



Leicestershire Police Authority

MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE

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Leicestershire Police Authority ‘performs adequately’

We received today the findings of the first joint HMIC (Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary) and Audit Commission Inspection of us. The inspection took place in September 2009. The Inspectors have found that we ‘perform adequately’.

We welcome this independent assessment, recognising that this is an opportunity to make changes to drive improvements. The Inspection Report recognises that we have introduced significant changes over the past two years, and now our key objective is to implement an improvement plan to address the areas highlighted in the report as requiring attention.

Our primary concern is to ensure that the people of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland have confidence in the policing service they receive. Our role is as a monitoring body for the Police Force, ensuring that the local community has an efficient and effective police service. We set the budget for the Constabulary and scrutinise efficiency savings to ensure value for money. We hold the Chief Constable to account on behalf of local people and consult with local people to ensure that police service delivery reflects local priorities.

The Inspection Report finds that we are broadly fulfilling most of our key responsibilities.

Strengths highlighted include:

- A clear commitment to Neighbourhood Policing, delivering the Policing Pledge and improving public confidence in policing.
- Setting high professional and ethical standards, both for ourselves and the Constabulary.
- A clear focus on value-for-money, making sure that resources are aligned to policing policies.

The report also acknowledged the work undertaken to improve our own performance.

Alongside these strengths were areas identified for improvement, most notably around the requirement for scrutiny of the Chief Constable and the Constabulary; specifically, target

setting and monitoring of the delivery of policing policies, tracking and supervision of significant critical incidents and engagement with diverse and vulnerable groups.

Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, Zoë Billingham, spokesperson for the joint inspection team said

“Leicestershire Police Authority has made some significant changes over the last two years and improvements are beginning to take effect. Members of the Authority are clearly committed to ensuring that the Authority continues to improve the way that it oversees the delivery of an effective police service. But they recognise that the Authority can do more to improve its scrutiny and oversight of the Constabulary’s performance on behalf of the people of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.”

Temporary Chief Constable, Leicestershire Constabulary, Chris Eyre said,

“I recognise the value of a strong and effective Police Authority holding me to account for the delivery of policing services to our communities. I welcome the HMIC’s constructive observations about how that accountability relationship might be improved and look forward to responding to any changes the Authority makes as a result of the lessons learned from this inspection.”

We are currently finalising an Improvement Plan to address the issues in the Inspection Report. This will be presented to our next full Authority meeting on 26 January 2010. The Improvement Plan will be available to view on the website www.leics-pa.police.uk from that date.

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Notes to Editors:

Leicestershire Police Authority’s role is to ensure Leicestershire Constabulary provides efficient and effective policing in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Leicestershire Police Authority is made up of 17 members; eight independent members and nine councillors nominated by local authorities (four Conservatives, three Labour and two Liberal Democrats).

Police Authorities are independent bodies made up of local people. Police Authorities hold the Police Force to account on behalf of local communities. One of their duties is to appoint senior officers to the Constabulary, such as the Chief Constable.

Local Police Authorities along with the Home Secretary and Chief Officers of Police make up the tripartite relationship which is responsible for the governance of policing in England and Wales.

For any queries arising from this media release please contact Nigel Tompkins at Better Times, tel 07860 206565