



**LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY  
FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE  
9 FEBRUARY 2010  
1.00PM – 4.20 PM**

**PRESENT:**

**Members:** Mr R Must (Chairman), Mr J Atter, Mr G Dark, Mr C Underwood-Frost, Mr J Walker, Mr B Young

**Apologies:** Mr K Smith (Vice-Chairman)

**Secretariat:** Ms J Flint (Treasurer), Mr H Hunt (Deputy Chief Executive), Mr J Horton (Engagement and Communications Officer), Mr J King (Committee and Administration Officer), Miss V Mason (Research and Performance Officer)

**Force Officers:** Mr N Rhodes (Deputy Chief Constable), Mr P Steed (Director of Finance and Administration), Mr A Tomlinson (Head of Finance), Mrs J Hogan (Performance Manager)

**37/09 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND/OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS**

None

**38/09 MINUTES – 18 DECEMBER 2009**

| <b>Resolved</b>   | <b>Responsible Officer</b> |
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| 1. That the Minutes of the Finance and Strategy Committee meeting held on 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2009 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. | -                          |

**39/09 ACTION SUMMARY**

The Treasurer recommended the removal of item B1 (19 December 2008) as it was also included as an action under the Committee's Work Plan. Members were advised that discussions with Surrey Police Authority regarding collaboration on research into the national funding formula were on-going. It was confirmed that item B2 (18 December 2009) had been actioned and could be removed from the Summary.

| <b>Resolved</b>   | <b>Responsible Officer</b> |
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| <p>That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. progress with the Action Summary be noted;</li> <li>2. Item B1 (19 December 2008) be removed;</li> <li>3. Item B2 (18 December 2009) be removed.</li> </ol> | <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> |

#### 40/09. POLICE AUTHORITY RISK REGISTERS

The Research and Performance Officer invited the Committee to reevaluate critical risk 'A' in light of the recent establishment of a joint Authority/Force Value for Money (VFM) Board. Members acknowledged the improvements in efficiency and productivity that were likely to be delivered, and agreed to review the direction of travel for the risk at the next Committee meeting once the VFM Board was in operation.

The Committee was content for the current risk score for critical risk 'B' to remain 'Red 9', and stressed that lobbying activity for a fairer share of national funding should continue in the run up to a general election.

| <b>Resolved</b>  | <b>Responsible Officer</b> |
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| <p>That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the direction of travel for critical risk 'A' be re-evaluated at the next Committee meeting;</li> <li>2. the current risk score for critical risk 'B' remain 'Red 9'.</li> </ol> | <p>RPO</p> <p>-</p>        |

#### 41/09. COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

The Treasurer advised that proposals for developing the Committee's approach to performance monitoring were proceeding at officer level with the Force.

| <b>Resolved</b>  | <b>Responsible Officer</b> |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the report be noted.</li> </ol> | <p>-</p>                   |

## **42/09. FORCE PERFORMANCE 2009/10 UPDATE – HIGHLIGHT REPORT**

The Chairman reminded Members that the Committee had agreed to schedule a number of additional meetings to enable agendas to be prioritised according to finance and performance matters. Whilst the focus of the meeting would be around the budget setting process, the highlight report provided an opportunity for the Committee to consider some exceptional areas of Force performance around 'Sanction Detections', 'Public Confidence' and 'Killed and Seriously Injured'.

The Deputy Chief Constable acknowledged that the Force needed to change its approach to volume crime if it was to improve existing sanction detection rates, particularly in relation to serious acquisitive and violent crime. A former senior officer had been engaged to review and develop the tactics necessary to deliver sustainable improvements, including professionalising the investigatory process. Other measures included reinvigorating operation 'Clean Slate' and producing a number of short "You Tube" style training videos, which police officers could access from the Force intranet on topics such as interviewing suspects. 'Pol Tube' as it was known was due to go live from the middle of March 2010. The Performance Manager also briefed Members on operation 'Rapid', in which intelligence about volume crime was given a higher priority enabling repeat offenders to be targeted more quickly.

The Chairman thanked the Deputy Chief Constable for his candidness and welcomed the positive approach that was being taken to deliver good quality sanctioned detections.

The Deputy Chief Constable welcomed the opportunity to announce a 2% improvement in the public confidence rate over the previous quarter. The Force now enjoyed a 44.9% approval rating, which was a 7% increase on the baseline figure and put the Force within 6% of Norfolk, the best performing force within its MSF group. He was confident that both mid year and full year targets would be met if the current trajectory were maintained. A range of media and marketing tools were being utilised to help the Force develop a more positive public profile, whilst the Service Improvement Board chaired by Assistant Chief Constable Smy was undertaking a strategic assessment of public feedback.

The Performance Manager advised that figures detailed in the report for the number of killed and seriously injured (KSI) were out of date following a number of recent fatalities. It was accepted that poor driving conditions over the winter period had contributed in part to the deterioration in performance. The Committee noted that a new Chairman had been appointed to the Road Safety Partnership and welcomed an announcement that an officer of Inspector rank would shortly be appointed to the Partnership.

Following further discussions it was agreed that the Force Performance Manager would be given early notification of those areas of exceptional performance which were to be considered at forthcoming Committee meetings.

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| <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the Force performance be noted;</li> <li>2. the Force Performance Manager be given early notification of areas of exceptional performance to be considered at future meetings of the Committee.</li> </ol> | <p><b>Responsible Officer</b></p> <p>-<br/>RPO/PM</p> |
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#### **43/09. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2009/10**

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| <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the report be noted.</li> </ol> | <p><b>Responsible Officer</b></p> <p>-</p> |
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#### **44/09. 2010/11 BUDGET & MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST 2011/12 – 2012/13**

The Committee received a detailed presentation from the Treasurer on key areas of the 2010/2011 budget, including:

- Expenditure Plans
- Government Funding
- Budget and Precept Options
- Council Tax capping

[Mr C Underwood-Frost left the meeting at 3.05pm]

The Treasurer recommended that the Authority's current policy of planning to increase its revenue streams and moving towards its risk assessed target level in respect of general reserves should continue, particularly given the expected constraints on public sector finances from 2011/12 onwards. Members were advised to limit any increase in the council tax precept to a level which would minimise the risk of capping action – current information indicated that an increase of around 3% would be appropriate.

The Deputy Chief Constable urged Members to invest in front line services to enable some of the County's most pressing policing needs to be addressed. This would be achieved through additional recurrent funding from council tax precept, by reducing and re-prioritising existing spending and through efficiency savings. It was argued that by maximising potential funding streams from council tax in 2010/11, the risk of future funding decreases would be mitigated. Proposals contained in the report would also see a number of key posts currently on fixed term contracts becoming permanent, whilst some lower priority

“back office” administrative support posts would be rolled into fixed term contracts under the vacancy management process.

Members questioned the sustainability of Force spending plans in the medium term. The Director of Finance and Administration was confident that efficiency savings of around £2.5m could be generated from the revenue budget in areas such as supplies and services, police overtime, agency staffing and resource management. However, he accepted that if efficiency measures did not deliver the required savings, then the Force would need to examine proposals for restructuring the organisation.

| <b>Resolved</b>   | <b>Responsible Officer</b>                         |
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| <p>That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the Authority be recommended to increase the Council Tax precept to maximize future revenue streams whilst minimizing the risk of Council Tax capping;</li> <li>2. the Authority be recommended to adopt the Capital Programme for 2010/11 to 2013/14 as outlined in the Budget Report subject to the Treasurer and the Director of Finance and Administration reconsidering the profile of planned expenditure in respect of Estates;</li> <li>3. the Treasury Management policy be adopted in accordance with Section 13 of the attached Budget Report;</li> <li>4. the Reserves Policy outlined at Section 5 of the Budget Report be supported.</li> </ol> | <p>-</p> <p>Treasurer / DoFA</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> |

#### **45/09. BUDGET SIMULATOR - UPDATE**

The Engagement and Communications Officer provided an oral update on progress with the Authority’s Budget Simulator, a customisable online consultation tool for use with local communities. It was explained that the Simulator allowed participants to:

- read background information on specified budget headings before adjusting each budget item up or down
- see the consequences of their allocations on Council Tax and service areas
- compare their budget to the previous year's actual budget
- submit their proposed budget along with any additional comments and demographic details

The Simulator had been launched in early January 2010 and had been used over 800 times during the last month. The Simulator had also been taken “out on the road” with successful events held in Gainsborough and Lincoln. This had also generated a lot of very positive media interest. Members were circulated with a report detailing comments received from individual members of the public who had used the Simulator.

The Director of Finance and Administration questioned whether it would be possible for a summary of the comments to be prepared under key headings such as roads policing. He accepted that there would be a resource implication and undertook to identify any potential support that could be offered to the Engagement and Communications Officer. It was also important that the Force put out positive messages in response to some of the areas of policing that had been criticised.

The Chairman of Community and Partnerships Committee suggested that the Simulator would prove a useful tool for better and more effective public engagement.

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| <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the oral update be noted;</li> <li>2. the Director of Finance and Administration identify additional resource to assist the Engagement and Communications Officer with compiling summarised versions of the Budget Simulator results.</li> </ol> | <p><b>Responsible Officer</b></p> <p>-<br/>DoFA</p> |
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#### 46/09. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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| <p><b>Resolved:</b></p> <p>That the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the following items involved the disclosure or likely disclosure of exempt information as detailed in paragraph 3 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).</p> | <p><b>Responsible Officer:</b></p> <p>-</p> |
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#### 47/09. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING

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| <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the revised programme for 2009/2010 of £5,910,300 and the method of financing that programme be approved;</li> <li>2. £267,000 for the Mobile Data scheme be reprofiled into 2010/11 from 2009/10;</li> <li>3. £450,000 for the Spalding Police Station scheme be</li> </ol> | <p><b>Responsible Officer</b></p> <p>-<br/>-<br/>-</p> |
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| reprofiled into 2010/11 from 2009/10;  |   |
| 4. £61,000 for the COMA Software/PIMS Source Management scheme be reprofiled from 2010/11 into 2009/10;  | - |
| 5. £23,200 for the Business Continuity Programme FCCC be reprofiled from 2010/11 into 2009/10;   | - |
| 6. £47,400 for the purchase of two Iveco Eurocargos to replace the two mobile police units on East and West be reprofiled from 2010/11 into 2009/10; | - |
| 7. £74,000 for NICHE Case and Custody be reprofiled into 2010/11 from 2009/10 subject to clarification;  | - |
| 8. £477,700 for NICHE Crime and Intelligence be reprofiled into 2010/11 from 2009/10 subject to clarification;                                       | - |
| 9. £75,000 for the Body Armour scheme be reprofiled into 2010/11 from 2009/10.   | - |

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**Chairman**