

# **CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES**

**Date:** Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010

**Time:** 4.00 pm until 5.55 pm

**Location:** Conference Rooms 3 and 4, Police Headquarters, Huntingdon

**Present:**

**Members:** Ms Ruth Rogers - Chairman  
Mr Benjamyn Damazer – Vice Chairman  
Mr Victor Lucas – Vice Chairman  
Mr Ansar Ali  
Mr John Batchelor  
Mr John Clark  
Ms Shona Johnstone  
Ms Ruth Joyce  
Mr Matthew Lee  
Mrs Olive Main  
Mr John Pye  
Mr John Reynolds  
Mr Kevin Wilkins  
Ms Nic Williams  
Mrs Jayne Wright

**Executive Team:** Dr Dorothy Gregson, Chief Executive  
Mr John Hummersone, Treasurer  
Mr Ronnie Yellon, Policy and Performance Manager  
Miss Louise Mann, Performance and Policy Officer  
Mrs Anna Horne, Media and Communications Officer

**Constabulary:** Chief Constable Julie Spence  
Deputy Chief Constable John Feavoyour  
Assistant Chief Constable Mark Hopkins  
Mrs Niki Howard, Director of Finance Resources

**Other Attendees:** None.

1. **To note any apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Mahmood Fazal.

2. **To note any Declarations of Interest – and any updates to the register of Member's interests**

None were declared.

**3. Questions and Statements from Members of the Public**

None were received.

**4. Any Other Items of Business that the Chairman decides should be considered as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100(B) (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972**

None was received.

**5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2009**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2009 were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**6. Capital Programme 2010/11 to 2012/13**

The Director of Finance and Resources and Treasurer presented for the Authority's consideration (and approval), the Capital Programme for 2010/11 and the forecasts for 2011/12 and 2012/13.

The Authority was informed that bids for new capital expenditure had been submitted to the Force Change Management Board throughout the year, and prioritised according to urgency. The Finance and Resources Committee had considered the Capital Programme at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

The Treasurer described the rising revenue costs of capital financing and reminded the Authority that the budget forecasts for 2011/12 and 2012/13 did not balance (gaps of £2m and £4m respectively).

The proposed Capital Programme for 2010/11 currently totalled £19.6m. Furthermore the 2010/11 draft revenue budget made full provision for the costs of the borrowing (including supported borrowing) to finance the proposed spend.

The Authority was advised of some future potential significant costs for the remodeling of Thorpe Wood Custody and Project Athena, noting that both schemes had been referred back to the Constabulary for more work.

The Authority noted further significant revenue costs for the Parkside Replacement Scheme (currently in the order of £1.6m in a full year). The Constabulary confirmed that preliminary work would continue on the Parkside Project, with further discussions on this issue and the Thorpe Wood Custody remodelling to take place at the Capital Panel meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

The Authority supported the Finance and Resources Committee's recommendation not to approve a Capital Programme that included the main Parkside (Southern BCU) scheme, at this stage.

The Authority also noted that Finance and Resources Committee had asked for further information on two significant IT schemes: CP10/06 – Blackberry PDA refresh (£1.060m) and CP10/09 – VoIP – telephony over the (internet) data network (£1.3m) prior to them being finally approved.

The Authority discussed and approved reconfigured Capital Programme for 2010/11, which omitted the three capital schemes as outlined above (Parkside, Blackberry PDA refresh and VoIP). The approval included year 2 and 3 commitments for those Schemes marked 'Year 1' Starts and commitments for future years.

**THE AUTHORITY RESOLVED:**

- (i) To approve the Capital Programme for 2010/11 (Table A) including Year 1 and 2 commitments for Schemes marked 'Year 1 Starts', and note the commitment for other Schemes for future years.**
- (ii) To delegate final approval of the two IT schemes (CP10/06 – Blackberry PDA refresh (£1.060m) and CP10/09 – VoIP – telephony over the (internet) data network (£1.3m)) to the Finance and Resources Committee**
- (iii) To continue the preliminary work on the Parkside scheme (noting that £0.9m has already been approved).**

**7. Budget Proposals 2010/11 and Forecasts 2011/12, 2012/13**

The Treasurer presented a detailed report outlining the Budget Proposals for 2010/11, including the precept and Council Tax and the Forecasts for 2011/12 and 2012/13.

The Authority was informed that following months of rigorous discussions, the Constabulary had used the Star Chamber process and issued cash limits to budget holders based on the financing forecast. This had allowed the Constabulary to identify efficiency savings and prepare a realistic balanced budget in order to close the £1.1m budget gap identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan. Forecasts were based on the assumption of a 2.95% council tax increase for 2010/11 and 2% increases in years 2011/12 and 2012/13.

The Treasurer reported that the budget proposals also reflected the final pay rise of the 3 year pay deal agreed in 2008/09 – 2.55% for Police Officers and 2.58% for Police staff. The forecasts for 2011/12 onwards assumed that pay awards would reduce to around 1%. The Authority was assured that the budget provided for the continuation of Police Officer and PCSO numbers at 2009/10 levels; increased fuel and utilities budgets and other significant service pressures faced by the Constabulary amounting to £1.8m. The Chief Constable confirmed that various initiatives were underway to identify further efficiency savings.

The Authority briefly discussed the outcome of the recent winter consultation process which, as in previous years, had taken place via local Neighbourhood Panel meetings, across the county and in Peterborough. The public were broadly supportive of the increase in council tax and early indications were that their top priorities for the year ahead would be anti-social behaviour.

The Treasurer briefly reported on the robustness of the estimates and the level of reserves. The Authority approved two recommendations made by the Finance and Resources Committee relating to the Treasury Management Policy and revised Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators.

The Treasurer reminded the Authority of the Governments statements on capping i.e. that any increases should be below the average 3% increase in the current year..

The Authority questioned the reference to the possible re-election of a Labour Government at point 9.2. The majority of Members felt that this section was inappropriate and requested this wording to be removed.

Following discussion the Authority unanimously approved a 2.95% increase in the Authority's Band D Council Tax, and a Net Budget Requirement of £129,992,338. On approving the budget, the Authority acknowledged that the budget provided sufficient resource for maintaining the current levels of service, but afforded no future growth.

The Chairman concluded the budget discussion by recording the Authority's sincere appreciation to the Chief Constable, Director of Finance and Resources, Accounting Services Manager, the Treasurer and their staff who had worked hard during the budget setting process to prepare a difficult and 'balanced' budget.

***THE AUTHORITY RESOLVED:***

- (i) To approve the Net Budget Requirement of £129,992,338.***
- (ii) To approve the precept of £46,338,629 to be levied on the District Councils and to be received in 10 equal instalments, in accordance with the "fall-back" provisions of the Local Authorities (Funds) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 1995.***
- (iii) To approve the Band D Council Tax of £169.56 and the Council Tax for each Band of Property as set out below.***

<b>Band</b>	<b>Council Tax</b>		<b>Band</b>	<b>Council Tax</b>
A	£113.04		E	£207.24
B	£131.88		F	£244.92
C	£150.72		G	£282.60
D	£169.56		H	£339.12

- (v) To approve the Treasury Management Strategy as recommended by the Finance and Resources Committee.***
- (vi) To approve the revised Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators.***

## **8. Amendment to Financial Regulations**

The Authority received proposals to approve amendments to Financial Regulations in respect of Partnerships.

The Treasurer reported that the Authority had approved a Joint (Authority and Constabulary) Strategy and Policy for Partnerships at its meeting in December 2009. The External Auditor had since identified a number of recommendations in this area, relating to changes required in Financial Regulations.

The Authority approved the required changes with immediate effect.

### ***THE AUTHORITY RESOLVED:***

- (i) To approve the changes to Financial Regulations.***

## **9. Policing Plan Priorities for 2010/13**

The Authority received a report (and as previously reported to the Finance and Resources Committee) which outlined the planning process and the future Policing Plan priorities for 2010/13.

The Chief Executive confirmed that that as in previous years, the Authority and Constabulary were working in partnership to develop the Policing Plan. This would be submitted for approval to the Finance and Resources Committee at its meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010, prior to the final Plan being issued by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 and published by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

The Authority was satisfied with the progress of the Plan and approved the Local Policing Priorities as outlined.

### ***THE AUTHORITY RESOLVED:***

- (i) To note the report and the approved Local Priorities as shown at Appendix A.***

## **10. Revision of Police Authority Standing Order 6**

The Chief Executive presented a report which sought the Authority's approval to review the wording of Standing Order No. 6 (paragraphs 2, 4 and 6 only).

The Authority was informed that its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009, the Citizen Focus Panel had received a draft Engagement Plan – (a joint initiative between the Authority and Constabulary) – which outlined the current mechanisms and some areas of improvement, with regards to engagement. One of these areas highlighted the issue of public questions raised at Police Authority meetings.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Media and Communications Officer had since revised Standing Order No. 6 in order to simplify the current process and ensure that a more flexible system was in place. The Authority was satisfied with this course of action and approved the recommendation as outlined.

**THE AUTHORITY RESOLVED:**

- (i) ***To note the report.***
- (ii) ***To approve the revised wording of paragraphs 2, 4 and 6 of Standing Order 6.***

**11. Report of the Committees and Panels**

The Authority was updated on key issues discussed at the two Committee meetings held since the last Authority meeting; the Eastern Region Collaboration Joint Statutory Committee meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010 and the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

The Authority approved a proposal made by the Finance and Resources Committee to adopt the Constabulary's Fees and Charges Booklet for 2010/11.

**THE AUTHORITY RESOLVED:**

- (i) ***To note the report and approve the adoption of the Fees and Charges Booklet for 2010/11.***

**12. Exclusion of the public**

To pass a resolution that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in clause 7 of Part 1 of the Revised Schedule 12A to the Act, provided by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006.

**13. Tackling Organised Crime in the Eastern Region**

The Authority received a report on Cambridgeshire Constabulary's ongoing work to tackle organised crime within the eastern region.

The Authority endorsed the approach taken by the Constabulary in this area.

**THE AUTHORITY RESOLVED:**

- (i) ***To note the report and agreed course of action.***

**14. Air Support Consortium**

The Authority considered a report and delegated approval for the Agreement for the Air Support Consortium Section 23 Agreement to the Chief Executive and Treasurer.

***THE AUTHORITY RESOLVED:***

- (i) To note the report and agreed course of action.***

**15. Date of the next meeting**

It was noted that the next Police Authority meeting would be held on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at 4.00 pm** at Police Headquarters, Huntingdon.

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**CHAIRMAN**