

LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

PAPER MARKED

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Meeting **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Date **TUESDAY 08 SEPTEMBER 2009 – 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 is 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. It has been the practice for the Treasurer to give an oral update of the Group's work to each meeting of this Committee. On this occasion, given the importance of its current work and the number of new members on the Authority, a written report is presented.

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.
7. The most recent meeting of the Group was held on 30 July, and the minutes of that meeting are appended. Discussion at that meeting has influenced the preparation of the Medium Term Financial Strategy that appears elsewhere on this Agenda.

Conclusion

8. 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

9. 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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