

TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD

MINUTE of MEETING of the **TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD** held in the Council Chambers, Perth on Monday 23 August 2004 at 10.00 am.

Present: Councillor COLIN YOUNG, Depute Lord Provost CHARLES FARQUHAR OBE, Councillors RON SCRIMGEOUR, JAMES BARRIE, ALISTAIR BARR, HELEN DICK, JACK GIBB, IAN MILLAR, IAN MACKINTOSH, Depute Provost STEWART McGLYNN, Councillor BOB MYLES, Bailie NEIL I C POWRIE, Councillors JOE MORROW, CHRISTINA ROBERTS, LEWIS SIMPSON and ALEXANDER STEWART,

Apologies: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Lord Provost JOHN LETFORD.

Councillor COLIN YOUNG, Convener, in the Chair.

1. MOBILE POLICE OFFICE

Members had viewed the new mobile multi-purpose Police Office prior to the meeting.

The Board welcomed this addition to the Force's resources which would be used in rural areas, towns and city centres, for specific crime prevention or recruitment purposes.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The Board noted that Councillors Jack Coburn, Alan Jack and George Regan had resigned from the Board and had been replaced by Councillors Alistair Barr, Ian Millar and Joe Morrow respectively.

4. TAYSIDE POLICE WEBSITE

Chief Superintendent Clive Murray gave a demonstration on the implementation of the aims and principles of the Tayside Police communications strategy, which included the upgrading of the Force intranet and website, the introduction of web kiosks and the reduction of the number of forms and templates used by the Force.

It was indicated that the strategy had been designed to provide effective two-way communication with staff, provide interactive policing services and web kiosks, focus Police resources on frontline activities and reduce administration. It was also hoped that the strategy would enhance responsiveness to local demands with access to services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and would allow for the Police to work in partnership with local communities, local authorities, stakeholders and the media.

After members' questions had been answered, the Board welcomed the strategy.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of the Board of 28 June 2004 was submitted, approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

6. TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2005

The Board agreed that its meetings in 2005 should be held in Dundee on the following dates:-

31 January 2005
9 May 2005
27 June 2005
22 August 2005
14 November 2005.

The Board also noted that meetings of the Sub-Committees in 2005 would be held on the following dates:-

Personnel Sub-Committee - Police Headquarters - Dundee at 10.00 am
Complaints Sub-Committee - Police Headquarters - Dundee at 10.45 am

14 February 2005
 23 May 2005
 5 September 2005
 28 November 2005

Finance Sub-Committee - Police Headquarters, Dundee at 10.00 am

Friday 25 March 2005
 Tuesday 13 December 2005

Best Value Steering Group - Police Headquarters, Dundee at 10.00 am

Friday 25 March 2005 at 11.00 am
 Tuesday 14 June 2005 at 10.00 am
 Tuesday 30 August 2005 at 10.00 am
 Tuesday 13 December 2005 at 11.00 am

7. AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

There was submitted Report No PB38/04 by the Clerk which detailed proposed revisions to the Board's Standing Orders.

The Report proposed that, in order to comply with the Councillors' Code of Conduct in terms of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc (Scotland) Act 2000, Standing Order 35 be amended.

The Board approved the revision to Standing Order 35 as detailed in the Report.

8. INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING ASSOCIATION - ANNUAL CONFERENCE

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 25 August 2003, there was submitted Report No PB39/04 by the Clerk advising that the Independent Custody Visiting Association Annual Conference was to be held in Newcastle on Saturday 20 November 2004.

The Board noted that the one day conference would provide an opportunity for delegates to listen to keynote speakers and also to network with other Custody Visitors from across the country.

The Board approved the attendance at the conference of:-

- (i) one visitor from each of the appointed areas; and
- (ii) two representatives from Tayside Joint Police Board.

9. HMIC REVIEW OF TAYSIDE POLICE - PRIMARY INSPECTION OF 2002

There was submitted Report No PB40/04 by the Chief Constable which gave details of the review of Tayside Police - Primary Inspection of 2002, which had recently been completed by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary.

The Report indicated that the first Review Inspection had focused on the current activities undertaken by Tayside Police, including action taken in response to the recommendations made in HMIC's Primary Inspection of the Force in 2002, and stated that Tayside Police had demonstrated significant progress in its work.

Of the 16 recommendations contained in the Primary Inspection, 10 had been fully discharged. In addition, a number of areas considered worthy of review had been revisited. This indicated that a substantial number of issues had been comprehensively addressed by Tayside Police.

The Board agreed to note the Report.

10. OPERATIONAL POLICING UPDATE

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 17 May 2004, there was submitted Report No PB41/04 by the Chief Constable providing members with an update in relation to crime in the Force area, an overview of notable events 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 14.3% on the same period as last year. However, over 50% 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. The overall detection rate for the period was recorded at 54.5%, compared to 52.6% for the previous corresponding period, with some 1,000 more solved crimes.

The Report also detailed the outcome of the ACPOS led "Let's Have a Safer Summer" campaign which had been designed to impact on drivers' behaviour in the run up to the main holiday season. An advice leaflet for older drivers had also been developed based on an initiative by two operational Road Policing Unit officers, and members commented favourably on this initiative.

The Board noted and welcomed the contents of the Report.

11. RACE EQUALITY SCHEME: ACTION PLAN UPDATE

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 17 May 2004, there was submitted Report No PB42/04 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.

The Report detailed a number of objectives which had been progressed since the last meeting. These included issues related to the general duty to promote race equality, assessing and consulting on the likely impact on the promotion of race equality, monitoring for adverse impact on the promotion of race equality, publishing the results of the assessments, consultations and monitoring, ensuring public access to information and services, training in relation to the statutory duties and employment duties.

The formal review of Tayside Police Race Equality Scheme would take place by November 2005. However, as a living document it was subject to continuous scrutiny and revision if needed. In order to take account of recent assessment feedback and progress to date it was intended to revise the current Scheme, and to provide the Board with the revised RES at its next meeting.

The Board agreed to note the contents of the Report.

12. POLICE PAY AWARD 2004

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 25 August 2003, there was submitted Report No PB43/04 by the Chief Constable advising on the current position with regard to the 2004 Police pay negotiations.

The Board agreed to note that:-

- (i) an agreement had been reached between the official and staff sides for a 3% pay award from 1 September 2004 for all ranks;
- (ii) the agreement had been authorised by Scottish Ministers;

- (iii) the award was 0.5% less than the allowance of 3.5% made in the 2004/2005 Revenue Budget in respect of the Police Pay Award from 1 September 2004; and
- (iv) the reduced staff costs resulting from a 3% pay award (compared to the 3.5% allowance made in the 2004/2005 Revenue Budget) across all the ranks would be £98,000 in this financial year and £168,000 in a full financial year.

13. REVIEW OF CHARGES FOR THE SERVICES OF POLICE OFFICERS

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 25 August 2003, there was submitted Report No PB44/04 by the Chief Constable recommending an increase in the charges for services of Police Officers from 1 September 2004 and taking into account the recommendations from ACPOS Finance Standing Committee.

The Report indicated that the work carried out by ACPOS to ensure a consistent approach across all Scottish Police Forces had identified that Tayside Police charges were lower than those of other Forces. It was therefore proposed to bring the charges applied by Tayside Police in line with those charged by other Forces with effect from 1 September 2004.

The Board approved the increase in charges for the services of Police Officers, with effect from 1 September 2004, as detailed in the Report.

14. PROPOSALS TO UTILISE GENERAL RESERVE IN 2004/2005

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 August 2003, there was submitted Report No PB45/04 by the Chief Constable which detailed proposals to utilise part of the Board's general reserve to enhance operational efficiency in the current financial year.

The Report noted that the balance on the general reserve at 31 March 2003 was £911,000 and it had been intended to utilise £276,000 of this sum in 2003/2004 to enhance operational efficiency. However, taking cognisance of the new prudential scheme for capital expenditure which had been introduced on 1 April 2004, it was important to ensure the Board made maximum use of its capital consents position up to 31 March 2004. As a result of slippage in some capital projects, the Force was able to fund the Mobile Police Office from capital consents rather than the general reserve as had been originally intended. Also, within revenue, additional 100% grant funding assisted in accommodating other expenditure which was to have been funded from the general reserve. The outcome was that only £50,000 of the general reserve had been utilised in 2003/2004. GAE for 2004/2005 was £71.353 million. Retaining a general reserve of 1% of GAE, in line with the Board's policy would equate to £714,000, leaving a sum of £429,000.

£74,000 of this sum would be required to complete projects started in the previous financial year such as the Mobile Police Office and Virtual Contact Centre. It was proposed, therefore, to use the balance of £355,000, to fund a number of initiatives which would collectively enhance operational efficiency, improve officer safety and contribute towards the Force objective of making its services more accessible to the public.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals to utilise £429,000 of the Board's general reserve to enhance operational efficiency in the current financial year; and
- (ii) to note that the balance of £714,000 remained as a general reserve for use by the Board to meet any significant demands which might occur but were not budgeted for.

15. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Board agreed that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item in order to avoid disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of paragraphs 6, 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

16. TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF AIRWAVE VEHICLE TERMINAL INSTALLATION

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 17 May 2004, there was submitted Report No PB46/04 which sought homologation of the decision by the Chief Constable to accept the tender for the installation of Airwave vehicle terminals within the Force's operational vehicles.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report and the requirement for the Chief Constable to accept a tender for the installation of Airwave vehicle terminals in advance of the Board meeting for operational reasons;
- (ii) to homologate the decision of the Chief Constable in selecting the tender from Marconi in the sum of £41,768 for the provision of Airwave Vehicle Terminal Installation Services; and
- (iii) to note that there were no associated revenue costs arising from this decision.