

Warwickshire Police Authority – 18 December 2009

Report of the Audit Committee

**Summary**

This report provides an update for Members on the progress of the Audit Committee following their meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009

**Recommendation**

That this report be noted.

**1. Police Use of Resources Feedback Report**

Further to our report to the Authority's September 2009 meeting, we have now received the feedback report from the Audit Commission, a copy of which is attached as **Appendix 1**.

The report confirmed the final scores for 2008/09 as follows:-

Use of Resources Theme	Scored judgement
<p><b>Managing Finances</b></p> <p>How effectively does the organisation manage its finances to deliver value for money?</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Governing Business</b></p> <p>How well does the organisation govern itself and commission services that provide value for money and deliver better outcomes for local people?</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Managing Resources</b></p> <p>How well does the organisation manage its natural resources, physical assets and people to meet current and future needs and deliver value for money?</p>	<p>2</p>

The Audit Commission pointed out that this is the first use of resources assessment carried out to fit with the Comprehensive Area Assessment and that this is a harder test than previously, with a much greater focus on the need to demonstrate tangible outcomes for the public in order to score a level 3 or above. As Members are aware, the Authority has maintained its score of an overall level 3. This can be seen as an improvement from last year as the Audit Commission raised the standards expected to achieve a level 3 as part of the new assessment process.

The overall score is derived from themes scores for managing finances, governing the business and managing resources. The Authority scored level 3 for the first two of these themes and then a level 2 for managing resources, which specifically referred to the management of the workforce for 2008/09.

Overall the assessment highlighted good evidence of outcomes for local people; most notably that reported crime levels are now the lowest for six years, with Warwickshire seeing the largest fall in crime during 2008/09. In addition the Audit Commission felt that members and officers have demonstrated a good understanding of the service and what needs to be done to achieve the desired outcomes.

## **2. Annual Audit Letter**

We also considered the Annual Audit letter from the Audit Commission for 2008/09. A copy is attached as **Appendix 2**. The Audit Commission recognised that this had been a challenging year for the Force finance team, dealing with major structural changes as a result of 150 Forward and a significant change in the team putting together the financial statements.

The Audit Commission did identify two particular issues in the original statement of accounts. These issues were discussed with officers and the appropriate remedial action was taken.

The Commission were able to issue an unqualified conclusion on the financial statements on the 29<sup>th</sup> September stating that the Authority had adequate arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources.

**BOB HICKS**  
**Chair of Committee**