

**Joint Report of the Chief Executive and Chief Constable
To the Chair and Members of the
Audit and Internal Control Panel
28th May 2009**

**Executive and Presenting Officer: Joe McCarthy Chief Executive
Ann Hall ACO (F&C)**

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Status: For Information**

**Annual Governance Statement 2008-2009
Review of Internal Control and AGS Assurance gathering
process**

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 This report is intended for the Audit and Internal Control Panel to formally record that the document "Review of Internal Control and the Annual Governance Statement Assurance gathering process" has been made available to Members.

2. Recommendations

That Members

- 2.1 Note that the working document "Review of Internal Control and the Annual Governance Statement Assurance gathering process" was circulated to all Members of the Police Authority on 6th May 2009.

3. Reasons

- 3.1 At its meeting on 11th December 2007 the Police Authority Executive received and agreed a report in relation to the requirements to produce an Annual Governance Statement. Members were advised that the mechanism to be used was to be the same group that prepared the Statement of Internal control (SIC). As with the SIC work the methodology used has been to follow

the CIPFA "Rough Guide" in this case - "The Annual Governance Statement – meeting the requirements of the Account and Audit Regulations 2003 – Incorporating Account and Audit (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2006 ".

- 3.2 Elsewhere on this agenda there are other reports arising from various elements of the advice in the Rough Guide.
- 3.3 As part of the framework for preparing the Annual Governance Statement the PURE & Governance Work Group has followed through the Rough Guide and sought evidence to demonstrate the extent to which control arrangements are in place and working, and identify areas for improvements. The result of this work is contained within a relatively lengthy document which also contains links to supporting evidence.
- 3.4 All Authority members were invited to a briefing on 5th May 2008 which comprised of an interactive presentation of the document. Detailed questions and comments were dealt with by your officers. There were no issues arising from that presentation which require reporting to the Audit and Internal Control Panel.
- 3.5 In compliance with practice agreed in 2007, a hardcopy of the Assurance document was circulated to Members on 6th May 2008.

4 Implications

- 4.1 Finance
There are no specific monetary implications within the report. Activity relating to making improvements is being met from existing budgets.
- 4.2 Sustainability
There are no additional staffing implications.
- 4.3 Diversity and Equal Opportunities
There are no diversity or equal opportunity implications in this report.
- 4.4 Risk
This report is focused on organisational health and governance issues which if not addressed represent risks to the reputation of the Police Authority and the Force.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 This report represents the progression of advice in the CIPFA – Rough Guide to the AGS.

Joe McCarthy

Sean Price

Chief Executive

Chief Constable