

Annual Governance Statement

This statement sets out how the Authority complies with the requirements of the Framework of Good Corporate Governance.

1. Scope of Responsibilities

Sussex Police Authority (hereafter referred to as The Authority) is responsible for ensuring its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Authority has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. In discharging this overall responsibility, the Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the exercise of its functions, including a sound system of internal control and management of risk.

The Authority has approved and adopted a code of corporate governance, which is consistent with the principles of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) and Senior Managers Framework: 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'. A copy can be obtained from the Police Authority's Deputy Chief Executive, dan.steadman@sussexpa.gov.uk. This statement explains how the Authority has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of regulation 4(2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006 in relation to the publication of a statement on internal control.

2 The Purpose of the Governance Framework

The governance framework comprises the systems, processes, culture and values by which the Authority is directed and controlled and its activities through which it accounts to and engages with the community. It enables the Authority to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services, including achieving value for money.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable and foreseeable level. The Authority cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Authority's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them effectively, efficiently and economically.

The governance framework has been in place for the year ended 31 March 2011 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and the statement of accounts.

3. The Governance Framework

The Chief Constable of Sussex Police is responsible for operational policing matters, the direction and control of police personnel, and for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of Sussex Police (the Force). The Authority is required to hold him to account for the exercise of those functions and those of the persons under his direction and control. It therefore follows that the Police Authority must satisfy itself that the Force has appropriate mechanisms in place for the maintenance of good governance, and that these operate in practice.

4. Review of Effectiveness

The Authority has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of the governance framework, including:

- the system of internal audit
- the system of internal control

These reviews have been informed by the work of the Corporate Development Department, internal auditors, and also managers within the Authority, who have the responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment. In addition, comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates have informed this review.

The Corporate Development Department is the Force lead for performance improvement, undertaking and coordinating inspection activity and providing the head of profession function for performance information and analysis, and criminal intelligence analysis. In addition, regular inspection and assurance activity is undertaken by Her Majesty's Inspection of Constabulary (HMIC), the Audit Commission and National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA), with external findings reported to the Authority. This external inspection activity is also co-ordinated by the Corporate Development Department.

The Corporate Governance Committee oversees the development of the Annual Governance Statement and these notes. It ensures there is continuous improvement in the process and endorses the resulting action plan annually. At a tactical level the Performance Improvement Branch of Corporate Development Department monitors opportunities for continuous development in the process

The CIPFA guidance is used to gather relevant evidence to show how the Authority exercises control and manages its governance arrangements. The evidence is reviewed, issues and gaps identified and an action plan drawn up to address the issues.

A process is established to ensure the Authority's Chairman and Chief Executive, and the Chief Constable, approve and sign-off the joint Annual Governance Statement, in accordance with the CIPFA / SOLACE guidance.

5 . Significant Governance Issues

No significant governance issues were identified through carrying out the 2010-11 Annual Governance Statement processes. Issues currently being developed to further enhance our governance are identified below.

6. Issues currently being progressed

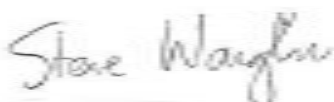
- Reinforce the Authority's vision and values, emphasising principles of police accountability.
- The Government's clear intention to transfer authority and responsibility for policing in Sussex from the Sussex Police Authority to a Police and Crime Commissioner. The Authority will ensure a smooth transition and handover to the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Monitoring and scrutinising the Force's Serving Sussex 2015 programme to ensure as far as possible that the significant reduction in funding over the period does not adversely impact upon the standards and current levels of service delivered by Sussex Police for the residents of Sussex.

- The Authority will continue to monitor the governance arrangements in place in relation to the management of the workforce as a result of the Force's Serving Sussex 2015 programme.
- The Authority and the Force will continue to develop risk management practices into all the operations carried out by the Force and the Authority in order to ensure that any changes required to Force operational practices as a consequence of a significantly reduced budget, are effectively considered and managed.
- The Authority will continue to monitor the corporate governance arrangements in relation to the collaboration agreements entered into by the Authority pursuant to s. 23 of the Police Act 1996 and any future collaboration and/or partnership arrangements whether as Lead Force or otherwise.

7. 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 the plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Steve Waight, Chairman – Sussex Police Authority



Patric Welch, Chief Executive – Sussex Police Authority



Martin Richards, Chief Constable – Sussex Police

