

**DEVON & CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY  
RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
28 JUNE 2004**  
(Open for purposes of FOI)

Report of the Chief Constable, Chief Executive and Treasurer

**RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

1. Effective risk management is an integral part of sound corporate governance. Risk, to some degree, is inherent in all aspects of activity undertaken on behalf of the service. The Force has a great deal of experience in managing operational risk and has for many years been operating an internal risk management group.
2. It has been recognised that the service does not have an overarching risk management strategy, nor that it necessarily measures corporate risks. Non operational risks tend to be managed well, but not necessarily in a structured format. To that end, the Authority and Force have been working with facilitators from the Audit Commission to address these issues. The initial tangible result is the draft risk management strategy attached to this report. Allied to this are current developments of a revised internal structure within the Force for addressing risk management issues at a local and corporate level and the establishment of formal risk registers.
3. The Resources Committee considered the draft strategy at its meeting in June and resolved to submit the strategy as proposed to the Police Authority for approval.
4. Risk management is an ongoing process. The risk strategy will need to be reviewed from time to time. The initial risk registers will need to be populated in the first instance. Risks attached to activities will need to be reviewed on a regular basis and new risks identified. Members will wish to be reassured that risk management is being addressed within the organisation and the Performance Management and Audit Committee would seem a suitable forum for this in the first instance. Therefore, it is proposed that the PMA Committee be asked to take on responsibility in the short term for monitoring and advising on ongoing strategic risk management issues. The processes involved to achieve this and the reporting requirements will need to be determined.
5. At present, Members are in the process of reviewing the committee structure and the future requirements of the Police Authority. In their deliberations, the Resources Committee recommended that the appropriate forum for reporting risk management issues in the future be discussed as part of this arrangement.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- (i) to approve the draft risk management strategy as presented;
- (ii) that the Performance Management and Audit be delegated responsibility for monitoring and advising on ongoing strategic risk management issues;
- (iii) that the above delegation be reconsidered in light of any change to the Police Authority Committee Structure.

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