

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Thursday 4th March 2010

Time: 4.00 pm until 4.50 pm

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

Present:

Members: Ms Shona Johnstone – Chairman
Mr John Clark
Mrs Olive Main
Ms Ruth Rogers
Ms Nic Williams

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

Constabulary: Deputy Chief Constable John Feavour
Mrs Niki Howard, Director of Finance and Resources

1. **To note any apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr John Batchelor.

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. Value for Money Statement

The Director of Finance and Resources presented the proposed 'Value for Money Statement'. This new Statement, required by Regulations, must be included in the Policing Plan 2010/11 and be in a prescribed format and include the Constabulary's planned improvements in efficiency and productivity; how such increases would be achieved and the cashable gains to be secured.

As previously reported to the Committee (and Authority) the Constabulary is looking at various options to reduce the budget and identify permanent cash savings, in order to bridge the expected budget gaps in 2011/12 and beyond. The Committee was reminded that these gaps were £2m in 2011/12 and £4m in 2012/13, based on predictions of 0% grant increase and 2% council tax increases.

The Director of Finance and Resources reported that, following the publication of Draft Policing Plan (Amendment) Regulations 2009 (which set out the content for inclusion within the Policing Plan), Cambridgeshire had prepared a Statement which would focus on several main areas. These included:-

- Efficiency in productivity – i.e. build on existing business processes to ensure best practise across the organisation.
- Reduce overtime spending.
- Assess process improvements in key areas of business.
- Reduce bureaucracy.
- Adopt national frameworks for procurement.
- Implement measures to achieve national convergence of information technology.
- Identify measures to provide a lean support service across the organisation.
- Other Innovation projects.
- Further work regarding income generation partnership working.

The Committee noted that cashable savings arising from the above work could be in the region of £1.5m in 2010/11, with more work underway to identify further cash savings for 2012/13 and beyond. The Director of Finance and Resources reminded the Committee that the areas identified in the VFM Statement alone would not address the future budget gaps.

The Committee asked for the 'finance' section of the Plan to be reinstated and the VFM Statement to be linked to it. This would put the Statement into the context of the budget pressures. The Committee suggested that some of the detail on HMIC profiles could be removed and asked Officers to update the draft accordingly.

The Committee was satisfied that the Statement (subject to further iterations) provided a good description of the main ways in which VFM could be secured.

RESOLVED:

- (i) *To note the report.*
- (ii) *For Officers to include to include additional financial information within the Plan linking to the VFM Statement.*

6. Exclusion of the public

The Committee passed a resolution that declared 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 involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in clause 3 of Part 1 of revised Schedule 12A to the Act.

7. Collaboration Update

The Deputy Chief Constable presented an update on the current position of Collaborative engagement within Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

RESOLVED:

(i) To note the report and endorse the ongoing work regarding collaboration.

8. Date of the next meeting

It was noted that the next Finance and Resources Committee would be held on **Monday 29th March 2010 at 4.00 pm**, at Police Headquarters, Huntingdon.

CHAIRMAN