

SPECIAL CLEVELAND POLICE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE

A special meeting of Cleveland Police Authority Executive was held on Wednesday 16 February 2011 in the Members Conference Room at Police HQ.

PRESENT: Councillor Caroline Barker, Councillor Barry Coppinger, Councillor Paul Kirton, Councillor Ron Lowes, Councillor Dave McLuckie (Chair), and Mayor Stuart Drummond.

Independent Members

Miss Pam Andrews-Mawer, Mr Peter Race MBE (Vice Chair), Mr Ted Cox JP, Mr Peter Hadfield, Mr Aslam Hanif and Mr Geoff Fell.

OFFICIALS: Mrs Julie Leng, Mrs Clare Hunter, Mr John Bage and Mr Michael Porter (CE).
Mr Sean Price, Mr Derek Bonnard, Mr Sean White, Mr Mick Hartnack (Superintendents Association), Mr Steve Matthews, Mr Ian Bruce (Federation) and Miss Kate Rowntree (CC).

366 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr Chris Coombs, Councillor Mary Lanigan, Mr Mike McGrory JP, Councillor Hazel Pearson OBE and Councillor Carl Richardson.

367 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

368 PROVISIONS OF REGULATION A19 POLICE PENSIONS REGULATIONS

The Deputy Chief Constable informed Members that the purpose of the report was to advise Members of the provisions of Regulation A19 Police Pensions Regulations 1987, and to seek agreement to utilising this provision as necessary, to assist in providing an option to achieve a balanced budget following the announcement of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) requirements.

Members were reminded that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced on the 13th December 2010 a two-year Funding Settlement covering 2011/12 and 2012/13 and indicative cuts to the Home Office budget for the final 2 years of the Comprehensive Spending

Review Period (CSR), 2013/14 and 2014/15. As a result Cleveland Police had to significantly reduce its costs over the next four years, whilst continuing to deliver the best policing service possible

The Police Authority had already identified and commenced a number of projects which would provide a solid foundation to enable significant organisational change, in particular the partnership with Steria to deliver Project I and the collaboration of the Roads Policing Unit (RPU) between both Cleveland Police and Durham Constabulary.

To ensure that the LTFP is achieved there are significant savings required, which indicates that there will be a need to reduce police officer numbers by approximately 230 FTEs over the next two years to enable workforce modernisation.

Members were informed that it was on this basis that it was felt appropriate to put in place processes and procedures which would enable Cleveland Police to meet the workforce modernisation and collaboration agenda, and to meet the contractual arrangements under Project I, over the next two to three years through the utilisation of currently available 'tools'. Regulation A19 of the Police Pension Regulations is one approach which could be used to ensure that the necessary reductions are achieved.

The Deputy Chief Constable informed Members that the risks associated with not utilising Regulation A19 would result in drastic short and long term cuts, or the introduction of other measures which could impact on delivery of policing services across Cleveland in order to achieve a balanced budget. As staffing costs equate to approximately 80% of the overall budget, there are few other opportunities that could be implemented to mitigate the non-utilisation of Regulation A19.

Members sought assurance regarding any potential loss of skills and abilities across the Force.

The Deputy Chief Constable informed Members that it is normal for Police Officers to retire after thirty years and the transfer of skills and abilities is something that is fully understood with-in the service.

Members queried why there was no financial savings indicated with-in the report and sought assurance as to the robustness of such financial computations.

The Chief Constable assured Members that any such financial computations would be brought to a future Police Authority meeting. In terms of the savings, Members were informed that there were no figures at present because each of the Officers were to be dealt with on an individual basis and on merit. As the Force worked through these Members would be brought up to date.

ORDERED that;

1. the proposals to set a clear policy on the deployment of Regulation A19 within the context of the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) be agreed.