



**LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY
FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE
4 NOVEMBER 2010
1.00PM – 3.45PM**

PRESENT:

Members: Mr R Must (Chairman), Mr J Atter, Mr G Dark, Mr A Dezonie, Mr C Underwood-Frost, Mr J Walker, Mr B Young

Apologies: Mr K Smith (Vice-Chairman)

Secretariat: Mr M Burch (Chief Executive), Ms J Flint (Treasurer), Mr J King (Committee and Administration Officer), Miss V Mason (Research and Performance Officer)

Force Officers: Mr N Rhodes (Deputy Chief Constable), Mr P Steed (Director of Finance and Administration), Detective Chief Superintendent R Bannister (Head of Crime Support), Mr S Croft (A/Performance Manager)

40/10 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND/OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

None.

41/10. MINUTES – 28 SEPTEMBER 2010

Resolved	Responsible Officer
1. That the Minutes of the Finance and Performance Committee meeting held on 28 September 2010 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.	-

MATTERS ARISING

Minute 34/10 Res 2: The Treasurer confirmed that DCLG guidance on government proposals for transparency of financial transactions had been issued. She had not had an opportunity to consider the document in detail but was aware of concerns expressed by the Police Authorities Treasurer's Society about some of the proposals. A further update would be provided at the next meeting.

42/10 ACTION SUMMARY

Item D4 - Digitilisation of the Interview: The Director of Finance and Administration confirmed that the national moratorium had been lifted and that the Force was waiting to hear how the framework would be taken forward.

Resolved	Responsible Officer
1. That progress with the Action Summary be noted.	-

43/10 POLICE AUTHORITY/FORCE RISK REGISTER UPDATE

The Committee reviewed a number of critical and non-critical risks that were being sponsored by the Committee Chairman. Members agreed that critical risks C12 and C01 relating to the lack of general funding and a failure to demonstrate efficiencies/value for money were both increasing risks, which should be reflected in the inherent/current risk scores and direction of travel. The Treasurer questioned whether an update on progress with the Value for Money Plan could be presented at the next Committee meeting. The Director of Finance and Administration undertook to provide an update at the next meeting.

Members agreed to maintain a watching brief in respect of critical risk C02 and non critical risk NC05. Members suggested that the introduction of an assurance framework methodology should be included as an additional control under non-critical risk NC06 (challenging Force performance).

Resolved:	Responsible Officer:
<p>That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the report be noted; 2. the inherent and current risk scores for critical risk C12 be revised to 4 : 4 : 16; 3. the current risk score for critical risk C01 be revised to 3 : 4 : 12; 4. the direction of travel for critical risks C12 and C01 be revised to a red increasing risk; 5. the new/developing controls for critical risk C12 be updated to reflect links to risk C09 (Collaboration); 6. the existing controls for critical risk C01 be updated to include HMIC Police Governance in Austerity report; 7. the new/developing controls for critical risk C01 be amended to provide a more robust explanation of collaborative activity and to reflect the provision of a progress report against the Value for Money Plan; 8. the Committee be provided with a progress report on the 	<p>-</p> <p>RPO</p> <p>RPO</p> <p>RPO</p> <p>RPO</p> <p>RPO</p> <p>RPO</p> <p>RPO</p> <p>DoFA</p>

Value for Money Plan for consideration at the next Committee meeting;	
9. the new/developing controls for critical risk C02 be updated to reflect the Chairman's links with the County's MPs;	RPO
10. the new/developing controls for non-critical risk NC06 be updated to include the introduction of an assurance framework methodology.	RPO

44/10. COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Resolved	Responsible Officer
1. progress with the Work Plan be noted.	-

45/10. SPENDING REVIEW 2011 - 2015

The Treasurer provided an update on the information contained within the spending review publications and subsequent information provided by the Home Office. It was particularly notable that as well as announcing the level of core government funding, the spending review had also made assumptions about the level of police precept over the spending review period. The Director of Funding and Administration confirmed that the assumption made prior to the spending review of a funding gap of between £15m and £20m remained unchanged. The Treasurer suggested that the provisional grant settlement might have been announced by the time of the next Committee meeting. This would allow the Committee to begin formulating a view on potential precept increases prior to the February 2011 budget meeting.

Members queried whether consideration had been given to the development of a joint media strategy. The Chairman of the Authority advised that he had begun some initial work with the Chief Executive and the Media & Marketing Officer on general rules relating to media contact and on the development of key messages.

Resolved	Responsible Officer
1. the report be noted.	-

[Mr A Dezonie left the meeting]

46/10. FORCE PERFORMANCE – 6 MONTH REVIEW 2010/2011

The Head of Crime Support provided a detailed presentation to assist the Committee in understanding the improved and improving sanction detection picture as it related to theft from motor vehicles, burglary dwelling, criminal damage and serious acquisitive crime. Members were also briefed on plans to improve performance in areas such as serious sexual assault (SSA) and assault with injury. There was a sense of the Force “turning the corner” in terms of performance and it was envisaged that the programme of transformational change would further improve capacity, capability and leadership, particularly around volume crime and SSA sanction detections.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Crime Support for his informative presentation and whilst sharing his sense of optimism, expressed concern about the long-term decline in sanction detections for violence against the person. The A/Performance Manager acknowledged that this was an area in which training would take time to embed but was confident that a turnaround in performance could be achieved.

Members queried whether the strategy of achieving high levels of performance across the board would be affected by reductions in capacity and whether it would prove necessary to focus efforts around a smaller number of key priorities such as SSA. The Deputy Chief Constable accepted that there would be fewer officers and challenging times ahead but was confident that as training became embedded and skills developed, performance would continue to improve across all priority areas. Referring to the issue of reduced capacity, the Head of Crime Support suggested that having a small, dedicated team of highly skilled officers to investigate SSA would prove more beneficial than the current fragmented approach, involving large numbers of people spread around the organisation.

The Committee was advised that the substantial increase in burglary dwelling offences was largely attributable to a series of 66 burglaries committed in Lincolnshire by a prolific offender (including the much publicised Nettleham series), leading to a spike in the number of offences. The A/Performance Manager also referred to the seasonal trend, with the summer months traditionally experiencing a rise in burglaries. It was notable that offences had dropped over the last couple of months and this trend was expected to continue into the winter months. The Force was also reviewing the tools used by officers when responding to such incidents, for example, in relation to the way searches were conducted. Improvements in working practices were expected to have a positive impact on performance going forward.

The Treasurer queried the timetable for implementing recommendations from a recent peer review conducted by Nottinghamshire Police on processes for tackling serious and volume crime. The Deputy Chief Constable advised that a less mechanistic approach would be taken, with learning points and recommendations implemented where appropriate. Whilst there was likely to be a number of “quick wins”, changes to the culture and structure of the organisation and would take longer to achieve.

The Chairman questioned how the new policing model would deliver improvements in performance. Members were advised that remodeling the organisation would remove artificial boundaries and local working practices leading to greater corporacy and more consistent standards. Whilst the Chairman accepted that there would be a reduction in

bureaucracy, he was still unsure how this would impact on the investigation and detection of crime. The Deputy Chief Constable suggested a number of subtle differences, for example, at a tactical level the mobilisation of operational resources would be much easier to achieve without Divisional boundaries and protectionism.

Following references to the increasing levels of sickness absence, Members were advised that the HR Committee had appointed a Task & Finish Group to look into the matter. The Group was due to present its findings to the December meeting of the Committee.

Members referred to the Class ‘A’ drugs trafficking and possession indicator which had showed a 29.5% (38 offences) increase in the number of offences for the year to date. The Deputy Chief Constable advised that the longer-term trend indicated a consistently improving picture and would remain an area of focus for the Force. Members were briefed on the use of crime mapping in assessing the impact of organised crime and the factors involved in decision making.

The Deputy Chief Constable acknowledged that the Force would need to look at smarter ways of maintaining its neighbourhood policing profile despite having fewer officers, including a greater reliance on new technology. Members referred to the overall trend line for emergency call handling which was shown to be negatively decreasing. The Deputy Chief Constable reminded Members that they had recently received a detailed briefing from Chief Inspector Craft on the challenges faced within the Force Communications and Control Centre (FCCC) and in particular the balance that needed to be struck between meeting targets and dealing with callers in a professional manner and providing a quality service.

The Chairman noted that there had been a succession of poor figures for incident attendance from March into the summer months, which had improved very recently. The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that the volume of calls for assistance had increased during the summer months. The challenge for the FCCC had been to manage seasonal variations whilst carrying a number of vacancies.

The Chairman concluded with a short update on a number of briefings both he and his Vice Chairman had received from the Head of Crime Support on serious and organised crime.

Resolved	Responsible Officer
<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Force performance be noted; 2. a “Satisfactory” level of assurance has been received with regards to Force performance in Safer Neighbourhoods and Protecting the Public priority areas; 3. a “Full” level of assurance has been received with regards to Force performance in Increasing Trust and Confidence and Improving our Services priority areas. 	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>

Chairman