

Warwickshire Police Authority – 17 December 2008

Report of the Audit Committee

Summary

This report provides an update for Members on the progress of the Audit Committee following their meeting on the 1st December 2008.

Recommendation

That the report be noted.

1. Police Use of Resources Feedback Report

We have received the feedback report from the Audit Commission, a copy of which is attached as **Appendix 1**.

The report confirmed the final scores for 2007/08 as follows:-

Use of resources theme	2007/08 score	2006/07 score
Financial reporting	3	1
Financial management	3	2
Financial standing	3	3
Internal control	2	2
Value for money	3	2

As already reported to the Authority, the above scores demonstrate the significant progress that both the Authority and the Force have made in a number of key areas which has resulted in the overall score improving from a 2 to a 3. It is our intention to continue to work to further improve our performance next year and beyond although we have been advised that the framework for 2008/09 will change and be more challenging

From 2008/09, the framework is changing to align with CAA. It is structured into three themes that focus on the importance of sound and strategic financial management, strategic commissioning and good governance and the effective management of natural resources, assets and people. It will remain a scored judgement based on generic KLOEs with performance being measured against a series of underlying principles. The Chair of the Committee and our officers will continue to discuss these changes as the methodology develops and report back to the Committee.

2. Annual Audit Letter

We also considered the Annual Audit Letter from the Audit Commission for 2007/08. A copy is attached as **Appendix 2**. The Audit Commission have recognised that 2007/08

has been both a challenging and rewarding year with the complete restructuring of the Force and the Authority with the aim of delivering better policing for the people of Warwickshire. The Audit Commission also recognised that the Force had had to deal with a number of major incidents which had been the subject of national attention.

Despite these issues, the Audit Commission acknowledged that performance across the Force had improved and crime had decreased overall by 12%, resulting in 5,000 fewer victims of crime, particularly in serious violence, domestic burglary, vehicle crime and criminal damage.

As reported above, significant improvements have also been made in the Authority's Use of Resources which has been reflected in the overall increase in the PURE score from 2 to 3. As a result, the Audit Commission have been able to issue an unqualified opinion on the financial statements by the required September deadline.

The Committee recorded their thanks and appreciation for the hard work and commitment by staff in this work.

JOHN VEREKER
Chair of Committee