

HUMBERSIDE POLICE AUTHORITY

(Special Meeting)

13 FEBRUARY 2007

<u>PRESENT:-</u>	Councillor Stroud in the Chair
Elected Members:-	Councillors Black, Brady, De Freitas, Phillips, Rudd, Tress and Uzzell.
Magistrate Members: -	Mr C Palmerley, Mr A Smith and Mr R Stuart.
Independent Members:-	Mr S Abdul Rahman, Ms A Branton MBE, Mrs H Groves, Mr G Southern and Mr J Shipley.
Officers: -	Ms S Ismail, Chief Executive, Mr J Bates, Director of Performance and Resources, Mr T Hollis, Chief Constable, Mr P Goatley, Assistant Chief Officer (Support), Mr N Kingston, Assistant Chief Executive, Mr P Wainwright, Performance and Resources Manager and Ms S Blair, Better Times Ltd.

The Authority met at Pacific Exchange, Kingston upon Hull.

- 74 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/OFFERS OF GIFTS OR HOSPITALITY** – The Chair reminded Members of the need to record any personal or prejudicial interest in items on the agenda and to disclose any relevant receipt or offering of gifts or hospitality.
- Ms Branton expressed a personal, prejudicial interest in minute 77 and left the meeting during its discussion.
- 75 **APOLOGIES** – Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Brookes.
- 76 **(51) DRAFT PRIORITIES, TARGETS AND LOCAL INDICATORS** – The Chief Executive submitted a report that, further to the Priorities and Resources Workshop held on 16 January 2007, submitted for discussion and agreement (i) draft local priorities for the Force for 2007/08; (ii) proposed targets for the SPIs, and (iii) proposed Local Performance Indicators (LPIs) and targets.

The Performance and Resources Manager talked through the report and the

following points were raised:

- A member referred to SPI1c and highlighted that the percentage had risen by 4% from 2004/05 to 2005/06. Following a discussion it was agreed that the proposed target for 2007/08 be increased from 61% to 70%.
- Referring to SPI5b, the Performance and Resources Manager advised Members that the MSF average was 28%. The Force would provide Members with feedback on plans to reduce violent crime at the Police Authority meeting of 20 March 2007. The decision was therefore deferred to allow an informed decision to be made. A Member requested that actual figures be provided alongside the percentages to allow a more robust tracking process.
- The Performance and Resources Manager referred to SPI7 and advised that the Force's sanction detection rate for the last 3 months had been 29%, 4% higher than the figure set. The Performance and Resources Manager asked Members to consider whether this figure was sustainable. The Chief Constable advised that a year ago, the HMIC had said that if the Force did not deliver on sanction detections, it would not achieve disengagement from the PSU; it was therefore necessary to maintain the improvements but to also acknowledge wider issues. The sanction detection figures for the month of January had been investigated by one Member who informed the meeting that the detection rate for the Force had been 33%. 'A' Division, although the Division with the lowest sanction detection, had achieved 28.4%, 3.4% above the proposed target of 25%. Members therefore agreed that the proposed target be increased from 25% to 27%.
- The Performance and Resources Manager advised Members that in respect of LPI1a, Humberside's 999 performance currently put them 2nd in the country. The switchboard and command centre were also performing well. The Performance and Resources Manager advised that although the Customer Service Crime Centre were still a long way from achieving their proposed target, the Command Centre Manager was aware of its problems and had produced a report/improvement plan to enable the target to be reached without the need for extra staff. His plan predicted that the target could be met in 16 weeks. Members suggested introducing a step target and to initially set the target as 70% for April – June 2007 with a view to increasing this to 90% from July 2007. Members concluded that as an IHIT meeting was to be held 12 March, the decision on this matter be deferred until 20 March meeting when further information would be available. In the mean time, Members were advised that they would be sent a copy of the Mission Statement as prepared by Carl Sheppard and also the CSCC report prepared by Andrew Globe.
- The Performance and Resources Manager informed Members that the proposed target of 17.5 for LPI3a could result in a "fair" grading. He had calculated that if the current performance was sustained, a percentage of 17.4 would be achieved by the end of March 2008. The Chief Constable stressed to Members that categories such as this were not just about

numbers; the Force were aiming to achieve a better standard of service, more customer focussed.

- A Member commented that the proposed target for LPI3b was too high at 20%. It was agreed that the proposed target remain at 19.5%, the target that had been set for 2006/07.
- The Performance and Resources Manager suggested to Members that the proposed target at LPI3c was unrealistic. He commented that as this indicator worked as an overall partnership target it should coincide with the Local Area Agreement target. Members agreed to defer this item to the 20 March meeting where further information would be available.
- LPI5c – Members agreed to set the proposed target at 60%.
- Members discussed the idea of doubling the target of 2 hours per week at LPI5d however stated that this would be ultimately in the hands of the volunteers. It would be their decision as to how many hours they would like to dedicate. A Member suggested that a collective figure of worked hours would be a better measure. The Director of Performance and Resources agreed but in addition indicated that distribution, not just the numbers involved, was also an important issue. It was agreed that a further report be brought to the 20 March meeting to allow an informed decision to be made on whether the current target of 2 hours per week per volunteer should be doubled.
- A Member referred to SPI2a and highlighted that Humberside were currently ranked the lowest of all of the Police Forces for this particular category. The other two lowest Forces were Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire, both of which were in engagement with the PSU. It was agreed that instead of the proposed target reading “at least the MSF average”, it would be set at 50% which, although still a low figure, was considered to be realistic.
- In response to a Member’s query on SPI3e, the Chief Constable reassured Members that the Force were doing all they could to attempt to keep the numbers of BME recruits up. It was agreed that the Chief Constable submit a report to the Personnel Committee on efforts being made to meet this indicator.
- The decision to possibly remove LPI1g was deferred to the 20 March meeting.

Resolved – (a) That the report be noted; (b) that the draft local priorities for the Force for 2007/08 be agreed; (c) that the proposed targets for the SPIs, taking into account the comments made above, be agreed; (d) that the proposed Local Performance Indicators and targets, taking into account the comments made above, be agreed, and (e) that a further report be submitted to the Police Authority meeting to be held on 20 March 2007 in respect of any alterations to local indicators and/or targets and determination of what should be included in the local domain.

the Director of Performance and Resources submitted a joint report that introduced a Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2007/08 to 2011/12. The Strategy was a living document that would be subject to regular update and review and was a vehicle that would bring together the resource implications of key strategies such as Human Resources, IT/IS and Estates to ensure that they were deliverable against a background of increasingly significant financial constraints. The development of the Strategy would also enable action planning to be undertaken on value for money, external funding, income generation and efficiencies.

The Chairman thanked the Assistant Chief Officer (Support), the Director of Performance and Resources and their staff for their efforts in compiling the report. The Director of Performance and Resources advised Members that the budget had been constructed in a way that allowed for the provision of a full complement of PCSOs, adding that had the Home Office provided the support originally envisaged for PCSOs, then the forecast would have been considerably different.

The Assistant Chief Officer (Support) advised Members that the possible reduction of the General Reserve from 5% to 3% was being considered and that balances and reserves would be reviewed at least annually.

A Member commented that the biggest risk appeared to be that of the pay award, explaining that interest rates were likely to increase and for every 0.5% on each of the pay awards a cost of £70,000 would be incurred.

A Member raised concerns that Members of Parliament from the Great Grimsby Constituency appeared to be misinformed with regards to the funding of PCSOs and requested that a letter should be sent to all MPs explaining the position. The Chief Constable reported that all MPs had already been made aware of the position following the Minister's announcement in November and that they had subsequently received copies of the correspondence from the Minister detailing the additional budget pressure that the Authority now faced.

Resolved - (a) That the document be endorsed and (i) the concerns regarding CSR2007, Grant Funding (main and specific grants), (ii) the uncertainty over pay awards from 2007/08 onwards, (iii) the lack of information on capping criteria beyond 2007/08, (iv) the proposals to undertake prudential borrowing, (v) the proposal to redesignate the Authority's reserves, (vi) the reliance on reserves in the financial forecast to support ongoing commitments, and (vii) the need to be rigorous in bringing the budget back into balance whilst at the same time supporting initiatives to enhance performance and service delivery, be noted; (b) that the proposals to develop a Workforce Modernisation Project funded from the Performance Improvement Reserve with a £4m ring fenced allocation be agreed; (c) that

the Chief Constable be requested to submit detailed business cases to support the release of funding from the Performance Improvement Reserve, and (d) that the Director of Performance and Resources and the Assistant Chief Officer (Support) update Members on changes that affect the underlying assumptions in the MTFs as the year progresses.

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(53) POLICING PLAN 2007/08 – FINANCIAL RESOURCES –The Chief Constable and the Director of Performance and Resources submitted a joint report that provided detailed information on the financial framework within which the Authority would have to operate following the receipt of the Local Government Finance Settlement and the Police Grant report for 2007/08.

The report, which must be read in conjunction with the report on the Draft Priorities, Targets and Local Indicators and the Medium Term Financial Strategy, confirmed details of the grant settlement and recommended Revenue and Capital budgets for 2007/08 for consideration and approval. The report had been prepared in accordance with the Police Act 1996 to enable the Authority to approve the financial resources required to support the Policing Plan (Section 8(2) of the Act), and the level of precept (Section 19 of the Act) for 2007/08.

The Chairman advised that by approving the budget, Members would allow the Authority to fulfil the promise that had been made to the Humberside region – 332 PCSOs could be recruited that had previously not been thought possible.

In response to a request from a Member, the Director of Performance and Resources indicated that the reserves position at the year end was set out in paragraph 8.8 of the report. He agreed with comments that budget reports needed greater clarity regarding the amount of external funding and that the base budget would be subject to ongoing scrutiny. He also indicated that both he and the Assistant Chief Officer (Support) would like to have financial monitoring included in the Performance Management Guide so that this could be scrutinised outside the current arrangements which were dictated by the Committee timetable.

In response to a Member's query, the Assistant Chief Officer (Support) advised that over 70% of all Force procurements were carried out on a regional or national basis, taking full advantage of the benefits of bulk buying.

A Member queried why monetary instalments from unitary authorities were paid on a 12 monthly basis rather than 10. The Assistant Chief Officer (Support) agreed to investigate this further.

Resolved – (a) That, after taking into account the issues set out in the report, the requirements of the Policing Plan and the financial pressures considered

at the Resources Workshop on 16 January 2007 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy, the Revenue Budget for the Authority for 2007/08 as detailed at paragraph 6.5 be set at £168.127m; (b) that the revised 5 Year Forecast as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy be agreed; (c) that the Collection Fund surplus of £0.653m be used to fund the 2007/08 Revenue Budget; (d) that the Police Authority's level of Council Tax for each category of dwelling, based on the Council Tax base of 282336.84 Band D equivalent properties as notified by the four Unitary Authorities for 2007/08 be agreed as follows

Tax Band	£
A	99.72
B	116.34
C	132.96
D	149.58
E	182.82
F	216.06
G	249.30
H	299.16

(e) that the precept payable by the Unitary Authorities should be in 12 equal instalments on dates to be agreed; (f) that the Capital Programme and funding proposals for 2007/08 as set out at paragraph 7.2 be approved, and (g) that a further report be submitted to the Audit and Strategy Committee on the Prudential Code Performance Indicators for 2006/07 and 2007/08 prior to consideration by the Authority at its meeting on 20 March 2007.

URGENT ITEM – The following items, minutes 79 and 80, were considered after the Chairman had decided that they were urgent in view of the timescale involved.

79 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC** – **Resolved** - That in accordance with the provisions of Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, minute 80, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

80 **(54) SECONDMENT OF OFFICER TO IRAQ** – The Chief Constable submitted a report that requested the secondment of an officer to serve as Assistant to the UK Chief Police Adviser-Iraq (Crime) in Basra, Iraq for a period of 6 months.

Resolved – (a) That the report be noted, and (b) that the secondment be approved.