



**LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
16 FEBRUARY 2010
1.45PM – 4.30PM**

PRESENT

MEMBERS: Mr B Young (Chairman), Mr J Atter, Mr F Mann JP, Mr R Must, Mr C Underwood-Frost, Dr B Wookey

SECRETARIAT: Ms J Flint (Treasurer), Mr H Hunt (Deputy Chief Executive), Mr J King (Committee and Administration Officer), Miss V Mason (Research and Performance Officer)

FORCE OFFICERS: Mr N Rhodes (Deputy Chief Constable)

APOLOGIES: Mr J Cooke (Vice-Chairman)

34/09. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND / OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

None.

35/09. MINUTES – 19 JANUARY 2010

Resolved:	Responsible Officer:
1. That the minutes of the meeting held on the 19 January 2010 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.	-

36/09. ACTION SUMMARY

The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that the proposed nomination of Basic Command Unit (BCU) lead members would be taken forward by the Community and Partnership Committee. However, further guidance on the role of lead members was awaited from the Home Office. The Chairman advised that interim discussions would take place with the Chief Constable and BCU Commanders to consider how the extended role might be taken forward.

The Chairman of Audit, Risk and Governance Committee advised that a decision on whether to include Human Resources within the 2010/11 scrutiny programme would be made at the next Committee meeting scheduled for 26th February.

<p>Resolved:</p> <p>1. That the Action Summary be noted.</p>	<p>Responsible Officer:</p> <p>-</p>
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37/09. REVIEW OF AUTHORITY PERFORMANCE AGAINST STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2009/10 – 2011/12

The Committee was invited to review and reflect on performance against the Authority’s strategic objectives for 2009/10 – 2011/12. Members focused on those objectives that had been assessed as “Red” in terms of the extent to which they were being achieved. Members were advised that raising awareness of the role of the Authority amongst key partners would be progressed predominantly as part of the Partnership Strategy development and implementation work being taken forward by the Partnerships Task & Finish Group.

Members considered that some of the objectives assessed as “Amber” were closer to “green” in terms of progress. It was agreed that a review of the current assessment levels would be undertaken in time for the next ordinary meeting of the Committee. The Research and Performance Officer suggested that the traffic light system used to assess objectives also include a direction of travel indicator.

<p>Resolved:</p> <p>That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the Authority’s performance against its Strategic Objectives for 2009/10 – 2011/12 be noted; 2. areas for improvement and/or ‘lessons learned’ be captured and fed into the planning process for 2010/11. 3. the ‘traffic light’ system used to assess objectives include a direction of travel indicator. 	<p>Responsible Officer:</p> <p>-</p> <p>DCE/RPO</p> <p>RPO</p>
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38/09. LEADING STRATEGICALLY IN 2010/11

The Deputy Chief Executive and Treasurer posed a series of questions to aid Members in formulating a work plan that would drive the Committee's agenda in the coming year and set the strategic direction for the Authority.

Members were concerned that the Policing Plan did not clearly demonstrate to the public how the Authority's strategic objectives would be delivered. It was agreed that the Authority's Vision and strategic objectives should be set at a much earlier stage within the planning process so that the Force was better informed when developing its strategic priorities and targets. The Committee also discussed ideas for creating a more dynamic and punchier document, with the Authority potentially developing its own supplement to the Plan. In view of the tight timescale for publication it was agreed that any major changes would be reserved for the following year's Policing Plan, with some minor "fine tuning" to the existing Plan, including a redraft of the Chairman's foreword.

The Committee considered its approach to the forthcoming HMIC/Audit Commission inspection of the Authority and the "Working for the Public" productivity inspection. It was agreed that the Deputy Chief Executive would drive forward both inspections in conjunction with the Inspection Task & Finish Group (ITFG). Members were also concerned to ensure that the full Authority was provided with an opportunity to debate the key themes to be assessed under the inspection framework. The Deputy Chief Constable welcomed an invitation from the Committee to nominate a representative to join the ITFG to assist with preparations for the "Working for the Public" productivity inspection.

Referring to the policing White Paper "*Protecting the public: supporting the police to succeed*" the Chairman questioned whether there was a need for a separate Legislation TFG to consider proposed changes to Government policy as set out in Green and White Papers. Following a brief debate, Members were content for the Committee to fulfill this role and to disseminate and delegate actions as appropriate to Committees and to other relevant bodies.

The Committee was invited to consider the effectiveness of existing collaborative arrangements with police authorities/forces within the East Midlands region. The Chairman suggested that the recent appointment of a regional Deputy Chief Constable presented an opportune moment to consider what collaboration had delivered, whether it provided value for money and whether existing governance arrangements were adequate. He was due to attend a meeting of EM police authority Chairmen scheduled for 22nd March and he invited Members to relay any issues/concerns that might be usefully discussed at the meeting.

Members accepted that they should be held to account as risk sponsors for their individual Committees under the Authority's risk management strategy. However, concerns were expressed about the capacity of Members to effectively fulfill their obligations, without the active support of officers from the Secretariat. This was viewed as part of a broader issue of an increasing workload for Members and a lack of resilience within the Secretariat. The Chairman acknowledged their concerns,

which would be raised with the newly appointed Chief Executive as a priority, but he also suggested that there was some potential for closer working with the Force in a number of areas.

Resolved:	Responsible Officer:
That	
1. the Authority's Vision and strategic objectives be set at an earlier stage within the planning process to inform the development of the Force's strategic priorities and targets;	RPO
2. some minor "fine tuning" be undertaken to the Authority's section of the Policing Plan, including revisions to the Chairman's foreword;	DCE/RPO
3. the Deputy Chief Executive drive forward the HMIC/Audit Commission inspection of the Authority and the "Working for the Public" productivity inspection in conjunction with the Inspection Task & Finish Group (ITFG);	DCE
4. the Force be invited to nominate a representative to join the ITFG to assist with preparations for the "Working for the Public" productivity inspection;	DCE
5. Members relay any views/comments on the existing regional collaborative arrangements to the Chairman before the 22 nd March 2010.	All

39/09. POLICE AUTHORITY RISK MANAGEMENT

The Research and Performance Officer invited Members to consider the Authority's critical risk register and to make any amendments or changes as appropriate.

Members were advised that consideration would be given to reducing the overall score for critical risk "C" relating to the Force risk management process, from a Red 9 to Red 6 at the forthcoming Audit, Risk and Governance Committee meeting.

Whilst Members accepted that the appointment of a new Chief Executive would help mitigate critical risk "D" relating to the lack of resilience in the Secretariat, it was not considered sufficient to warrant a reduction in the overall score of Red 9.

The Deputy Chief Constable presented the Force Risk Register and assured Members that the process of risk management was now firmly embedded. The Treasurer explained that consideration of the Force Risk Register would provide Chairmen with an opportunity to apprise themselves of "live" issues and risks within the Force that were pertinent to their respective Committees.

Members considered that the arrows used in the Authority's critical and non critical Risk Registers to indicate direction of travel should be consistent with the Force Risk Register i.e. pointing down to indicate a reducing risk and pointing up to indicate increasing risk. It was also recommended that existing and new risks be allocated a unique reference number in future.

<p>Resolved:</p> <p>That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the Authority's Critical Risk Register be noted; 2. the Force's Organisational Risk Register be noted; 3. Committee Chairmen provide an oral update to their respective Committees on major risks identified by the Force pertinent to their specific area of business. 	<p>Responsible Officer:</p> <p>- - Committee Chairmen</p>
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40/09. REMUNERATION PANEL -UPDATE

<p>Resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the oral report be noted. 	<p>Responsible Officer:</p> <p>-</p>
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41/09. POLICE AUTHORITY PLANNING CYCLE

The Research and Performance Officer presented a revised version of the Authority's planning cycle for consideration and approval. It was explained that the cycle had been amended to bring it in line with the Force planning process.

<p>Resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the revised planning cycle be approved. 	<p>Responsible Officer:</p> <p>-</p>
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42/09. POLICING PLAN - UPDATE

The Deputy Chief Executive advised that the next iteration of the Policing Plan would not be ready in time for the February meeting of the full Authority. It would be therefore be necessary to arrange a special meeting of the Committee to consider the Plan prior to it being presented for approval at the March full Authority meeting. The Chairman insisted that at least 4 members of the Committee had to be available before the meeting could go ahead.

<p>Resolved:</p> <p>That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the oral update be noted; 2. a Special meeting of the Committee be arranged in mid March to consider the next iteration of the Policing Plan. 	<p>Responsible Officer:</p> <p>- CAO</p>
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43/09. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS – OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING

The Committee and Administration Officer invited the Committee to consider whether the Authority had a duty to monitor Force compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in respect of information requests transferred between the Authority and the Force. Monitoring of Authority compliance was currently undertaken by the Ethical Standards Committee. It was arguable that the Authority should have in place a proportionate means of monitoring Force compliance as part of its general duty to maintain an efficient and effective police Force.

Members noted that there was no statutory obligation on the Authority to monitor Force compliance with the FOIA, nor was there any evidence to suggest non compliance. The Deputy Chief Constable also sought to assure Members that the Force was fully compliant with its obligations under the Act.

<p>Resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Committee can find no justifiable reason for the Authority to monitor Force compliance with the FOIA in respect of information requests transferred between the Authority and the Force. 	<p>Responsible Officer:</p> <p>-</p>
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Chairman