

Staffordshire Police Authority

STATEMENT ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

1. During 2008 and 2009 the Police Authority has further strengthened its corporate governance arrangements, including the adoption of a Code of Corporate Governance which is reviewed annually as part of the Annual Governance Statement.
2. The Authority has also established a Corporate Governance Framework which pulls together the principal documentation, processes and regulatory monitoring impacting on effective corporate governance. A copy of the Corporate Governance Framework is **attached**.
3. All documents and relevant information are available on the Police Authority's website, as is information on its governance structure and arrangements and all relevant agenda, reports, papers etc.
4. The key obligations and organisational objectives of the Police Authority are:
 - Ensuring an efficient and effective Force and an efficient and effective Authority.
 - Through clear citizen focus inspiring trust and confidence amongst the communities of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.
 - Being clearly accountable.
 - Adopting and applying ethical values.
 - Ensuring organisational objectives are met.
 - Effective decision making.
 - Developing both members and officers of the Authority.
5. Of fundamental importance in the practical operation of the Authority's corporate governance arrangements is the clear linkage between business planning, corporate objectives and service delivery outcomes.
6. The effectiveness of the Authority's arrangements is reflected in the Police Use of Resources (PURE) Assessment outcome, where, for several years, the Authority has been one of the top rated, including an overall maximum score of 4 for the 2007/08 PURE.

7. Significant contributions to the development of the Authority's effective governance framework include:

- The establishment of one keystone priority – supported by a small number of key targets to drive forward the Authority's mission “to put the citizen at the heart of everything that it does, so that the Force can be the one that inspires the greatest levels of trust and confidence amongst the communities that it serves”.
- A revised scheme of delegation, including clear delegations to the Authority's and Force's executive officers.
- Revisions to the Authority's governance arrangements, to meet changes in circumstances.
- The establishment of an effective Performance and Development Review Process for all members – providing for clear objectives to be set for individual members on a year by year basis.
- A substantial review of the Authority's risk management duties and responsibilities and how these should be met.
- The direct appointment of principal Executive Officers of the Authority and the establishment of a dedicated Secretariat to support the Authority and its work.
- The appointment of new Independent Members to the Authority from a wide range of backgrounds.

8. In conclusion the Authority believes that the above arrangements will be of pivotal importance in meeting the future challenges facing both it and the Force and that concentration on a small set of substantially relevant and acutely focused outcomes and priorities will enable it to meet its mission and deliver on the Trust and Confidence Strategy.

9. It is important also to recognise that Governance can never be a fixed reference point as on-going revisions will be needed to meet future changes in the context of the Authority's role and circumstances.

Corp Gov Statement
1 June 2009