

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Monday 22nd February 2010

Time: 4.00 pm until 5.10 pm

Location: Conference Rooms 3 and 4, Police Headquarters

Present:

Members: Mr John Batchelor – Deputy Chairman
Mr John Clark
Mrs Olive Main
Ms Ruth Rogers
Ms Nic Williams

Executive Team: Mr John Hummersone, Treasurer
Mr Ronnie Yellon, Policy and Performance Manager
Miss Jackie Chapman, Committee and Support Services Officer

Constabulary: Assistant Chief Constable Mark Hopkins
Mrs Niki Howard, Director of Finance and Resources

1. To note any apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Ms Shona Johnstone, Mr Benjamyn Damazer and Mr Mahmood Fazal.

2. To note any Declarations of Interest

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 were received.

5. To confirm the minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on 20th January 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2010 were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Chairman.

Further to discussion at the last meeting, the Assistant Chief Constable confirmed that the Constabulary was currently seeking advice on issues surrounding Special Priority Payments. The Committee could expect to have a definitive answer on this matter at the meeting on 29th March 2010.

6. Capital Programme 2009/10 - Monitoring Report

The Committee received the Capital Programme Monitoring Report for 2009/10, which gave a financial overview of the Capital Programme for the nine months ending 31st December 2009 and also included:-

- A scheme by scheme summary of progress and budget variances.
- A project highlights report indicating the current predicted delivery times (and slippage) for each scheme.

The Director of Finance and Resources reported that some 82% of the 2009/10 Capital Programme had been committed at the end of December (November 68.1%) with an expected outturn of 93.1%. The Constabulary anticipated total carry forwards of £1.3m (or around 8% of budgeted capital payments) which would be brought back for approval to the June Committee meeting. .

Principal spends in the period related to a number of significant building projects brought forward. These included Cambourne Police Station (£1.3m); Copse Court refurbishment (£1.4m); HQ remodelling (£1.2m) and planned major repairs (£1.2m). The Committee noted that actual and committed spend had reached £1.7m on the purchase of Monks Wood and £1.1m on vehicle replacements at the period end. Capital resources to date included grants of £1.2m from Central Government and receipts of £0.3m from the sale of vehicles, which had been added to receipts brought forward of £2.3m.

The Committee briefly debated the Parkside Replacement Project, noting that further discussion on this issue would take place at the forthcoming Capital Panel meeting on 15th March 2010.

The Director of Finance and Resources highlighted some individual aspects of the report for the Committee's information. These included:-

- A reduction in expenditure (£308k) on the Microsoft Migration Project (CP09/05), as a result of wrongly coded revenue costs.
- A slight overspend of £80k on the SARC Project (CP08/28). However, the Constabulary are anticipating £75k of additional funding from the Home Office in respect of this Project.

The Committee noted and approved three capital additions and virements:-

- Virement of £65k from the Edge Switching for Remote Service (CP09/02) Project to the Network Core Upgrade (CP08/27) Project giving a combined budget of £345k;;
- £30k for the Asset Tracking Service Management Tool Project (CP08/13), to be met by a transfer from the contingency budget and
- An additional £230k for the Identity Access Management Project (CP09/04) part financed by the balance of the contingency budget (£163k)

The Treasurer confirmed that the revenue effects of the additional cost of CP09/04, £67k, could be met from slippage in the programme.

In relation to CP09/04, the Assistant Chief Constable reported that the Constabulary was seeking to replace its various ID access encryption devices, into one single card access. This would allow the Force to comply with the new NPIA specifications for the protection of Restricted and Confidential information. The Committee noted that further detail on this area would be presented to the Committee in due course.

RESOLVED:

- (i) *To note the report.*
- (ii) *To approve the three capital additions and virements relating to Projects CP08/27 and CP09/02; CP08/13 and CP09/04.*
- (iii) *For the Constabulary to provide the Committee with an update on Project CP09/04, once further details are known.*

7. Revenue Monitoring 2009/10

The Committee received a report on spend against the approved 2009/10 Revenue Budget for the 9 months ended 31st December 2009.

The Director of Finance and Resources reported that since the last meeting, there had been little change. The budget was still in balance with a very marginal underspend of £33k or 0.04% of Net Revenue Budget.

The principal variances against budget included underspendings on Police Officer and Police staff budgets, offset by overspending on Police Staff overtime and agency staff, and overspend on a range of goods and services.

Projections of spending to the year end indicated a possible overspend of £0.3m or 0.3% of Net Revenue Budget. As reported to the last meeting, the forecasting exercise had again revealed overspends on utilities, vehicle fuel and reductions in interest receivable.

The Committee once again re-iterated its concerns regarding the increases in Police Officer overtime. The Director of Finance and Resources assured the Committee that the Constabulary had implemented policy and procedural changes to manage this issue more effectively. The Constabulary agreed to provide the Committee with a detailed update (in due course) on the efforts made to reduce Police Officer overtime.

RESOLVED:

- (i) *To note the report.*
- (ii) *For the Constabulary to provide the Committee (in due course) with an update on the efforts to control Police Officer overtime.*

8. Charging for Police Services

The Director of Finance and Resources presented the guidance for Charging for Police Services in Cambridgeshire.

At its last meeting, the Committee discussed the charging policy and sought clarification on the abatement charges for community and non-profit making events. The report addressed the Committee's concerns. For "Non-profit" making events, organisations would be charged 75% of the total policing bill. Community Events organisers would continue to receive 70% abatement of the full charge.

The Director of Finance and Resources hoped that these criteria would ensure a fair and transparent way of charging organisations for policing services.

The Committee approved a recommendation for the updated guidelines to be submitted for approval to the full Police Authority meeting on 7th April 2010.

RESOLVED:

- (i) *To note the report.*
- (ii) *To approve the updated Charging for Police Services in Cambridgeshire Guidance, subject to formal approval by the full Authority at its meeting on 7th April 2010.*

9. Innovation Reserve – Match Funding for Energy Efficiency Schemes

The Director of Finance and Resources presented a report which sought the Committee's approval to create a match-funded initiative with Salix Finance Ltd (Carbon Trust).

The Committee was informed that Salix would provide ring-fenced funding (in the form of a Conditional Grant over a 2 year period), matched by the Authority, to create a revenue fund to pay for energy efficiency projects across the Constabulary estate. The Director of Finance and Resources reported that an investment of £100k from the Authority, with £100k matched by Salix, would allow the Constabulary to undertake additional carbon reduction projects with savings recycled into the fund so that further projects could be undertaken.

The Treasurer suggested that the Innovation Reserve could be used to provide the Authority's share of the funding.

The Committee acknowledged the positive benefits of the initiative and approved (in principle) to match fund the scheme with Salix Finance Ltd, subject to confirmation by the Treasurer of the financial accounting arrangements in place.

RESOLVED:

- (i) *To note the report.*
- (ii) *To approve in principle for the Authority to match fund the scheme with Salix Finance Ltd, subject to the Treasurer's confirmation regarding the financial accounting arrangements in place.*

10. Date of the next meeting

It was noted that the next Finance and Resources Committee would be held on **Thursday 4th March 2010 at 4.00 pm**, at Police Headquarters, Huntingdon.

CHAIRMAN