

DYFED-POWYS POLICE AUTHORITY

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee

Thursday 9th February 2012 at 1pm

Present: Cllr J T Davies (Chair)
Mr J K Howell JP
Mr A M S Kenwright
Cllr M Hodges
Cllr G Hopkins
Mrs A Williams
Cllr P Cooper

Officers in attendance: Mr A Bevan, Chief Financial Officer
Miss D Jones, Financial Controller
Mr E Harries, Head of Financial Management
Mr G Lemon, Policy Officer

Observers: Mrs D Humfries (Agenda Items 1 to 4, and 7 only)

FGP54 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr K B Reeves, Mrs H M Thomas, Prof I Roffe JP and Mrs C Morgans.

FGP55 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

FGP56 (i) To consider the minutes of the meeting of 12th December 2011

Cllr Davies presented the minutes of the meeting of 12th December 2011.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Meeting on 12th December 2012 be agreed as a true and accurate record

(ii) To consider the Action Log

Members also considered the action log. All agreed actions had been completed or were in the process of being completed.

Mr Lemon indicated that in respect of FGP30(ii) the Chief Executive was awaiting receipt of the title deeds before executing legal documentation in respect of the transfer of land to Western Power.

FGP57 **Matters arising**

Cllr Hodges provided a brief update as to the Police Station project at Llandrindod Wells.

There were no other matters arising.

Members agreed to alter the running order of the agenda and consider Agenda Item 7 as this would inform discussions around the precept/budget.

FGP58 **To receive a report on the results of the Precept Setting Consultation**

Members noted the results of the consultation exercise on the precept level which showed that of the 1812 people consulted, 77% were either 'very willing' or 'fairly willing' to pay up to 15 pence extra towards their council tax precept.

Cllr Hodges also revealed the results of a consultation exercise that had taken place in Powys where 4 out of 5 people consulted with supported a 5% increase in the council tax precept.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

Members agreed that it would be prudent to consider both versions of the Final Draft Revenue Budget Report (open and exempt versions at Agenda Item 5(i) and Item 10 respectively). Therefore, the meeting moved into exempt session.

Mrs Humfryes left the meeting.

FGP59 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

RESOLVED

That the press and the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following 1 item 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.

- (i) Final Draft Revenue Budget 2012/13 to 2015/16 (including exempt passages)

Mr Bevan presented a report on the Final Draft Revenue Budget, highlighting key areas of the document.

Mr Bevan stated that the Chief Constable was advocating a 5% increase in the precept level for 2012/13. Mr Bevan referred to the level of funding received in previous years, the significant budget cuts in recent years and inflation levels in explaining the difficult financial situation that the Force and the Authority were currently in. Mr Bevan referred to the Winsor Review which would lead to an estimated increase in expenditure of over £530,000 in 2014/15. Mr Bevan also referred to the National Police Air Service which would require an additional £349,000 to be included in the budget.

Members were cognisant of the current financial challenges, and also acknowledged that there were uncertainties surrounding the future.

Members commended the Force on the production of a detailed Final Draft Revenue Budget, and for the hard work in maintaining a balanced budget.

After considering the report and Mr Bevan's representations Cllr Davies, seconded by Cllr Hodges, made the following motion:

The Police Authority be recommended to approve a revenue budget of £95.698 million, which results in a council tax precept of £198.54 (£189.09 in 2011/12) for a Band D property which equates to a 5% Council Tax increase for 2012/13.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Cllr Hopkins stated that in passing the motion it was important to record the concerns at the consistent increase in the percentage of the police budget that was paid for by the local tax payer in comparison to the consistent decrease in the percentage that was paid for by total government funding. Members agreed unanimously that these concerns should be carried forward to the Police Authority.

RESOLVED

- 1. That a recommendation to approve a revenue budget of £95.698 million, which results in a council tax precept of £198.54 (£189.09 in 2011/12) for a Band D property which equates to a 5% Council Tax increase for 2012/13 be taken to the Police Authority on 17th February 2012**
- 2. That concerns in relation to the source of Police funding (as outlined above) be taken to the Police Authority on 17th February 2012**

The meeting returned to open session.

(ii) Annual Investment Strategy 2012/13

Mr Bevan presented the report. After considering the report Members made the following resolution.

RESOLVED

That the Investment Strategy 2012/13 be recommended for approval by the Police Authority on 17th February 2012

(iii) Treasury Management Policy 2012/13

Mr Bevan presented the report. After considering the report Members made the following resolution.

RESOLVED

That the Treasury Management Policy 2012/13 be recommended for approval by the Police Authority on 17th February 2012

(iv) Prudential Indicators and 5 Year Capital programme

Mr Bevan presented the report.

Referring to the sections of the report that related to fleet management and mobile data, Members agreed that in the interests of accountability it would be useful for the Committee to have a presentation on these matters at the next meeting.

After considering the report Members made the following resolutions.

RESOLVED

1. That a recommendation not to alter the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2012/13 from the 2011/12 financial year be recommended for approval by the Police Authority on 17th February 2012

2. That the Capital Strategy, 5 Year Capital Programme, capital expenditure limits and borrowing levels along with the associated capital financing requirement (taking account of the relevant indicators of affordability) be formally approved

3. That prudential code indicators and borrowing limits identical to those set for the current year be recommended for approval by the Police Authority on 17th February 2012

4. That a presentation on fleet management be arranged for the next committee/Authority seminar as appropriate

4. That a presentation on mobile data be arranged for the next committee/Authority seminar as appropriate

(v) Revenue Budget Outturn and Update Report

Mr Bevan presented the report. Members noted the report.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

(vi) Capital Budget Outturn

Mr Bevan presented the report. Members noted the report.

Referring to the success of environmental projects and the previous presentation to the Authority by the Force Environmental Officer, Cllr Hopkins suggested that Mr Steve Bergiers be invited to make a further presentation to the Authority. Members agreed that it would be useful to receive an updated presentation from Mr Bergiers.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the report be noted**
- 2. That Mr Steve Bergiers be invited to give a presentation at a future meeting of the Committee/Authority when deemed appropriate**

(vii) Financial Consequences of Tax Changes

Mr Bevan presented a report that had been considered at the last meeting of the Appointments and Remuneration Committee.

Members expressed serious concerns in relation to the significant consequences of the provisions of the Finance Act 2011 on tax allowances. Members agreed that the report should be taken to the Police Authority meeting on 17th February 2012, with a recommendation that it be taken to Police Authorities of Wales (PAW) and the Association of Police Authorities (APA) for consideration/action.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the report be noted**
- 2. That the report be taken to the Police Authority meeting on 17th February 2012 with a recommendation for it to be taken to PAW and the APA for consideration/action**

(viii) Home Secretary announcement on police pay and pensions

Mr Bevan updated Members with some of the key issues arising from the announcement of the Home Secretary on police pay and pensions.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted

FGP61 To receive an update report on the Police Authority Secretariat Budget

Mr Bevan presented the report. Members noted the positive financial position in respect of the Secretariat budget.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

FGP62 To receive the minutes of the Audit and Review Sub-Committee

Cllr Hodges presented the minutes of the Audit and Review Sub-Committee. There were no matters arising.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Audit and Review Sub Committee be received

FGP63 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED

That the press and the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following 4 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.

FGP64 To consider the exempt minutes of the meeting of 12th December 2012

Members agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record. However, Mr Bevan suggested that in the interests of clarity, a footnote be included on the minute in relation to Special Priority Payments as the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 12th December was not approved/ followed by the Police Authority on 19th December. Members agreed that it would be useful to insert a footnote on both versions of the minute.

Referring to the part of the minutes that related to the Strategic Co-ordination Centre (SCC), Members requested that regular updates (via e-mail and to the Committee) be provided in relation to the provision of funding/occupation of the building.

RESOLVED

1. That the exempt minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Meeting on 12th December 2012 be agreed as a true and accurate record
2. That a footnote be added to both the open and public versions of the minute of 12th December as outlined above
3. That regular updates on the SCC be provided as outlined above

FGP65 To consider a request in relation to a civil case

Mr Bevan presented a report to Members requesting the write off of an historical civil case.

RESOLVED

That the write off of an outstanding civil case be approved

FGP66 To consider an update report on the cost reduction plan

Mr Bevan presented the report to Members.

Members expressed concerns in relation to specific elements of government funding, including floor grant funding and the formula used to calculate/award funds.

RESOLVED

1. That the report be noted
2. That a recommendation to develop a lobbying strategy in respect of funding concerns be taken to the Police Authority on 17th February 2012

FGP67 To receive an update on the National Police Air Service (NPAS)

Mr Bevan presented a report on the NPAS.

Members also considered an additional document and enclosures from the APA that had been circulated at the start of the meeting.

After considering the matter, Members made the following resolutions.

RESOLVED

1. That the report be noted
2. That the following recommendations be taken to the Police Authority on 17th February 2012:
 - *To have further discussion as to the retention of the Force helicopter.*
 - *To consider proposing the use of Pembrey as a base under the NPAS (subject to discussions between the Chair of the Finance*

and General Purposes Committee and the Deputy Chief Constable).

3. That a response be drafted and provided to the APA by Monday 13th February 2012

FGP68 Any other business that the chair considers urgent

There was no other urgent business.

Meeting concluded at 3pm