

Warwickshire Police Authority – 14 October 2009

Report of the Chief Executive

Summary

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

Recommendation

That Members approve the attached Terms of Reference subject to any amendments they may wish to make in relation to the Governance and PURE Working Group

That Members note the contents of this report.

1. **Meetings between Warwickshire Police Authority Members and Warwickshire County Council / Cabinet**

A meeting was held at Shire Hall on Monday 28th September 2009. In attendance on behalf of the PA was Phil Robson, Steve Nicklin, John Vereker and Sue Howl. ACC Bill Holland and Richard Elkin represented the police service.

Items discussed included the Comprehensive Area Assessment Report; PURE Assessment; Public Confidence Measure CDRPs – Training Session; Shared Services; Community Policing and the agenda and format for the next presentation by the Police Authority to full Council meeting (date to be confirmed).

It was a constructive meeting during which the issue of developing a joint communications strategy between WPA and WCC was considered, particularly in relation to the Confidence target shared by both organisations.

The Training Session on 4th November 2009 on External Partnership Working and CDRPs will be open to WCC Cabinet Members to join WPA Members.

2. **West Midlands Regional Group of Police Authority Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Chief Executives**

This group met on 29th September at Warwickshire Police HQ, Leek Wootton. It was chaired by Phil Robson in the absence of Ian Francis and also in attendance was John Vereker and Sue Howl.

Items discussed included a Counter Terrorism Update; Police Authority Inspection; Collaboration Working Update; Annual Regional ICV Conference on 26th September and updates from each police authority area.

As a result of the work undertaken by DCCS on behalf of the four police forces and subsequent discussion relating to strategic regional collaboration, there was an agreement to hold a further meeting of the Group on 26th October at 2pm at Hindlip Hall. This would be a full afternoon session to consider issues relating specifically to regional collaboration and the critical issues facing all police authorities in relation to future governance and accountability arrangements.

Within the four themes of the Police Authority Inspection are several key questions relating to collaboration.

Minutes of the last West Midlands Regional Group of Chairs, Vice Chairs and Chief Executives Meeting held on 26 May 2009 (**APPENDIX 1**) are attached.

3. **Workshop on Police Authority Inspection**

An event took place on 30th September at Police HQ to begin the process of preparation for the forthcoming Inspections. It was led by Phil Robson and Sue Howl, who introduced the Inspection Framework and Performance Characteristics for the four themes, as recently devised by the HMIC and Audit Commission. This was followed by insights on the principles and process from the perspective of the Vice Chair as an accredited Peer Assessor/Inspector involved in the recent inspection of Lancashire Police Authority in early September.

This was an informative and productive start to preparing for Inspection. Whilst we are as yet unaware of the dates for the Inspection of Warwickshire, we are planning on the assumption of being included in the next round commencing in March 2010, which means that the first contact by the Inspection Team would be in mid-December 2009.

4. **Policing Pledge**

The Policing Pledge national moderation process held on 29th September to discuss performance of all 43 forces in England and Wales. Stakeholders included ACPO, NPIA, APA, IPCC and Home Office. Evidence and feedback from the inspection teams have already been received by forces but a short public facing report, including grades, will be released to the press at 10am on 8th October.

5. **Governance and PURE (Police use of Resources) Group**

A joint Force/Authority working group was formed last year to:

- Oversee the preparation of evidence for the Annual Governance Statement and external audits
- Co-ordinate activity and monitor progress on delivering associated action plans.

The group has functioned effectively and has helped to embed efficient working relationships with external auditors and to co-ordinate activity on delivering a variety of action plans which often have inter-connected actions.

A recent internal audit of corporate governance has commended the work of this group but has also suggested that terms of reference and reporting

arrangements should be agreed formally by the Police Authority and by Chief Officers of the Force. Members are asked to approve the attached draft terms of reference (**APPENDIX 2**) subject to any amendments they may wish to make.

Sue Howl
Chief Executive