

**PART 1 MINUTES OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2010 AT COUNTY
HALL, HERTFORD**

PRESENT

Stuart Nagler (Chair), Richard Smith (Vice Chair)
Clare Berry, Sarah Coffey, Keith Emsall, Robert Gordon, Brenda Griffiths,
Chris Kitchin, David Lloyd, Kevin McGetrick, Sally Newton, Richard Roberts,
Derek Scudder, Ron Tindall, Bengie Walden, Sue Warman, Anne Wright

Hertfordshire Police Authority Officers present:

Bernice Compton	Committee and Members' Services Officer
Julia Harries	Committee and Members' Services Manager
Sally Patient	Communications Manager
Sarah Pickup	Treasurer
Andrew White	Chief Executive

Hertfordshire Constabulary Officers present:

James Hurley	Director of Resources
Simon Parr	Deputy Chief Constable
Chris Powell	Head of Finance
Frank Whiteley	Chief Constable

Also present:

Terry Connor (Independent Member from 24 February 2010)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Nigel Brook, who is recovering from a recent operation. The Chair informed members that Nigel had resigned from the Authority due to ill-health and that Hertfordshire County Council had appointed Richard Roberts to replace him from Tuesday 23 February 2010.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Part I minutes of the meeting held on Friday 20 November 2009 and of the Extra-ordinary meeting held on Friday 22 January 2010 were confirmed by the Authority as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

4. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Authority sent their best wishes to Nigel Brook for a speedy recovery from his recent operation.

Richard Roberts was welcomed as a new member to the Authority.

As this was her last day as an independent member of the Authority, Anne Wright was thanked for all her hard work, commitment and enthusiasm, in particular in her role as lead member for Independent Custody visiting. Members wished her well for the future.

The Authority welcomed Terry Connor who would be commencing his term of office as the new independent member from 24 February 2010.

The Authority congratulated Ian Laidlaw-Dickson who had been presented with an OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) award, for his services to the police. Ian held the role as Chair of the Police Authority from 2003 to 2008.

Constable Deborah Munday was congratulated on her recent appointment as Chair of the National Disabled Police Association. Deborah is the Events and Contingency Planning Constable based at Watford Police Station.

Inspector Paul O'Connor, who is an Intervention Inspector in Watford, had been awarded the Queen's Police Medal in the 2010 accolades after nearly 33 years' service to the Constabulary and was congratulated by the Authority for this achievement.

Members noted the following forthcoming events:

- Policing Plan Launch, 9.30am – 2.00pm, Monday 29 March, Fielder Centre, Hatfield.
- Policing Plan Local Launches in the process of being set up. Please see Emily Anderson for details of your local launch.
- Members' Meeting - Friday 12 March at 2.00pm in the Mimram Room.
- Seminar on Force Structure and Protective Services - Friday 19 March at 2.00pm in Committee Room B.
- Safer Neighbourhood Awards - Monday 24 May, 7.00pm, County Suite, County Hall, Hertford; closing date for nominations is Friday 5 March.
- The Constabulary Cricket Match sponsored by Crimestoppers at Watford Town Cricket Club would be arranged during the summer. More details would follow.

5. QUESTIONS

None

6. PUBLIC PETITIONS

None

ITEMS TO NOTE:

7. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

The Authority noted the minutes of recent committee meetings which had been circulated.

8. DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

The Authority noted a report setting out four decisions taken by the Chief Executive under delegated powers.

ITEMS FOR DECISION:

9. REVISIONS TO STANDING ORDERS

The Authority considered a report setting out several changes to current Standing Orders, in particular to ensure that treasury management matters are approved, monitored and scrutinised appropriately and to correct an anomaly regarding the appointment of the Chief Officer Personnel Committee.

The Authority agreed the following changes to Standing Orders:

1. Resources Committee, under Terms of Reference, point 6 be amended to read:

To consider, in relation to treasury management, the Authority's policy and annual strategy; to implement and monitor treasury management policies and practices and make recommendations to the Full Authority.

2. Audit Committee, under Terms of Reference, an item be added at point 7 (subsequent points to be re-numbered) to read:

To receive and scrutinise performance reports on treasury management and to ensure effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies.

3. Full Authority, under Terms of Reference, an item be added at point 7 (subsequent points to be re-numbered) to read:

To approve, in relation to treasury management, the Authority's policy and annual strategy and to note reports on performance.

4. With regard to the appointment of Chief Officer Personnel Committee, section 3(b) to be removed from the Scheme of Delegation to Chief Executive and under Scheme of Delegation to Committees, Full Authority point 10 be revised to read:

To appoint the membership of all the Committees and Police Authority Leads (PALs) at its Annual Meeting, including the Chief Officer Personnel Committee.

10. TREASURY MANAGEMENT

The Authority considered a report setting out details of the Treasury Management performance and activity in the 9 months to 31 December 2009, reporting on the proposed Treasury Management Prudential Indicators for the next 3 financial years, setting out the requirements of the revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice, and reporting on the proposed treasury management strategy for 2010/11, in accordance with the requirements of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice and the Communities and Local Government Department's investment guidance for Local Authorities.

It was noted that Audit Committee members had received training on these issues during 2009.

RESOLVED

That the Authority:

1. Adopted the proposed clauses and Treasury Policy Statement.
2. Approved the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2010/11.
3. Approved the proposed Treasury Management Prudential indicators.

11. POLICE AUTHORITY APPROVAL OF LEGAL SETTLEMENTS

The Authority considered a report setting out a proposed policy for the agreement of legal settlements.

RESOLVED

That the Authority:

1. Agreed that the monitoring officer would consult with the Chair of the Authority in all cases. For cases related to employment matters, a further consultation would take place with the Chair of the Human Resources Committee. For cases arising from operational issues, a further consultation would take place with the Chair of Resources Committee. For cases related to professional standards matters, a further consultation would take place with the Chair of the Community Engagement Committee.

2. Agreed that all cases would be reported to the next appropriate Committee meeting.
3. Agreed that fuller reports would be provided to the Full Authority on these delegated decisions, whilst noting that in some cases, the confidentiality required in final agreements might prohibit full reporting.

12. SETTING OF PRECEPT LEVEL FOR 2010/11

The Authority considered reports on the results of the recent public survey on precept levels and policing priorities, information on precept capping and a statement from the Treasurer on the adequacy of Police Authority reserves for the 2010/11 financial year. Members then debated various precept levels including those set out in the full budget report, which had also been discussed by the Resources Committee.

The Authority noted that in 2009/10, £3.7m of its Government grant had been withheld because of a 'floors and ceilings' adjustment to protect other Police Authorities from significant reductions in their grants; this shortfall would increase to £4.1m in 2010/11.

It was noted that Resources Committee had recommended that Police Authority domestic budget be frozen for 2010/11 at £1.125m, to include a freeze on members' allowances and a limit on member's conference expenditure.

Officers were thanked for an excellent budget report and the Chief Officer team were congratulated on their hard work and commitment in ensuring that Hertfordshire Constabulary remained one of the top performing Forces in the country.

Members discussed in particular the likely level of precept increase which would incur Government capping and agreed that it was not possible to predict this with any degree of certainty.

The use of reserves to fund the base budget and associated risks was discussed, with some members expressing concern that the proposed use of £600,000 from the general reserve may not be prudent. The Treasurer reminded members that her report to the Authority had stated that even if this money was used, the Authority would still have a prudent level of reserves but that it should not

consider any larger sums. The Treasurer pointed out that Hertfordshire Police Authority has one of the lowest levels of reserves in the country.

Members were reminded of the relevant Standing Orders for voting on the precept - for a resolution to be successful; it must be supported by at least nine members of whom five should be county councillors. Any resolution that did not meet both of those criteria would be defeated.

Members voted by show of hands on the following proposed precept increases:

2.95% - proposed by David Lloyd and seconded by Robert Gordon
2 in favour, 13 against, 2 abstentions – defeated

3.5% - proposed by Richard Smith and seconded by Ron Tindall
8 in favour, 7 against and 2 abstentions – defeated

4.5% - proposed by Brenda Griffiths and seconded by Bengie Walden
2 in favour, 14 against and 1 abstention – defeated

4.99% - proposed by Anne Wright and seconded by Sarah Coffey
2 in favour, 13 against and 2 abstentions – defeated

4.7% - proposed by Sue Warman and seconded by Kevin McGetrick
6 in favour, 10 against and 1 abstention - defeated

3.5% - proposed by Richard Smith and seconded by Ron Tindall
10 in favour, 5 against and 2 abstentions – carried with sufficient councillor support

Alongside the 3.5% precept increase, members agreed to the use of £0.630m of General Reserves, thereby requiring further savings of £0.324m to balance the budget. During the debate on this motion, the Chief Constable explained he would achieve a balanced budget through both reducing investment and making greater efficiencies to make up the £0.324m shortfall.

RESOLVED

That the Authority agreed:

1. To set the precept increase at 3.5% for 2010/11.
2. That the revenue budget requirement for 2010/11 be £190.772m, including a domestic budget for the Police Authority of £1.125m.
3. That £0.655m of General Reserves be used for the one-off Heritable Bank investment impairment and that £0.630m of General Reserves be used to support the 2010/11 revenue budget.
4. That the Band D Council Tax for the Police Authority be set at £147.82 and that the amount of tax calculated for all bands and precept amount required from the District Councils be as per the 3.5% option set out in Appendix 1 of Item 12.
5. That the Capital Programme for 2009/10 (Revised) and 2010/11 to 2013/14 be as set out in Section 10 of Item 12(3) Paper 3, Annex 1 of the budget report.
6. That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy and Prudential Indicators be as set out in Section 10 of Item 12(3) Paper 3, Annex 1 of the budget report.

13. POLICING PLAN 2010 - 2013

The Authority considered the proposed final draft rolling three-year Policing Plan 2010/13, as developed by the Policy and Planning Committee. The Plan is required by the Police and Justice Act 2006 and must be published by 31 March 2010.

Members discussed the Plan and made comments which would be incorporated into the final version. The Authority thanked Sally Patient and those staff from the Constabulary who had been involved in the development and production of the Plan. Members particularly welcomed the Neighbourhood Policing narrative.

RESOLVED

That the Authority approved the publication by 31 March 2010 of the three-year Policing Plan as set out in the report, with the addition of financial details in accordance with the budget resolution at Item 12 on this agenda.

14. POLICE AUTHORITY RISK REGISTER

The Authority considered the latest version of its Risk Register, noting that the amount of general reserves to offset the impact of the Heritable Bank investment impairment was £0.655m, not £0.665m, and reference to a good inspection report should be a 3 not a 1.

RESOLVED

That the Authority agreed the Risk Register, with the addition of a risk regarding the 2010 change programme and the size of the financial challenge faced to deliver this. The Authority agreed the removal of the proposed risks.

It was agreed that two new risks should be added to the register.

1. Meeting the financial gap
2. Risk to performance caused by the implementation of the 2010 proposals

The Chief Executive agreed to draft these new risks in consultation with the relevant committee chairs.

The Authority agreed that each risk should be allocated to a main committee to ensure that it was being effectively managed.

15. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest test not to disclose information outweighed the public interest in disclosing it.

16. PART 2 MINUTES

That the Part 2 minutes of the meeting held on Friday 20 November 2009 and of the Extra-ordinary meeting held on Friday 22 January 2010 were confirmed by the Authority as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

17. POLICE AUTHORITY RISK REGISTER

Noted and agreed as in item 14 above.

18. EASTERN REGION SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME COLLABORATION

The Authority considered a report setting out developments in regional collaboration for increasing the capacity and capability for tackling serious and organised crime, together with proposals to improve the delivery of a regional approach, building on the existing Regional Intelligence Unit (RIU) and Regional Tasking and Co-ordinating process.

Jerry Tattersall, Andy Theakston and Steve Ottaway were particularly thanked for all their hard work in this area, and members noted that Hertfordshire Constabulary and Police Authority had been the main drivers of this work.

The importance of this work was discussed, in particular providing full value for money for residents of Hertfordshire. The Authority would be kept informed of developments, with a further update going to the Joint Statutory Committee at its next meeting in April.

RESOLVED

That the Authority endorsed the arrangements in principle as set out in the report and agreed the proposed formal collaboration agreement, provided there were no significant changes.

19. OPERATIONAL MATTERS

The Chief Constable gave an oral update on recent operational matters of interest.

Chair