

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 25 MARCH 2010

DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

REPORT BY CHIEF CONSTABLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TREASURER

Introduction

1. This report advises the Committee about the progress being made in the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement as part of the Authority and Force arrangements for ensuring that a framework of good governance is in place. As in previous years, the Annual Governance Statement is a combined Authority and Force statement.

Annual Governance Statement

- 2.1 Governance is about how police authorities ensure they are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. It comprises the systems and processes, and cultures and values by which local government bodies are directed and controlled and through which they account to, and engage with and, where appropriate, lead their communities.
- 2.2 The Annual Governance Statement is a formal statement setting out the assurance frameworks and processes that the Authority and Force have in place. The Annual Governance Statement includes elements about how governance considerations are set up and implemented in the Force and the Authority.
- 2.3 In constructing the statement, we follow the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance, "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government – Interim Guidance Note for Police Authorities and Forces in England and Wales" (the 'Good Governance Framework'). This guidance, produced in conjunction with The Association of Police Authorities (APA) and The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), recognizes the specific governance structures that exist for policing, which is different to other local government structures.
- 2.4 As agreed at the 19 November 2009 Corporate Governance Committee, an Annual Governance Statement Working Group (AGSWG) has been convened, involving the Chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee, the Deputy Treasurer, the Acting Deputy Chief Executive, the Director of Finance and officers of Sussex Police. This group is setting the direction for the Annual Governance Statement development processes for 2009-10, including the construction of a Code of Corporate Governance, that sets the standard of corporate governance expected in Sussex Police Authority and Sussex Police (reported at Item 10 on this agenda).

Implementation Progress

- 3.1 The data gathering process has been underway for some time and responses have been received from most of those identified as a necessary participant in the process. Work is ongoing to ensure receipt of the outstanding responses in accordance with the timeline devised.
- 3.2 Preliminary work has taken place to evaluate and co-ordinate the responses into the Annual Governance Statement, including identifying any governance issues that require ongoing remedial action. A first draft of the Statement has been prepared and is included as Appendix A, which includes the issues which will be further considered during the final preparation of the Annual Governance Statement.
- 3.3 The draft Statement will be circulated to all Police Authority Members for comment with a request for responses by 30th April 2010.
- 3.4 Progress attained in managing the issues identified in last year's Annual Governance Statement has been sought and the up to date position with these items is detailed in Appendix B. Should there be any outstanding issues identified, this will be reflected in the 2009-10 Annual Governance Statement.

Conclusion

4. The Annual Governance Statement 2009–10 will be presented at the June 2010 Corporate Governance Committee.

RECOMMENDED – That the report is noted.

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