

TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD

MINUTE of MEETING of the **BEST VALUE STEERING GROUP** of **TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD** held in Conference Room 1, Police Headquarters, West Bell Street, Dundee on Tuesday 23 March 2004 at 10.15 am.

Present: Councillor COLIN YOUNG, Depute Lord Provost CHARLES FARQUHAR OBE and Councillor JACK GIBB (substitute for Councillor Ron Scrimgeour),

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

Councillor YOUNG, Convener, in the chair.

1. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of the Best Value Steering Group of 1 December 2003, approved by the Board on 28 January 2004, was submitted and noted.

2. IMPLEMENTING BEST VALUE IN THE SCOTTISH POLICE SERVICE

There was submitted Joint Report No PB18/04 by the Chief Constable and the Clerk advising members of the terms of Police Circular No 11/2003 which provided Police Forces and police authorities with additional guidance for the implementation of Best Value in the Scottish Police Service.

The Report indicated that the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 imposed a statutory duty on police authorities to make arrangements to secure Best Value, with effect from 1 April 2003. Guidance on the implementation of Best Value in the Police Service was provided in Police Circular No 11/2003 and complying with the Act presented a challenge to the Force and the Board to demonstrate that adequate arrangements were in place.

Many of the critical functions identified in the guidance were already addressed in Tayside by the Board, or through the Sub-Committee structure, which provided a framework to develop the scrutiny arrangement envisaged by the Act.

The approach to Best Value was not limited to Service Reviews and it would be important to capture other evidence of Best Value, 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 use of innovative schemes.

The Best Value Steering Group agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the Report; and
- (ii) to note the provisions of Police Circular No 11/2003 as they related to police authorities' responsibilities for Best Value.

3. BEST VALUE REVIEW OF DATA MAINTENANCE - FINAL UPDATE ACTION PLAN

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Group of 1 July 2003, there was submitted Report No PB19/04 by the Chief Constable providing members with a conclusive Report on the recommendations produced following the Service Review carried out into Data Maintenance.

The Report indicated that all recommendations had been implemented and the achievement of these recommendations was detailed within Appendix 1 of the Report.

The Best Value Steering Group agreed:-

- (i) to note the outcome of the review; and

- (ii) to approve the Final Update Action Plan detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report, which concluded the Data Maintenance Best Value Service Review process.

4. BEST VALUE REVIEW OF FRAUD BRANCH - FINAL UPDATE ACTION PLAN

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Group of 4 March 2003, there was submitted Report No PB20/04 by the Chief Constable providing members with a conclusive Report on the recommendations produced following the Service Review carried out into the Fraud Branch.

The Report indicated that all recommendations had been implemented and the achievement of these recommendations was detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report.

The Best Value Steering Group agreed:-

- (i) to note the outcome of the review; and
- (ii) to approve the Final Update Action Plan as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report, which concluded the Fraud Branch Best Value Service Review process.

5. BEST VALUE REVIEW OF POLICE SURGEONS' SERVICE - UPDATE ACTION PLAN

With reference to Article 2 of the minute of meeting of this Group of 26 March 2002, there was submitted Report No PB21/04 by the Chief Constable providing members with an overview of the progress made against the recommendations produced following the Service Review carried out into the Police Surgeons' Service.

The Report indicated that the Force had progressed the recommendations made arising out of the Review and the progress was detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report. Work on the remaining recommendations still requiring to be completed would continue to be progressed.

The Best Value Steering Group agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress made against the main findings of the review;
- (ii) to approve the Update Action Plan as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report which formed part of the Best Value Service Review Process; and
- (iii) to note that work on the remaining recommendations still requiring to be completed would continue to be progressed.

6. BEST VALUE REVIEW OF SICKNESS ABSENCE MANAGEMENT - UPDATE ACTION PLAN

With reference to Article 2 of the minute of meeting of this Group of 26 March 2002, there was submitted Report No PB22/04 by the Chief Constable providing members with an overview of the progress made against the recommendations produced following the Service Review carried out into Sickness Absence Management.

The Report indicated that the Force had progressed the recommendations made arising out of the Service Review of Sickness Absence Management and the progress was detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report. Work on the remaining recommendations still requiring to be completed would continue to be progressed.

The Best Value Steering Group agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress made against the main findings of the review;
- (ii) to approve the Update Action Plan as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report which formed part of the Best Value Service Review Process; and
- (iii) to note that work on the remaining recommendations still requiring to be completed would continue to be progressed.

7. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Group resolved 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 1 and 9 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

8. BEST VALUE REVIEW OF CUSTODY CARE AND PRISONER HANDLING

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of this Group of 1 July 2003, there was submitted Report No PB23/04 by the Chief Constable providing members with an overview of the Custody Care and Prisoner Handling Best Value Review carried out by the Force.

The Report indicated that the main findings of the Review were contained within the Executive Summary of the Service Review Report as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report. A paper detailing a summary of the Options Appraisal and current progress made against the recommendations arising from the Review was provided in Appendix 2, with a full summary of the recommendations emanating from the Service Review Report detailed in Appendix 3 of Report No PB23/04.

The Best Value Steering Group agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the main findings of the Review as contained within the Executive Summary of the Service Review Report, detailed in Appendix 1;
- (iii) to note the Options Appraisal Summary and current progress against recommendations as detailed in Appendix 2; and
- (iv) to note the summary of recommendations arising out of the Service Review Report, as detailed in Appendix 3.