman paid tribute to the contribution of former Members over many years and presented engraved paperweights to Mr T Heslop and Mr G Humes in recognition of their service as Members of the Police Authority. Mr Heslop and Mr Humes had ceased to be Members of the Police Authority following the County Council elections in May 2005, having served on the Authority for 12 years and 8 years respectively. The Chief Constable also expressed his appreciation of the contribution made by Mr Heslop and Mr Humes.

Both Members wished the Authority well in the future.

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

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs P M Halfpenny.

11. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC AND ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

(a) URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman advised that he intended to take as urgent business an additional item on the expansion of the Welsh Road Police post. The expansion of the Police post was required urgently to reduce overcrowding and improve access.

The Chairman also advised Members that Agenda items 25 (Record Management System Business Case) and 26 (Data Switches Business Case) had been withdrawn.

(b) ADMISSION OF 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 the following Agenda Items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Paragraphs indicated of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act:-

Item	Paragraph Number
Special Priority Payments In 2004 – Outturn Report	1
Reconstruction of the Policing Infrastructure in Carlisle- and North Cumbria	7, 8, 9, 10,12
Expansion of the Welsh Road Police Post	8

12. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Mrs C A Egan and Mr C S Moth declared personal and prejudicial interests in Agenda Item No. 28, (Reconstruction of the Policing Infrastructure in Carlisle and North Cumbria), as Magistrate Members sitting on the Carlisle Bench.

The following Members declared personal, but not prejudicial, interests in Agenda Item No. 28, (Reconstruction of the Policing Infrastructure in Carlisle and North Cumbria) for the reasons stated –

Mr M Ash – Member of Cumbria County Council
Mr A L Barry – Member of Cumbria County Council
Mr R S Cole – 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
Mrs L Slavin – Member of Cumbria Magistrates Courts Committee
Mr W Smith – Member of Cumbria County Council
Mr R Watson – Member of Cumbria County Council and Carlisle City Council
Mr J Woolley – Member of Cumbria County Council

13. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Authority held on 1 June 2005 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14. PROFESIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Committee presented the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4 May 2005.

The Committee Chair drew the attention of Members to the fact that the Chair and North West Regional Director of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) had attended the meeting. This was an honour for Cumbria and had been an enjoyable occasion. He also advised Members that the IPCC were to hold regional meetings in the North of England in July and he would be attending one of those events.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

15. COMMUNITY AND RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Committee presented the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 April 2005.

In presenting the Minutes issues raised by the Chair included her recent attendance at an Association of Police Authorities meeting, the feed back to be received from IODA as a result of the work commissioned by the Joint Equality Steering Group of which both the Police Authority and Constabulary were members and the recently published North West Regional Assembly document (Action for Equality) which had included scant reference to Cumbria.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

16. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Chair presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2005.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

17. POLICING PLAN AND BEST VALUE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 1 April and 14 June 2005 had been circulated with the Agenda for the meeting. As he had Chaired the meeting on 1 April the Chairman of the Authority presented those Minutes, whilst the Chair of the Committee presented the Minutes for 14 June.

The Chair of the Committee drew attention to the Best Value Review of Empowered Basic Command Units and Operational Support which was one of the most significant Best Value Reviews undertaken for some time. The Review would have significance beyond the particular areas it was covering impacting upon many other aspects of Force activity.

The Chair also drew attention to Minute No.10 (Planning for the Quality of Service Commitment) and Minute No.11 (Best Value Review of User Satisfaction – Terms of Reference) which were closely linked.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

18. AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Committee presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2005.

The Chair advised Members that the Committee was currently reviewing the way in which it received performance management information from the Constabulary and a series of meetings were to be held in July to look at the presentation of this information with a view to a revised format being in place in time for the September meeting of the Committee. In addition consideration was being given to producing a document for circulation to all Members of the Police Authority to ensure that all Members were fully aware of relevant performance data.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

19. CONSULTATION WORKING GROUP

The Chair of the Working Group presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 May and 9 June 2005.

The Work Group had considered the format and content of both the Police Authority and Chief Constable's Annual Reports, which represented crucial vehicles for the dissemination of information to the public. The Working Group had also considered the questions for the annual consultation questionnaire, the results of which would be received at its September meeting.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

20. ACCOMMODATION WORKING GROUP

The Chair of the Working group presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2005.

In presenting the Minutes the Chair advised Members that the meeting had been held at Workington Police Station, when the opportunity had been taken to visit police premises in the West of the County. Members had been particularly impressed by the LPT post at Westfield in Workington.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

21. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

The Chair of the Working Group presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2005.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

22. POLICE COMMUNITY LIAISON FORUMS

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

Allerdale	1 March 2005
Copeland	26 April 2005

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

23. MEMBERS REPORT BACK.

Mr Moth reported on his recent attendance at an APA workshop on the quality commitment, in particular user satisfaction and the use of PPAF. It was likely that further similar workshops would be held in the future.

Mrs L L Shaw reported that on Saturday 25 June she had Chaired the first seminar arranged for Independent Custody Visitors within Cumbria which had been attended by over 20 Independent Custody Visitors. The main focus of the seminar had been training on Race and Diversity matters. All those who had attended had enjoyed the event and had particularly appreciated the contribution from Police Constable Janet Priestley. She also commended the attendance of Sergeant Philip Davidson of Carlisle who had been on duty until 5am on the morning of the seminar. The seminar had provided an opportunity to distribute the Police Authority's new Custody Visiting Handbook to those present. It was the intention that the seminar would become an annual event in future years.

Ms Lashmar reported on her attendance, in the company of the Deputy Chief Constable, at a national conference on the National Strategy for Race and Diversity. The conference had focussed on the new learning materials which were currently being introduced. The Home Office were not providing additional funding for the introduction of this training. Research referred to at the conference had shown that nationally Councillor members were resistant to the provision of Race and Diversity training for Police Authority Members, but she was pleased to note that this was not the case in Cumbria where all Members willingly received appropriate training.

RESOLVED, that the reports be received.

24. POLICE AUTHORITY ISSUES.

(a) **Mr Michael Baxter, Chief Constable**

The Chairman was joined by all Members in congratulating the Chief Constable on the award of both the Queen's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and for the Fingerprint Society's Henry Medal.

The Chief Constable indicated that in both cases he believed they reflected on the excellent teams he had the good fortune to lead.

RESOLVED, that the Chief Constable be congratulated on the award of both the Queen's Police Medal and the Fingerprint Society's Henry Medal.

(b) **Association Of Police Authorities Annual Conference 2005**

The 2005 Annual Conference of the Association of Police Authorities was to be held in Belfast on 23 and 24 November 2005.

RESOLVED, that Mr R Watson, as Chairman of the Police Authority, Ms J Manners-Armstrong and Mrs L L Shaw be authorised to attend the 2005 APA Conference.

(c) **The Fourth Annual ACPO Excellence In Policing Performance Conference**

The Fourth Annual ACPO Excellence in Policing Performance Conference was to be held on 12/13 September 2005 at the University of Warwick.

RESOLVED, that Mrs C A Egan and the Police Authority's Policy and Performance Management Advisor be authorised to attend the Fourth Annual ACPO Excellence in Policing Performance Conference.

(d) **Police Authority Diary Of Meetings 2005/06**

The proposed diary of meetings for the Police Authority for the period September 2005 to August 2006 had been circulated with the Agenda for the meeting.

RESOLVED, that the diary of Police Authority meetings be approved.

(e) **The Serious Organised Crime And Police Bill**

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Bill, first published in November 2004 had been enacted and received royal assent on 7 April 2005 as "The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005".

The Chief Constable advised Members that he was currently reviewing his decision to give Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) additional powers as that would only serve to abstract them from their duties on the streets of Cumbria, which was their prime role. He would inform the Police Authority of the outcome of his review. In response to a question from a Member he advised that there were currently 17 PCSOs within the County.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

(f) **The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA)**

A National Policing Improvement Agency was being established through joint working by the Home Office, Association of Chief Police Officers, Association of Police Authorities, Police Forces, Police Authorities and key stakeholders. The Agency was intended to help the police service make complex changes in an increasingly complicated policing environment.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

(g) **Chief Officer Liability For Health And Safety**

The report submitted by the Clerk and Chief Executive set out the current position with regard to Chief Officer liability for Health and Safety.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

(h) **Mr Graham Sunderland, Assistant Chief Constable (Operations)**

Members were advised that from 12 to 22 June 2005 the Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) had been in Thailand assisting Interpol to conduct the review of the disaster victim identification process following the Tsunami disaster.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

(i) Members Allowances 2004

A schedule had been tabled which set out the allowances paid to Members in the 12 months up to 31 March 2005.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

25. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 2005 TO MAY 2005

The Treasurer presented a paper, prepared jointly with the Chief Constable, the purpose of which was to report on the Treasury Management activities which had taken place between March and May 2005. The paper also provided an annual report on the Treasury Management function for the 2004/05 financial year. Both elements of the report were requirements of the Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

The report also proposed an amendment to the investment strategy for 2005/06 as agreed at the meeting of the Authority in February 2005. The proposal was to amend the limits imposed on investments within the 5 investment categories, and these were detailed in Schedule 3 to the report.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the amendment to the investment strategy, as set out within the report, be approved.

26. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL FORECASTS 2005/06 TO 2008/09

The Treasurer presented a paper, prepared jointly with the Chief Constable, which set out the most recent forecast of the Authority's financial prospects for the period to 2008/09.

In presenting the paper the Treasurer paid tribute to the Director of Finance and Resources and his staff for the presentation of an extremely complicated report. He also referred to the seminar held on the morning of the meeting during which Members had been able to consider some of the technicalities of the report.

The forecast painted a downward picture in the Authority's financial prospects over the 3 year period to 2008/09 with projected expenditure growing at a greater rate than income. If Council Taxes were constrained to rise in line with the projections in the report this would lead to a significant gap between income and expenditure which could only be managed by finding savings from planned expenditure, projected cumulatively at £2.9m pa over the 3-year period.

Members were asked to comment on the main assumptions in the report, and in particular in relation to Council Tax changes.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

27. AUDIT AND INSPECTION ACTIVITY

The Chief Constable presented a paper which demonstrated the extent of audit and inspection activity in the past year and highlighted its bureaucratic and resource intensive nature. Appended to the report was a list of the audits and inspections completed, or in progress during the past year which demonstrated that more than 40 audit and inspections were undertaken of the Constabulary. Responding to the various demands put upon the Constabulary for information by external inspections served to divert staff time away from the Constabulary's core functions. Managing this was a major challenge for the Constabulary, particularly as it was presented with an uncoordinated programme and a bureaucratic process over which it had little control or input. Furthermore the external inspection programme had grown rapidly over the previous two years and was placing ever-increasing demands on the Constabulary.

Members expressed concern at the volume and variety of inspections faced by the Constabulary and considered that this was a matter which should be brought to the attention of other bodies, in particular the APA and ACPO.

The Chief Constable advised that he intended to forward his report to ACPO for information.

RESOLVED, that the extent and impact of audit and inspection activity be noted.

28. CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD AND CUMBRIA CONSTABULARY CRIMINAL JUSTICE UNIT

The Chief Constable presented a report the purpose of which was to provide an update on developments in the Criminal Justice arena during 2004/05. It provided a picture of Constabulary activity, in addition to a wider County picture, assessed through the activities of the Local Criminal Justice Board.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

29. CUMBRIA DRUG AND ALCOHOL ACTION TEAM

The Chief Constable presented a paper the purpose of which was to provide Members with an update on developments with the response to dealing with

problem drug users in the County during 2004/05. It provided a picture of Constabulary activity, in addition to a wider County picture.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

30. POLICE PROPERTY (REGULATIONS) 1997

The Chief Constable reminded Members that in 2003 they had agreed to delegate to him powers in relation to the disbursement of funds accrued from property coming into the possession of the Police under the Police (Property) Act 1997 and the Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973.

He presented a report which set out the criteria under which disbursements were made and which set out for Members details of applications made and approved or rejected together with expenditure for the financial year 2004/05.

RESOLVED, that the contents of the report and the disbursements made be noted.

31. CONSTABULARY AWARDS AND RECOGNITION POLICY

The Chief Constable presented a report which set out proposals produced as a result of a review of, and consultation on, the Constabulary awards and recognition policy. The new policy, as outlined by the Chief Constable, streamlined the existing process and clearly de-lineated the criteria for each award and harmonised awards for police officers, police staff and members of the public.

Members welcomed the Chief Constable's proposals and suggested that the Police Authority itself could, with the Chief Constable's support, introduce a Police Authority award for good management or, possibly an annual award for most improved service. The Chief Constable welcomed the principle of the suggestion and Members acknowledged that further work would be required on this particular idea.

RESOLVED, that the Chief Constable's report be noted.

32. TSUNAMI RESPONSE

The Chief Constable presented a paper the purpose of which was to update the Authority with regard to the response by the Police service nationally, regionally and in Cumbria to the Asian Tsunami disaster. The report specifically outlined the impact the disaster had had within Cumbria and the associated costs involved in deploying staff to assist in the national response. It also clarified the position regarding the ability of the Constabulary to claim back costs incurred by the deployment of staff.

The Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) stated that this issue had highlighted the need for a dedicated response to such disasters, both in the UK and internationally.

The Police Authority Treasurer advised that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office had advised that they would meet those costs incurred but payments would be made in the 2005/06 financial year whereas actual costs had been incurred during 2004/05.

The Chief Constable commended to Members the excellent work done throughout the country in response to the Asian Tsunami.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

33. CHIEF CONSTABLE'S PERIODIC REPORT

The Chief Constable presented his periodic report to the Authority. The report was presented in a new format which had moved away from geographic sections to presentation of information under the headings of incidents of note, reducing crime, investigating crime, promoting safety, providing assistance and awards and recognition.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

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

34. RECORD MANAGEMENT SYSTEM BUSINESS CASE

The Chief Constable advised that this item had been withdrawn.

35. DATA SWITCHES BUSINESS CASE

The Chief Constable advised that this item had been withdrawn.

36. SPECIAL PRIORITY PAYMENTS SCHEME 2004 – OUTTURN REPORT

The Chief Constable presented a report which informed Members of the operation of the Special Priority Payments scheme during 2004.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

37. CARLISLE POLICE STATION

(Note: Mrs C A Egan and Mrs C S Moth declared personal and prejudicial interests in this item and withdrew from the meeting taking no part in the debate or vote thereon.)

(c) the Authority receives a detailed and costed business case to be prepared for the proposed area headquarters, together with a review of alternative sites to the NTU at Houghton;

(d) the Authority receives a detailed breakdown of the insurance claim together with an assessment of what proportion of the losses are being met within existing budgets;

(e) the Chief Constable, in consultation with the Authority Treasurer, reviews the existing revenue and capital commitments in order to identify the scope to contribute to a new-build facility.

38. EXPANSION OF THE WELSH ROAD POLICE POST

Members considered a report by the Chief Constable concerning the opportunity to expand the police facilities at the Welsh Road Police Post. Details of the anticipated costs of the proposal were included in the report.

RESOLVED, that the proposal be approved to allow a more efficient service to be provided from the Welsh Road premises.

The meeting ended at 4.55pm.