

**Warwickshire Police Authority – 30 July 2008**

**Resources and Standards – Report of the Governance Stream Lead**

**Purpose and Supporting Documents**

This highlight report enables members to consider the progress made by the Police and the Authority in its Governing role in respect of partnerships and local policing directly related to those elements of the Governance and Policing Plans allocated to this Governance Stream.

**Recommendation**

That this report is discussed/noted.

Since taking over as Stream Lead in May, we have held two Resources Panels and one Professional Standards Committee; Alan Woodward will report separately on issues arising from his last Committee as Chair.

It is my intention to bring a greater structure to the Resources Panel meetings and, on an ongoing basis, improve the communication to members and give necessary assurance on Finance and Resources issues at Budget Seminars and Authority meetings.

In order to gain a wider brief and grip on the relevant issues, I have held several meetings during June/July with Simon Pameley, Richard Elkin, Derek Kitchen, Dave Clarke and Ollie Winters. More recently I have met with John Vereker as I am keen to ensure that Resources has an open and appropriate ongoing communication with our Audit Committee – to give necessary assurance and inputs on Risk Assessment.

**A structured approach**

A lot of good work is being done within the directorate to develop a team management approach to overall responsibilities and objectives. It is equally important that the Resources Panel carries out its governance functions in an organised and structured way. The Panel in July considered and discussed a rolling Programme of Work & Reports which will come forward to the Panel over the coming 12 months. The frequency & timing of meetings is being looked at to ensure there is adequate time for preparation & to link in with Force & Authority meetings and also Budget Seminars. We also need to consider how BIB & EPMG can link into the Resources Panel – in terms of financial decisions & impacts.

The new rolling programme of work needs to include an involvement for the Panel in baseline budget reviews. The detailed programme will be brought to a Police Authority meeting in due course.

**Financial Monitoring Reports**

‘All successful organisations have one set of numbers on which everyone can rely – and on which management decisions can be based’.

Clearly, the Resources Directorate and Treasurer have always been able to access financial information and give us accurate forecast outturns. However, the promised Financial Monitoring Reports are now established and will be analysed by the Panel on a monthly basis. The forecast position for the year end can be assessed as part of ongoing governance and, from the autumn, we shall be able to see the forecast impact on the following year. Quarter 1 reports for 2008/09 are attached as appendices to Agenda item 3(2)(ii).

Our thanks to Derek Kitchen for the work he has done on delivering these reports – which has not been achieved without overcoming certain difficulties.

## **Performance Indicators (PFIs)**

We are looking to establish some 'Resources' Performance Indicators to be reported in to the Panel on a monthly basis. This will enable us to consider developing trends – to help trigger questions as part of the governance process. The September Panel will consider which PFIs are most appropriate.

## **Police Authority Budget**

Following staff changes announced at the last Authority meeting, it is felt appropriate to review the Authority's budget. Neil Gulliver, Mike Edwards and myself propose to do this in September on behalf of the Resources Panel.

### **PURE Scores**

These were announced on 14<sup>th</sup> July. In terms of the first 4 themes are concerned, it is good news, with Financial Reporting to be assessed later in the year following the Audit (which has started well). The Authority should see an overall outcome of a 3 for 2007/08. A copy of the report submitted to the Panel in July is attached.

## **Governance Review**

At present, parts of the Force's Resources Directorate are overseen by more than one Governance Stream. It is hoped that this can be addressed by the forthcoming Governance Review with the Finance, Property, IT and Personnel elements of the directorate coming together under one Governance Stream.

My view is that there would be real advantages for the Force and the Authority if this can be achieved.

**Steve Nicklin**  
**Stream Lead, Resources & Standards**