

## TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD

MINUTE of MEETING of the **TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD** held in the Council Chambers, Perth on Monday 26 January 2004 at 10.00 am.

**Present:** Councillors COLIN YOUNG, RON SCRIMGEOUR, Depute Lord Provost CHARLES FARQUHAR, Councillors JAMES BARRIE, JACK COBURN, HELEN DICK (Substitute for Councillor Fraser MacPherson), JACK GIBB, ALAN JACK, Lord Provost JOHN LETFORD, Councillor IAN MACKINTOSH, Depute Provost STEWART McGLYNN, Councillor BOB MYLES, IAN MILLER (Substitute for Councillor David Scott), Councillor NEIL I C POWRIE, GEORGE REGAN, CHRISTINA ROBERTS, LEWIS SIMPSON and ALEXANDER STEWART.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors FRASER MACPHERSON and DAVID SCOTT.

Councillor COLIN YOUNG, Convener, in the Chair.

### 1. PRESENTATION

Prior to the commencement of business Mr James Orr, OBE QPM, Director of the Scottish Drug Enforcement Agency gave a presentation to the Board on the work of the Scottish Drug Enforcement Agency.

Mr Orr set out the position statement of the Agency and details were also given of the strategic aims of the Agency. Mr Orr indicated that, in Scotland, there had been 380 drug related deaths. 114 criminal networks had been disrupted in the year 2002/2003, which represented a 56% increase. Realisable assets had been identified for potential confiscation in excess of £5 million, which was an increase of 297%.

In summary, Mr Orr indicated that the Agency were applying a balanced approach, by robustly addressing the criminal element, whilst also placing emphasis on the educational aspects. As part of this strategy, the work of the Scottish Money Laundering Unit, the Scottish Witness Liaison Unit and the National Hi Tech Crime Unit (Scotland) were of critical importance. Mr Orr referred to the introduction of the Scottish Intelligence Database which had been accepted by Tayside Police in September 2003 and was now in use by eight Scottish Police Forces. This would enable the use of shared intelligence on a common IT platform, with the benefits already being evidenced.

Following a number of questions from members of the Board, the Convener thanked Mr Orr for his presentation and for the invaluable work that the Scottish Drug Enforcement Agency was carrying out.

### 2. POLICE UNIFORM TRIAL

The Board were advised that shortcomings in the current police uniform and personal protective equipment had been identified by both ACPOS and HMIC. At a National level a considerable amount of research and development work had been ongoing to identify a range of equipment that would give patrol officers enhanced levels of protection and comfort.

Starting at the end of January 2004, twenty Tayside Police Officers would be participating in a six month trial to test and evaluate what was believed to be a significantly improved range of clothing. These uniforms were modelled by Constables Tracy Thomas and Iain Taylor.

Inspector Brian Powrie described to members of the Board the usage and practical benefits of the new uniform and body armour which, from a overall financial perspective, was broadly comparable to the costs of the current police uniform and personal protective equipment.

Following a number of questions, Constables Thomas and Taylor were thanked for their attendance.

### 3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD

The Board agreed to note that Councillor James Barrie had replaced Councillor R Beattie.

### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

#### (a) Tayside Joint Police Board

The minute of meeting of the Board of 10 November 2003 was submitted, approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

#### (b) Complaints Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Complaints Sub-Committee of 11 November 2003 was submitted and noted (**Appendix I**).

#### (c) Finance Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee of 16 December 2003 was submitted and noted (**Appendix II**).

#### (d) Personnel Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee of 24 November 2003 was submitted and noted (**Appendix III**).

### 5. THE NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST AWARD

There was submitted Report No PB1/04 by the Chief Constable which advised the Board that Inspector Alexander MacKenzie had been awarded the Queen's Police Medal in the New Year Honours List. These Honours were awarded on merit, for exceptional achievement or service. Inspector MacKenzie, a duty officer in the Force Control Room at Police Headquarters had more than 39 years Police service and was one of the longest serving Police officers in Scotland. He was highly regarded as an experienced Senior Police Officer and also for his many years of work on the Scottish Police Federation and the Tayside Benevolent Fund. Over the years he had carried out many fund raising initiatives and had given a great deal of his free time to assist with events. The awarding of the QPM marked his outstanding contribution to Tayside Police and was a credit to the recipient and to Tayside Police.

The Board agreed to note the award in the New Year's Honours List of the Queen's Police Medal to Inspector Alexander MacKenzie.

### 6. OPERATIONAL POLICING UPDATE

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 10 November 2003, there was submitted Report No PB2/04 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 was down 4.4% on the same period last year with over 1,000 fewer crimes. The overall detection rate for this period was recorded at 54.5% compared to 40.3% for the corresponding nine months last year, with 2,800 more crimes being detected this period than last. Serious violent crime had risen very slightly, with an increase of 17 crimes, reflecting a 3.5% rise across the Force compared to the same period last year. In domestic house breaking, there continued to be a decrease by 30.4% on the same period last year, with some 344 fewer recorded crimes which reflected the continuing priority across the Force to reducing the instance of this often devastating invasion of peoples homes. The detection rate for domestic house breaking had risen to 36.9%, which was an improvement of 11% on the same period last year. 1,180 fewer vehicle crimes had been recorded with the detection rate rising to 32.4%, a marked

improvement from 19.8% for the same period in 2002/2003. In terms of vandalism, recorded incidents fell slightly with 32 fewer crimes than last year. The detection rate of 29.1% was an increase from 19.8% for the same period last year and reflected 532 more crimes detected, which again was a clear sign of the priority the Force was giving to this offence.

The Report also indicated that the targeting of those who dealt in drugs remained a force and national priority, with the number of crimes reported in relation to drug dealing in the period rising by 6% to 604 offences. In terms of large scale drug dealing, the Force had in recent weeks recorded a number of major successes, both in terms of arrests and seizures of significant quantities of both Class A drugs and others, particularly cannabis.

With regard to road policing, the figures for the first nine months of the year showed a reduction of 22.1% in the number of people killed or seriously injured. The number of children killed or seriously injured in the same period showed a reduction of 46.8% down from 47 from last period to 25 for the nine month period. During the festive period, reported crime for the Force in December overall was 7.6% down on last year, however, the Report highlighted that 69 drivers had been arrested for drink driving and five for drug driving. Also of real disappointment was the 399 individuals charged for not wearing a seatbelt and also a further 1,957 drivers had been reported for exceeding the speed limit.

In addition, the Chief Constable in this Report detailed extracts of a small selection of letters of appreciation which had been received from members of the public.

The Board agreed to note the contents of the Report.

## **7. 2004/2005 REVENUE BUDGET**

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee of 16 December 2003, there was submitted Joint Report No PB3/04 by the Chief Constable and the Treasurer detailing the proposed Final Revenue Budget for 2004/2005 and recommending that the Treasurer be instructed to send the necessary requisitions to the constituent Councils.

The Report indicated that the proposals contained within the Report allowed for the 2004/2005 Revenue Budget to be set in line with the revised GAE settlement. Appendix A to the Report provided a summary of the 2004/2005 Revenue Budget and Appendix B provided details of the requisition to be sent by the Treasurer to the constituent Councils.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the Net Revenue Budget of £73.885million for Tayside Police for 2004/2005, including £185,000 which was wholly funded by the Scottish Executive;
- (iii) to note that interest earned on revenue balances in 2004/2005 was estimated to be £160,000 and the recommendation by the Finance Sub-Committee was that this sum could be returned to the constituent Councils;
- (iv) to note that the recommendation to return the projected interest on revenue balances to the Constituent Councils had been reflected in the requisition detailed in Appendix B to the Report and that any variation to the projected figure of £160,000 would result in an amendment to these requisitions; and
- (v) to instruct the Treasurer to send requisitions to the constituent Councils in accordance with Appendix B to the Report.

## **8. THREE YEAR REVENUE BUDGET 2004/2005 - 2006/2007**

With reference to Article 7 above, there was submitted Joint Report No PB8/04 by the Chief Constable and the Treasurer which provided the Board with the Provisional Revenue Budget figures for the financial years 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 which together with the 2004/2005 financial budget, formed the basis of the Board's Revenue Budget for the three year period.

The Report indicated that the Net Revenue Budgets for 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 remained provisional at this time, and further analysis of the figures would be required prior to setting the budgets for the relevant financial years. Setting the Revenue Budget at GAE level for 2004/2005 and 2005/2006 would set the Force difficult financial targets to achieve. Based on previous experience it was likely that year three of the current spending revenue (i.e. 2005/2006) would be recalculated and form year one of the next spending review which may provide additional funding. However, should this not occur, corrective action would be required which might impact adversely on service delivery in 2005/2006.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the Provisional Revenue Budget figures for the financial years 2005/2006 and 2006/2007. The 2005/2006 budget was in line with the Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) settlement, however the 2006/2007 settlement figure was still be advised and the budget was therefore the Net Budget Expenditure on GAE Basis, as outlined in paragraph 5 of the Report;
- (ii) to provide details of the requisition levels outlined in paragraph 6 of the Report to the constituent Councils to assist them in preparation of their three year revenue budgets and setting of provisional Council Tax figures for this three year period; and
- (iii) to note that the requisitions provided for the projected interest on revenue balances in 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 to be returned to the constituent Councils and that any variation to the projected figures for interest on revenue balances would result in an amendment to these requisitions.

## **9. FINANCIAL PLAN 2004/2005 TO 2006/2007**

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee of 16 December 2003, there was submitted Joint Report No PB7/04 by the Chief Constable and the Treasurer which informed members of the level of capital grants allocated to the Board for 2004/2005 and provided details of the proposed capital projects to be undertaken in 2004/2005 and the two financial years following thereafter.

The Report indicated that notification had been received from the Scottish Executive that Tayside Police were to receive a capital grant allocation of £2,553,000 in 2004/2005. Based on indicative figures provided by forces to the Scottish Executive, projected capital grant allocations of £2,622,000 for 2005/2006 and £1,931,000 had been included within the Financial Plan. Based on the programme of capital projects for the 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 and the projected level of capital grants for the relevant years, a projected shortfall existed in both years. Provision had been made within the Financial Plan to meet the shortfall of £250,000 in 2005/2006 and £100,000 in 2006/2007 from Prudential borrowing.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Financial Plan covering the period 2004/2005 to 2006/2007 as prepared by the Chief Constable, in consultation with the Treasurer;
- (ii) that the Treasurer arrange for the regular monitoring of capital expenditure to bring about the most advantageous capital expenditure position to the Board at the end of the financial year by utilisation of capital grants and capital receipts; and
- (iii) to note that revised Capital Estimates for 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 would be prepared by the Chief Constable in consultation with the Treasurer and presented to the Board following announcement of the capital grant figures for the relevant financial years.

## **10. RACE EQUALITY SCHEME – ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 27 January 2003, there was submitted Report No PB4/04 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 Board agreed to note the contents of the Report.

**11. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002  
TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD PUBLICATION SCHEME**

There was submitted Report No PB5/04 by the Clerk advising members of the requirement to submit a Publication Scheme to the Scottish Information Commissioner (SIC) for approval, in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, and seeking authority to submit the draft Publication Scheme as appended to the Report, to the SIC.

The Report indicated that one of the main features of the Freedom of Information Act was the requirement for each public authority to produce a Publication Scheme setting out what information it would publish, how this information would be made available and whether this information would be available free of charge or on payment. The Board and the Chief Constable were required to submit their Publication Schemes to the Scottish Commissioner by 28 February 2004 for approval. Once the Commissioner had approved the Publication Schemes they would "go live" from 1 June 2004. The Chief Constable's Scheme was based on the Model Scheme for Police Forces which had already been submitted to the Commissioner.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the requirement for submission of a Publication Scheme relating to publication of information by the Board to the Scottish Information Commissioner (SIC) by 28 February 2004;
- (ii) to approve the draft Publication Scheme, as appended to the Report;
- (iii) to note that the draft had already been sent to the SIC for informal comment; and
- (iv) to authorise the Clerk to make any necessary changes and submit the Scheme for formal approval.

**12. PRISONER ESCORT AND COURT CUSTODY PROJECT**

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 28 January 2003, there was submitted Report No PB6/04 by the Chief Constable apprising members of the outcome of the review into prisoner escorting and court custody service.

The Report indicated that as a consequence of detailed discussions it had now been agreed to transfer the function of the prison escort and court custody service. Following a tendering process, the Scottish Prison Service had awarded the contract to Reliance Secure Task and Management (RSTM). A Service Level Agreement, detailing respective roles and responsibilities, had been agreed in principle between all eight Scottish Forces and the Scottish Prison Service. As a result of this transfer, all prisoner escort and court custody services would be provided by RSTM under the supervision of the Scottish Prison Service.

As a result, nine Police Officers and two members of support staff within Tayside would be released for operational and other duties. Of equal importance would be the removal of the significant ad hoc demands to escort prisoners which fell on operational officers across the Force. The Report concluded that these changes were to be welcomed as they freed up Police Officers from duties which did not require their particular skills and powers and made available additional resources for operational policing at no additional cost to the Board.

The Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the outcome of the Review of prisoner escorting and court custody services and the implementation arrangements;
- (ii) to note that there would be no financial detriment to the Board in these new arrangements and the Scottish Executive would fund the transfer in its entirety; and

- (iii) to welcome the release of staff from these tasks with a consequent improvement in operational resources.

**13. VISIT TO SCOTTISH POLICE COLLEGE - 15 MARCH 2004**

The Board were advised that a visit to the Scottish Police College had been arranged for all members on 15 March 2004 and that members should advise Mrs E Christie by 28 February 2004 whether they would be in attendance.

**14. TOUR OF POLICE FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY, DUNDEE**

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 10 November 2003, the Board were advised that a visit to the Police Forensic Science Laboratory in Dundee had been arranged for 17 February 2004 at 1600 hours and would include Elected Members of the partner forces of Central Scotland Police and Fife Constabulary. In addition, members of the Board could also visit the CCTV room and the Cell area should they so wish.

Members should advise Mrs E Christie by 6 February 2004 whether they would be in attendance.