



# CHESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE POLICE AUTHORITY HELD ON TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2005 IN CONFERENCE ROOM 4, CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

*Present:*

P Nurse (Chairman)	B P Doyle
M D Darby (Vice-Chairman)	R Hodson
P J Walker (Vice-Chairman)	Ms E Lam
D T Bateman	P Lloyd-Jones
Mrs M Chapman	B Maher
Mrs A Coomer	Mrs M A Ollerenshaw
Mrs G A Cousins	Mrs S Proctor

*Police Authority Officers:*  
M Sellwood, Clerk & Chief Executive  
Ms L Lunn, Treasurer  
D Taylor, Deputy Clerk

*Constabulary Officers:*  
P Fahy, Chief Constable  
G Gerrard, Deputy Chief Constable  
G Shewan, Assistant Chief Constable  
Mrs K Watkins, Director of  
Performance Development  
Superintendent I Hopkins,  
Restructuring Team  
Mrs B Cowling, Head of Corporate  
Communications

*Apologies:* Mrs A Doran and J P Findlow

### 41. MINUTES

*RESOLVED:*

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2005 be confirmed as a correct record.

### 42. URGENT BUSINESS

(There were no items of urgent business).

### 43. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

*RESOLVED:*

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as applied by the Police Act 1996, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the item of business listed below on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act in the paragraph indicated:-

<i>Item</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>
Police Force Structures	(11 & 14) Industrial Relations and Prevention of a crime

#### 44. POLICE FORCE STRUCTURES

The Chief Constable presented a report which detailed the background to the police force structure review, the process to be followed and the five options that were being appraised. The report also detailed the comprehensive external and internal consultation that had been undertaken on the restructuring proposals and the outcome of the expert and executive panels. The Chief Constable reinforced the Constabulary's commitment to local policing in which ever model was chosen, and expressed his desire to see local resources ring-fenced to ensure that local services were maintained.

The Clerk & Chief Executive reported on the process to be followed and reminded Members that following the development of the initial proposals for restructuring, further work was required to be undertaken to submit the final preferred option to the Home Secretary by 23 December 2005. The Chairman reported on the various meetings he had attended on the restructuring proposals and stated that whilst supporting the further development of the five options, the Authority must reserve the right to consider further collaborative working arrangements with forces such as North Wales, which were outside the North West Government Office region.

Members considered the report in detail and raised a number of issues including the need to maintain local governance arrangements; support for the development of both a federated regional option and a full scale regional amalgamation; and support for developing the other options in order that a comprehensive business case could be developed to submit to the Home Secretary.

Members considered the federated option in detail and raised issues concerning accountability of chief officers at both local and regional levels; and the importance of maintaining a local identity and governance arrangements for Cheshire in which ever structure was finally chosen as the preferred option.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the five options, as set out in the Chief Constable's report, be further developed, and after consultation with the Chief Constable, Chairman and Clerk & Chief Executive, be submitted to the Home Secretary by the end of October 2005; and
- (3) in submitting the five options, the Authority and the Constabulary reserve its right to consider further possible collaboration and joint working with other forces and authorities outside the Government Office for the North West region.

Duration of meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and finished at 11.25am.