

TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD

MINUTE of MEETING of the **TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD** held in the Council Chambers, Perth on Monday 8 November 2004 at 10.00 am.

Present: Councillor COLIN YOUNG, Depute Lord Provost CHARLES FARQUHAR OBE, Councillors RON SCRIMGEOUR, ALISTAIR BARR, JAMES BARRIE, JOE FITZPATRICK (substitute for Councillor CHRISTINA ROBERTS), JACK GIBB, IAN MACKINTOSH, Depute Provost STEWART McGLYNN, Councillors IAN MILLER, JOE MORROW, GEORGE NORRIE (substitute for Councillor BOB MYLES), Bailie NEIL I C POWRIE, Councillors DAVID SCOTT, LEWIS SIMPSON and ALEXANDER STEWART.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor HELEN DICK, Lord Provost JOHN LETFORD, Councillors BOB MYLES and CHRISTINA ROBERTS.

Councillor COLIN YOUNG, Convener, in the Chair.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. PRESENTATION ON THE REVIEW OF COMMON POLICE SERVICES

Assistant Chief Constable Harry Bunch, Project Co-ordinator of the Review of Common Police Services, gave a presentation on the Review.

Mr Bunch set out the background to the review process which had commenced in 2000 and detailed the need for the services of the Scottish Criminal Records Office, the Police Training College at Tulliallan and the Scottish Police Information Strategy to be under the control of one agency and available to Forces Scotland-wide. A review of the Forensic Science Service was also being carried out.

The project team were therefore looking at the human resource, finance and communication elements of providing these services under one umbrella.

Following a number of questions, the Convener thanked Mr Bunch for presenting the current position to the Board.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) Tayside Joint Police Board

The minute of meeting of the Board of 23 August 2004 was submitted, approved as a correct record, and signed by the Convener.

(b) Personnel Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee of 27 August 2004 was submitted and noted (**Appendix 1**).

(c) Best Value Steering Group

The minute of meeting of the Best Value Steering Group of 31 August 2004 was submitted and noted (**Appendix 2**).

(d) Complaints Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Complaints Sub-Committee of 6 September 2004 was submitted and noted (**Appendix 3**).

(e) Personnel Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee of 6 September 2004 was submitted and noted (**Appendix 4**).

(f) Personnel Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee of 1 November 2004 was submitted and noted (**Appendix 5**).

4. OPERATIONAL POLICING UPDATE

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 23 August 2004, there was submitted Report No PB56/04 by the Chief Constable providing members with an update in relation to crime in the Force area, an overview of notable dates since the last Board meeting and other operational matters of interest.

In connection with the overall reported crime, the Report indicated that recorded crime had increased by 11.5% on the same period last year. However, over 40% of the increase had resulted from targeted Police activity in areas of drugs and offending on bail, a consequence of the National Intelligence Model led strategy of focusing on known offenders and problem areas. The overall detection rate for the period was recorded at 54.1%, compared to 53.9% for the previous corresponding period, with some 1,000 more solved crimes.

With regard to road policing, the Report also highlighted, in the first half of 2004/2005, an increase of 7.8% in the number of people killed or seriously injured on roads across the Force area, rising from 166 to 179. Whilst the increase was disappointing, it was only in the context of a six month comparison and the full trend indicated that the Force remained on target to meet the 2010 National Casualty Reduction Target. It was stressed that each serious or fatal crash had its own set of individual factors, but it remained the case that too many of the crashes in Tayside over the past year had involved alcohol, inappropriate driving or failure to wear a seat-belt. The Force's commitment in these areas, both through targeted patrols and initiatives and through the Tayside Safety Camera Partnership, would therefore remain a priority.

The Report also detailed a number of other issues, including the introduction of transferring the responsibility for prisoner escorting and Court custody services from the Police to a private company under a contract managed by the Scottish Prison Service, and the ACPOS led "Safer Scotland" campaign which focused on making the streets safer.

The Board noted and welcomed the contents of the Report.

5. RACE EQUALITY SCHEME: ACTION PLAN UPDATE

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 23 August 2004, there was submitted Report No PB57/04 by the Chief Constable which provided members with an update on the progress of the Tayside Police Race Equality Scheme 2002-2005 and the underpinning Action Plan.

In order to assist the Board in meeting its monitoring responsibilities, the Report detailed a number of actions which had been carried out since the last meeting. In terms of the general duty to promote racial equality, a multi-faith calendar had been developed which provided information on any cultural and/or religious events considered to be of significance for a particular section of the community. Also, the Perth and Kinross Racist Incident Multi-Agency Panel had been formally launched on 29 September 2004 and it was hoped that the partnership would build on its past successes in tackling racial harassment and improved relations for the area's diverse communities.

The Report also detailed other specific actions in relation to assessment, consultation, monitoring, publication of information, training and employment duties.

The Board agreed to note the contents of the Report.

6. 2005/2006 REVENUE BUDGET TIMETABLE

There was submitted Report No PB58/04 by the Chief Constable and Treasurer advising the Board of the timetable to be set for the preparation of the 2005/2006 Revenue Budget.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to instruct the Chief Constable and Treasurer to agree the budget principles and prepare the 2005/2006 Revenue Budget in accordance with the timetable set out in the Report.

7. AUDITED ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2004

There was submitted Joint Report No PB59/04 by the Chief Constable and Treasurer to which was appended the Audited Abstract of Accounts for Tayside Joint Police Board for the financial year ended 31 March 2004, and the External Audit Report to Members and the Controller of Audit for 2003/2004. The External Auditor's report concluded that the financial stewardship and corporate governance arrangements of Tayside Joint Police Board in 2003/04 was of a satisfactory standard, and that the financial statements presented fairly the Board's financial position.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report and the Audited Abstract of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2004;
- (ii) to approve the Audited Abstract of Accounts 2003/2004; and
- (iii) to note the contents of the External Audit Report to members and Controller of Audit for 2003/2004.

8. BEST VALUE ANNUAL REPORT

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of the Best Value Steering Group of 31 August 2004, there was submitted Report No PB60/04 by the Chief Constable on the Best Value Annual Report which demonstrated the commitment of the Force in meeting the challenges of Best Value. The Report also provided evidence of the significant work undertaken in pursuit of Best Value and an indication of efficiency savings achieved in 2003/2004.

The Report indicated that the Force's approach to Best Value was not limited to Service Reviews and there was evidence of continuous improvement in other areas, such as innovation in the development and use of IT systems, effective use of cash limited revenue and capital resources, collaborative arrangements with other Forces, partnership arrangements with local authorities and the use of innovative schemes such as IDEAS.t.y. Evidence of this approach was captured within the Annual Report which, in addition, provided a summary of the estimated efficiency savings achieved in 2003/2004 of £290,000.

The Board agreed to note the terms of the Best Value Annual Report and the achievements of the Force in pursuit of Best Value in 2003/2004.

9. REVIEW OF POLICE GRANT AIDED EXPENDITURE (GAE)

There was submitted Report No PB61/04 by the Chief Constable which provided members with a summary of the work carried out by the Police GAE Review Working Group in developing a needs based formula for distributing Police GAE. The Report also detailed the impact of the new formula on funding for Tayside Police.

The Report indicated that the Working Group had been established in 1999, to look at the future distribution of Police GAE, following a recommendation by the HMIC and the Accounts Commission to look at the development of a new needs based formula for the distribution of

Police GAE and arrangements to phase in the impact of any significant changes to the distribution arising from the review.

The Working Group had now completed its work and the Report summarised the implications for Tayside Police.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the outcome of the work carried out by the Police GAE Review Working Group in developing a needs based formula for distributing Police GAE;
- (ii) to note that Tayside Police's share of GAE would decrease from 7.74% to 7.61% when the formula had been fully implemented;
- (iii) to note that a levelling up approach to implementation had been approved by Ministers and therefore Tayside Police would be no worse off in cash terms as a consequence of the new formula; and
- (iv) to note that Tayside Police would benefit by £50,000 from the total £15.6 million allocated for levelling up purposes.

10. SPECIAL EVENTS PLANNING - UPDATE

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Board of 28 June 2004, there was submitted Report No PB62/04 by the Chief Constable which updated members on the G8 Summit to be held at the Gleneagles Hotel, Perthshire from 6-8 July 2005. Tayside Police would be responsible for the security of the event and the maintenance of public order.

Chief Superintendent Brian Powrie, who had been working closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office regarding the Summit, gave a presentation to members of the Board on the current position.

After members' questions had been asked and answered, the Board agreed to note the current position.