

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Corporate Governance Committee
17th November 2009
Open for the purposes of FOI
Report of Interim Director of Finance & Resources

Update on Issues Identified in the Annual Assurance Statement 2009

Recommendation(s):

- (i) For the Corporate Governance Committee to note progress addressing the topics identified in the Annual Assurance Statement 2009.

Introduction / Summary

1. The Annual Assurance Statement was produced by the Constabulary between March and June 2009 in support of the Police Authority's responsibility to provide an Annual Governance Statement alongside the Annual Accounts.
2. In Section 6, entitled "Governance Issues and Development Programme for 2009/10 and beyond", the Constabulary identified 9 challenges that it would be addressing over the coming 12 months to meet certain governance issues. Progress towards these areas is defined in the attached document and accompanied by a brief narrative below.

Background Information

3. The attached demonstrates that progress has been made against all 9 areas, and in some cases, that progress is such the 'issues' have been resolved.
4. Issues identified surrounding Health & Safety, Assets Management & an Anti Fraud Corruption Strategy have all been resolved and confirmed as such by external assessment.
5. The areas relating to the Force Development Programme, Business Continuity, Firearms Assets Control and the demand on Scientific Support Services are all making good progress.
 - It is likely that the Force Development Programme will need to stay on the Annual Assurance Statement as it is a long running Programme. Although appropriate governance and other monitoring activities are in place, it is still a high risk area and this needs to be reflected appropriately.
 - Business Continuity has developed significantly over the last six months as plans have been developed to deal with a potential Flu Pandemic. The work that has been done, and continues to be done is providing a far greater awareness of the subject and a far greater understanding of how Business Continuity should work.
 - Work to introduce appropriate Firearms Asset Control is on target and the demands on the Scientific Support Services have become more manageable as the work to improve processes and 'bed-in' new regional contracts has had a positive impact.
6. In respect of Human Resources, much work has been done to set up the People Services Centre and if this operates as it should, then HR processes will be much improved.
7. There is considerable overlap between human resources issues (as identified in the Annual Assurance Statement), workforce modernisation, the Force Development Programme and the three year financial plan. The Force will continue to closely monitor progress on human resources matters in the context of its overall development programme and its financial plans and report any governance issues to the Police Authority.

- 8 In respect of Resource Management and partnerships, although progress has been made these two areas are still not as they should be and have been identified as areas for further development within the Police Use of Resources Examination for this year.
9. The recommendations from the Use of Resources assessment will be included on the Organisational Learning Database and appropriate owners identified in order to drive forward relevant action plans. This is exactly the same process used to monitor progress against HMIC recommendations and should provide the Corporate Governance Committee with the relevant confidence as to the progress of work to deliver required improved performance.

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Sponsored by: A/Director of Finance & Resources Sandy GOSCOMB