

REPORT OF THE
Hampshire Police Authority
PART II

163. APPOINTMENTS

1. At its annual meeting on 23 June 2011, the Authority re-elected Councillor Mrs Jacqui Rayment (Southampton City Council) as the Chair of the Authority and Councillor Adrian Collett (Hampshire County Council) as the Vice Chair of the Authority.

2. The Authority noted the appointment by the Joint Committee of Councillor Mrs Paula Riches as the representative of Portsmouth City Council.

164. FORCE CHANGE PROGRAMME

1. The Authority has considered a report providing an update on the Force Change Programme, which is tasked with the coordination of the numerous projects in progress that will collectively deliver the Chief Constable's vision for Hampshire as a "top quartile performance and lowest quartile cost" constabulary.

2. The implementation of the programme has commenced and consultation has started in various areas of the business. Milestones have been established to ensure that the required savings of £40 million to £50 million and associated benefits will be delivered within the period of the current comprehensive spending review.

3. Progress is reviewed by the Force Change Board on a monthly basis and Members of the Authority are involved in that process. The most recent report to the Board focused on milestones which relate to staff changes and future reports will concentrate on technology changes and staff relocation.

4. A Force Change Scorecard has been developed which shows the overall impact of the programme on the organisation by summarising performance, benefits delivery and organisation pressures.

5. The Police Authority has agreed to the creation of a transformation reserve of £16.5 million which will be used to pay for the cost of implementing change including redundancies, protected pay and investment in technology, training, estate and management of the programme.

6. The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that savings to be achieved in the current financial year had been identified although he recognised that this would be challenging.

165. ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

1. The Authority has considered a report presenting the Chief Constable's Estate Development Plan which has been developed as an enabling strand of the Force Change Programme.

2. The Estates Development Programme is designed to deliver an estate capable of supporting the full range of policing activity and will provide the opportunity to enhance performance through co-location of business functions and an improved environment within which to deliver a more efficient and effective approach to custody provision and crime investigation. All the options developed in the report retain

significant amounts of the existing estate and provide the flexibility to accommodate new ways of working in the future.

3. The Estates Development Plan is shaped by the Chief Constable's operational requirement for all aspects of policing including district and area based policing, force-wide functions, core headquarters, support functions and custody.

4. The Estates Development team have developed six options for consideration by the Authority and the impact of each option on the annual revenue budget is identified. An analysis of the cash flow impact for each option identifies a negative impact on the annual revenue budget in the earlier years followed, in most cases, by an overall reduction.

5. Future estate needs are identified requiring the retention of 64 sites, a number of which will require varying degrees of refurbishment and the disposal of 39 buildings over the life of the programme, estimated to be six years. Disposal of identified premises is the fundamental enabler of the Estate Development Programme as the primary source of funding for the programme. Where operational police stations are recommended for disposal, the Chief Constable has given reassurance that no police station will be decommissioned until such time as the Safer Neighbourhood Team in that building is provided with suitable alternative local premises. Furthermore, the Chief Constable has undertaken to protect the number of frontline officers at 2224 in accordance with the target set by the Authority in the Policing Plan.

6. Advice on methods of disposal has been sought from local surveyors and a range of methods identified including sale by private treaty, sale by tender, by auction and by e-action. The larger sites such as the headquarters site at West Hill, and the front part of the Alpha Park site will require individual strategies to be developed for their sale depending on the prevailing market conditions. All recommendations relating to the disposal of buildings will be considered by the Authority's Finance Committee.

7. At the meeting on 23 June, the Authority considered the six options placed before it and agreed to proceed with the majority of option six which was the option recommended by the Chief Constable. The option included the building of four new custody centres in Hook, Fareham, Winchester and Newport; the disposal of various buildings including 18 police stations and plans to refurbish and modernise other buildings that are to be retained. The recommendation that the future core headquarters should be located in the Winchester area was not approved as Members wish all available options to be considered whether in Winchester or other parts of the county and this will be the subject of a future report to the Authority.

166. PROPOSAL FOR A NATIONAL POLICE AIR SERVICE

1. The Authority has supported the Chief Constable's proposal for a National Police Air Service.

2. Air support gives the police capability to undertake roles that cannot be achieved by other means and is an essential tool in maximising the safety of the public. Chief Constables across the country are unanimous in their support for the service to retain this function whilst recognising that the current structure is inefficient as most existing aircraft work within individual force or consortium boundaries and, even when they are the nearest available asset, are rarely deployed to an incident outside of these boundaries. Many forces do not have access to 24 hour cover and the cost of the current structure is due to rise to £66.8 million across the country in 2012.

3. Therefore a more efficient and cost effective way of delivering air support is required and the proposed national police air service will deliver this and ensure that each force continues to have access to a rapid response air capability. These benefits will be in addition to the increased service and reduction in costs already gained by Hampshire Constabulary following the South East Collaboration Air Support arrangements entered into last year.

4. The Chief Constable, in his national role as aviation portfolio holder for the Association of Chief Police Officers, has gained agreement from all Chief Constables for a 20 base model resulting in the reorganisation of the current helicopter fleet by reducing its size from 31 to 23 (plus three spare aircraft). This has the potential to save the service £15 million per year and will significantly reduce bureaucracy and duplication and provide value for money to the tax payer. The national service will provide air support 24 hours per day across the country from six regional air support units coordinated by a central team to ensure consistency and efficient deployment.

5. The result for the residents of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight will be that the response times will be under 20 minutes with support provided by aircraft stationed at Bournemouth Airport, Dunsfold and RAF Benson.

COUNCILLOR MRS J RAYMENT
Chair, Hampshire Police Authority