

POLICY & RESOURCES / CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

A meeting of the Policy & Resources / Corporate Development Panel was held on Thursday 15 January 2009 commencing at 10.00 am in the Members Conference Room at Police Headquarters.

PRESENT	Miss Pam Andrews-Mawer, Councillor Barry Coppinger (Chair), Mr Chris Coombs (ex officio), Mr Ted Cox JP, Mr Peter Hadfield, Mr Alf Illingworth TD JP, Councillor Hazel Pearson OBE, Mr Peter Race MBE and Councillor Steve Wallace (Vice Chair)
OFFICIALS	Mrs Julie Leng, Mr Norman Wright, Mr John Bage and Mrs Clare Hunter (CE) Mr Sean Price, Mr Derek Bonnard, Mrs Ann Hall, Miss Andrea Crinnion and Miss Kate Rowntree (CC).
ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES	Councillor Ron Lowes and Councillor Victor Tumilty

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from, Councillor Dave McLuckie (ex officio), Mr Aslam Hanif and Mr Joe McCarthy.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

Action

MINUTES OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES – CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT PANEL HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2008

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS

ORDERED that:-

1. the Outstanding Recommendations be noted.

BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 30 NOVEMBER 2008

The Assistant Chief Officer Finance and Commissioning presented the report. Members had approved a Net Budget Requirement (NBR) of £124,623k and budgeted revenue expenditure of £145,301k, the balance of expenditure being funded by specific grants, other income and transfers from reserves at their meeting on 28 February 2008. This report set out the progress against delivery of that budget and was part of the process introduced by the Authority to maintain prudent financial management.

The Authority is on target to deliver the £750k provision against the cost of a stand alone air support unit in 2009/10 and the budget of £300k form the non-recurring costs of the

exploratory procurement exercise for ICT services. The position to date and the year-end forecast were shown at Appendix A to the report.

No material risks other than those mentioned in the report or set out in the Risk Monitor at Appendix D had been identified to the delivery of a break even position against this revised budget.

ORDERED that:-

1. the contents of the report be noted.

CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT TO 30 NOVEMBER 2008

The Assistant Chief Officer Finance and Commissioning presented the progress against the delivery of the Capital Programme for 2008/09 and the Capital Plan for 2008/11 which Members had approved at their meeting on 28 February 2008.

The report set out the progress made in delivering the Capital Programme for 2008/09 and recommendations to make optimum use of the capital resource available to the Authority to refresh and develop the asset base for policing in the 21st Century in line with the vision of 'Putting People First'.

ORDERED that:-

1. the contents of the report be noted.
2. the addition of the Hartlepool Headquarters Artwork scheme at a cost of £25k be approved.
3. the removal of the £18.3k PFI Voice and Data budget be approved.
4. the carry forward to 2009/10 of the following budgets be approved:-

£50.6k on NSPIS HR & Origin Improvements
£31.0k on BMS Outstation Improvements

TREASURY MANAGEMENT TO 30 NOVEMBER 2008

The Assistant Chief Officer Finance and Commissioning presented the report to Members.

Local Authorities' (including Police Authorities) treasury management activities are prescribed by the Local Government Act 2003. Essentially a police authority may borrow or invest for any purpose relevant to its functions, under any enactment, or 'for the purpose of the prudent management of its financial affairs'.

An investment strategy for 2008/09 was agreed by Members at their meeting on 28 February 2008. Due to the unprecedented turbulence of the financial markets, this initial strategy had been updated to enable speed of action when responding to emerging risks to the Authority's investment portfolio. At their meeting on the 30 September 2008, Members resolved to delegate authority to amend the approved List of Counterparties and the investment limits with institutions to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Deputy Section 151 officer. This delegated authority would automatically be withdrawn at 31 March 2009.

This report updated Members on the status of the Authority's investments and borrowing. It was part of the process introduced by the Authority to maintain prudent financial management.

The Authority continued to manage its cash resources in a low risk yet highly liquid manner..

ORDERED that:-

1. the contents of the report be noted.

POLICE USE OF RESOURCES EVALUATION (PURE)

The Head of Strategy and Performance provided Members with information relating to the progress made in implementation of the recommendations from PURE 2007/2008, and to describe the methodology that is being used for 2008/2009.

Appendix A showed a positive progress against the majority of PURE 2007/2008 recommendations. Compared with December two areas showed slow progress – R5 Asset Management Plan and R7 Whole Life Costing.

Members were informed that PURE would be a key element of the Police Authority Inspection process.

ORDERED that:-

1. the information in Appendix A relating to the implementation of the recommendations of the Audit Commission for PURE 2007/2008 be noted.
2. the arrangement that were being used for 2008/2009 be noted.

LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG)

The Assistant Chief Officer Finance and Commissioning presented the report to Members.

The Budget Monitoring report for July 2008 reported a gross forecast overspend on petrol/diesel of £130k due to the rising prices experienced at the pumps. Although crude oil prices have fallen dramatically, this has not been fully reflected in the petrol/diesel prices charged at the pumps and the market continues to be volatile. Members considered the impact of oil price rises on Force petrol/diesel budgets and requested a report on the potential use of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) to fuel the fleet.

The Fleet Manager conducted research into this proposal and although there were apparent financial benefits of moving to LPG these are unlikely to be delivered. The widespread LPG also exposed the Force to some operational risks. For these reasons it is not recommended that LPG be adopted by the Force. However, the recommendations of the Energy Savings Trust Green Fleet Review would be brought forward in the updated fleet strategy.

ORDERED that:-

1. the contents of the report be noted.

PEOPLE & ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2008/11 AND ANNUAL PLAN – 2008/9

The Deputy Chief Constable provided Members with a copy of the third of the Force's People and Organisational Developmental Strategies covering 2008-11 and an update on progress against the 2008/9 People and Organisational Development Plan.

The delivery of the P&OD Strategy and Annual Plan is key to enabling the success of the Force's 'Putting People First' vision and long term sustainable business improvements. Progress against the 2008/9 plan to date is pleasing and with the reprioritisation already undertaken in Q3 and Q4 a sound platform for the delivery of the strategy would continue to be maintained.

ORDERED that:

1. the progress to date against the 2008/9 People and Organisational Development Plan be noted.

CLEVELAND POLICE AUTHORITY WEBSITE

The Secretariat Support Manager sought approval from Members for the proposed process to acquire a new Police Authority website and annual support.

In addition Members were asked to note the exemption to the normal requirement to obtain quotations or tenders in order to secure the continued maintenance of the Authority's existing website.

There was clearly a need to continue the development of the Cleveland Police Authority website and this report suggested a way forward which would give a much earlier implementation date than using the Force's provider, and cheaper annual costs. The suggested provider had recently successfully created and supplied similar to Lancashire and Cheshire Police Authorities.

ORDERED that:-

1. the Policy & Resources/Corporate Development Panel in exercise of its plenary powers agreed to waive standing orders and agreed to the Authority acquiring a new website from Creative Lynx in the projected sum of £17k, with annual running costs of £1.2k.
2. the exemption to the normal requirements to obtain quotations or tenders of the extension of the contract with 13 Strides to no later than the end of January 2010 be agreed.

PROCUREMENT REPORT FOR RESTAURANT & CATERING SERVICES

The Assistant Chief Officer Finance and Commissioning provided Members with details of the recent catering tender exercise for the provision of Restaurant and Catering services, including the recommendations put forward by the Evaluation Team.

The Procurement process had been completed in line with European Legislation and directives.

The tender evaluation had been conducted in a fair, comprehensive, thorough and transparent process.

The tender submission had fully met the specification required by Cleveland Police.

The Evaluation Team were confident that the new contract offered Value for Money.

ORDERED that:-

1. the procurement method used and the recommendation put forward by the Evaluation Team be noted.
2. Tender 2 be accepted as the most economically advantageous tender on the basis of a "nil" subsidy..

ENERGY AND WATER USAGE REDUCTION PROPOSALS

ORDERED that this item be withdrawn from this Agenda due

to additional information received. This report would be updated and submitted to the next meeting of this Panel for consideration.

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

ORDERED that pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CAPITAL ACCOMMODATION REPORT

The Assistant Chief Officer Finance and Commissioning updated members on the progress of a project which related to covert operations and therefore was reported separately from the monthly capital monitoring report.

ORDERED that:-

1. the contents of the report be noted.
2. the carry forward of £254k to 2009/10 from the 2008/9 capital budget be approved.
3. the carry forward of £108k from the 2008/9 revenue budget that was set aside for work on this Project be approved.