

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

15 February 2006

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Joint Report of Deputy Chief Constable and the Chief Constable

**Production of Devon & Cornwall Police Authority
Annual Policing Plan 2006/07 & Strategic Plan 2006/09
&
Local Policing Summaries**

Recommendation(s):

- (i) Members to note contents of report and draft contents as at Annexe A**
- (ii) Members to approval plans [allowing for minor amendment], for submission to the Home Secretary on 28 February 2006**
- (iii) Members to agree approval of photographic content within plans is designated to the Planning & Consultation Sub Committee**
- (iv) Members to discuss initial draft of local policing summary**

Introduction / Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on the production of the Devon & Cornwall Police Authority Annual Policing Plan [2006/07] and Strategic Plan [2006/09].
2. As per statutory requirements, the above documents incorporate the Police Authority Annual Plan 2005/06 and the Best Value Performance Plan in line with Best Value and Planning Guidance 2003.
3. The production of a local policing summary is now also mandated through the Serious, Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 [Miscellaneous]. This summary must reach all households within the Force area as soon as possible following the financial year end.
4. A draft plans template is attached at Annexe A. An initial draft local policing summary will be circulated to members.

Background Information

4. A working group has progressed the production of the plans and the local policing summary. This group incorporates Police Authority members and staff, the Force Corporate Planning Officer and a representative from the Corporate Communications Department.

Annual & Strategic Plan Content

5. Content is in line with statutory requirements as stated at 2. and incorporates the key strategic policing priorities as outlined within the National Community Safety Plan 2006/09. The plans outline how these national priorities are taken account of locally [Force] and the actions undertaken to address these issues.

6. Content and more specifically, the development of targets within the plans, take account of public consultation regarding local policing priorities and on-going work engaging with our partners to align key priorities and objectives – target figures for 2006/07 will be incorporated on approval and performance against targets will be entered when available [end February].
7. The draft plans have been developed in support of the 'Meeting the Challenge' project and any comments and changes made must consider the development of implementation plans. Any developments with regard to this project will be incorporated into the published documents.
8. Plans have been approved by the Diversity Unit and all Force business planning practitioners have been consulted throughout production.
9. To remain 'corporate' and to avoid confusion within the public arena plans have been titled 'Building Safer Communities Together' in line with the approved Force strap-line.
10. The Force Photographic Unit is in the process of commissioning new photos for the plans and summary, these will be available prior to initial publication on the web-site – 31 March 2006 and it is suggested approval is designated to the Planning & Consultation Sub Committee for photographic content.

Annual & Strategic Plan Publication

11. The draft plans template, attached at Annexe A, illustrates one on-line document incorporating clear distinctions between the annual 'delivery' plan and the longer-term strategic issues. Clear links and cross-referencing within each plan provides evidence of our ability to co-ordinate short and long-term planning.
12. It is suggested that in addition to a colour finished product, a text only version of the plans is also published to allow members of the public and staff to print specific pages or the document as a whole, with ease. It is not uncommon for police authorities to publish a text only version of large documents and this would also support Force obligations relating to disability discrimination.
13. Plans must be sent to the Home Secretary by 28 February 2006. A caveat will be attached stating the documents are subject to amendment in light of decisions made regarding Force restructuring. Initial publication will be 31 March 2006, with final publication taking place by 30 June 2006 – final publication will incorporate all end year figures.

Local Policing Summaries

11. The production of local policing summaries is required by the Serious, Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 [Miscellaneous]. As a result of this legislation, the first summaries must be produced 'as soon as possible' after April 2006.
12. The content of these summaries is mainly prescribed in guidance, however, there is some flexibility around format. Members have agreed previously that summaries will be published at Force level with some information relevant to each BCU included.
13. Members of the Planning & Consultation Sub Committee propose that in addition to the guidance on content, summaries also incorporate the Annual Report 2005/06. This places the statutory

requirements of the Police Authority within the same publication and will allow a clear indication of Police Authority responsibilities both to the Constabulary and to the public.

14. An initial draft of the local policing summary has been circulated – this publication meets all statutory requirements and there is now flexibility for the Authority to develop the summary to maximise benefit to the public.
15. Discussion is taking place within the Planning & Consultation Sub Committee regarding options for printing and distribution, however a formal proposal is pending a Home Office decision on possible additional funding to assist with this.
16. It is envisaged final publication and distribution will take place in July 2006.

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