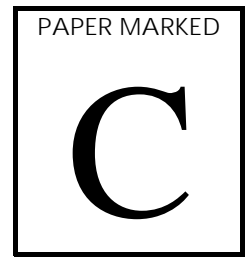


LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY



Meeting **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Date **TUESDAY 23 MARCH 2010 – 10.00 A.M.**

Report of **TREASURER AND CHIEF CONSTABLE**

Subject **STRATEGIC FINANCIAL PLANNING GROUP**

Purpose of the Report

1. To remind members of the role and purpose of the SFPG, and to report its recent work.

Background

2. The Strategic Financial Planning Group (SFPG) has been operational for some two years. Its predecessor was the Strategic Alignment Group whose role was primarily to align resources to need.
3. The SFPG has normally been chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable and comprises four PA Members (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Mrs Newton, Mr Render), Treasurer, Force Finance Director, Force Human Resources Director and other Force personnel as required.
4. Given the importance of the work to be carried out by the Group a written update will be presented to each meeting of this Committee.

Current Work

5. By its very nature the Group takes a strategic overview of the financial fortunes of the Authority, including looking forward and scanning the horizon for future obstacles and opportunities.
6. Of late the Group has been concerned primarily with balancing the budget as economic pressures bite. To that end it is supported by the Savings Delivery Group, a Force Board also chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable, the aim being to bridge the financial gaps from 2010-11 onwards between need and resource.

Meetings and Chairmanship

7. It has been agreed by the Police Authority Chairman and the Chief Constable that meetings of the Group will now be chaired by the PA Chairman. Papers will continue to be prepared by the Force in consultation with the Treasurer. Meetings will be held monthly during 2010.

Value for Money

8. The Value for Money (vfm) Profiles published by HMIC were received by the Group on 22 February when it was noted that these would inform the Report Card to be issued at the beginning of March. It was also noted that there is now an obligation on the Authority to produce a Value for Money Statement to be included with the Policing Plan 2010. The Statement will be drafted by the Force Savings Team and brought to the Group at a future meeting.

Capital Programme

9. At the Police Authority meeting on 9 February 2010 it was agreed that the SFPG will review the Business Case for each major capital investment project. This will be scheduled for a future meeting of the Group.

Other Issues

10. Although the savings strategy is of paramount importance, other strategic financial issues must not be overlooked. To this end a future meeting of the Group will consider a standard agenda template.

Conclusion

11. The Group is an important link between the Force and the Authority in understanding and addressing the important strategic financial pressures we are facing.

Recommendations

12. To consider and note the contents of the report.

Implications

Financial – within the report. Legal – none. Diversity – none. Risk management – linked to finance.

Background Papers

None.

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