

Warwickshire Police Authority – 22nd February 2010

Report of the Governance Stream Lead

Recommendation

That the report be noted.

Policing and Governance Plan Priorities

Medium Term Financial Plan 2010/13

The proposed budget for 2010/11 and 3 year Plan are included elsewhere on this Agenda – for approval by the Authority. There is a need for substantial savings to be made in 2010/11 and across the medium term. The 'Good and Balanced' budget relies, therefore, on significant use of Reserves, but should see the Authority having a reasonable residual Budget Reserve remaining at March 2013.

Since November there have been 4 Resources Assurance Groups reviewing the whole of the Force Budget. The outcomes and recommendations of these have been taken into 4 Budget Seminars which have been well attended by members. The use of an on-screen dynamic model appears to have helped member understanding and engagement with the Key Issues this year. There has also been consultation with the Business Community and the public through the new PA website.

Key issues from this process have been fully discussed in Force Planning Days at Binley Woods and Rugby; following which the challenge to the Force to operate at up to 90% of existing cost base has resulted in the 150+ Review with implementation planned from 1 April 2010.

Resources Assurance Group – 8 February 2010

There has been a good response from Budget Holders to tackling forecast overspends identified last November; the overall forecast outcome at 31 March 2010 is now an under spend of (544K). This is after approved carry forwards and transfers to/from Reserves at the meeting for recommendation to the Authority. Final position will be reported elsewhere on this Agenda. The Financial Management Reports were fully reviewed at this meeting.

I shall comment during the final budget and MTFPS discussions at the Authority's meeting on the agreed steer/recommendations at 8 February RAG regarding the proposed levels of savings needed and use of reserves within the Plan.

Governance Activities

Reports by Dorrette McAuslan as Lead For Diversity and Equality and Staff Development (**Appendix 1**) and by Eithne Goode as Lead for HR (**Appendix 2**) are attached to this report.

I have requested an update on the Insurance Position for the Authority and this has been included by Ben Pithouse in the quarterly report. A full presentation on HR activity and Issues was given by Patricia Pennington at the January PA meeting. I have asked that the HR Performance Indicator information is now provided monthly to the HR lead/Policy Officer.

Capital Programme

Significant parts of the programme have been carried forward year to year from 2008 and 2009 such that there are real issues with operational capacity and financial capacity to realistically deliver on the programme in 2010/2011 and beyond. A significant Force Review of the Capital Programme is being undertaken and at the RAG meeting on 8 February we requested that the review report should come forward to the next RAG meeting in May 2010.

Insurance

An analysis has been undertaken of all existing liabilities facing the Authority. It is confirmed that there are sufficient funds in the current insurance reserve to cover all existing liability claims – see quarterly report page 8 (2.2.22)

IT Strategy

Delivery of the 5 yr. Strategy is ongoing with 31 projects in progress and 19 completed. There have also been 29 upgrades. A significant review is currently underway of all IT Projects to focus on those that can deliver most benefit in terms of cashable savings.

Our new Stream member, Frank McCarney, is now becoming involved and will lead for us in bringing the revised Force IT Plans to a future Authority meeting. Frank is also to become involved in governance and scrutiny of Transport Services.

New Policy and Support Officer

Dave Stenning, a former Head of Audit with WCC, has been appointed. Dave will provide the support that Stream Members need in their governance roles across the Resources Directorate.

Force Objectives

The Resources Directorate Quarterly Report as at December 2009 is attached as **Appendix 3**.

The Financial Management Arrangements Project is ongoing

- A new Project Manager has been appointed, who will be heavily involved in Business Process Review and delivering the Detailed Training Plan
- Financial Standing Orders were approved at the last PA meeting and Contract Standing Orders are presented for approval on this Agenda
- Negotiations with the IT Supplier (COA) are being completed to finalise the contract

Clearly, good communication and training within the Force is key – planning to meet the Project objectives is comprehensive.

Business Improvement Board

John Vereker and myself have attended meetings of the BIB since November which have considered reports on:

- Legal Services - following a comprehensive review within Force it is proposed to set up an in house team during 2010. The Authority will need to review its own legal services provision.

- PA Secretarial & Admin - Implementation of this review has now commenced. Marshall Fellows and Debra Carew are leading on this.

- Judicial Services - New structure is now being put in place.

- Right Service, First Time - Nigel Stott has completed a detailed Post Implementation Review; this will now feed into 150plus

- Sustainability Strategy - We have sought a detailed tracker and this will be forthcoming and this will be forthcoming as 150plus reaches its implementation phase.

STEVE NICKLIN
Resources Stream Lead