

**GWENT POLICE AUTHORITY**  
**Audit and Resources Committee**

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> April 2008

**Item No:** 4

**Heading:** Member Report

**Report Author:** Chief Executive

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**SUMMARY**

To receive details of visits made/meetings attended by Members and any actions arising from those visits/meetings.

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**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the Committee notes the visits made / meetings attended and the action taken / to be taken.

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**BACKGROUND**

The following report relevant to the Audit and Resources Committee has been received:

**1.1 Mr R Leadbeter – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2008 APA Financial Resources Policy Group**

The papers for this meeting had been circulated. Some points made at the meeting were:

**Minutes and Action points**

Reference was made to the costs associated with the International Reporting Standards. These not only involved the associated Audit Fees, but the workload involved in the Standards.

**Objective Costing**

A presentation was given by the Finance Director of West Midlands Police - Derek Smith. A copy of his slides would be available from the APA. He indicated that copies of the paper circulated with the agenda had been sent to Treasurers of Authorities and Directors of Finance of Forces and that we should ask for their views on the proposals. Among his comments, he stated that the background to Activity Based Costing was the need to inform decisions and the need to inform choice. Arguably it had not achieved this. One of its major problems was the allocation of overheads to Activities. Objective Costing involved some allocation of overheads - local support

overheads - but not on the scale of ABC. It is a simpler process to complete than ABC and can be linked to ABC - if necessary. It was reported that there did not seem to be any loosening of the Home Office's grip on ABC, despite the pressures, including the Flanagan report. However, it was stressed that in talking to the Home Office, it should be stressed that Objective Costing should not be an addition to ABC, but a replacement.

### **Efficiency and Productivity Strategy**

It was stated that "cashable" had been redefined to include what had previously been called " non-cashable." In referring to the Workshops which had been arranged, it was stated that a further Workshop had been arranged on 16th May in London for those who were unable to attend one of these. It was also suggested that the APA should arrange for all who attended the Workshops to meet, after their conclusion.

### **Financial Management Code of Practice**

It was stressed that this was an important document in confirming the role of the separate Treasurer of the Police Authority. Any views on the document should be sent to the APA by 20th May.

### **The Review of Policing (Flanagan Review)**

Reference was made to the relationship of this to the work of this Group for the rest of this year. Any views should be submitted to the APA. One recommendation was that the Home Office should move towards a fuller application of the funding formula in future Spending Reviews, phasing out the existing damping mechanism of floors and ceilings. Another recommendation was that the protective services steering group should consider top-slicing funding. I made the point that if this was accepted and implemented before 2011, it would de-stabilise the settlement on which we had based our three year strategy.

### **CSR09**

This covered the period 2010/11 to 2012/13. Therefore, its first year was the last year of the current three year period. The point was raised that if the Review changed the basis of the current settlement, it would de-stabilise our three year strategy.

### **2012**

This referred to the Olympics and Paralympics. In discussion on capacity reference was made to building and delivery. Reference was made to events outside London and to training villages and venues. I do not know whether Gwent had any of the latter. Reference was made to the movement of capacity to London and other venues and the importance of continuing normal policing. In discussion on funding reference was made to the substantial costs for London and elsewhere. It was suggested that the Treasurers' Society be asked to undertake a preliminary survey of costs - to be reported to this Group or its successor - depending on the forthcoming Plenary. It was stated that there would be some form of successor.

## **PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEE/CURRENT POSITION**

2. The Committee is asked to note the issues raised and any actions required to address those issues.

## **STAFFING/PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

3. There are none arising directly from the content of this report.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4. There are none arising directly from the content of this report.

## **CONSULTATION**

5. There has been no consultation on the content of this report.

## **PROJECT ASSESSMENT FOR EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY MATTERS**

6. This project/proposal has been considered against the general duty to promote equality, as stipulated under the Police Authority's Equality Schemes, and has been assessed not to discriminate against any particular group.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

7. Member reports which identify risks, will be reported to the appropriate Committee of the Authority.

## **STAYING AHEAD (2011 REVIEW)**

8. We have considered the implications of the 2011 project in the production of this report and there are no issues we want to raise in this report at this particular time.

## **CONCLUSION**

9. Member reports which identify follow up / further action, will be reported to the appropriate Committee of the Authority.

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

10. Committee Clerk

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11. There are no background papers relating to this report.

## **APPENDICES**

12. There are no appendices to this report.

