

TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD

MINUTE of MEETING of the **TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD** held in Committee Room 1, 14 City Square, Dundee on Monday 14 November 2005 at 10.00 am.

Present: Councillor COLIN YOUNG, Depute Lord Provost CHARLES FARQUHAR OBE, Councillors RON SCRIMGEOUR, ALISTAIR BARR, JAMES BARRIE, HELEN DICK, JACK GIBB, Lord Provost JOHN LETFORD, Councillor IAN MACKINTOSH, Depute Provost STEWART McGLYNN, Councillors IAN MILLAR, BOB MYLES, Bailie NEIL IC POWRIE, Councillors GEORGE REGAN, CHRISTINA ROBERTS, DAVID SCOTT, LEWIS SIMPSON and ALEXANDER STEWART.

Councillor COLIN YOUNG, Convener, in the Chair.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Young declared a financial interest in item 11 and declared his interest as "related undertakings". He intimated that he would not be taking part in the discussion.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Tayside Joint Police Board

The minute of meeting of the Board of 22 August 2005 was submitted, approved as a correct record, and signed by the Convener.

(b) Appointments Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Appointments Sub-Committee of 26 August 2005 was submitted and noted (**Appendix I**).

(c) Audit Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee of 30 August 2005 was submitted and noted (**Appendix II**).

(d) Complaints Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Complaints Sub-Committee of 5 September 2005 was submitted and noted (**Appendix III**).

(e) Appointments Sub-Committee

The minutes of meetings of the Appointments Sub-Committee of 20 and 27 September 2005 were submitted and noted (**Appendix IV and V**).

3. OPERATIONAL POLICING - UPDATE

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 22 August 2005, there was submitted Report No PB67/05 by the Chief Constable providing members with an update in relation to crime in the Force area and an overview of notable events and other operational matters of interest.

The Report detailed an overall detection rate for the Force of 54.7%, up from 51.1% at the same time last year. All three divisions had detection rates of over 55% at the mid point in the year, reflecting a sustained level of performance in solving crime. The Report also gave information in relation to domestic house breaking, serious violent crime, vehicle crime, drugs, road policing and the National Intelligence Model. In addition, various events of note and a selection of letters of appreciation which had been forwarded to the Force were included for information.

The Board noted the terms of the Report.

4. TAYSIDE POLICE RACE EQUALITY SCHEME 2005 – 2008

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 27 January 2003, there was submitted Report No PB68/05 by the Chief Constable which advised of the Review of the Tayside Police Race Equality Scheme which was launched in November 2002. In accordance with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, the new Race Equality Scheme would be published by 30 November 2005 and would cover the period from November 2005 to November 2008.

The Report indicated that part of the race equality duty was to access at three yearly intervals, all Force functions, policies and procedures for the impact on the promotion of race equality, and extensive consultation had been carried out in relation to the review of the new Scheme.

The Board approved the Tayside Police Race Equality Scheme 2005 – 2008.

5. TAYSIDE POLICE - RACE EQUALITY SCHEME 2002 – 2005 : ACTION PLAN UPDATE

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of the Tayside Joint Police Board of 22 August 2005, there was submitted Report PB69/05 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 meet its monitoring responsibilities, the Report detailed the actions which had been carried out since the last meeting.

The Board noted the terms of the Report.

6. TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD RACE EQUALITY SCHEME 2005 - 2008

With reference to Article 8(c) of the minute of meeting of the Board of 11 November 2002, there was submitted Report No PB70/05 by the Clerk advising the Board of the need to review its Race Equality Scheme which had been published in 2002. In accordance with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, the new scheme would be published on 30 November 2005 and would cover the period from November 2005 to November 2008.

It was essential that the Board's Race Equality Scheme sat closely with and complemented the Tayside Police Scheme. Indeed, one of the most important elements of the Board's Action Plan in this regard had been to monitor and scrutinise rigorously the arrangements of the Force to meet its general and specific duties under the Act and in this regard, a report had been considered at each of the meetings of the Board. The updated Scheme set out the functions of the Board which it was considered were relevant to the duty to promote race equality and set out a number of updated actions with regard to these functions which it was recommended that the Board endorse.

The Board agreed to approve the updated Race Equality Scheme 2005 - 2008 as attached to Report PB70/05.

7. AUDITED ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS 2004 - 2005

There was submitted Joint Report No PB72/05 by the Chief Constable and Interim Treasurer which commented on the Audited Abstract of Accounts for Tayside Joint Police Board for the financial year ended 31 March 2005. The certificate contained no qualifications.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report and the Audited Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2005;
- (ii) to approve the Audited Statement of Accounts 2004/2005; and
- (iii) to note the contents of the External Audit Report to Members and Controller of Audit for 2004/2005.

8. 2006/2007 REVENUE BUDGET TIMETABLE

There was submitted Joint Report No PB 71/05 by the Chief Constable and Interim Treasurer advising the Board of the timetable to be set for the preparation of the 2006/07 Revenue Budget.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to instruct the Chief Constable and Interim Treasurer to agree the budget principles and prepare the 2006/2007 Revenue Budget in accordance with the timetable set out in the Report.

9. PROPOSALS TO UTILISE GENERAL RESERVE IN 2005/2006

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 25 August 2003, there was submitted Report No PB73/05 by the Chief Constable which detailed further proposals to utilise part of the Board's general reserve in the current financial year.

The Report noted that the general reserve of £1.48m equated to approximately 2.1% of the grant aided expenditure as at 31 March 2005, which was within the 5% limit set by the Scottish Executive for general reserves held by Police Boards. However, this was £716,000 in excess of the Board's policy to retain only 1% of the GAE as a general reserve.

It was therefore proposed to use £40,000 from the general reserve to appoint a Sergeant for up to 12 months, to work with the three Local Authorities in developing protocols to deliver improved standards in the child protection area. It was also proposed to allocated £100,000 to offset the costs associated with a number of serious crime operations, including ongoing investigations into outstanding historical cases. The remaining £76,000 would be utilised for a programme of improvements to the Call Management Information and Monitoring System.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals to utilise £216,000 of the Board's general reserve to enhance operational efficiency and improve call handling and child protection services in the current financial year; and
- (ii) to note the balance of £764,000 remained as a general reserve for use by the Board to meet any significant demands which may occur but were not budgeted for.

10. LETHAM POLICE OFFICE – SHARED FACILITY

There was submitted Report PB74/05 by the Chief Constable which advised members that it was proposed to expand Letham Police Office into the adjoining Police House to create a shared facility with Angus Council.

The Report indicated that Letham Police Office was situated centrally within the village of Letham, which was geographically at the heart of Angus. Angus Council had indicated that they were looking to provide a base for the Community Warden Scheme and the use of the property would provide an opportunity to enhance joint working arrangements. The expansion of the property would provide a centre for enhanced presence in the area and improved utilisation of the Force estate. The new joint facility would contain four firearm enquiry officers, two landward police officers covering Forfar/Letham/Carnoustie, one public enquiry officer and two peripatetic community wardens.

The Board welcomed the Report and noted the expansion of Letham Police Office into the adjoining Police House to create a shared facility with Angus Council.

Councillor Young, having declared an interest at item 1 above, left the meeting during the following item.

Depute Lord Provost Charles Farquhar, OBE, Vice-Convener, chaired the meeting for this item only.

11. 112th ANNUAL CONFERENCE – INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

There was submitted Report No PB75/05 by the Chief Constable on the 112th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police which was attended by the Chief Constable and the Convener from 24 – 28 September 2005 in Miami

The Report indicated that the Conference was well established and attracted delegates from countries across the world. It was a unique opportunity to access and network with leaders responsible for policing in diverse situations ranging from the largest cities in USA to rural and specialist community based forces with less than 30 staff. Attendance at the Conference had been an opportunity to share experiences of G8 both in terms of policing the event and in relation to the community consultation, representation and engagement, which had been very important to the overall success of G8. The attendance of the Convener was of particular importance in this regard.

The Tayside Police delegation had attended as many of the presentations as possible across a wide range of subjects. A detailed document summarising the learning points was being compiled and would be circulated to the Force Executive and Corporate Development Department. A number of learning points from the conference resonated with views expressed by representatives of communities here and of the Scottish Executive. The information would assist in finalising the Force's next three year Strategic Plan.

After hearing members, the Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the Report arising from the attendance of the Chief Constable and the Convener at the 112th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police; and
- (ii) to homologate the decision that the Convener attend the Conference, against the background of the G8 Summit, with all costs associated with the Convener's attendance, on this occasion, being met by the Board.

12. HOME COMPUTER INITIATIVE

There was submitted Report No PB76/05 by the Chief Constable which provided members with an update on progress towards participating in the Scottish Executive Home Computer Initiative.

The Report indicated that the Home Computer Initiative was a salary reduction scheme which enabled public sector employees to purchase computers, laptops and other peripheral computer equipment at a heavily discounted price. Using the initiative, a public sector employer would be able to offer its employees a computer for home use and allow the employee to pay for it over 36 months by having instalments deducted from their gross salary.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress made in establishing greater understanding of the Home Computer Initiative, how it worked and how it affected employees and the employer;
- (ii) to note the registration process had commenced in partnership with BT/Dell, the Scottish Executive's preferred supplier, in order to provide staff with the opportunity to purchase computer equipment prior to Christmas; and
- (iii) to approve the proposal that participation in the scheme would not affect an employee's pension and that it would be the employee's gross salary, before the salary sacrifice, which was pensionable.

13. RETIRAL – DEPUTY CHIEF CONSTABLE, IAN GORDON OBE, QPM

As this was his final meeting of the Board, the Convener, along with members of the Board, paid tribute to all the work Deputy Chief Constable Ian Gordon had undertaken on behalf of Tayside Police during his period of service.

Councillor Young then wished Mr Gordon a long and happy retirement.

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