

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Corporate Governance Committee

4 March 2010

Open for the purposes of FOI

Report of the Chief Executive

Recent HMIC Inspection Reports

Recommendation(s):

- (i) To note the report

Introduction / Summary

1. This report reminds Members of the process for the Police Authority receiving and considering Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) reports and advises the Committee of a key HMIC report expected shortly.

New performance landscape

2. The Policing Green Paper, "*From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our Communities Together*" was published in July 2008, and proposed a transformation in the way the police service and its partners worked together to respond better to the needs of local communities. These proposals were later articulated in the document '*The New Performance Landscape for Crime and Policing*' published jointly by the HMIC, APA, NPIA, ACPO and Home Office.
3. The new performance landscape was expressed as one where HMIC would act as a fierce advocate of the public interest with their earlier role to support and provide guidance to forces and authorities being taken up by the NPIA instead.
4. Alongside, this realignment of the performance management arrangements, the HMIC chose to review the way in which it assessed and reported upon police force performance. The latest incarnation of this overall assessment is called the Police Report Card.
5. The Police Report Card was received by the Police Authority in draft form recently and, following an opportunity for a factual accuracy check, is due for publication on 8 March 2010.
6. It is usual practice for the Police Authority to be consulted on inspection reports whilst in draft format and provided with the opportunity to comment on their factual accuracy. The Authority generally receives copies of finalised reports at the same time as the Chief Constable. However, there have been some concerns lately that the practice of the Police Authority receiving copies of HMIC reports at the same time as the Force may have slipped a little.
7. To address these concerns, the Chairman of the Police Authority met with the Regional HMI recently and received her assurance that this principle will continue to be adhered to. Contact is also being made with the Regional HMI's Staff Officer to develop a better working relationship at this level.

Receiving HMI Reports

8. To remind Members of the process for dealing with reports received by HMI, or any other agency. The reports will be reviewed and passed to the next available meeting of the Corporate Governance Committee for its consideration. The Committee will then determine how the report is

to be dealt with. To prevent delays in the decision-making process, if the next meeting of the Committee is some time off, the Chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee will decide on the route for the Report to follow and report this to the members of the Committee as soon as practical.

9. This receiving Committee/ Group is then tasked with reviewing the report, seeking a response to its findings from the Constabulary, review any action plan for improvement and suggest any appropriate learning issues for the Authority.
10. In practice, it is likely that the report will be assigned to more than one Committee or Task & Finish Group. This being the case, the Chair of that Committee or nominated subgroup then works with the policy lead officer within the Police Authority Secretariat to decide in detail the scrutiny arrangements. The group will need to agree specific areas for scrutiny as it is unlikely that it will be neither possible nor preferable to monitor everything highlighted in the report in detail.
11. This scrutiny plan will place a focus on current performance, risk, resources and Authority priorities. Clear responsibilities within the Force and the Authority and timescales will need to be established.

Contact for further information:

Richard Martin

Policy Officer

Telephone (01392) 268319

E-mail richard.martin@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

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