



CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Governance Committee held on Wednesday 21 January 2009 in Conference Room 1, Police Headquarters, Carlton Hall, Penrith, commencing at 3.45 pm.

PRESENT

	Mrs L L Shaw (Chair)	
Ms E Barraclough		Mr O Pearson
Mrs C Egan		Mr W Smith
Ms B Furneaux		Mr R Watson

Also present:

Chief Executive (Mr C Alcock)
 Treasurer (Mr D Thomas)
 Chief Constable (Mr C Mackey)
 Deputy Chief Constable (Mrs C Twigg)
 Constabulary Director of Finance & Resources (Mr M Thompson)
 Committee Services Officer (Ms J Hardwick)

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

49. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Everingham.

50. URGENT BUSINESS AND 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 paragraph indicated in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act –

<u>Item</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>
4	Command & Control Project	3 & 7

51. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of any personal interest relating to any item on the Agenda.



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

52. COMMAND AND CONTROL PROJECT

The Chief Constable presented his report detailing the findings of an external audit which had been undertaken at his request in relation to the Constabulary's current '4C' Command and Control project.

This capital project had first been presented to and approved by the full Authority at its meeting of 26th March 2008.

The external auditor's report itemised a number of problems - ranging from financing to technology - which had now been identified in this important project (some dating back to its original planning or inception) and now realised as leading on to a likely overspend. In the auditor and the Chief Constable's view, this was not a case of an overspend, but of a project whose actual cost had been significantly underestimated from the outset. It was only when this underlying reality was finally realised that other inherent problems (in how this project was commissioned and approached from the outset) were themselves also realised.

That underestimation of the project cost was now being put at £1.8m. The Chief Constable indicated to the Committee what steps he was already taking and intended taking to deal with whatever underlying organisational problems in the Constabulary's approach to major projects this particular project had revealed.

Members considered the Chief Constable's report and the extent of information made available to the Authority during the course of the project, expressing their various concerns over issues arising. In response to a question from a Member the Chief Constable confirmed that the governance arrangements in place for major projects like this were now being reassessed and an update report would be provided to the Governance Committee on his conclusions.

The Chief Officer Group (COG) was examining all IT projects within the Constabulary on a bi-weekly basis. A new Project Board Structure and Strategic Project Plan had been implemented for this project and its governance processes. The Chief Constable advised members that future reports regarding the Command and Control Project would be presented to the Authority's Change Management Working Group, focusing on work undertaken from December 2008 onwards, whilst areas relating to governance would be reported to the Governance Committee.

Members thanked the Chief Constable for the appreciated frankness of his report.

RESOLVED, that, the

- (i) report be noted;
- (ii) Governance Committee be updated as to progress regarding governance arrangements, in 6 months time; and



- (iii) Change Management Working Group receive project update matrices marked as to contemporaneity, that is timely, accurate and up to date as possible.

The meeting ended at 4.40 pm

Chair:

Date: