Devon and Cornwall Police and Police and Crime Commissioner

Resources Board

Wednesday 6 May 2026

Fowey Meeting Room, Middlemoor, commenced at 2.00pm

Attendance

James Vaughan (Chief Constable) (Chair)
Alison Hernandez (Police and Crime Commissioner)
Sarah Baker (Head of Business Accounting)
Robin Wheeler (Head of Finance)
David Wilkin (Director of Finance and Resources)
Nicky Allen (Treasurer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner)
Laura Wotton (Head of Estates)
Alex Barclay (Specialist Support Coordinator)

Apologies

Fran Hughes (Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner)
Alexis Poole (Assistant Chief Officer, People)
Jim Colwell (Deputy Chief Constable)

Guests

Jim Richardson (Alliance Head of People) as representative for Alexis Poole
Lloyd Allen (Head of Fleet Services) for item 05/26/45b
John Wood (Health and Safety Manager) for item 05/26/44
Mark Chivers (Chief Technology Officer) for item 05/26/45b

05/26/37 Opening and Declaration of Interests [FOIA Open]

James Vaughan opened the meeting, welcoming members and noting apologies. No Declarations of Interest, Health and Safety, or equality concerns were raised. The Board was recognised as quorate.

05/26/38 Minutes from previous meeting 8 April 2026 [FOIA Open]

The minutes of the previous meeting on Wednesday 8 April 2026 were agreed to be a true and accurate record.

05/26/39 Action Log [FOIA Open unless exemptions specified below]

a. **Action 647 Estates Update Report - safe loading of armed response vehicles (previous minute reference 02/26/14, 03/26/22b and 04/26/30b)**

An initial review on the logistics around loading and unloading armed response vehicles was carried out on all sites by the Head of Armed Policing Chief Inspector and issues had been noted at Barnstaple and Camborne. A further update will be provided as part of the Estates Update at Resources Board on 8 July 2026.
Action to remain open.

b. **Action 652 Estates Update Report – Magistrates Court (previous minute reference 03/26/23 and 04/26/30c)**
A discussion was held at minute reference 05/26/40.
Action closed.

c. **Action 653 Estates Update Report – Spatial Development Strategies (previous minute reference 03/26/23 and 04/26/30c)**
The letter to councils regarding their Spatial Development Strategies was being drafted by the Planning Consultant although a letter to the relevant government department was also being considered.
Action to remain open.

d. **Action 654 Budget Monitoring Report - slippage (previous minute reference 03/26/24 and 04/26/30d)**
Sustainability and slippage were discussed at Capital Strategy Group on 22 April 2026.
Action closed.

e. **Action 655 Budget Monitoring Report – Operation Talos (previous minute reference 03/26/24 and 04/26/30e) [FOIA Closed s.43]**
This action has been redacted under the Freedom of Information Act 2002 s.43.

f. **Action 656 Estates Update Report – cross-cutting (previous minute reference 04/26/31)**
Compliance and building management issues would be included in phase three of the Priority Based Budgeting project.
Action closed.

g. **Action 659 Summary of Outstanding Audit Recommendations (previous minute reference 04/26/36)**
Nicky Allen confirmed that the governance route for audit recommendations was well established with updates from the Head of Audit and Insurance to the Executive every six months. On occasion challenges to the timing or appropriateness of recommendations needed to be more robust
Action closed.

05/26/40 Estates Update Report [FOIA Closed s.43 Commercial Interests]

This section has been redacted under the Freedom of Information Act 2002 s.43.

05/26/41 Budget Monitoring Report [FOIA Open]

Members noted the Financial Dashboard Report 2025/26 presented by Sarah Baker which outlined the position as at the end of March 2026. The forecasts in the paper were prepared alongside budget holders and considered the latest workforce information. Key points from the discussion were as follows:

- The draft revenue outturn position at the end of March 2026 was a force overspend of £25k and an OPCC breakeven position, a decrease in expected costs of £268k since the previous report at the end of February 2026. Members agreed that any non-significant, non-contentious changes could be dealt with through the reserves account (with the approval of the Treasurer) and the draft figure in the dashboard would be taken as the final outturn position for 2025/26. The transfer of the residual balance of £25k (after carry forwards) would bring general balances to £17,597, 3.87% of the 2026/27 Net Revenue Budget.
- Members noted that £2,169k of carry forwards had been requested which were a combination of accounting adjustments, new requests, those which had been agreed in the year and those held for other bodies. Members requested an update on the carry forwards in six months.
- The draft capital outturn position showed a spend of £14,214k against a revised budget of £19,693k in 2025/26, a total variance of £5,479k, which represented a net underspend of £743k and slippage totalling £4,736k.
- Significant work had been achieved during the financial year to reduce overtime spending and members were keen that the trajectory continued downwards. A discussion was held on further activity planned in this area including a continued grip on overtime 'culture' and greater use of rest days.
- Members discussed how the residual or unspent reserves might be used. It was noted that an allocation of funds for costs arising from the management of risk had been proposed.

The Board:

1. Agreed the revenue draft outturn subject to minor variations within the final closedown stages (including carry forward requests) of £25k overspend, and the draft Capital Programme outturn.
2. Approved capital slippage of £4,736k. and a move to the 2026/27 capital programme.
3. Approve revenue virements relating to reclassification of property leases detailed in the dashboard.
4. Approved carry forwards of £2,169k, and to offset the balance of £25k from general balances.
5. Agreed to re-purpose residual balances from previous reserve allocations within the Budget Management and Improvement Reserve for Management of Risk.

The meeting paused at 3.41pm and reconvened at 3.47pm.

05/26/42 Budget 2026/27 Update [FOIA Open]

Members noted the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2026/27 to 2029/30 paper presented by Nicky Allen. In January 2026 a draft MTFS had been prepared with limited detail within the provisional settlement. The final settlement had been received on 26 January 2026 and the MTFS was restated for approval. Members noted that the final settlement included details on national funding allocations and grants relating to knife crime and serious violence, as well as an adjustment to the Net Revenue Expenditure and £3.1m identified savings.

The Board:

1) Approved the restated MTFS.

05/26/43 Value for Money Profiles [FOIA Open]

Members noted the Value for Money (VfM) Dashboard paper presented by Robin Wheeler which set out key tables for DCP information using extracts from the VfM website produced annually by His Majesties Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS). Members discussed the information provided, acknowledging that while the data was not the most up to date, it offered a useful high-level overview of how Devon & Cornwall Police compared with similar forces and helped to highlight areas where further examination may be beneficial. It was noted that the data was not performance linked and was therefore more a comparison of spending per capita rather than a true indication of value for money.

John Wood joined the meeting virtually.

05/26/44 Health and Safety Update [FOIA Open unless exemptions specified]

Members noted the Health and Safety Update report presented by John Wood which provided an update on strategic health and safety issues across the Alliance. Members discussed the paper with the following highlights:

- The A25 accident and injury reporting tool was working as expected with no issues reported. It had recently been updated to include reporting categories for climatic injuries, and uniformed and non-uniformed assaults.
- The Qliksense application, which would provide easy access to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliant information for all departments, would be trialled in May 2026 with an anticipated roll out in June 2026.
- Training compliance rates were improving steadily with all six current packages meeting the required minimum threshold of 75%.
- Members noted that as a result of a First Aid Needs Assessment which had been conducted across all occupied buildings within the Alliance, a full report with recommendations and timelines had been presented to Strategic People Board on 29 April 2026.
- **[This discussion point has been redacted under the Freedom of Information Act 2002 s.31 Law Enforcement.]**

Members thanked John Wood for his update and he left the meeting.
Mark Chivers joined the meeting virtually.

05/26/45 Strategy Progress Updates [FOIA Open unless exemptions specified]

a) Information Communication Technology (ICT)

Members noted the Devon and Cornwall and Dorset Police ICT Digital Strategy 2026 presented by Mark Chivers. Members discussed the paper with the following key points highlighted:

- The strategy had been developed as a five-year roadmap aligned to the National Digital Strategy and informed by workshops undertaken during 2025, with support from British Telecom (BT) as a technology partner. The strategy aimed to focus on delivering outcomes rather than procuring technology for its own sake and aimed to balance strategic ambition with clear tactical priorities that would be meaningful to operational staff.
- Members felt that the document required further simplification to improve clarity and accessibility, particularly for a wider workforce audience. It was suggested that stronger articulation of the “golden thread” between vision and delivery would be beneficial, alongside the inclusion of tangible examples of progress already achieved, such as digital evidence management and infrastructure improvements.

- Members highlighted the need for the strategy to capture intended outcomes more explicitly, including improvements in victim experience, reductions in complaints, safeguarding progress, and bringing offenders to justice. It had been observed that the organisation had historically focused on process and inputs rather than outcomes, and that the strategy should clearly set out the intended impact on both staff and the public.
- **[This discussion point has been redacted under the Freedom of Information Act 2002 s.43 Commercial Interests.]**
- Members agreed that the document remained a work in progress, and that further development would be required to improve readability and branding, strengthen outcome focus, and support broad organisational understanding and buy-in. The approach to formal ratification and maintaining the strategy as a living document for each force was also under discussion.

Mark Chivers left the meeting, and Lloyd Allen joined it virtually.

b) Fleet Services

Members noted the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Project paper presented by Lloyd Allen which updated members on the progress of the project which would bring the Alliance in line with the government's direction that United Kingdom sale of internal combustion engine vehicles ceased by 2030. Members discussed the paper with the following highlights:

- The project was focused on supporting operational resilience through the phased introduction of electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure.
- It was noted that Phase One (to review existing chargers and achieve 'quick wins' regarding infrastructure) had progressed into procurement for further infrastructure work, with a tender process underway and a contract award anticipated in September 2026. Members were advised that Phase 2 would adopt a collaboratively informed approach, delivered in partnership with regional stakeholders to ensure a consistent and joined-up model across the Southwest.
- An update was provided on Home Office grant funding, with the current funding window open until the end of June 2026. The application required demonstration of EV capability, including vans and depot infrastructure. It was highlighted that successful bids would require full project delivery by 31 March 2027, and the organisation would need to provide assurance that it could meet this timeline.
- Members noted a significant opportunity for Southwest blue light collaboration, with discussions underway to develop a borderless charging approach. This would enable reciprocal use of charging infrastructure across force boundaries, supported by consistent equipment specifications and a shared fuel card charging system.
- It was confirmed that all forces were expected to invest in their own charging infrastructure, primarily to support police-owned vehicles. Consideration of reciprocal agreements regarding the use of EV charging infrastructures had largely focused on public sector partners, however it was acknowledged that some private sector organisations had expressed interest in providing access to charging infrastructure, albeit at a cost. Members noted that the maturation of the EV charging market was expected to reduce costs over time.
- The Board discussed policy considerations and noted the current position that private vehicles would not be permitted to use police charging infrastructure, except under very limited and exceptional circumstances. It was acknowledged that clear operational guidance would be required in relation to charger use, including parking, charging etiquette, and vacating bays.
- Members were advised that EV technology continued to evolve rapidly, and while vehicles were procured through established commercial frameworks, there remained a need to consider whole-life costs and asset longevity. It was noted that other forces, including

Scotland, had progressed further in adoption of EV, with full electrification of non-response fleet vehicles.
- An update was also provided on communications and engagement activity, which would include the use of frequently asked questions (FAQs), Quick Response (QR) codes, and targeted myth-busting content to support user understanding and adoption. The importance of articulating a clear governance route was highlighted.

Lloyd Allen left the meeting.

05/26/46 IAC Chair's Update [FOIA Open]

Members noted the Independent Audit Committee (IAC) Chair's Report which provided feedback and assurance following the IAC meeting on 1 April 2026.
It was noted that the Chair of the IAC had stepped down. Nicky Allen would draft a letter on behalf of the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner to thank him for his contribution to the Committee.
For action by: Nicky Allen
A new Chair took up the role from 1 April 2026.

Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 5.13pm. The next Resources Board meeting would be held on Wednesday 8 July 2026, commencing at 2.00pm in the Fowey Room, Middlemoor.