

# **GWENT POLICE AUTHORITY**

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

21<sup>st</sup> November 2005

Present: D B Hughes (Chair)  
Councillor K Critchley, P E Davies, Mrs J Hale and B P L Wallis  
Together with: Mrs S A Bosson – Chief Executive and Clerk  
Mr G R Fowler – Assistant Clerk

### **Action**

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1. There were no apologies for absence.

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2. There were no declarations of interest.

#### **MINUTES**

3. The minutes of the meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2005 were received and noted.

#### **TENURE OF OFFICE**

4. The Chief Executive and Clerk reported that it had generally been accepted that the tenure of appointment for independent members of Standards Committees was for four years. For two of the current members of the Committee, that period came to an end in April 2006.

The appointment period of four years was not governed by a statutory requirement and was not covered by legislation. It corresponded to the period of appointment of independent members of the Police Authority.

Given the current proposals by the Home Secretary to restructure police forces and authorities, it was proposed that the appointment period of the two members concerned, Mr D B Hughes and Mr B P L Wallis, be extended for an initial period of twelve months to April 2007.

Both members indicated that they would be content to serve for a further twelve months and we recommend that the Authority approves such an extension.

## AUTHORITY POLICIES AND CODES OF PRACTICE

5. We noted the adoption by the Authority, of the following policies/codes of practice:

- **Code of Corporate Governance** – sets out the Authority’s position and aspirations in relation to governance issues. The Code outlined how the Authority would hold the Chief Constable to account and make sure that he had appropriate processes and policies in place to satisfy the requirements of good corporate governance.
- **Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy** – the policy was intended to encourage and enable members and staff to raise serious concerns within the Authority rather than overlooking the problem or “blowing the whistle” outside.
- **Indemnity of Members and Officers** – provided an indemnity to members and officers which would allow them to have a clear understanding of what protection could be expected if decisions they made were challenged.
- **Member Job Profile** – produced to provide members of the Authority with clear job profiles to assist them in carrying out their roles and to support the corporate governance framework.

## MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

6. The Chief Executive and Clerk reported that the Committee had previously been asked to consider and recommend any changes to the Authority’s current Scheme of Members’ allowances with particular reference to the issue of “led member” allowances.

The Committee had recommended that all Chairs to Committees should undertake at least one lead responsibility and the Authority should accept the principle of paying a special responsibility allowance to lead members with any savings in allowances accruing from changes to the Committee structure being re-directed to lead members as an initial payment.

Unfortunately, the review of the Committee structure produced no savings which could be redirected to lead members and consequently without any offsetting savings, any payment to lead members would increase the budget requirement for members’ allowances. At current rates this would equate to £4,392.00 per annum.

Given possible changes to policing structures in Wales in the foreseeable future, we agreed that it would be appropriate to defer recommending any changes to the current scheme of allowances at this time.

**BULLETIN 26**

7. We noted receipt of Bulletin 26 from the Standards Board of England.

**DISPENSATION**

8. There were no applications for dispensation.

**JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE/DIVERSITY TRAINING**

9. We noted the arrangements made for a meeting of the Joint Standards Committee to be held at the Civic Centre, Newport on 29<sup>th</sup> November and Diversity Training to be held at the Parkway Hotel, Cwmbran on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2005.

**POLICE RESTRUCTURING**

10. We received an update from the Chief Executive and Clerk on the current proposals for restructuring of the police service in England and Wales.