

LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held at Leicestershire Police Headquarters, Enderby on Tuesday 22 December 2009

Present

Members

Mr D Bill, Mr P Brown, Mr B Greaves, Dr S Hill, Mrs D Newton, Mr T Render, Mr B Rhodes, Mr B Roper and Mr M Sood.

Officers

Mr R Swinfield (Chief Executive), Mr C Smith (Treasurer) and Mrs A Perry (Deputy Chief Executive).

Representatives from the Force

Mr C Eyre (T/Chief Constable), Mr M Goodwin, (T/Deputy Chief Constable) and Mr P Dawkins (Director of Finance).

Others

Ms S Swan, (PricewaterhouseCoopers – External Auditors)

Mr B Rhodes – in the Chair

34/09. Apologies

There were no apologies.

35/09. Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

36/09. Declarations of Code of Conduct Interests

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to make declarations of any Code of Conduct interests in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting.

No such declarations were made at this stage of the meeting.

37/09. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 September 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2009, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

It was agreed to take item 8 as the first item on the agenda..

38/09 2008-09 Comprehensive Area Assessment – Use of Resources

The Committee received a joint report of the Chief Constable and Treasurer presenting the final report and scores from the 2008-09 assessment. A copy of the report marked 'D' is filed with the minutes.

The Treasurer stated that Leicestershire was in a minority of police authorities who had maintained their score from last year as most had seen a reduction.

Ms Swan stated the assessment for the use of resources had got harder this year and that the Authority had performed very well to achieve an overall score of 3. She added that new key lines of enquiry for managing resources would be introduced for next year and would include use of natural resources.

In response to a question on how Leicestershire had compared to other police authorities Ms Swan stated that the comparison was very good. She added that only one police authority had received a score of 4 in one area. Ms Swann stated that further information on how others had performed was available on the website.

The Committee RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

At this stage Ms Swan left the meeting.

39/09. Revenue, Capital and Efficiency Plan Monitoring Report

The Committee received a report of the Chief Constable informing members of the monitoring position as at 31 October 2009 regarding the Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2009/10, and the Efficiency Plan for 2009/10. A copy of the report marked 'A' is filed with the minutes.

The Director of Finance stated that the projected underspend was now £856k as a result of the November outturn figures. He added that the potential write off of bad debts at the year end of approximately £240k would reduce this underspend further.

In response to a question about payment of debt from Donington Park, the Director of Finance stated that requesting a 'bond' payment up front could be deployed but that legal costs would be incurred. He added that such mechanisms would be considered in future to mitigate risk and protect the Authority's interests.

The Director of Finance stated that it was expected that the underspend for 2009/10 would be the lowest since 2001.

The Committee RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

40/09. Financial Update

The Committee received a joint report of the Chief Constable and Treasurer updating members on a number of issues affecting future budget strategy. A copy of the report marked 'B' is filed with the minutes.

The Treasurer stated that the decision on how much capital grant would be received would not be known until the New Year.

The Treasurer informed members that a reserves policy would be presented to the Police Authority meeting on 9 February 2010.

The Chairman stated that any changes to the BCU structure would come before the Police Authority for approval. He added that public confidence in front line policing would need to be maintained during any period of restructure.

The Committee RESOLVED to:

- (a) note the contents of the report;
- (b) approve the delegation of powers to the Treasurer as described in paragraph 25, in consultation with members of the SFPG; and

- (c) approve that the Authority would not challenge the 3% precept cap imposed for 2010/11.

41/09. Treasury Management – Investment Strategy

The Committee received a joint report of the Chief Constable and Treasurer reviewing the Investment Strategy in accordance with the decision of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 8 September 2009. A copy of the report marked 'C' is filed with the minutes.

The Committee RESOLVED to confirm the investment strategy.

42/09. Police Authority Inspection - Update

The Committee received a report of the Chief Executive informing members of the arrangements known to date concerning the inspection of Leicestershire Police Authority by the Audit Commission and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). A copy of the report marked 'E' is filed with the minutes.

The Chief Executive stated that the Authority's Improvement Plan would be presented to the Members Discussion Day on 14 January 2010 and then to the Police Authority at its meeting on 26 January 2010 for approval.

Members expressed their thanks to the Police Authority secretariat and the Force for their hard work in compiling the response to the draft inspection report.

It was RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

43/09. Local Policing Plan – Update 2009/2010

The Committee received a joint report of the Chief Executive and Chief Constable informing and updating members on the progress to date of the Local Policing Plan 2009/2010. A copy of the report marked 'F' is filed with the minutes.

In response to a question regarding exceeding the target in No. 67 & 68 of the Plan, the T/Chief Constable stated that this was as a result of changes to the Home Office counting rules and that in the past Leicestershire had been over-recording in this area.

The T/Chief Constable stated that the Force would not achieve the 15% of new recruits from ethnic minority backgrounds as there would be no recruitment in the coming year, however he added that it was a Home Office requirement to have in the Plan and it continued to reflect the Force ambitions.

In response to a question on extending officers' discretion in dealing with local issues the T/Deputy Chief Constable stated that HMCIC was not supportive of such an approach and preferred more focus on detecting minor crime. However, he added that this initiative was popular with the public.

It was RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

44/09. Authority Involvement in Critical Incidents

The Committee received a report of the Chief Executive proposing a new role for the Police Authority regarding critical incidents. A copy of the report marked 'G' is filed with the minutes.

The Chief Executive stated that a further report would be provided to the Authority in the summer with an update regarding warehousing for critical incidents and member involvement which may involve dip-sampling of such cases.

The Committee RESOLVED to:

- (a) agree to the proposals detailed in the report as its approach to critical incidents;
- (b) agree that an evaluation of the first four months of this approach be brought to the June Authority meeting; and
- (c) approve that Mr Roper be the Authority's lead member for critical incidents.

*At this stage, Ms W Yeadon, (T/ACC(O)), Supt. C Haward,
(Contact Management Centre) and Mr T Glover, (Head of IT)
joined the meeting.*

45/09. Appointments to Authority Lead Roles

The Committee received a report of the Chief Executive proposing an extension to the delegations of the Chief Executive regarding appointments to Programme Boards and lead roles. A copy of the report marked 'H' is filed with the minutes.

The Committee RESOLVED to:

- (a) note the contents of the report;
- (b) appoint Mr Orson as the Authority's lead Member for anti social behaviour;
- (c) revise the delegated power SPCX21 to read "in consultation with the Chairman, to appoint Members to Force Boards and Groups and create or alter lead roles for members and appoint to those positions"; and
- (d) approve the following changes to the Appendix to the report:-
 - Mr J Orson as the representative on the Safer Neighbourhoods Programme Board.
 - Mrs A Roberts as the representative on the Confidence Board.
 - Mr Roper as representative on the Community Safety Programme Board.
 - Mr B Greaves as the representative on the Strategic Infrastructure Programme Board.

46/09. Health and Safety Performance 2008/09 and Force Health and Safety Plan 2009/10

The Committee received a report of the Chief Constable updating members on Leicestershire Constabulary's health and safety performance for the year 2008/09 and also detailing the health and safety plan for 2009/10. A copy of the report marked 'I' is filed with the minutes.

The T/Deputy Chief Constable stated that the Force were on track to achieve the 2009/10 Health and Safety Plan. He added that the ORCHID risk management system had now been rolled out to BCU's.

The T/Deputy Chief Constable stated that work was ongoing to compile comparison data with other forces on assaults on police staff and when available this information would be provided to a future meeting.

It was RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

47/09. Proposed Chief Officer Group Structure

The Committee received a report of the Chief Constable notifying members of changes to the structure and membership of Leicestershire's Chief Officer Group, to seek formal approval for an additional temporary Chief Officer post and agreement to arrangements until summer 2010. A copy of the report marked 'J' is filed with the minutes.

The Committee RESOLVED to:

- (a) approve the temporary promotion of Chris Garnham to ACC between 4 January and 5 April 2010; and
- (b) approve Wendy Yeadon as the T/ACC(O) until a permanent ACC appointment has been made;
- (c) agree that, subject to exploring the legal framework regarding the post of Deputy Chief Constable, Gordon Fraser be temporarily appointed to this position.

48/09. Exclusion of the Public and Press

It was RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the grounds specified on the agenda.

49/09. Command and Control System

(Exempt by virtue of para 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person including the Authority)

The Committee received a report of the Chief Constable informing members of the risks associated with Leicestershire Constabulary's current Command and Control System (Vantage), and to recommend early replacement of the system in order to offset the risks outlined. A copy of the report marked 'K' is filed with the minutes.

The Committee RESOLVED to:

- (a) replace the current system immediately under the existing procurement framework;
- (b) agree that the funds to purchase the preferred system, as outlined, be ratified in the budget decisions in February 2010;
- (c) agree that additional costs listed to develop NSPIS DMS, as outlined, are ratified and added to the IT capital budget for 2010/11; and
- (e) agree that the force take steps to approach formally the preferred new supplier to allow detailed specification to be worked through and contracts to be negotiated at the earliest opportunity, before seeking to service notice on the current supplier.

The Chairman thanked Mr Goodwin for his service to the Constabulary and wished him a long and happy retirement

CHAIRMAN

2.00 p.m. – 4.36 p.m.
22 December 2009