

Warwickshire Police Authority – 28 July 2010

Report of the Governance Stream Lead

**Recommendation**

That the report be noted.

**RESOURCES ASSURANCE GROUP (RAG)**

It has been necessary to hold a two-part meeting in July with the second meeting taking place today, just prior to the Authority meeting. A verbal report will be given to members.

The operation of the Authority's RAG meetings and Budget Seminars was commented upon favourably at the recent PA Inspection.

Q1 Financial Monitoring Reports (reviewed by RAG) are reported on elsewhere on this agenda.

**GOVERNANCE ACTIVITIES**

Clearly, there are significant challenges to be faced with respect to our Budget and Medium Term Plan and forthcoming RAG meetings and Budget Seminars in 2010/2011 will be important in developing a clear way forward for the Authority and the Force.

Separate Reports are provided by Stream Members on:  
Diversity, Equality and Human Rights (**Appendix 4**)  
HR issues (**Appendix 5**)  
Estates, IT and Transport (**Appendix 6**)

Inspection

Following the report the Stream has contributed to the PA Improvement Plan. Certain actions from this will form part of our Governance Objectives for 2010/2011 in the Governance Plan to be agreed in October.

Assets Role

Izzi Seccombe's departure has left us without a Lead Member for Assets in recent months, although discussions are ongoing with the Chief Executive and I am hopeful that we can resolve this issue in the near future.

**FORCE OBJECTIVES**

Business Improvements Board (BIB) – meetings in May and July were attended by John Vereker and/or myself. BIB mainly focuses on reviewing projects which form

part of the Corporate or Capital Programmes. There are few new projects in the present environment and there were no particular issues at these meetings. A review of the Capital Programme has removed significant projects from the IM Strategy and IT Strategy that will yield significant savings phased over the next 3 years. A review of the Estates Strategy is underway to find significant savings and this should report in August/September.

#### Financial Management Arrangements Project

Members will be aware of this significant project where Phil Robson and myself sit on the project Steering Group. The project introduced devolved budget management into the force in April 2009, commissioned an independent review of Procurement where changes have been made to the structure and the control environment – and significant investment in software applications has been made to enable much enhanced procedures in finance and procurement.

**Appendices 1 to 3** provide a helpful ‘Briefing Note’ on the project and explanations of the Phase 2 roll-out now starting for ‘Collaborative Planning and ‘Finance Process Manager’.

#### Legal Services Review

Following a significant overspend against budget in 2009/2010 and a review within the force the SLA for provision of Legal Services by WCC was extended for 18 months in March 2010 (with a 12 months’ notice period). In early June Neil Gulliver and myself attended a presentation by WCC who, understanding the needs of the Authority/Force to significantly cut costs, made a ‘new model’ proposal to the Force. Changes regarding access to services have already been made by the force and negotiations based on the proposed ‘new model’ will no doubt be underway shortly.

#### Resources Directorate Changes

All Stream Members have received a presentation from Richard Elkin on proposed changes to the Directorate structure that will enable them to fully participate in the provision of budgetary savings as part of the 150+ programme. Communications/consultations with Management, Staff, Chief Officers and unions are planned as part of the overall programme.

#### HR Issues

Vivian Woods (BCU HR Manager from West Midlands) will be starting with Resources shortly on a six month secondment basis for 2/3 days per week. Vivian will be working with the 150+ team as a strategic adviser.

The Student Officer intake for 2010/11 has now been cancelled and those on the waiting list have been advised accordingly.

#### **APA REGIONAL NETWORK MEETING–CORPORATE & BUSINESS (25 MAY)**

- Regional Group ready to support Chiefs and Chairs on collaboration if particular projects would benefit from referral to us for governance/oversight.
- Received a presentation on ISIS (Information Systems Improvement Strategy). The national strategy to transform the way Policy IT is developed, procured, implemented and managed. Aim is to save £200m by 2014 giving

improved value for money. We need greater awareness within PA's – I shall look to arrange a future presentation.

- The group remains somewhat uneasy with the seeming lack of national advice/planning on operational and financial implications for Forces re the Olympics. The issue has been raised again at the National C& B Meeting.
- The Group requested advice and discussion with the Home Office re the Independent Member recruitment process for those whose terms expire 31.03.11. This was put to the National meeting. Home Office is now considering whether terms should be extended.
- Following a suggestion from Paul Brindley (Staffs – Treasurer) it has been agreed to hold an additional Regional meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December to compare & discuss approaches to the Budget Build process in each of the 4 Authorities.

**Steve Nicklin**  
**Resources Stream Lead**