

## **GWENT POLICE AUTHORITY**

### **MINUTES OF THE GWENT POLICE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CROESYCEILIOG, CWMBRAN ON FRIDAY, 19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2010**

Present: Mrs P Davies (in the Chair)  
Local Authorities  
Councillors H Andrews, P Clarke, A Crump, M Dally, M Evans, C Mann, P. Seabourne, E. Townsend and W J Williams  
Independent Members  
Mr O Ali, Mr D Bayliss, Mr J Hathaway and Mr R Leadbeter  
Officers of the Authority  
Mrs S Bosson – Chief Executive  
Mr N Phillips – Treasurer  
Mrs S Curley – Business and Member Services Manager  
Also in Attendance:  
Mr M Giannasi – Chief Constable (CC)  
Mrs C Napier – Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)  
Mr J Farrar – Assistant Chief Constable (ACC)  
Mr N Stephens – Interim Director of Finance and Administration  
Inspector R Blakemore – Staff Officer  
Mr S John – Head of Corporate Communications  
Mr J Mapps - Police Federation

**The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m.**

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**Action**

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs F Taylor and Chief Superintendent Symes.

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2. There were no declarations of interest.

#### **MINUTES**

3. We received and noted the minutes of the Special meeting of the Audit and Resources Committee held on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

The Chair of the Audit and Resources Committee thanked the Treasurer, Director of Finance and Administration and the Finance team as well as the rest of the committee for the work that had been undertaken towards setting the budget for 2010/11.

We discussed the importance of the Bobby Van Scheme with regard to the assistance it offered to vulnerable people and the public confidence it inspired. The funding to support the Scheme had been included in the budget as a service pressure. However, the Chief Constable confirmed

that this commitment would be honoured. Councillors were asked to raise the continuation of the funding the scheme with their own councils. We noted that the Bobby Van Scheme Manager would be attending a future meeting to provide members with a presentation on the scheme.

**Action**

## **FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND BUDGET 2010/2011**

4. We received and considered a report by the Chief Constable and Treasurer on the Financial Strategy and proposed Budget for 2010/11.

We noted that Authority would face a projected recurring financial pressure of up to £11.0m by 2012/13 that was being addressed through the Staying Ahead Programme. We also considered the challenges faced by the Authority to achieve a balanced recurring revenue budget, whilst providing efficient and effective services to meet the policing demands of the community for the foreseeable future.

We noted that the Audit and Resources Committee endorsed the recommendations presented in the report and that if approved they would allow for a return to full establishment by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010. The Treasurer confirmed the robustness of the estimates provided and the adequacy of reserves held. This was also supported by the Wales Audit Office opinion published within the PURE report.

We noted that the original recommendation had suggested an increase in precept of 4.5% however the Audit and Resources Committee after much consideration had recommended 3.85%. It was felt that this was a sensible compromise. We felt that the increase in precept recommended would allow for the balance of needs of Gwent Police Authority to set a balanced budget and the requirement to protect and reassure the public against the financial situation of the people of Gwent.

As in previous years we expressed our concerns that reductions in funding from the Home Office caused pressure on the Police Authority to set a higher precept to meet the shortfall.

We approved:

- The revenue budget for 2010/11 of £121.616m and associated non-recurring measures.
- Planned Cash Releasing Efficiency Savings (CRES) in 2010/11 of £3.99m with an underlying principle of maximising CRES by seeking to implement further schemes during the year.
- The initial Capital Programme.
- The proposed strategy for achieving efficiency savings/cost reductions in order to achieve a balanced recurring revenue budget by April 2013,
- The proposed recycling of reserves to facilitate the implementation of the Estate Strategy
- The 2010/11 precept to be levied in respect of general expenses of £36,931,847 (equivalent to a Council Tax Band D of £181.38) and that this sum be apportioned to each City/County/County Borough

Council according to the following table:

<b>Council Tax Band</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>120.92</b>	
<b>B</b>	<b>141.07</b>	
<b>C</b>	<b>161.23</b>	
<b>D</b>	<b>181.38</b>	
<b>E</b>	<b>221.69</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>261.99</b>	
<b>G</b>	<b>302.30</b>	
<b>H</b>	<b>362.76</b>	
<b>I</b>	<b>423.22</b>	

<b>Unitary Authorities</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Tax Base Band D Equivalent</b>
<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>	<b>3,575,734</b>	<b>19,714.05</b>
<b>Caerphilly</b>	<b>10,506,516</b>	<b>57,925.44</b>
<b>Monmouthshire</b>	<b>7,690,944</b>	<b>42,402.38</b>
<b>Newport</b>	<b>9,570,516</b>	<b>52,765.00</b>
<b>Torfaen</b>	<b>5,588,137</b>	<b>30,809.00</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>36,931,847</b>	<b>203,615.87</b>

### **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2010-11 –2012-13**

5. We received and noted a report by the Treasurer on the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2010-11 to 2012-2013.

We noted that this report had been considered by the Audit and Resources Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2010, where the recommendations had been endorsed for submission to the full Authority for final approval.

We approved

- the Capital Prudential Indicators 2010-11 to 2012-13
- the Minimum Revenue Provision policy for 2010-11
- the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2010-11 to 2012-13, including an Investment Strategy and relevant Prudential Indicators;
- the revised Treasury Management Practice
- the security and liquidity benchmarks
- the treasury management clauses for inclusion in Standing Orders/ Financial Regulations.

We noted that a report would be presented to the next meeting of the Audit and Resources Committee regarding changes to other Treasury Management practices.

**Treasurer**

## **LOCAL POLICING PLAN 2010-2013**

6. We noted that the Local Policing Plan required approval by the full Authority by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. Due to the requirements of the new Police Score Card it was suggested to hold a special full meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2010 prior to the Development and Awareness Day.

**Action**

We approved the scheduling of a special meeting to consider and approve the Local Policing Plan 2010-2013.

## **NATIONAL POLICING PLAN FOR WALES 2010-2013**

7. We received a report from the Chief Executive on the National Policing Plan for Wales. Following the establishment of the joint committee for PAW, it had been agreed that this plan would act as the Business Plan for Police Authorities of Wales (PAW). We noted that PAW had considered this plan on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010 and each Police Authority in Wales would be asked to agree the plan before it could be formally adopted by PAW in April.

The Chief Constable in his role as Chair of ACPO Cymru spoke regarding the joint arrangements in Wales. The development of PAW had been admired by external organisations and a number of aspects of the PAW arrangement were being used as examples of good practice.

There would be further opportunities for collaboration in future; for example discussions were ongoing regarding a joint procurement body. This could result in reduced bureaucracy and benefit from economies of scale.

We agreed the plan in principle and noted that we would receive the full plan in April. We were asked to submit any comments regarding the plan to the Chief Executive following the meeting.

**CEx**

## **RISKS IDENTIFIED**

8. No additional risks were identified as a result of this meeting.

***The meeting concluded at 10.35 a.m.***