

A MEETING OF DYFED-POWYS POLICE AUTHORITY

Strategic Co-ordination Centre, Police HQ

Monday 19th December 2011 at 10am

PRESENT:

CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor A Lloyd Jones
Councillor T H Lewis

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor W G Hopkins
Councillor A P Cooper
Councillor D B Davies

PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor J T Davies
Councillor D J Neale

POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor D O Evans
Councillor M Hodges
Councillor K Curry

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

Mrs D Humfryes (Chair)
Mr A M S Kenwright
Mr J K Howell JP
Mrs H M Thomas
Mrs D Evans JP
Prof I Roffe JP
Ms L Pepper
Mr M Lewis
Mrs A Williams

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr K B Reeves – Chief Executive
Mrs C F Morgans – Assistant Chief Executive
Mr I Arundale – Chief Constable
Ms J Roberts – Deputy Chief Constable
Mr A R Bevan – Chief Financial Officer
Mr E Harries – Head of Financial Management
Ms D Jones – Financial Controller
Mr P Morris – Head of Corporate Services
Mrs C M Godden – Policy Officer

Mr G Lemon – Policy Officer
Mrs L Davies – Police Authority SPOC
Mr P Addicot – Police Federation
Mr I David - Unison

Prior to the commencement of the main business of the meeting a presentation was made to PC 23 Vicky Lloyd and PC Fraser Scott who had received a Royal Humane Society Award for their involvement in the rescue of a female in the Caban Coch Reservoir earlier this year. Members commended both officers for their bravery.

PA20 Chairman's Announcements

Mrs Humfryes reminded Members that there was a Christmas carol service planned for 20th December at 12.30pm at Police HQ.

PA21 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

PA22 Declarations of Interest

There were no other declarations of interest.

PA23 To consider the minutes of the meeting of 19th September 2011 (Public Summary)

Members agreed that the minutes of the last meeting were a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Police Authority Meeting on 19th September 2011 be agreed as a true and accurate record

PA24 Matters arising

There were no other matters arising.

PA25 To receive Committee Minutes

(i) Standards Committee 27th October 2011

Mr Kenwright presented the minutes.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Standards Committee be received and any recommendations within approved

(ii) Human Resources and Staff Liaison Committee 17th November 2011

Mrs Thomas presented the minutes.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Human Resources and Staff Liaison Committee be received and any recommendations within approved

(iii) Community Engagement and External Relations Committee 5th December 2011

Mrs Williams presented the minutes. Cllr D Davies' name had been omitted from the attendance list.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Community Engagement and External Relations Committee be received and any recommendations within approved (subject to the above amendment)

(iv) Planning Performance and Scrutiny Committee 7th December 2011

Prof Roffe presented the minutes and commended the Chief Constable and the Force for maintaining a high standard of performance. Mrs Thomas commented on the improved sickness absence levels. Cllr Lloyd Jones commented on road safety issues and developments with the Trunk Roads Agency.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Planning Performance and Scrutiny Committee be received and any recommendations within approved

(iv) Finance and General Purposes Committee 12th December 2011

Cllr J Davies presented the minutes and highlighted recommendations of the Committee in relation to the continued occupation of the Penparcau Office and the increased volunteer mileage rate (in accordance with the HMRC tax free rate). Members agreed to approve both recommendations.

Mrs Humfryes highlighted an error in the minutes at FGP40. The wording at resolution 1 required amending as the Authority was not required to 'approve' the precept level until February 2012.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee be received and any recommendations within approved (subject to the above amendment)**
- 2. That the mileage rate for volunteers be increased to 45 pence per mile (in line with the HMRC tax free rate) with effect from 1st January 2012**
- 3. That the Force continue to occupy the Penparcau NPT Office**

PA26 To consider the report of the Chief Financial Officer on the First Draft Revenue Budget 2012/15

Mr Bevan presented Members with a Draft Revenue Budget and a recommendation to increase the Council Tax Precept level by 5%.

Members considered the discussions of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 12th December 2011.

The Chief Constable explained in detail the reasons for the recommended increase, commenting that even with an increase of 5% the Force would still experience financial and operational difficulties. The Chief Constable cited the need to maintain high performance levels, reduced funding, shortfalls in savings, increases in fuel/gas/electricity and the introduction of costs for previously free NPIA services as key reasons for the recommended precept level. The Chief Constable also referred to a Citizens Panel consultation exercise that showed a public willingness to pay a higher precept level for a high quality police service.

The Chief Constable informed Members that a cut in the proposed precept level would inevitably result in the consideration of forced retirements, compulsory redundancies, possible loss of frontline officers, police station closures, loss of the Force helicopter, and a revised approach to the investigation of all crimes.

Members discussed the importance of leaving a positive legacy coupled with their duty as Authority Members, and balanced this against the need to consider and fully appreciate the economic difficulties facing the public.

Mrs Humfryes stated that Members would need to consider the matter in great detail. Cllr J Davies suggested that the way forward, as discussed at the Finance and General Purposes Committee, would be to ensure an early dialogue between the Authority and the Force via the Financial Governance Group. Cllr J Davies also suggested that a letter be sent to Carl Sargeant (Minister for Local Government and Communities) requesting formal guidance as to the accepted levels of policing precept for 2012/13. Members supported Cllr J Davies' suggestion.

Mr Reeves advised Members that the recommendations of the Finance and General Purposes Committee at FGP40 required consideration and resolution.

RESOLVED

- 1. That members note the budget/precept recommendation of the Chief Constable and Chief Financial Officer**
- 2. That a meeting of the Financial Governance Group be arranged as soon as possible to discuss the precept level**
- 3. That the Police Authority writes to Carl Sargeant requesting formal guidance as to the level of the police precept**
- 4. That the Police Authority starts lobbying arrangements in respect of the removal of floor grant funding**

PA27 To consider the reports of the Chief Executive

a) Standards Committee and Code of Conduct

Mr Reeves provided Members with a detailed briefing as to the observations of the Standards Committee of the 27th October in respect of the Terms of Reference, the adoption of a voluntary code of conduct, the revised arrangements and membership of the Standards Committee following the abolition of the Statutory code, and the impact of the introduction of future statutory instruments.

Members considered the advice of the Chief Executive and, after discussing the matter, made a number of resolutions.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the terms of Reference of the Standards Committee be approved**
- 2. That the Code of Conduct be adopted on the abolition of the Statutory Code**
- 3. That delegated power be given to the Standards Committee to approve protocols/procedures to comply with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, including the making of a recommendation to the Authority in respect of the appointment of Independent Person(s)**
- 4. That the Chief Executive be authorised to make technical adjustments to the Code arising from future statutory instruments**
- 5. That the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer consider the creation of an allowance for an Independent Person in the Annual Report on the Expenses and Allowances Scheme presented to the Budget meeting in February 2012**
- 6. That two additional Police Authority Members be appointed to the Standards Committee (*to be decided at the next meeting on 25th January 2011*) and that Members be invited to express an interest**

b) Florence Louisa Lewis Trust Fund for the purchase of police dogs

Mr Reeves informed Members of a request from the Dog Section for funds to pay for the purchase a police dog, and asked Members to consider the closure of the fund given the limited amount of monies that would be left should Members agree to the donation.

Mr Howell expressed concerns over the closure of the fund, and informed Members of a donation that was likely to be made to the fund in the near future. The Police Authority was not aware of this potential donation.

Members considered the administrative benefits of transferring management of the fund to the Force, particularly in light of the introduction of PCCs.

Prof Roffe suggested that a press release be produced to publicise the benefits of the fund, and to encourage donations.

RESOLVED

1. That a donation of £1500 be made toward the purchase of the police dog
2. That, subject to any impediments, the fund be closed and all monies and future donations be transferred to the Force
3. That a press release be produced

c) Governance arrangements within the Police Authority

Members considered the Authority's Committee structure and whether or not any changes were required in the advance of the transition to PCCs.

Members agreed that it was important to keep the existing committee structure given the different strands of Authority business, but were in favour of tweaking the current arrangements. Members resolved to keep the agendas focussed on those matters requiring decisions and for committee minutes to be streamlined.

RESOLVED

1. That the current committee structure remains in place
2. That committee agendas be limited to those matters requiring decisions
3. That matters for information be circulated to Members by e-mail
4. That the Police Authority Budget meeting in February be arranged for Friday 17th February 2012
5. That the Schedule of meetings be approved

PA28 To consider a report on Local Policing Priorities for 2012/13

Mrs Morgans presented the report and highlighted the discussions on policing priorities that were held at the Police Authority seminar on 13th December.

RESOLVED

That the Policing Priorities for 2012/13 be:

- **Anti-Social Behaviour**
- **Drug Related Crime**
- **Protecting the Public**
- **Access to Services**

PA29 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED

That the press and the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following three items of business pursuant to section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

PA30 To consider Special Priority Payments for 2011

Mr Bevan circulated a report to Members. The Chief Constable provided Members with the Force's operational perspective on the payment of SPPs. Mr Addicott presented Members with the official view of the Police Federation.

After a detailed discussion Members made a number of resolutions.

RESOLVED [18 Members in favour, one abstention]

- 1. That the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 12th December not be approved**
- 2. That the original Special Priority Payment Scheme as provided to the Human Resources and Staff Liaison Committee on 17th November 2011 be approved**

PA31 To receive Exempt Police Authority and Committee Minutes

(i) Police Authority 19th September 2011

Members agreed that exempt the minutes of the last meeting were a true and accurate record. There were no matters arising.

RESOLVED

That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority be received and any recommendations within approved

(ii) Standards Committee 27th October 2011

Mr Kenwright presented the minutes. There were no matters arising.

RESOLVED

That the exempt minutes of the Police Authority be received and any recommendations within approved

(iii) Human Resources and Staff Liaison Committee 17th November 2011

Mrs Thomas presented the minutes. There were no matters arising.

RESOLVED

That the exempt minutes of the Human Resources and Staff Liaison Committee be received and any recommendations within approved

(iv) Finance and General Purposes Committee 12th December 2011

Cllr J Davies presented the minutes and referred to the recommendation at FGP51 in respect of proposed conversion works at the Strategic Command Centre (SCC). Members agreed unanimously to approve the recommendation of the Committee.

Mr Bevan raised an additional agenda item in respect of investments. Members agreed with the approach proposed by the Chief Financial Officer.

RESOLVED

1. That the exempt minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee be received and any recommendations within approved
2. That the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee not to commence with conversion work in the SCC be approved
3. That the delegated power be given to the Chair of the Police Authority and the Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to determine investments in the event of an emergency (*in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer*)

PA32 To consider an exempt report of the Chief Financial Officer on the First Draft Revenue Budget 2012/15

Members were content that the pertinent issues had been considered at Agenda Item 7 (Minute PA26).

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

The meeting returned to open session.

PA33 To receive a verbal report on the Assistant Chief Constable appointment process

Mrs Morgans informed Members that 6 applications had been received and that those applications were being considered by the Senior Appointments Panel. Shortlisting was planned for 23rd January with interviews taking place on 2/3rd February 2012.

RESOLVED

That the verbal update be noted

PA34 To consider the quarterly report of the Chief Constable

CC Arundale presented the report to Members.

CC Arundale covered crime management issues and highlighted a number of successful operations. Other matters covered by the Chief Constable included roads policing campaigns, Operation SAGE reviews, territorial policing activity and HR initiatives.

Cllr Lloyd Jones declared an interest in relation to the Ceredigion Licensing Panel Result on 22nd November 2011 (as highlighted on page 10 the Ceredigion section of the Chief Constable's Report).

Members commended the Force on the continued high levels of performance.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

PA35 To consider reports of the Chief Executive

a) Progress on the Transition arrangements

Mrs Morgans presented the report to Members highlighting progress in respect of the transition from Police Authority to PCC. This included developments in relation to the Risk Register, communication, the Police and Crime Plan, and a planned stakeholder event.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

b) HMIC Activity

Mr Reeves gave an update on recent HMIC activity and referred to the IPCC Report on 'Corruption in the Police Service'.

RESOLVED

That the verbal update be noted

c) Police Authority Risk Register

Mr Reeves presented the latest Police Authority Risk Register to Members for information.

Prof Roffe drew attention to the wording at No. 3 and suggested that the words '*. . . and ability to influence resulting in the Authority being marginalised. A negative legacy created for the Authority*' be removed as they did not add anything to the preceding sentences. Members agreed with Prof Roffe suggestion.

RESOLVED

That the Risk Register be amended (as above) and noted

PA36 To receive the minutes of the Police Authorities of Wales (PAW) meeting of 14th October 2011

Members received the minutes of the PAW meeting of 14th October 2011. There were no matters arising.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the PAW meeting of 14th October 2011 be received.

PA37 Equality and diversity issues

Mrs Morgans informed Members that the Police Authority had been successful in being awarded the Jobcentre 'Two Tick' Disability Symbol for a further 12 months.

There were no other equality and diversity issues.

PA38 Any other business that the chair considers urgent

There was no other urgent business.

Meeting concluded at 12.30pm