

Warwickshire Police Authority – 23 April 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. Review of the APA

At a meeting of the APA Plenary on the 9 April, a revised structure for the organisation was agreed and the outline structure is attached at **Appendix 1**. Members will see that the new structure is heavily based on regions, including Wales and Northern Ireland, and will ensure regional engagement at the Board level and in the Policy Network groups. These latter groups have been reduced to 4 covering the work currently carried out by 7 policy groups and 16 sub groups. The Policy Network Structure will consist of these groups:-

- (1) People – Human Resources, Police Training, Professional Standards and Health and Safety
- (2) Citizen Focus and Partnerships – Neighbourhood Policing, Crime Reduction, Local Partnerships and CJS
- (3) Corporate/Business – Police Performance, Finance and Efficiency, Corporate Governance and Police Authority Self Audit
- (4) Strategic Policing – Counter Terrorism, Protective Services and Collaboration

It was agreed at the Plenary that a Race and Diversity Group would be maintained and would be drawn from the membership of the Policy Groups.

The new structure will mean that the regional meeting on the 12th June of Chairs and Vice Chairs will need to agree nominations to go forward to the APA Annual General Meeting in July. In advance of the 12th June meeting, the four Chief Executives will be meeting to consider the decisions Members will need to take and the implications for regional working.

2. Independent Review of Policing and the Green Paper

On the 9th April, the Home Secretary wrote to Sir Ronnie Flanagan setting out her detailed response to the recommendations made in his final report. I attach a copy of the Home Secretary's letter at **Appendix 2**.

Members will note in paragraph 10 of her letter the Home Secretary refers to the Green Paper which we expect to be published in May and which will be framed around four key themes:-

- (1) Getting the best use of resources and capacity
- (2) Effective leadership and governance
- (3) Clear, effective performance machinery
- (4) Clarity and co-operation over competing demands

It has been agreed that we will have a Member seminar on the Flanagan Review and the Green Paper as the two are closely linked and the date of the seminar will depend upon the timing of the publication of the Green Paper.

3. Guidance Documents

The APA Plenary agreed two Police Authority Guidance papers which will shortly be available. The documents deal with :-

- (1) Contribution to Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships
- (2) Engaging, Consulting and Informing Communities

I suggest that both papers are referred to the Community Engagement and Consultation Panel and the recommendations considered at a full meeting of the Authority.

4. Protective Services – Guidance Documents

The APA Plenary approved, without debate, two documents concerning protective services, namely:-

- (1) Counter Terrorism – Police Authority – Duty to Consult Communities
- (2) Performance Monitoring and Scrutiny of Protective Services

I suggest that these documents be considered by Phil Robson, as Stream Lead, consulting as appropriate in respect of consultation and counter terrorism and that the outcomes of his deliberations be considered alongside the documents at a full meeting of the Authority.

5. Independent Member Appointments

We have issued 140 application packs to potential applicants for appointment as an Independent Member. The number of requests for information is double the number received in 2007 and is geographically more balanced. I have met with Pauline Allwood, our Home Office representative and with Jacqui Francis, our other independent assessor and agreed dates for longlisting, shortlisting and appointments meetings.

6. Audit Panel

CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) has issued clear guidance about the composition and need for clear independence of Audit Committees. In particular the guidance stresses that cross membership, ie membership of audit committee and an executive or scrutiny role could compromise the authority of the audit committee. Having examined the current membership of the audit panel and bearing in mind the guidance suggesting an audit committee of between three and five members, I would recommend that the panel should be reconstituted to leave the following as members:-

John Vereker, Izzi Seccombe, Chris Davis and Mike Edwards

In addition a Labour Group Member should be appointed and the Audit Panel renamed the Audit Committee.

7. IPCC

I have been notified that John Crawley, our IPCC Commissioner will be finishing his term of office later this year and will not be seeking re-appointment/

8. John Rennie, DL

On behalf of myself and my colleagues we would like to place on record our appreciation of the support and guidance received from John during his terms of office as a Member of the Authority. We offer our best wishes for the future as he retires from membership of the Authority.

9. Council Tax Precepts

Following the meeting of the Authority on the 7th April, a response to the letters from the Department of Communities and Local Government was prepared and our case submitted to the DCLG on the 16th April. A copy of the letter is attached at **Appendix 3** and the case supporting our agreed budget will follow under separate cover.

The case was put together by a joint team representing the County Council, Force and Authority under the leadership of Oliver Winters, Head of Finance. I would like to place on record our appreciation for the outstanding work undertaken by Oliver, the strategic advice from Dave Clarke, our Treasurer, and the detailed work undertaken by Simon Pamey in preparing the case. As Members will see from my letter, we are awaiting confirmation of a date for a delegation from the Authority to meet with John Healey, MP to press our case. I have received no information about the timetable for decisions about capping and have requested this information from officials at the DCLG 10am

10. Collaboration/Joint Working – Forces/Authorities

Given the restructuring of the APA and the increased focus on regional working and collaboration, it is timely to consider the legal position in respect of joint working and collaboration. I attach at **Appendix 4** a summary note of the legal position, prepared for the APA and Association of Police Authority Chief Executives by David Riddle, the Solicitor to the MPA. Phil Robson will update Members on collaboration in the region from an Authority perspective with a particular focus upon protective services and counter terrorism.

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

Background Papers: As attached where appropriate

ERIC WOOD
Chief Executive