



# CHESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

## BEST VALUE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9 MAY 2006 IN CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

*Present:* R Hodson, Chairman            M D Darby  
              Mrs M Chapman                Ms E Lam  
              Mrs G A Cousins                P Nurse

*Also present:* D T Bateman and P J Walker

<i>Authority Officers:</i>	<i>Constabulary Officers:</i>
M Sellwood, Clerk & Chief Executive	B Simmons, Assistant Chief Officer
D Taylor, Deputy Clerk	Mrs K Watkins, Director of Performance Development
J Dean, Principal Auditor	
Mrs A Gibson, Treasurer's office	

*Also Present:* J Farmer, G Parry and S Whiteley External Auditors, Audit Commission  
P Lloyd-Jones (observer)

#### 1. MINUTES

*RESOLVED:*

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2006 be confirmed as a correct record.

#### 2. EXTERNAL AUDIT: FEES 2005/06

The External Auditor presented the proposal for the revised audit fee for 2005/06, which took account of the additional work required to comply with the International Standards on Auditing; Police Use of Resources Evaluation; Whole of Government Accounts; and the police force restructuring.

Members raised a number of issues including the changes in the auditor's fees; the reduction in fees should the Authority's risks reduce; and whether there was sufficient budget provision to cover the increases, to which the External Auditor and Assistant Chief Officer responded.

*RESOLVED:*

That the revised External Auditor's fees, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be agreed.

#### 3. INTERNAL AUDIT: PROGRESS REPORT 2005/06

The Principal Auditor gave an update on the progress made to date against the Internal Audit Plan for 2005/06, including the completion of the payroll and

purchase order processing module reviews. It was reported that no major control weaknesses had been identified during the audits.

Members noted the report and enquired about the timescales with regards the current reviews, which it was reported would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

*RESOLVED:*

That the report be received.

4. BEST VALUE PROGRAMME: UPDATE

The Director of Performance Development provided an update on the main developments within the Best Value programme, including the main issues relating to Best Value contained within the Police & Justice Bill; improvement plan progress; and the development of the options for the next phase of post implementation reviews.

*RESOLVED:*

That the update on the Best Value Programme, be noted.

5. CODE OF CONDUCT: VOLUNTEERS

The Deputy Clerk presented a report which outlined the conduct required by people undertaking activities on a voluntary basis on behalf of the Authority and the training they received.

*RESOLVED:*

That the report be noted.

*Duration of Meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and concluded at 10.10am*