

FORCE AUDIT BOARD – RISK MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

1. As a result of an Audit Commission suggestion Members will be receiving update reports arising from audits and inspections carried out on behalf of the Force Audit Board (see next item on agenda). This report seeks to introduce Members to the work of the Force Audit Board, of which John Shipley is the Police Authority member and to explain how the Board is assessing and managing risk.

INFORMATION

2. The Force Audit Board's terms of reference are: -
 - To maintain and review a Force Risk Register of key vulnerabilities.
 - To review the Risk Register in the light of HMIC programmes and recommendations, national events, the environmental scan, feedback from Professional Standards Branch and other key internal and external stakeholders.
 - To task and co-ordinate reviews, audits and inspections driven by the Risk Register.
 - To receive the product of inspections/audits and reviews and to action the result.
3. The Board reviews the Risk Register at every monthly meeting and seeks to put in place control measures so that any risks that are identified can be minimised. One of the control measures that is available to the Board is the requirement for a review, audit or inspection to be carried out.
4. In the middle part of 2004 staff from the Assessment & Review Unit interviewed representatives from all the Divisions and Branches to identify areas in which they believed that the Force may be exposed to risk. This was coupled with information drawn from HMIC Baseline Assessments and Audit Commission reports to produce a two year Audit & Inspection Programme. This is a flexible programme which can be subject to change depending on updates to the Force Risk Register.

Update reports and improvement action plans arising from the Audit & Inspection Programme will be received by Members at this and future meetings.

RECOMMENDATION

5. It is recommended that the Members scrutinize the contents of this report and discuss the issues arising.

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Background papers: Force Audit Manual

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