

CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

**Minutes of a Meeting of Cumbria Police Authority held on Wednesday 28 June
2006 at Police Headquarters,
Carleton Hall, Penrith commencing at 1.00pm.**

PRESENT

Mr M Ash	Mrs M Johnson
Mr A L Barry	Ms J Lashmar
Mr J Bland	Mrs L L Shaw
Mr R S Cole	Mrs L Slavin
Ms S E Donnelly	Mr W Smith
Mrs C A Egan	Mr R Watson
Mrs P M Halfpenny	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)
Assistant Chief Constable (Mr G Sunderland)
Constabulary Director of Finance and Resources (Mr M Thompson)
Constabulary Head of Marketing and Communications (Ms G Shearer)
Deputy Clerk (Mr S. Edwards)

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

1. MEMBERSHIP

Members noted the appointment to the Police Authority by Cumbria County Council of Mr J Bland in place of Mr J Mallinson.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Nicholson.

3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED, that, Mr R Watson be appointed as Chair of the Police Authority for the ensuing year.

(Mr R Watson in the Chair)

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

5. RESOLVED, that Mrs L Slavin be appointed Vice Chair of the Police Authority for the ensuing year.

5. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC AND URGENT BUSINESS

(a) Urgent Business

The Chairman advised Members of his intention to take a paper produced by the Chief Constable on Police Community Support Officers as an item of urgent business as a decision on the subject matter of the report could not be delayed to the next scheduled meeting of the Authority.

(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 item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph indicated in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act –

Item	Title	Paragraph
32	RMS /SLEUTH – selection and implementation of a strategic intelligence system	3

6. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Mr A L Barry declared a personal, but not prejudicial, interest in Agenda Item No 28, Cumbria Strategic Partnership/Local Area Agreement for Cumbria, as a member of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and the Strategic Partnership.

Mr M Ash declared a personal, but not prejudicial, interest in Agenda Item No 29, Cumbria Drug and Alcohol Action Team, as a Director of both the Mental Health and Learning Disability Trust.

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the following meetings of the Authority be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair –

- 22 March 2006
- 13 April 2006
- 26 April 2006

8. AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Audit and Performance Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2006, a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

In moving the minutes the Chair made specific reference to the excellent performance of the Constabulary as demonstrated by the most recent iQuanta figures, a performance which had been sustained over a period of time. She also drew attention to the minutes on Activity Based Costing and Crime Recording both areas in which very positive reports had recently been received.

The Chairman of the Authority also referred to the excellent performance of the Constabulary and congratulated the Chief Constable and his officers on their performance.

The Chief Constable thanked Members for their kind words advising that this excellent performance had been achieved under difficult circumstances and that he wished to acknowledge that police officers and police staff in Cumbria were delivering high quality services to the community, which was a particular tribute to their dedication.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received

9. POLICING PLAN AND BEST VALUE COMMITTEE

The Chairman presented the minutes of the meetings of the Policing Plan and Best Value Committee held on 26 April, 16 May and 15 June 2006, copies of which had been circulated to Members.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

10. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Personnel Committee presented the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 3 April and 4 May 2006, copies of which had been previously circulated.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

11. COMMUNITY AND RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2006, and in doing so drew attention to work being undertaken by the Authority, through the Consultation Working Group, with young people.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

12. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman presented the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3 May 2006, a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes be received.

13. CONSULTATION WORKING GROUP

The Chair of the Working Group presented the minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2006, a copy of which had been previously circulated. In presenting the minutes she advised Members that the Working Group was looking to develop joint consultation with Lancashire Police Authority and would be sharing the outcome of consultation undertaken in Cumbria on Anti Social Behaviour with Lancashire for the benefit of the new strategic Police Authority.

RESOLVED, that, the Minutes be received.

14. ACCOMMODATION WORKING GROUP

The Chair of the Working Group presented the minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2006. In doing so she asked Members to approve the recommendation set out in the minutes in relation to Welsh Road, Carlisle.

The Assistant Chief Constable (ODP) advised Members that only that morning he had received confirmation from the manufacturers that the first module for the Custody Suite at Durranhill would be delivered in the week commencing 7 August.

RESOLVED, that, the Minutes be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted as follows –

- The project for additional car parking at Welsh Road, Carlisle, at a cost of approximately £9,000, be progressed.
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15. STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Ms J Lashmar moved the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 15 June 2006, a copy of which had been previously circulated. In doing so she drew Members attention to the fact that the Committee had considered a complaint made by a member of the public against a Member of the Authority which had been submitted to the Standards Board for England and the Commissioner for Local Administration. The Standards Board had decided not to investigate the complaint. The Standards Committee had the option of conducting its own investigation but had decided, based on the evidence before it, not to do so. On the instructions of the Committee the Monitoring Officer had written to the Commissioner for Local Administration advising that the Authority did not propose to initiate an investigation into the matter complained of.

RESOLVED, that, the Minutes be received.

16. POLICE COMMUNITY LIAISON FORUMS

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

Allerdale, 4 April 2006
Barrow, 6 April 2006
Carlisle, 24 April 2006
Copeland, 11 and 28 April 2006
Eden, 27 April 2006
South Lakeland, 10 April 2006

17. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS, LEAD MEMBERS AND TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Members considered a report by the Clerk and Chief Executive. The constitution of the Authority's Committees and Working Groups, together with representatives from various bodies and Constabulary Working Groups were set out in an appendix to the report.

RESOLVED, that the membership of the Authority's Committees and Working Groups and the appointment of Lead Members and representatives on outside bodies be agreed as outlined in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

18. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members considered a report by the Clerk and Chief Executive, appended to which were full terms of reference for the Authority's Committees, Working Groups and the Police Community Liaison Forums.

The Clerk and Chief Executive reminded Members that as part of the PASAIF process the Authority had intended reviewing its Committee Structure and Committee and Working Group Terms of Reference but following the decision to amalgamate with Lancashire had put that process on hold deciding to retain the existing terms of reference for the time being.

RESOLVED, that the Terms of Reference for the Authority's Committees, Working Groups and Police Community Liaison Forums be approved as detailed in Appendix 2 to the minutes.

19. STANDING ORDERS

Members considered a report by the Clerk and Chief Executive appended to which were the Authority's current Standing Orders.

RESOLVED, that the Authority's Standing Orders, as circulated with the report, be approved.

20. MEMBERS REPORT BACK

The Chairman reported on recent meetings with Home Office Ministers and officials with regard to the merger process.

Mrs L L Shaw reported on her recent attendance at Cumbria's Independent Custody Visiting Conference at which long service awards had been presented to Independent Custody Visitors with over six years service.

Ms J Lashmar reported on her attendance at a Race and Diversity Consultation Forum in Wakefield and at the recent IAG Conference at Birmingham.

Mr A L Barry reported on his attendance at the APA Professional Standards Member Liaison Forum, attendance at which he considered to have been most worthwhile. He was pleased to be able to reassure Members that Cumbria met the APA Best Practice Standards.

RESOLVED, that the reports from Members be noted.

21. POLICE AUTHORITY ISSUES

(a) Seminar: Skills development for Police Authorities and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships

Members were advised of a seminar to be held in July 2006.

RESOLVED, that the Authority be not represented at the Seminar.

(b) Members Allowances 2005/06

Appended to the report was the schedule of allowances paid to Member of the Authority in the financial year 2005/06.

RESOLVED, that the schedule be noted.

(c) Attendance at Police Authority meetings 2005/06

Appended to the report was a schedule detailing Member attendance at meetings of the Authority and its Committees and Working Groups during the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006. Members were asked to note that arrangements were to be put in hand to capture Member attendance at meetings other than formal meetings of the Authority.

Members welcomed the proposal to capture attendance by Members at Constabulary Working Groups, APA meetings and other events as unless this information was recorded it did not provide a full view of work being undertaken by Members of the Authority.

RESOLVED, that the schedule and proposals to capture additional information be noted.

(d) Police Performance Banding Assessments – May 2006

The Clerk/Chief Executive drew to Members attention the Constabulary's excellent performance as indicated in the Police Performance Banding Assessments for May 2006.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

(e) APA Annual Conference 2006

Members were advised that the 2006 APA Annual Conference was to be held in Leeds on Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 November 2006. The Authority was normally represented at the Conference by the Chair, Vice Chair and one other Member.

Members asked that details of the Conference be circulated to all Members to enable them to make an informed decision on attendance.

RESOLVED, that the arrangements for the APA Annual Conference 2006 be noted and attendance reconsidered at the next ordinary meeting of the Authority in September.

22. LOCAL POLICING SUMMARIES AND ANNUAL REPORT 2006

The Chief Constable presented a report appended to which were final drafts of the three Area Summaries (North, West and South Cumbria), the Police Authority insert and Annual Report outer cover. These had been formally approved for submission to the Authority by the Policing Plan and Best Value Committee on 15 June. The Committee had been closely involved in the development of these documents over a period of several months.

RESOLVED, that the final drafts of the Local Policing Summaries and Annual Report 2006 be approved for publication.

23. ANNUAL POLICING PLAN 2006/07

The Chief Constable presented a report appended to which was the final draft, updated with end of year data and a balanced assessment of performance in 2005/06, as considered by the Policing Plan and Best Value Committee on 15 June. On 15 June the Committee had, subject to certain minor amendments, recommended the Annual Policing Plan 2006/07 to the Authority for publication.

The Chief Constable commended the Head of Strategic Planning and staff for the excellent work they had undertaken in the production of this document, which was in a new format for 2006/07 and which would be available in a variety of languages, including, for the first time, Polish.

RESOLVED, that the final draft of the Cumbria Police Authority Annual Policing Plan 2006/07 be approved for publication.

24. UPDATE ON POLICE FORCE AMALGAMATIONS

Separate reports by the Clerk/ Chief Executive, Treasurer and Chief Constable had been circulated to all Members for consideration.

The Clerk/ Chief Executive presented his report which was a revised and updated version of that originally submitted to the Authority on 26 April 2006. It was an interim report pending final decisions which were expected at a subsequent meeting. The report was intended to recap on where the Authority had got to in the amalgamation process, record in a public document its reasoning for the decisions it had made to date and to update Members on key developments since his last report and the implications of those developments.

He reminded Members that in September 2005 the "Closing the Gap" report by HMIC, as commissioned by the Home Secretary, had been published which had stated that the current 43 Force structure in England and Wales was no longer "fit for purpose" to deliver protective policing services in the 21st century. The report concluded that bigger forces had more capabilities and capacity to confront the crime types covered under the term "protective services" and recommended that strategic forces of at least 4000 officers and 2000 police staff be established. The Home Secretary had strongly concurred with those conclusions. On 22 September 2005 the Home Secretary had required all police forces to review their capacity and to present options for merger with forces adjoining them. For Cumbria this meant merger with one or more of the forces in the North West region. On 31 October 2005 based on initial proposals submitted to him by some forces, the Home Secretary announced his view of the options emerging and asked for finalised "business cases" by 23 December. The Authority had met on 15 December to consider whether it could endorse and adopt a preferred option but had been unable to do so. However, the Constabulary had been required to submit a business case at that time.

Analysis of the business cases by the Home Office had led them to favour a merger of Cumbria and Lancashire and on 24 February the Authority had conditionally agreed to merge as had Lancashire. The conditions set by the Authority, and which would have to be met before the conditional decision was confirmed covered operational and protective policing services; finance; precept equalisation; governance; human resources and timetabling.

Since that decision had been taken considerable progress had been made with the merger process and a range of meetings held with the Home Secretary, Policing Minister and Home Office officials, at the most recent of which on 22 June the Policing Minister had offered £17.9 million towards the merger costs of Cumbria and Lancashire.

Progress was being made against the six conditions set by Cumbria, and he provided Members with an update of progress. However, precept harmonisation remained a key issue which had not yet been resolved.

The Clerk/Chief Executive advised that it was clear that the Authority would not be able to come to a final decision on whether to confirm its conditional decision to

volunteer to merge at the present meeting. The date of 25 July had been identified for a special meeting of the Authority at which a final decision could be made.

In considering the proposal that a special meeting be held on 25 July to come to a final decision on the merger proposals Members asked that the meeting commence at 1.00pm and a seminar be held for Members only on the morning of the meeting.

The Treasurer then provided Members with an update on financial issues relating to the amalgamation process.

The Chief Constable then presented his report which updated his professional advice on the proposal to voluntarily amalgamate with Lancashire Constabulary. It reiterated that his professional view was that amalgamation with Lancashire remained the best available option to address the protective services gap in Cumbria and that pursuing voluntary amalgamation was the best way forward to maintain and improve policing in Cumbria as a whole. He stressed to Members that their final decision should be informed by a complete and satisfactory set of information and in particular he considered that firm details of the precept harmonisation scheme was still needed to confirm that there were no hidden costs of amalgamating and no uncertainty about the expected financial benefits.

In the course of considering the reports submitted by the Clerk/Chief Executive, Treasurer and the Chief Constable some Members questioned whether, in the changed circumstances nationally, with a new Home Secretary who no longer seemed intent on forcing through amalgamations, it would be wise for Cumbria and Lancashire to pause and review their position. Concern was expressed that the initial decision to amalgamate might have been made too soon and that the importance of making the right decision on a matter as crucial as the amalgamation of two police forces did suggest that a delay might be beneficial. Other Members considered that the benefits of amalgamation, subject to the six conditions set in February being met, meant that it was still right for the Authority to proceed with the amalgamation process.

The Chief Constable reminded Members that three years previously he had considered the future of the Constabulary and he was of the view that if the Home Secretary had not started the process in September 2005 he was doubtful that he could have delayed bringing a similar proposal to the Police Authority for discussion given the additional demands and resources necessary to address protective services. The Constabulary was vulnerable with regards to the provision of protective services and its financial position deteriorated year on year.

He informed Members that he was not employed to make popular decisions but to make the decisions which he knew professionally were right for policing in Cumbria. He stressed that throughout the process he, the other Chief Officers and senior officers within the Constabulary, had acted with complete integrity undertaking work regardless of the implications for them personally.

He reiterated that the Constabulary could not find additional funding to provide protective services as a stand alone force to a "good" standard without either increasing the Council Tax or reviewing existing services. Increases in Council Tax beyond strict limits set by the Treasury were not possible and cutting services was

unpalatable which meant that merger with Lancashire remained the best option for Cumbria, subject to the caveats referred to concerning Council Tax harmonisation.

RESOLVED, that

(1) the reports submitted by the Clerk/Chief Executive, Treasurer and Chief Constable be noted; and

(2) a Special Meeting of the Authority be held on Wednesday 25 July commencing at 1pm.

25. INTRODUCTION OF AN ANIMAL WELFARE SCHEME

The Clerk/Chief Executive presented a report which proposed the introduction of an Animal Welfare Scheme in Cumbria. Such a scheme was already operated by Lancashire Police Authority and the introduction of a scheme in Cumbria would ensure that the same level of service was provided throughout the area covered by the proposed new strategic Authority when it formed in April 2007.

RESOLVED, that an Animal Welfare Scheme be introduced in Cumbria as set out in the report.

26. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

The Treasurer presented a paper the purpose of which was to report on the Treasury Management Activities which had taken place between February and May 2006 and also to provide a brief annual report on the Treasury function for the 2005/06 financial year. Both elements of the report were required by the Code of Practice of Treasury Management.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

27. CUMBRIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD AND CUMBRIA CONSTABULARY CRIMINAL JUSTICE UNIT

The Chief Constable presented a paper which provided an update on developments within the Criminal Justice arena. It provided a picture of Constabulary activity assessed through the activities of the Local Criminal Justice Board.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

28. CUMBRIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP/ LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT FOR CUMBRIA

The Chief Constable presented a report the purpose of which was to provide an update on developments within the Cumbria Strategic Partnership/Local Area Agreement arena.

The Chief Constable advised that the Police Authority would be invited to take up a place on the Safer Stronger Communities Board.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

29. CUMBRIA DRUG AND ALCOHOL ACTION TEAM

The Chief Constable presented a paper which provided an update on activity by the Cumbria Drug and Alcohol Team. It also provided a picture of Constabulary activity in this area.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

(NOTE: Mr M Ash left the meeting at this point)

30. POLICE PROPERTY (REGULATIONS) 1997

The Chief Constable presented his annual report on the distribution of funds accrued from property coming into the possession of the police under the Police (Property) Act 1997 and the Powers of Criminal Court Act 1973 as delegated to him by the Police Authority.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

31. CHIEF CONSTABLE'S PERIODIC REPORT

The Chief Constable presented his period report to the Authority that included details of incidents of note which had occurred throughout the force area. Activities with regard to reducing crime, in relation to the investigation of crime and relating to the promotion of safety were all covered by the report. In addition incidents of note at which police officers had provided assistance and awards and recognition made by the Chief Constable and Assistant Chief Constables were also reported.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

32. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER RECRUITMENT

The Chief Constable presented a paper to Members concerning Police Community Support Officer (PCSO's) recruitment.

The Chief Constable advised that the Home Office had indicated their wish to accelerate the national recruitment of PCSO's in England and Wales and they had, very recently, set revised allocations that they hoped forces and authorities would meet by April 2007. For Cumbria this entailed having 105 PCSO's by that date. The Constabulary currently had, or was committed to, recruiting 43 PCSO's. The funding arrangements in respect of the latest offer allowed PCSO's to be recruited at no cost to the Authority in the first year, although in 2007/08 individual Forces and Authorities were expected to meet 25% of the costs.

The Chief Constable had indicated his desire to take up the additional allocation of 62 PCSO's as indicated by the Home Office, although he had made it clear to the Home Office that Members had a particular interest and responsibility in this matter. This was particularly important as the Authority and Constabulary moved towards

amalgamation with Lancashire and his commitment had been made conditional upon receiving support from the Authority.

He advised Members that he had collaborated with Lancashire in developing the proposed bid.

RESOLVED, that the proposal to recruit PCSO's up to the target as set by the Home Office be approved.

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

33. RMS/SLEUTH – SELECTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM

The Chief Constable reminded Members that he had presented papers to meetings of the Authority in December 2004, August 2005 and March 2006 in relation to this matter. In March 2006 Members had approved in principle the decision to support the SLEUTH intelligence system, subject to a further paper which had been subjected to formal financial scrutiny.

The paper now before Members acknowledged that a financial appraisal had been undertaken and accordingly the figures presented represented the most reliable information to date. The report did, however, recognise that, in the context of amalgamation, there were some uncertainties relating to several aspects of joining up IT applications.

The Treasurer provided Members with an update on the financial elements of SLEUTH, including that the estimated capital cost of SLEUTH stood at £2,102,000 and the annual running costs were estimated at £289,000 in 2006/07, £553,000 in 2007/08 and £526,000 in 2008/09.

RESOLVED, that the plan to develop the SLEUTH system be formally approved for the reasons as set out in the Chief Constable's report.

The meeting ended at 4.15 p.m.