

Warwickshire Police Authority – 17 December 2008

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – WARWICKSHIRE
POLICE AUTHORITY PUBLICATION SCHEME**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Summary

The Freedom of Information Act requires public authorities to adopt a Publication Scheme, which must be periodically reviewed. The purpose of this report is to seek the Authority's approval to publish a revised scheme.

Recommendations

That approval be given to the draft Publication Scheme.

Since 1 January 2005 the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has given citizens a right of access to recorded information held by public authorities, including the Police Authority. One of the requirements of the Act is that public authorities must have in place a Publication Scheme setting out the information which is routinely made available to the public. The purpose of such schemes is to inform members of the public about the information that is readily available from authorities without them needing to ask for it specifically. Each publication scheme must outline:

- The classes of information which an authority publishes or intends to publish;
- The method by which the information in each class will be published; and,
- Whether a charge will be imposed by the Authority for supplying the information.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), which enforces and regulates the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act, is responsible for approving Publication Schemes introduced by authorities under the Act. Warwickshire Police Authority's original scheme was previously submitted to, and approved by, the ICO.

The ICO approval for all such schemes expires on 31 December 2008, and successor publication schemes must therefore be in place by 1 January 2009. In order to reduce the administrative burden on public authorities imposed by the requirement for individual approval of their Publication Schemes, the ICO has decided to set out a model scheme which is suitable for adoption by all authorities. The model scheme provides a common format onto which authorities insert details relevant to their work, and will not require further approval by the ICO.

A draft replacement Publication Scheme, using the ICO's model, has been put together for the Authority's approval, attached as **APPENDIX 1**. The information contained within this replacement scheme is largely based on that contained in the Police Authority's original scheme, but it has been updated and modified to meet the requirements of the ICO.

Enquiries about this report should be made to Neil Gulliver on : 01926 412322

Background Papers : As attached where appropriate.

**SUE HOWL
Chief Executive**