

## LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

### Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held at Leicestershire Police Headquarters, Enderby at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 23 March 2010

#### Present

#### Members

Mr P Brown, Mr B Greaves, Dr S Hill, 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 G Fraser, (T/Deputy Chief Constable) and Mr P Dawkins (Director of Finance).

#### Mr B Rhodes – in the Chair

#### **01/10. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mrs D Newton.

#### **02/10. Items of Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

#### **03/10. 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.

#### **04/10. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 December 2009**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 December 2009, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

#### **05/10. Revenue, Capital and Efficiency Plan Monitoring Report**

The Committee received a report of the Chief Constable informing members of the monitoring position as at 28 February 2010 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 outturn figure had increased since last reported in January however it was not expected to increase further. He added that any further savings would be reported to the Police Authority in April when more detail would be provided.

The Director of Finance stated that there had been some slippage on IT expenditure outlined in the Capital Programme however the majority of the work had been completed.

The Director of Finance informed members that there was little prospect of receiving funds from Government in respect of the Ashwell Prison incident. The Chairman of the Committee stated that the Authority should be publicly challenging on this issue and, pending any announcement on a date for the general election, he would be happy to put his name to a press release to this effect. The Chief Executive suggested that the press release refer to the fact that there had been no response from the Home Office on this issue.

In relation to Leicester City Football Club the T/Chief Constable stated that the Club had provided an agreement for the terms of payment which was currently being considered by the Force solicitors. Members gave views about the criteria they would favour concerning such terms.

The Treasurer stated that a small amount of underspend for this year would be required to take forward the Police Authority development plan but that his advice would be for the remainder to be placed in the Equalisation Reserve.

The Committee RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

**06/10. 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 22 December 2009. A copy of the report marked 'B' is filed with the minutes.

The Treasurer stated that £21m was invested as of today's date. He added that the status of Northern Rock was changing and that the Authority's investment with them would expire at the beginning of June when consideration would be given to their new status and any future investment.

The Committee RESOLVED to:-

- (a) confirm the investment strategy as outlined in para 9 of the report; and
- (b) review the strategy again at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

**07/10. Strategic Financial Planning Group**

The Committee received a joint report of the Treasurer and Chief Constable updating members on the work of the Strategic Financial Planning Group. A copy of the report marked 'C' is filed with the minutes.

The Treasurer informed the meeting of the following:-

- The Group were currently meeting on a monthly basis.
- The Group would oversee the value for money statement to be included in the Local Policing Plan with the Treasurer having delegated powers with the Group to agree value for money initiatives.
- The savings work was now reaching a critical moment when it would soon be known if the initiatives would be able to deliver the savings required.
- The work of the Group would be developed to address regional and sub-regional collaboration.

The Chief Executive stated he had delegated power to agree the final version of the Policing Plan with the Chairman of the Publications Panel. He added that the issue date of the Plan was the end of March and publication would be by June.

It was RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

**08/10. Targets for 2010/11**

The Committee received a report of the Chief Constable recommending proposed performance targets for 2010/11. A copy of the report marked 'D' is filed with the minutes. A table of proposed performance targets discussed by the Performance Panel was tabled at the meeting.

The T/Deputy Chief Constable stated that whilst the single confidence measure was reputedly the only target measured by the Home Office, a plethora of statutory indicators still existed and the Force was also compared to its most similar group and nationally via the Police Report Card. The basis for the targets was where performance was in the bottom quartile, we should aspire to be mid-range; where performance was in mid-range, aspire to be in top quartile; and where performance was in top quartile, to stay there. He added that the proposed targets set out in the report were challenging and would need to be reviewed throughout the year. Mr Render said he had attended the Force Performance Delivery Group and was impressed with the rigor by which officers were held to account. He added the intention to review targets as the year progressed had been commended by the NPIA advisor. Members needed to understand that not every target would be met.

The T/Deputy Chief Constable stated that where no targets were indicated this was subject to agreement with partners.

It was RESOLVED:-

- (a) to agree the targets as outlined in the report; and
- (b) that the targets for local objectives be as follows:-
  - LO1 - target of 80%
  - LO2 - not to exceed 5%
  - LO3 - target of 10%
  - LO4 - target to be set later in the year once procedure for collection and analysis of data have been established.
  - LO5 - target of 60%
  - LO6 - a further 5% in addition to what was achieved last year.

**09/10. Policing Plan – Third Quarter Update**

The Committee received a report of the Chief Constable advising members of the third quarter performance against the 2009/10 year of the Policing Plan. A copy of the report marked 'E' is filed with the minutes.

In response to a question regarding the effectiveness of the Community Safety Programme Board the T/Chief Constable stated that this Board provided analysis on anti-social behaviour to each BCU however he added that the development of the Board would be considered at a future meeting of the Community Safety Programme Board.

Members requested that in future years the report adopt the traffic light monitoring approach in summary format.

The Committee RESOLVED to note:-

- (a) performance up to the end of the third quarter; and
- (b) the inclusion of an edited version of the Annual Report for 2009/10 in the Local Policing Summaries.

**10/10. Police Authority Inspection Improvement Plan**

The Committee received a report of the Chief Executive updating members on the Improvement Plan presented to the Authority on 26 January 2010 arising from the Police Authority inspection. A copy of the report marked 'F' is filed with the minutes.

The Chairman stated that the Treasurer would be leading on this piece of work as a result of discussions arising from the Members Awayday held in February. He added that a small group of members would form the core group, which would be a 'task and finish group' for taking this work forward of which he would be an ex-officio member.

The T/Chief Constable stated that the Chief Officer Group would like to be engaged in this process and have the opportunity to offer suggestions and observations.

The Chairman stated that assistance from the NPIA would be sought in moving ahead with some of the actions and that Dr Hill had volunteered to lead on IT.

The Treasurer stated that dates for the first meeting of the task and finish group would be circulated in order that the group could commence its work immediately after Easter.

It was RESOLVED:-

- (a) that membership of the Task and Finish Group be Dr Hill, Mr Orson, Mr Naylor (to be replaced by Mr Greaves if leaving the Authority for Cabinet role on the City Council), Mr Prince, Mr Render, Mr Rhodes and Mr B Roper; and
- (b) to note that a further report would be provided to the Police Authority meeting on 27 April 2010.

*At this stage Mr I Fraser, Procurement Manager, joined the meeting.*

**11/10. Environmental Strategy Targets**

The Committee received a report of the Chief Constable informing members of the progress made with regard to environmental management and seeking members' ratification of the targets set within the Force's environmental strategy. A copy of the report marked 'G' is filed with the minutes.

The Director of Finance stated that the targets contained within the report were aligned with East Midlands Police Forces, national forces and local authorities.

It was RESOLVED to ratify the environmental strategy targets as outlined in the report.

**12/10. 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.

**13/10. Exception to Contract Standing Orders –  
Acceptance of Other Than Lowest Quotation**

*(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 seeking members' approval to accept a quotation for a new contract for the provision of face to face interpreters which was not the most competitive quotation received. A copy of the report marked 'H' is filed with the minutes.

The Procurement Manager stated that this was a collaborative contract with the five forces in the East Midlands. In response to a question he added that after the 24 month contract period the cost would rise by RPI less 3%. Members asked that on next review Contract Standing Orders should reflect not just price but quality of service.

The Committee RESOLVED to place the contract with the C Limited for an initial five year period from 1 April 2010 until 31 March 2015.

**14/10. Public Relations Support**

*(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 considered a report from the Chief Executive for members consideration of whether or not to continue with PR support for the Police Authority. A copy of the report marked 'I' is filed with the minutes.

It was RESOLVED to continue with the contract for PR support on a rolling three month basis.

**CHAIRMAN**

10.00 a.m. – 12.08 p.m.  
23 March 2010