

# GWENT POLICE AUTHORITY

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

18<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Present: Mr D B Hughes (Chair)  
Mr P E Davies  
Mr B P L Wallis  
Councillor K Critchley

Together with: Mrs S A Bosson (Chief Executive)  
Mrs M Lambert (Committee Clerk)

*The meeting commenced at 5.30 p.m.*

### Action

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. We received an apology for absence from Councillor G S Evans.

Members noted Councillor Evans' impending retirement and asked that thanks be extended to him for his contribution to the Standards Committee.

**CEX**

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. There were no declarations of interest.

### MINUTES

3. We received and confirmed the minutes of the meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

#### **Matters Arising**

##### **Independent Members**

We noted that the new regulations were now in place, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008. The Lay Justice category would cease to exist on the 30<sup>th</sup> September and an independent member appointment process would take place in June to allow for new Members to be in place by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008. A report outlining the changes would be going to the Police Authority meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

##### **Member Development Scheme**

We noted that the Personal Development Scheme was working well. Reviews had taken place and evaluation had been positive. Training requirements had been identified and Members had had the opportunity to express areas of particular interest that they would like to be involved in. Members considered the Personal Development Scheme and the Member Allowance Scheme as being very valuable

which also offered reciprocal benefits.

**Action**

### **Gwent Standards Committee**

Members noted that the Gwent Standards Committee had not met since May/June of last year and asked that this be taken up with the other Chief Executives in Gwent.

**CEX**

### **Staying Ahead Review 2011**

Members noted that this major project was drawing to the end of its development phase. A report was expected in June, which would lead into the implementation phase. We noted that Neighbourhood Policing would still play a major part of any reconfiguration of the Force as would the continuing development of Partnerships.

### **Role of Deputy Monitoring Officer**

Members asked that Neil Taylor be formally welcomed to this role.

**CEX**

## **CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING**

4. We received and noted a report from the Chief Executive which informed Members of the Standards Committee event held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008.

Members felt that the group work had been very helpful and the session covered:

- The Ethical framework
- Understanding the new Code
- Requirements of the Code
- Members obligations
- Personal interests
- What interests must be registered
- What interests must be disclosed
- Prejudicial interests
- The process of dealing with a complaint
- The role of the Standards Committee

Members agreed that the training had been informative but too legalistic and if it were to be arranged again there should be more information relevant to Wales.

## **REVISED CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

5. We received and noted a report from the Chief Executive on the revised Code of Corporate Governance. Members were asked to consider the accompanying Code of Corporate Governance which was in line with the new guidance issued to Police Authorities by CIPFA/APA. Members were asked to recommend its adoption to the

Police Authority, if appropriate.

## Action

Members discussed the content of Appendix 2, Draft Code of Corporate Governance for Gwent Police Authority. The Chief Executive confirmed that everything the Authority was required to do was being done. We noted that every report submitted to Committees are risk assessed and where risks are identified these would be placed on the joint risk register.

The following was highlighted:

*The Chief Constable was held accountable by the Authority for ensuring that there was a sound system of internal control facilitating the exercise of the Force's functions and including arrangements for the management of risks. To enable the Authority to rely on this system of internal control within the Force it requires the Statement of Internal Control to be prepared by the Chief Constable.*

We noted that the Chief Executive had agreed with the Treasurer that an undertaking from the Chief Constable was required to confirm that the Force were satisfied that everything was in place. It was felt that in order to be independent there should not be a joint statement, however if thought appropriate this could be reviewed as the document was required to be produced each year.

We noted that the Code of Corporate Governance now sets out six core principles:

- 1. The Authority aims to focus on the purpose of the Authority and on outcomes for the community to create and implement a vision for the local area.*
- 2. The Authority aims to ensure members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles.*
- 3. The Authority aims to promote the values of the Authority and demonstrate the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.*
- 4. The Authority aims to take informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and risk management arrangements.*
- 5. The Authority aims to develop the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective in their roles.*
- 6. The Authority aims to engage with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.*

We noted that the Authority was working towards achieving Investors in People which was an assessment process standard supported by WAG.

**Action**

On the advice of the Chief Executive, Members agreed to recommend the adoption of this Code to the Police Authority.

### **BULLETINS 36 & 37 – STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND**

6. We received and noted the content of Bulletins 36 and 37.

We noted that as the Bulletins are based on the English Standards Board they would be taken off the agenda unless there was an item of particular interest which needed to be brought to Members attention.

### **APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

7. There were no applications for dispensation.

### **NEXT MEETING**

8. Members agreed that the next meeting should be arranged for September 2008.

**CEX**

***The meeting concluded at 6.25 p.m.***