

## **TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD**

MINUTE of MEETING of the **TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD** held in the Council Chambers, Perth on Monday 25 June 2007 at 9.30 am.

**Present:** Councillors IAN MACKINTOSH, ARCHIBALD MacLELLAN, GEORGE REGAN, MOHAMMED ASIF, JAMES BARRIE, HELEN DICK, KENNETH LYALL, PETER MULHERON, ROBERT MYLES, HELEN OSWALD (Substitute for Councillor FRANK ELLIS), CHRISTINA ROBERTS, DAVID SCOTT, LEWIS SIMPSON, ALEXANDER STEWART, ROD WALLACE, SANDY WEST, JOHN WHYTE and HELEN WRIGHT.

**Apology:** An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor FRANK ELLIS.  
Councillor MACKINTOSH, Convener, in the Chair.

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Oswald and Wallace intimated that they had relatives employed by Tayside Police but indicated that they did not think that this would exclude them from discussing or voting on any item being considered at this meeting.

### **2. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minute of meeting of the Board of 11 June 2007 was submitted, approved as a correct record, and signed by the Convener.

### **3. HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST**

There was submitted Report No PB 48/07 by the Clerk advising the Board that, in the Queen's Birthday Honours List published on 16 June 2007, the CBE had been awarded to Chief Constable John Vine for services to policing.

The Deputy Chief Constable explained that this was the first time a Scottish Chief Constable had received this level of award and the Force considered it was well deserved and brought credit to Tayside Police.

The Board congratulated Mr Vine on his award.

### **4. CHIEF CONSTABLE'S ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2006/2007**

There was submitted Report No PB 35/07 by the Chief Constable which detailed the Chief Constable's Annual Report on the general policing of Tayside for 2006/2007, copies of which had been previously circulated to members.

The Chief Constable highlighted the achievements of each Division. He made particular mention of the achievements of the Drug and Surveillance Unit over the year who had achieved remarkable successes including the recovery of drugs with an estimated value of £1.25 million in one operation. In a four week period, over 44 arrests had been made in relation to drug offences.

The Chief Constable then answered members' questions on a number of issues including tackling challenging drugs offenders, driving offences, performance figures and dealing with child offenders.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to ask that a presentation be made to a future meeting on the Tayside Model for Dealing with Youth Offenders; and
- (iii) to accept the Chief Constable's invitation to members to view the operational policing aspects of "T in the Park" on Saturday 7 July 2007.

**5. TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD UNAUDITED ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007**

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 26 June 2007, there was submitted Joint Report No PB 36/07 by the Chief Constable and Treasurer to which was attached the unaudited Abstract of Accounts for Tayside Joint Police Board in respect of the financial year ended 31 March 2007.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report and the unaudited Abstract of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2007;
- (ii) to note that the unaudited Abstract of Accounts 2006/2007 would now be submitted to the Controller of Audit;
- (iii) to note the transfer of £276,000 from the General Reserve in the year ended 31 March 2007 to meet the costs of projects previously authorised by the Board as detailed in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.12 of the Report;
- (iv) to note the proposal to return £443,000 of additional interest earned on revenue balances and savings on loan charges to the constituent councils as detailed in paragraph 6.1 to 6.2 of the Report;
- (v) to note the intention of the Chief Constable, in consultation with the Treasurer, to bring forward proposals to the November 2007 meeting of the Board to utilise the unallocated part of the General Reserve;
- (vi) to note the requirements of Financial Reporting Standard 17 on pension accounting arrangements; and
- (vii) to note the Treasurer's Assurance Statement in relation to the internal financial controls of the Board for 2006/2007.

**6. LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE - CHIEF CONSTABLE'S ANNUAL REVIEW**

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 26 June 2006, there was submitted Report No PB 37/07 by the Chief Constable which advised members of the arrangements put in place by the Chief Constable for the management and annual review of the Board's Scheme of Corporate Governance and the implementation of its local code.

The Report indicated that further progress had been made during 2006/2007 in developing systems to manage the Board's Local Code of Corporate Governance. Based on statements and Reports prepared by the Chief Officers of the Force and the Chief Internal Auditor, it was concluded that the corporate governance arrangements were adequate and operating effectively. However, it was recognised that further work needed to be undertaken in 2007/2008 to achieve full compliance with the local code. Steps would be taken over the coming year to address outstanding matters and enhance the Force's corporate governance arrangements.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note that further progress had been made during 2006/2007 in developing and introducing systems to manage the Board's Local Code of Corporate Governance;
- (ii) to note that, based on the reviews carried out, it was concluded that the Board's corporate governance arrangements were adequate and operating effectively; and
- (iii) to note that further work would be undertaken in 2007/2008 to achieve full compliance with the local code.

## **7. TAYSIDE POLICE GENDER EQUALITY SCHEME - PUBLICATION**

There was submitted Report No PB 38/07 by the Chief Constable incorporating a copy of the Tayside Police Gender Equality Scheme 2007/2010 which required to be published by 29 June 2007.

The Report indicated that the Equality Act 2006 amended the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 to place a statutory duty on all public authorities to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment and to promote equality of opportunity between men and women, including transsexual people. Under the new Act, Tayside Police was a separate public authority and was required to adopt a positive pro-active approach to gender equality in all of the Force's activities and services. This duty was referred to as the "gender equality" duty. The law also required the Force to publish a Gender Equality Scheme by 29 June 2007, in which it would inform the communities of Tayside and the staff of Tayside Police how it would promote gender equality.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the Force Gender Equality Scheme 2007/2010.

## **8. TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD - GENDER EQUALITY SCHEME - 2007/2010**

There was submitted Report No PB 39/07 by the Clerk which detailed the proposed Gender Equality Scheme 2007/2010 for adoption by the Board.

The Report indicated that the Equality Act 2006 placed a duty on police authorities to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment and to promote equality of opportunity between men and women, including transsexual people.

The Board approved the Gender Equality Scheme as detailed in the Report.

## **9. TAYSIDE POLICE PRIMARY INSPECTION 2007**

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 23 April 2007, there was submitted Report No PB 40/07 which summarised the good practice being carried out in Tayside Police and had been sent to HMIC for the Primary Inspection 2007.

The Report indicated that preparatory work for the HMIC Inspection had begun in 2006 and a health check of the Force had been carried out. This had culminated in a gap analysis Report being submitted to the Force Executive and in February 2007 the protocol questions had been received from HMIC. These had been completed and returned by the appointed date, but shortly thereafter, the Chief Constable had been informed that the newly appointed HMIC was suspending all future primary inspections, including the one scheduled for Tayside Police, and a new inspection process would be undertaken in the near future.

The Chief Constable had therefore requested that areas of "best practice" be identified for the information of Board members and, in addition, the Deputy Chief Constable was currently examining the future strategic direction of the Force and the changes that would need to take place to keep the Force performing at the forefront of Scottish policing.

The Board agreed to note the contents of the Report and the good practice currently being carried out in Tayside Police and the set identifiable areas for improvement.

## **10. FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT FOR SUPPORT STAFF**

There was submitted Report No PB 41/07 by the Chief Constable which advised members of changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme which allowed phased retirement arrangements to be introduced for employees over the age of 50.

The Report indicated that the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Amendment No 2 Regulations 2006, which came into effect from 6 April 2006, allowed phased retirement

to be introduced to allow an employee, aged 50 or over, to either reduce hours or reduce their grade and receive payment of retirement benefits whilst continuing working for the Force.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme which allowed phased retirement arrangements to be introduced for employees aged over 50;
- (ii) to approve the applications received by two members of support staff; and
- (iii) to delegate authority to the Chief Constable to grant future applications for flexible retirement in accordance with the Board's Scheme of Reference and delegation to Sub-Committees and Officers.

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