

VALUE FOR MONEY

POLICE USE OF RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

Background

The Authority has repeatedly been assessed by the Audit Commission's "Use of Resources" Assessment, as a strong performing organisation. In the Value for Money assessments the Authority has consistently scored an overall score of 3. This means that the Audit Commission assessed that the Authority is "achieving consistently above minimum requirements –performing well".

The Authority adding value

As stated in the 2007/8 Assessment:

'the Authority and Force are achieving good value for money'. The Force is achieving good performance when compared to similar forces, taking into account funding levels. The Authority and Force have effective arrangements in place to monitor and review value for money. These arrangements include regular and robust assessment performance; benchmarking activity with others, and the production and use of reliable data".

Assessments by the Audit Commission have consistently stated that the Authority have developed innovative approaches for improving value for money for the public of Sussex. For example, The Challenge 2010 Programme introduced in 2007, and then superseded by the Major Change Programme in 2008, was designed to take forward efficiency and productivity improvements whilst protecting front-line delivery. The Programme consisted of making change to maximise performance and workforce efficiency, capacity and productivity.

Auditors have also highlighted that the Authority and the Force use best procurement practices which also consider the long-term environmental impact through linkage with the Force's climate change and environmental strategy which was adopted by the Authority in 2007.

Additional notable practice is the Authority and Force Capital Strategy Board, which enables 'members of the Authority to be actively involved in reviewing and shaping asset management plans, and the management of assets to be focused on delivering the Authority's priorities'.

Outcome

The Authority, through the Chief Executive's Office, the Treasurer and Lead Members play a full and active role in securing value for money, as has been recognised by the Audit Commission's Assessment over a number of years.

There are strong performance mechanisms within the Authority and the Force to ensure that performance is a focus for staff, ensuring the very best service to the public.

The Authority believes it is well placed to meet the demands ahead and the strong working relationships that exist between the Authority and the Force will ensure that we will, together, face those challenges, working with our key partners to achieve our key objective of maintaining public service as a focus for the years ahead.

Contacts:

Mr Richard Smith, Audit Manager, Audit Commission

Tel: 0844 798 6134

E-mail: r-smith@audit-commission.gov.uk

Mr Mark Baker, Director of Finance, Sussex Police

Tel: 07771 973023

E-mail: mark.s.baker@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Dan Steadman, Acting Deputy Chief Executive

Tel: 01273 481584

E-mail: dan.steadman@sussexpa.gov.uk