



Cheshire Police Authority - Audit Committee

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 1 DECEMBER 2009 IN CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

Present: P Findlow, Chairman
E Lam, Vice-Chairman
D Bateman
J Ebo
R Hodson
C Oliver
M Ollerenshaw
T Savage
A Walmsley

Also present: M Darby
J Farmer and G Parry, Audit Commission (External Audit)
L Randall and R Bowden, RSM Bentley Jennison (Internal Audit)
H Waller, Independent Chairman, Standards Committee
S Hobbs, Inspection Team

<i>Authority Officers:</i>	<i>Constabulary Officers:</i>
M Sellwood, Chief Executive	B Simmons, Assistant Chief Officer
L Lunn, Treasurer	K Watkins, Director of Performance Development
M Eaton, Member Services Manager	M Gerry, Business Risk Advisor

30. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

31. AUDIT LETTER 2008/09

The External Auditor presented the annual Audit Letter which summarised the work undertaken in 2008/09 and the key issues arising.

Members in considering the letter, discussed the key areas for the Authority to focus on to improve the Use of Resources scores; the effectiveness of treasury management; and gained agreement from the External Auditor to advance the reporting of the 2009/10 Audit Letter to the Audit Committee on 21 September 2010. The Treasurer reported that work was progressing on the recently issued CIPFA code on treasury management and that a report would be presented to Finance Panel on 26 January 2010.

RESOLVED:

That the 2008/09 Audit Letter be received.

32. USE OF RESOURCES: 2008/09 & APPROACH TO 2009/10 ASSESSMENT

The Chief Executive presented a report on the outcome of the appeal against the Use of Resources (UoR) assessment for 2008/09 which had remained at '2' and the proposed approach to the 2009/10 assessment. The Committee also

received a report on the significant work and improvements during the current year in relation to the key lines of enquiry in the use of resources assessment process.

The External Auditor reported on the proactive work being progressed which included regular 'gap analysis' meetings with the Authority's and Constabulary's officers, and recognised the improvements that had already been made since last year's assessment and the positive direction of travel.

Members discussed the scoring in the 2008/09 assessment; and the key areas of work needed to improve this year's UoR scores with the External Auditor.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the outcome of the Authority's appeal against the Use of Resources assessment for 2008/09, as outlined in the Treasurer's report, be noted; and
- (2) the Authority's proposed approach to the work required for the 2009/10 assessment, as outlined in the Treasurer's report, be endorsed.

33. EXTERNAL AUDIT OPINION PLAN 2009/10

The External Auditor presented the Opinion Plan in relation to the audit of the 2009/10 final accounts. The Plan outlined the Auditor's approach to identifying audit risks and the specific risks to be examined as part of the audit.

The Committee raised a number of issues with the External Auditor and the Treasurer which included the Authority's current level of risk and how these impacted in setting the fees scale; and the work being undertaken by the Authority in implementing the International Financial Recording Standards (IFRS). The Treasurer gave an update on the financial position; the proactive search being undertaken to identify efficiency savings; the setting of two year budgets; and reported that training for Members on IFRS was to be arranged prior to the approval of the 2009/10 accounts.

RESOLVED:

That the 2009/10 External Audit Opinion Plan, be received.

34. INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2009/10: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Internal Auditor presented the quarterly report for September to December on progress against the internal audit plan for 2009/10. The report detailed several issues including the current and planned work programme, key findings from the internal audit work, performance, liaison with management, and the formulation of the 2010/11 audit plan.

In receiving the report, Members discussed with the Internal Auditor a number of issues including whether the recommendations from the VAT health check would deliver any savings; the recommendations relating to the Business Continuity the Constabulary's performance against the national prompt payment target; whether the 17 days not yet allocated would be utilised; and their relationship with the External Auditors.

The Director of Performance Development reassured Members that the Constabulary's Business Continuity Plans were able to respond to an internal disaster event and outlined a number of examples of where these had been recently implemented and proved effective.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

35. POLICE AUTHORITY RISK REGISTER: QUARTERLY REVIEW

The Treasurer presented the quarterly review of the Authority's risk register, which detailed the progress against the controls, actions, scores and commented on the areas of commonality with the Constabulary's risk register review.

RESOLVED:

That the amended Police Authority Risk Register, be approved.

36. URGENT BUSINESS
(There were no items of urgent business)

37. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as applied by the Police Act 1996, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the item of business listed below on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act in the paragraph indicated:-

<i>Item</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>	
Constabulary's Risk Management: Update	(7)	Information relating to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

PART 2 – MATTER CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

38. CONSTABULARY RISK MANAGEMENT: UPDATE

The Assistant Chief Officer introduced Malcolm Gerry, the Constabulary's Business Risk Advisor who presented an update on the Constabulary's arrangements for identifying and managing business risk.

Members discussed a number of issues relating to the risks and their implications with the Director of Performance Development.

RESOLVED:

That the current risk management activity within the Constabulary, be noted.

Duration of Meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and concluded at 10.50am.