



CHESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

1 (i)

FINANCE PANEL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 2 DECEMBER 2008 IN CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

Present:

P Nurse, Chairman	R Hodson
M D Darby	E Lam
D T Bateman	C Oliver
M Chapman	S Proctor
G A Cousins	

Also in attendance: D Cargill, R McNeil, B Maher, M Ollerenshaw and T Savage
J Ebo (shadow Member)

Authority Officers:
M Sellwood, Chief Executive
L Lunn, Treasurer
M Eaton, Member Services Manager

Constabulary Officers:
D Whatton, Chief Constable
B Simmons, Assistant Chief Officer
K Watkins, Director of Performance Development
A Rainford, Head of Finance & Procurement
W Bebbington, Finance Department

32. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

33. REVENUE EXPENDITURE: MID-YEAR REVIEW 2008/09

The Chief Constable and the Treasurer submitted a joint report on the mid-year assessment of budgetary performance and the forecast outturn for 2008/09.

The Head of Finance & Procurement commented on the projected revenue outturn; risk analysis; revenue reserves; and the financial health targets.

Members raised a number of issues including the review of insurance and risk management; the delivery of the headline actions outlined within the investment strategy/council tax increase to the public; the use and control of overtime; and the impact of the pay awards on the budget. The issues raised were responded to and the Chief Constable stressed that the aims of the investment strategy would be delivered and the use of overtime was targeted at reducing/detecting crime.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the projected revenue outturn at mid-year, be noted; and
- (2) the transfer of £927,000 from the policy provision to an earmarked reserve, subject to the final outturn, the use of which be determined by the Authority in setting the 2009/10 budget, be approved.

34. MID-YEAR REVIEW OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCING 2008/09

The Chief Constable and the Treasurer submitted a joint report on the mid-year assessment of projected capital outturn for 2008/09; capital financing arrangements; and an additional capital spending proposal for new IT servers.

The Panel discussed capital investment and issues relating to future air support; LPSA2 reward grant; and the implementation of the transforming business services programme.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the capital programme be revised to reflect the forecast capital outturn of £12.544m for 2008/09;
- (2) the additional capital expenditure on four new servers at a cost of £55,000, be approved and included in the revised capital programme; and
- (3) that capital expenditure and financing proposals for 2009/10 be submitted to the budget seminar on 5 January 2009.

35. EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY STRATEGY 2008/09

The Director of Performance Development presented a report on the mid year review of efficiency savings targets.

The Panel considered the report which detailed the targets and the savings achieved to date across a number of budgets/services throughout the Constabulary and raised a number of issues with the Director.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

36. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2008/09

The Treasurer submitted a report which provided a review of the treasury management activities during 2008/09. The report included details of the current situation, the impact of the 'credit crunch' on the Authority's budget; the treasury management strategy; investments and borrowing; and the forecast for remainder of 2008/09.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

37. REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT

The Treasurer reported on the provisional Revenue Support Grant Settlement for 2009/10, which had resulted in grant increase of 2.5% for Cheshire, and confirmed that the Secretary of State had designated the Authority in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and proposed a maximum budget requirement equivalent to a maximum council tax increase of 3%. The Authority had been given 21 days to challenge the designation.

The Panel, in discussion with the Chief Executive and the Chief Constable agreed to recommend that the Authority does not challenge the maximum budget amount proposed by the Secretary of State of £172,898,000 for 2009/10. The Panel requested that the Treasurer, in consultation with the Chief Constable, draft a response to the Secretary of State for the Chairman which outlines the budget pressures; the existing funding gap; and reserves the Authority's position in future years.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the update on the provisional Revenue Support Grant Settlement for 2009/10, be noted; and
- (2) the Secretary of State be advised that the Authority does not challenge the proposed maximum budget amount of £172,898,000 for 2009/10, as included in the confirmation of designation dated 26 November 2008.

38. DRAFT 2009/10 BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY FOR 2010-12

The Treasurer presented the timetable for consideration of the 2009-12 Policing Plan, budget and capital programme, prior to their submission to the Authority on 24 February 2009 for approval.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the timetable and process for developing an integrated Policing Plan, budget and capital programme, as detailed in the Treasurer's report, be noted.

Duration of Meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and concluded at 11.00am.