

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 24 JUNE 2010

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

REPORT BY THE CHIEF CONSTABLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TREASURER

1. Sussex Police Authority (the Authority) is required to include an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) as part of its Statement of Accounts. For 2009/10, the year under review, the work required to prepare and draft the Statement has been undertaken by the Corporate Development Department, under the guidance of the Director of Finance.
2. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2006 set out the expectation that an authority will formally review and sign-off the AGS prior to the adoption of the annual statement of accounts.
3. The AGS has been compiled following the CIPFA/Solace guidance that has been provided to Forces to aid in the completion of the document. A joint Authority and Force AGS has been prepared and it continues to be the Authority's practice for the Statement to be signed by the Chairman of the Police Authority, the Chief Constable and the Chief Executive under the following certification:

'We have been advised on the implications of the result of the review of the effectiveness of the governance framework by the Authority's Corporate Governance Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.'

4. The full Statement is attached at Appendix A. No significant issues were identified from the 2009-10 review. However, the following areas for improvement were identified and an action plan developed to ensure improvements are made:
 - The Authority needs to satisfy itself that targets for Sussex Police within the Local Policing Plan, not only reflect the views expressed by the public of Sussex, but are also sufficiently challenging to drive continuous improvement within Sussex Police.
 - The Neighbourhood Policing Scrutiny Committee will set priorities for Neighbourhood Policing that will be consulted on in advance of inclusion in the LPP.
 - The Authority will develop processes to keep track of the impact each scrutiny committee has had on outcomes for the people of Sussex.
 - The Authority will co-ordinate its engagement with the public to ensure maximum impact is made through the streamlining of engagement activity with Sussex Police and partners.
 - The Authority and the Force will continue to liaise closely on community engagement and consultation.
 - The Force will develop and improve its community engagement
 - The Force's Serving Sussex Working Group, which champions the Serving Sussex Programme, across all the disciplines in geographical areas of

Sussex Police, will continue to embed Citizen Focus Hallmarks, the Policing Pledge and the Equality Standard throughout the organisation.

- The Authority will develop its full and clear understanding of all significant risks and threats to policing within Sussex.
- A Review of key Force policies and procedures will be undertaken.
- A Pay & Grading Review will be put on hold and reviewed in the next 12-18 months.
- A set of standards, similar to the Standards of Professional Behaviour for Police Staff will be progressed.

5. The agreed Annual Governance Statement will be published as part of the Statement of Accounts. The Statement and full supporting notes will be made available on the Police Authority website as a standalone item.

Recommended – that the Committee is asked to review the Annual Governance Statement for 2009-10 and authorise its formal certification.

MARTIN RICHARDS
Chief Constable

JOHN GODFREY
Chief Executive

RICHARD HORNBY
Treasurer

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