

Warwickshire Police Authority – 21 January 2009

Report of the Chief Executive

**Summary**

This report draws a number of issues to Members' attention.

**Recommendation**

That the Authority's Health and Safety Policy as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.

**1. Health and Safety Policy**

The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 requires the Authority to produce a written statement of policy to all staff explaining its procedures and commitment to the health and safety of its Members and members of staff when working or visiting the Authority's offices.

The Chief Executive, as the Authority's Principal Manager, has primary responsibility for health and safety with the Assistant Chief Executive being responsible for day-to-day issues.

A copy of the draft Health and Safety Policy is attached as **Appendix 1** and the Authority are requested to adopt the Policy.

**2. Policing Green Paper / Policing and Crime Bill**

The Policing and Crime Bill was published on 18 December 2008 and included sections on Police Reform, Sexual Offences and Sex Establishments, Alcohol Misuse, Proceeds of Crime, Extradition and Aviation Security. The main areas relating to Police Authorities and Police Reform are as follows:-

**Direct Elections**

The Home Secretary has decided not to include provisions for direct elections to police authorities within the Bill although she remains convinced that direct elections are the right policy to improve accountability of policing, but recognises this is not the right time to implement this in legislation. The Home Office is keen to continue to work with the APA and the Local Government Association, to build on and improve public accountability, partnership working and strengthen the role of police authorities.

**Section 1 – Duty of Police Authorities in Relation to Public Accountability**

The first section of the Bill reiterates the requirement for police authorities to have regard to the views of communities in discharging all of their functions. This requirement builds on existing duties set out in the Police Act 1996, and Police and Justice Act 2006, and is intended to reiterate the important role of police authorities in carrying out this function.

## **Section 2 – Police Senior Appointments Panel**

This section provides details in relation to the role and function of the Senior Appointments Panel, outlining its role in advising the Home Secretary and police authorities in relation to senior officer appointments, the training and development needs of chief officers, and ways to increase the pool of potential candidates for appointment as a senior officer.

## **Section 3 – Regulations about Senior Officers**

This section makes amendments to the Police Act 1996 (Section 50) in relation to regulations about senior officers to take account of the Senior Appointments Panel regulations.

## **Section 4 – Metropolitan Police Force Appointments**

This section specifically relates to the senior appointments within the Metropolitan Police Force.

## **Section 5 – Police Collaboration**

This section relates to the development of collaboration agreements between police forces and/or police authorities, including specific reference to the need to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. The section also includes a requirement for police authorities to put in place accountability arrangements for collaboration agreements, and provides the ability for the Home Secretary to give directions to one or more chief officers and / or police authority requiring two or more persons to make, or prohibit the making of, collaboration agreements.

## **Section 6 – Authorisation to Interfere with Property**

This section makes amendments to Section 93 of the Police Act 1997 in relation to “rules for grant authorisation”, to clarify the legislation in the context of the new requirements in relation to collaboration.

## **Section 7 – Authorisations for Obtaining and Disclosing Communications Data**

This section makes amendments to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, to clarify the legislation in the context of new requirements in relation to collaboration.

## **Section 8 – Authorisation for Surveillance**

This section also amends the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 in the context of new requirements relating to collaboration.

## **Section 9 – Police Officers Engaged on Service Outside of their Force**

This section amends section 97 of The Police Act 1996, section 11 of the Police Pensions Act 1976 and section 63(3) of the Police Act 1996. Again, this amends and clarifies the legislation in the context of new requirements in relation to legislation.

## **Section 10 – Police Equipment**

## **Section 11 – Police Procedures and Practices**

## **Section 12 – Police Facilities and Services**

All of these sections amend sections 53, 53A and 57(3) of the Police Act 1996 to take account of the new requirements in relation to collaboration.

The APA will be issuing further guidance on the Bill in the near future and will also be considering any possible amendments they may wish to make.

Clearly the Bill has significant implications for the future role of the Authority and consideration will need to be given to these over the coming months. Members should also bear in mind that the idea of direct elections to police authorities has not been completely ruled out by the Home Secretary.

If any Member would like a copy of the Policing and Crime Bill will you please contact Neil Gulliver.

### **3. Budget 2009/10**

By way of a reminder to Members, the following meetings are in place as part of the budget planning process for 2009/10:-

- Briefing for Elected Members on the budget and the medium term financial plan to be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009 immediately following the Police Authority meeting that morning. All Members and Officers welcome to attend.
- Meeting of the Financial Strategy Steering Group on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 10am. This meeting will be held in Committee Room 3 at Shire Hall.
- Budget Seminar on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at 11.30am. This will take place in Conference Room 2 at Police Headquarters.

### **4. Annual Reports**

The Governance Stream Leads and the Chair of the Audit Committee are reminded that they are required to produce an annual report on the roles undertaken by Members of the Authority for consideration by the Standards Committee at their meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009. May I request that these reports are available to me by no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

### **5. Police Authority Constitution**

The Constitution has been revised and updated to take account of recent changes to the governance structure. It is now available on the Authority's website at [www.warwickshirepa.gov.uk](http://www.warwickshirepa.gov.uk).

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

**Background Papers:** As attached where appropriate

**SUE HOWL**  
**Chief Executive**