

CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

POLICING PLAN AND BEST VALUE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Policing Plan and Best Value Committee held on Wednesday 26 April 2006 in Conference Room 2, Police Headquarters, Carleton Hall, Penrith commencing at 1.30pm.

PRESENT

Mrs C A Egan
Mrs P M Halfpenny
Mr W Smith

Mr R Watson
Mr J Woolley

Also present:

Assistant Chief Constable (Mr N Rhodes)
Head of Strategic Planning (Insp G Rutherford)
Planning and Performance Administrator (Mr L Richardson)
Treasurer (Mr D Thomas)
Performance Management and Policy Advisor (Miss M Saunders)
Deputy Clerk (Mr S Edwards)

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

67. MEMBERSHIP

It was reported the Mr R S Cole had replaced Mr C S Moth as a Member of the Committee.

68. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R S Cole and Mrs L Slavin.

69. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

The Committee was asked to appoint a Chair for the period up to the Annual Meeting in June 2006.

Mr J Woolley was duly proposed and seconded and, there being no other nominations, it was -

RESOLVED, that Mr J Woolley be appointed Chair of the Committee until the Annual Meeting of the Authority in June 2006.

Mr J Woolley in the Chair.

70. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items on the Agenda for which the press and public were to be excluded.

71. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

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

72. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 16 March 2006 had been circulated with the Agenda for the meeting.

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 16 March 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

73. PLANNING AND FINANCE TIMELINE

The Assistant Chief Constable presented a report by the Acting Chief Constable appended to which was a proposed timeline outlining how the planning, efficiency and budget processes were being amalgamated in 2006/07. This timeline had been agreed following input from the Constabulary's Head of Strategic Planning, the Efficiency Manager and members of the Finance and Resources department. The timeline had been developed on the basis of the Constabulary standing alone in the short term and no attempt had been made to work in any assumptions arising from the impending merger with Lancashire. This would be built in and reported to the Committee in line with future developments.

The Treasurer reminded Members that the Budget for 2007/08, development of which would begin in the Autumn of 2006, was a matter for the new Strategic Police Authority. However, development of the budget would be inextricably linked to the existing efficiency plan and other work being undertaken by the precursor Authorities and Constabularies. He commended the timetable to Members.

RESOLVED, that the planning and finance timeline be noted.

74. BEST VALUE REVIEW PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Assistant Chief Constable presented a paper by the Acting Chief Constable that outlined the status of the Best Value Review Programme as at 19 April 2006. The only item contained within the programme was the Best

Value Review of Anti Social Behaviour and the Assistant Chief Constable drew Members attention to the fact that this Review was being included in the scoping work for the forthcoming merger with Lancashire Constabulary, along with Best Value Reviews being undertaken in Lancashire. As part of the scoping work consideration would be given to deferring work on the Review to free up staff resources to focus on work central to the merger.

Members stressed the importance of ensuring that adequate resource was available to take forward the merger process. As such they considered that it would be appropriate to defer this Review to enable staff within the Best Value Section to work in shaping the new organisation, applying Best Value principles to the process.

The Treasurer reminded Members that the Best Value Review process was a statutory one, but that this would change with the enactment of the Police and Justice Bill later in the year. He advised that he and the Chief Executive/Treasurer of Lancashire were due to meet with the District Auditor in the near future and he would raise the question of deferring the Review with him at that meeting.

Members reiterated the view that deferment of the Review presented a pragmatic way forward at this particular time.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Best Value Review of Anti Social Behaviour be deferred.

75. QUALITY OF SERVICE COMMITMENT ACTION PLAN

The Assistant Chief Constable presented a report by the Acting Chief Constable which provided Members with an update of progress on the Action Plan for the Quality of Service Commitment.

The Head of Strategic Planning informed Members that this particular work area had considerable priority as the Constabulary had to be compliant by November 2006. To date progress against actions identified within the Action Plan were on target and there were no major issues to bring to Members attention.

In considering the report Members raised questions in relation to follow up for people who had contacted the Constabulary and progress with the introduction of a National Single Non Emergency Number.

RESOLVED, that progress to date and actions required to achieve compliance by November 2006 be noted.

76. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates of future meetings of the Committee had been circulated. Members were advised that, as the workload of the Committee changed as a result of the merger process it was likely that several of the agreed dates for meetings of the Committee would need to be cancelled. Members would be advised in due course of those dates that would not be required.

RESOLVED, that the position be noted.

The Meeting ended at 2.05pm