

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Corporate Governance Committee

17 November 2009

Open for the Purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Report of the Chief Executive

Addition of Risk Review to Committee Terms of Reference

Recommended:

- That the terms of reference for all Police Authority Committees are amended to include responsibility for risks devolved from the Authority's full risk register to individual Committees.
- That consideration of risks devolved to individual Committees shall be a standing agenda item at all Committee meetings.

Background

Members and Officers of the Authority met in August to consider the challenges ahead in its mission to become a top performing Authority. In order to provide effective support to achieving the Force's 2012 vision, it is considered that current arrangements for the management of risk, though well established, do not yet provide the level of assurance required by this Committee. Monitoring of the effectiveness of risk management is a key responsibility of this Committee.

Both the Force and Authority have embarked on a programme of massive reorganisation. Change brings opportunity but also raises exposure to new and existing risks. Accompanied by a public sector squeeze on funding, delivery of the core programme will require ever more sophisticated risk management to be in place.

In response to the need to provide an assurance framework that covers all significant risks to the Authority, the Risk Management Task & Finish Group of this Committee has been developing proposals to improve the governance of risks faced by the Authority and Force by enhancing the following control arrangements:

- Alignment of risks to corporate objectives
- Identification, evaluation and mitigation of risks
- Accountability for management of risks so identified
- Devolvement of responsibility for the oversight of management of risks to Committee Chairs
- Reporting, recording and tracking mechanisms for risks
- The means by which assurance is provided in its measurement of the effectiveness of risk management by the Force

It is proposed therefore the oversight of the management of significant risks appearing on the Authority risk register be devolved to individual Committees so that an appropriate level of focus on the key issues can be maintained.

Agenda No 12

It is proposed that Chairs, through their respective Committees actively consider those risks where:

- a) The specialist knowledge and expertise of Members and Officers of the Authority and Force can be brought to bear on the risks devolved to them, and,
- b) Assurance (or otherwise) can be provided to the Corporate Governance Committee that those risks are being adequately managed.

Members are asked to consider the information and suggestions set out above and make an appropriate recommendation regarding amending the Committee Terms of Reference to the Authority.

Contact for information:
Joy Norris Joy.norris@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk 01392 268322 report prepared 03.11.09