

**Warwickshire Police Authority – 21 May 2008**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**Summary**

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

**Recommendation**

That the Authority discusses the issues contained in the report.

**1. Code of Conduct for Members of the Police Authority**

Members may recall that at their meeting in May 2007, the Authority adopted a new code of conduct. This was in line with the model code of conduct introduced by the Government and which came into effect on the 3 May 2007.

The new code adopted by the Authority was generic to all local authorities. A revised version of the code has now been produced which is more specific to the work of the Authority and Members may also find it more user-friendly. A copy of the code is attached as **Appendix 1** to this report.

The Authority is asked to adopt the revised code of conduct.

**2. Scheme of Delegation for Officers**

Members have already approved schemes of delegation to governance streams, committees and panels. The paper attached at **Appendix 2** is the final part of the Authority's scheme of delegation and is an integral part of the Authority's constitution and governance arrangements. The Chief Constable, Monitoring Officer, Treasurer and myself have seen and agreed this paper and Members are now asked to approve it.

**3. Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy**

A further component of the Authority's governance arrangements is the assurance that policies are in place to identify and deal with fraud and corruption. The Authority Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption Strategy is attached at **Appendix 3**. The Strategy has been seen and approved by Members of the Audit Committee. In due course, it will be accompanied by a Whistleblowing Policy and by similar policies in respect of the Force. Members are asked to approve this strategy.

**4. Independent Member Appointments**

The closing date for applications was the 9<sup>th</sup> May at which time we had received 52 applications. The Selection Panel will consider all the applications on the 10<sup>th</sup> June and

draw up a shortlist of candidates for interview. The interviews will take place on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June and Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008.

## 5. Local Government White Paper

The next local government White paper is due to be published in early summer. The Government has announced that it is intended to build on the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act and will lay out the Government's ambition for local authorities to lead the way towards more active citizenship, empowered communities, and ultimately, a revival of local democracy. The Government's aim is that local services will improve through citizen involvement in their design and delivery. Neighbourhood arrangements will develop, as will the accountability of key partner service areas such as health and policing.

The LGiU has organised a conference on the 15<sup>th</sup> May in London to consider the implications of the White Paper. Neil Gulliver will be attending the conference on behalf of the Authority.

## 6. Draft Queen's Speech

On the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008, the Government published a Green Paper setting out their plans for legislation in the next Parliamentary session. It is intended that a 'Policing and Crime Reduction Bill' will be introduced and I attach at **Appendix 4** the broad areas to be covered by the Bill. There is a view within the APA that a major feature of the reforms to be proposed in the Policing Green Paper, now due on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June will be the establishment of directly elected Police Authorities. I attach at **Appendix 5** a copy of the news release issued by the APA on this issue which the Authority can discuss at the planned seminar on the Flanagan Report and the Green Paper.

## 7. APA Review

On the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2008, the Chief Executives of the four West Midlands Police Authorities met to consider the regional implications of the restructuring of the APA. The outcomes of the meeting have been put into a paper written by Jacky Courtney which I attach as **Appendix 6**. The recommendations set out on page seven of the report will, we believe, begin to establish a coherent framework for regional working and enable the development of effective collaboration and partnership working between Authorities. If the principles set out in the paper are agreed by all four Authorities, we will need to consider our representation at regional Policy Network meetings and I suggest we return to this issue at our June meeting.

## 8. Home Office

The Home Office have started to produce a monthly newsletter. Given the pace of change at the present time, I have attached at **Appendix 7** the May newsletter for information.

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

**Background Papers:** As attached where appropriate

**ERIC WOOD**  
Chief Executive