

POLICY & RESOURCES / CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

A meeting of the Policy & Resources / Corporate Development Panel was held on Wednesday 22 July 2009 commencing at 10.00 am in the Members Conference Room at Police Headquarters.

PRESENT Councillor Hazel Pearson OBE (Chair), Councillor Victor Tumilty (Vice Chair), Mr Alf Illingworth TD JP, Mr Aslam Hanif (representing Mr Coombs), and Mr Ted Cox JP.

OFFICIALS Mr Norman Wright and Mr John Bage (CE)
Mrs Ann Hall, and Miss Kate Rowntree (CC).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dave McLuckie (ex officio), Mr Peter Race MBE (ex officio), Mr Chris Coombs, Mr Sean Price, Mr Derek Bonnard.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

Action

MINUTES OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES / CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT PANEL HELD ON 11 June 2009

Councillor Pearson and Councillor Tumilty requested that their apologies be included for the previous meeting.

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

OUTSTANDING RECOMENDATIONS

ORDERED that:-

1. the Outstanding Recommendations be noted.

BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31 MAY 2009

The Assistant Chief Officer Finance and Commissioning presented the report. Members had approved a Net Budget Requirement (NBR) of £128,790k and budgeted revenue expenditure of £146,911k, the balance of expenditure being funded by specific grants, other income and transfers from reserves. The 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.

Members were informed that the position to date and the year end forecast were shown at Appendix A to the report. No material risks, other than those set out in the Risk Monitor at Appendix D to the report, had been identified to the delivery of a break even position for 2009/10.

ORDERED that:-

1. the report be noted.
2. the expenditure plan for 2009/10 be reviewed and any future proposals be brought to future meetings, be agreed.

CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT TO 31 MAY 2009

The Assistant Chief Officer Finance and Commissioning presented the progress against the delivery of the Capital Programme for 2009/10 and the Capital Plan for 2009/13 which Members had approved at their meeting on 26 February 2009.

Members approved a capital programme totalling £9,806k at their meeting on 26th February 2009. This included new capital schemes, schemes carried forward from 2008/09 and unallocated funding. Since the original programme had been agreed, a number of changes had been identified. These were summarized at Appendix B to the report.

ORDERED that:-

1. the report be noted.
2. the addition of the following project to the 2009/10 Capital Programme:
 - St. Hilda's PFI Communications Fallback Project at a reduced cost of £110k, be agreed, but that an update report be presented to a future meeting.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT TO 31 MAY 2009

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

Members agreed an investment strategy for 2009/10 at their meeting on 26th February 2009. At that meeting Members resolved to continue 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.

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

Members were informed that the protection of the Authority's underlying investments had continued to be of utmost importance throughout 2009-10. The investments of the Authority had continued to be placed in a prudent manner and also one that ensured sufficient funds were available to meet

its commitments as they became due.

ORDERED that:-

1. the report be noted.

LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (LTFP) UPDATE

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

Members approved the 2009/10 Budget and 2010/13 LTFP at their meeting on the 26th February 2009. The LTFP approved at that meeting required savings to be made in 2010/11 and 2011/12 to return the Force to recurring financial balance.

Members were informed that the report was part of the process introduced by the Authority to establish sustainable annual and medium term financial plans and maintain prudent financial management.

The Assistant Chief Officer Finance and Commissioning informed Members that due to the tightening economic climate and the emergence of a number of very significant pressures, a greater risk around the delivery of a balanced position for future years had been created.

ORDERED that:-

1. the contents of the report be noted.
2. Member's briefing(s) be arranged to further consider such matters, be agreed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS)

The Strategy & Performance Manager informed Members that the report was to respond to the Communities and Local Government (CLG) consultation paper entitled "LGPS delivering affordability, viability and fairness" which had been sent out to all LGPS stakeholders (local authority Chief Officers inc Police Authorities) on 25th June 2009 for consultation.

Members were informed that the current debate on the future of public sector pension schemes, which covered some 6.4 million employees, revolved around future liabilities. Recent calculations indicated large unfunded liabilities.

The CLG consultation paper proposed a solution to a likely short term funding problem. Members were informed that it did little to change the affordability of the LGPS in the long term. The proposals for further stakeholder consultation about the future direction of the LGPS will have to tackle the long term affordability issue for employers and taxpayers if the future of the Scheme, in its current format, is to be protected

ORDERED that:-

1. the Police Authority respond to the CLG consultation document, as laid out in para's 4 and 5 to the report be agreed.

PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

Members received a briefing on the Procurement Transformation and revised Contract Standing Orders (CSO) on 10th March 2009. The Procurement Strategy attached at Appendix A to the report, encompassed all the values of the revised Contract Standing Orders.

The Assistant Chief Officer Finance and Commissioning informed Members that the new Force Procurement Strategy had been designed to provide the foundations for effective procurement transformation and deliver significant performance improvement in supply chain management.

ORDERED that:-

1. the revised Procurement Strategy be agreed.

2008/09 ANNUAL FLEET STRATEGY REPORT

The Assistant Chief Officer Finance and Commissioning provided Members with an annual progress report with regard to the Fleet Strategy during the period 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009 respectively.

Members were informed that the Fleet Strategy was approved in 2007 and provided details of a professional fleet management approach employed to deliver a range of services in respect of the efficient and effective acquisition, maintenance and disposal of vehicles in response to operational needs.

An annual report had been produced by the Head of Commissioning in order to keep Members informed. It reported progress against the key deliverables and ensured service delivery continued to reflect the strategic aims of the Force.

ORDERED that:-

1. the report be noted.

PROCUREMENT OF REPLACEMENT FIRE ALARM SYSTEM FOR HQ

The Assistant Chief Officer Finance and Commissioning informed Members that they had recently been four false activations of the fire alarm at Police Headquarters.

Members were informed that due to the deterioration of the existing HQ fire alarm system (which is approximately 40 years old) advice was taken by the Force from the Fire Brigade and the Force Health and Safety Teams. The advice received was that the Headquarters alarm system be replaced as a matter of urgency.

The Assistant Chief Officer Finance and Commissioning reported to Members that due to the urgent need to replace the fire alarm system, it was agreed by Health & Safety and the Commissioning Management Team that the timescales for a full tender to replace the current system would not be appropriate.

Members were informed that due to the deterioration of the existing fire alarm system, an exemption to standing orders was raised to expedite the replacement of the system, which had become a strategic risk.

ORDERED that:-

1. the report be noted.
2. the procurement method used be agreed.