

HUMBERSIDE POLICE AUTHORITY

(Special Meeting)

30 June 2008

<u>PRESENT:-</u>	Ms Branton MBE in the Chair
Elected Members:-	Councillors Parsons, Rudd and Uzzell
Magistrate Members:-	Mr C Palmerley JP and Mr A Smith JP.
Independent Members:-	Mr G Doherty, Mrs H Groves, Mr J Shipley and Mr G Southern.
Officers: -	Mr J Bates, Director of Performance and Resources, Mr P Goatley, Assistant Chief Officer (Support), Mr I Porter, Mr M Ransom and Ms R Partis, Financial Management.

The Authority met at Pacific Exchange, Kingston upon Hull.

- 21 **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.

The Chair indicated that her interest, as Chief Executive of HANWaG, was covered in the Annual Accounts at minute 24.

- 22 **APOLOGIES** – Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Brookes, De Freitas, Hull and Matthews.

- 23 **(13) ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2007/08** – The Chief Constable and the Director of Performance and Resources submitted a joint report that introduced the Authority's first Annual Governance Statement for approval and inclusion in the Annual Accounts for 2007/08. Appendix 1 to the report was a copy of the Annual Governance Statement Framework and Appendix 2 was a copy of the Annual Governance Statement.

The Director of Performance and Resources advised that a change in regulations had meant that public authorities had to produce an Annual Governance Statement that was wider than the Statement on Internal Control that had previously had to be produced. He reported that a joint statement had been prepared, with the Force, but that this would be kept

under review for the future.

A Member queried whether the document was intended as a description of what was being done or an evaluation of what had been achieved and the Director of Performance and Resources indicated that it sought to follow the available guidance and was descriptive. There were currently no examples for Police Authorities to measure against so it was difficult to evaluate performance, however, it was hoped that the Police Authority Self Assessment (PASA) framework, which the Authority had been involved in piloting, would help to address this.

Members discussed the Statement commenting specifically on the role of the Corporate Group and the Performance Committee. Discussion also took place around whistleblowing and whether using Members to dip sample complaints was the best use of their time. The importance of Citizen Focus was highlighted as was the need for all Members to be sighted on major issues such as this. It was suggested that the Statement could include targets and responsibilities so that progress could be monitored and the Director of Performance and Resources advised that detailed guidance on the compilation of the document had only been received on 24 April and there had therefore been very little time to consider monitoring and evaluation. Information was available on how progress should be reported back and this would be developed into an action plan during the coming year.

Members further discussed the restructuring of the APA and the impact that this had on increasing regional working and the need for this to be considered in the next Annual Governance Statement.

Resolved - (a) That the Annual Governance Statement be approved, and (b) that its inclusion in the Authority's Accounts be agreed.

- 23** **(14) ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2007/08** – The Chief Constable and Director of Performance and Resources submitted a joint report that sought Members' approval of the Annual Accounts 2007/08. The accounts remained subject to audit, the District Auditor would give his opinion on them by 30 September 2008. A copy of the Annual Accounts were appended to the report.

The Director of Performance and Resources highlighted the changes to the police pension regulations that had meant that again late changes had had to be made to the accounts. He advised that the appointed date for audit was 26 August 2008 and that the accounts would be open for inspection from 28 July to 22 August.

In presenting the accounts to Members he specifically highlighted that (i) the general reserve had been reduced to 3% of the net revenue budget rather than 5%; (ii) issues from the outturn would be picked up through the Finance

Committee and used to update the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS); (iii) in setting the precept, Humberside had been well within the capping limit; (iv) the over recovery on the police pay holding account would be covered by the Assistant Chief Officer (Support); (v) impairments were more significant this year; (vi) on page 7, 4% of outstanding debt had previously been set aside but this would not happen from this year; (vii) a Partnership Reserve had been created from 1 April 2008; (viii) the police pensions issue had been picked up in the Capital Adjustment Account; (ix) the General Fund Balance had been transferred to the Performance Improvement Reserve; (x) the Balance Sheet on page 20 showed a substantial deficit but this related to the police pensions issue and was not of concern as the liability would fall to either the Government or the future contributors to the pension scheme; (xi) more work needed to be done on the Summary Spending Details, as shown on page 22, as pensions information would not be received until the end of the year, and the £4.3m impairment of assets was included; (xii) there was additional information relating to the Police Authority costs on page 24 relating to merger costs; (xiii) all Members had completed the FRS8 forms; (xiv) page 31 showed an increase in the number of vehicles; (xv) on page 35, the organisation had gone marginally over prudential guidelines on borrowing in relation to maturity dates due to new debts not being taken given rising interest rates and the amount of money held in reserves, and (xvi) reference to the costs of the flood at Priory at page 35 reflected the decision record reported to the last meeting of the Authority.

He referred to the officers of the Force who had been involved in producing the accounts and thanked them for their hard work.

The Assistant Chief Officer (Support) commented on the level of reserves that was held.

A briefing note providing context on the underspend and clarity regarding the budget position was circulated for information only.

Members asked questions on specific issues including commenting on (i) short term borrowing when assets were held and the Director of Performance and Resources advised that this was due to bank reconciliations and unpresented cheques; (ii) Members' Allowances which the Director of Performance and Resources advised included pre and post AGM Members and Standards Committee Members; (iii) the non-inclusion of specific categories of assets which Mr Porter advised was due to not being able to class any living being as an asset, and (iv) the proceeds of crime and queried where this was shown in the accounts - it was advised that these monies were sent to the Home Office and a percentage was received back, a business case had been approved for this receipt to be used to expand the Economic Crime Section.

Resolved – (a) That the Annual Accounts for 2007/08 be approved as presented, and (b) that a further report be submitted following completion of the external audit.