

COMBINED ANNUAL REPORT/LOCAL POLICING SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the production of the combined Annual Report/Local Policing Summary as approved at the Police Authority meeting on 21 March 2006 (minute 139 refers).

BACKGROUND

2. Members will be aware that the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act (SOCA) 2005 makes it a requirement for every police authority to produce annually a local policing summary outlining matters relating to policing in that area. At the Police Authority meeting in March, Members agreed that for 2006, the Humberside Policing Summary should be combined with the Annual Report and that the combined document should be published in the summer.
3. The proposal to combine the two documents aroused the interest of the Home Office who have recently confirmed that this approach would meet the legislative requirements so long as the published leaflet:
 - clarifies that it serves as both the Annual Report and the Local Policing Summary
 - contains the information which is required of each
 - is distributed to all persons who should receive a summary or an annual report; and
 - complies with any guidance.
4. Work has now commenced on the leaflet production and this report outlines progress to date.

CONTENT

5. Part of the content of the Local Policing Summary is prescribed in the Police Act 1996 (Local Policing Summaries) Order 2005 and the Home Office Guidance "A practical guide to local policing summaries" sets out additional information that the summaries may contain. In terms of the Annual Report, the Police Act 1996 merely requires that a report be issued including an assessment of the extent to which the local policing plan for that year has been carried out.
6. As agreed at the March Police Authority meeting, four Annual Report/Local Policing Summary Leaflets are being produced, one for each BCU. This is in line

with the Home Office Guidance recommendation that the Summaries should be produced at as local a level as possible.

7. A proportion of the content of each of the four Summaries will be the same, indicating Force performance over the past year and priorities for 2006/2007. This generic part of the Leaflet will also include information on the Police Authority, HMIC inspections and other general Force-wide issues, for example call handling and restructuring. There will also be a section that sets out contact details for both the Police Authority and the Force.
8. The remainder of the Leaflet will be made up of more local information including Divisional performance during 2005/2006, priorities for the relevant Division 2006/2007 and contact details for the Divisional commander, all police stations and Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspectors. This section of the Leaflet will also incorporate further information on partnership working with the CDRP and contact details of all the Crime and Disorder Partnerships, plus any other relevant local information.
9. The format of the Leaflet has been devised on the basis of previous Annual Reports and taking into account the template included in the Home Office Guidance, that was itself developed by professional designers and based on the findings of research into what the public said they wanted to see in their local policing summary. The design of the Leaflet will be along the lines of the recently published Policing Plan.

DISTRIBUTION

10. The Police Act requires that the Annual Report is merely published in such manner as appears appropriate to the police authority. Meanwhile, the legislation requires that the Local Policing Summaries should be sent to each person liable to pay Council tax and the Home Office Guidance confirms that each household must be sent a summary. As discussed at the March meeting of the Police Authority, however, ensuring that one hundred per cent of all households receive a summary would prove very costly and would, in all likelihood, prove very difficult to achieve.
11. As requested at the March Police Authority, further research has been done into the possibility of using the four Unitary Authority Publications for distribution purposes. This research has shown that it would not be possible for a separate document to be sent out to all households in the Humberside area using this method.
12. Therefore, a tender exercise is now being planned to achieve distribution of the document to as many households as possible via other means. Last year such a tendering exercise led to the Annual Report being distributed via insertion in the local press.

13. It is intended that the Combined Annual Report / Local Policing Summary Leaflet will be distributed by the middle of September 2006. A copy of the Leaflet will be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee in advance of its publication.

RECOMMENDATIONS

14. It is recommended that the Committee:
 - i. Discusses the proposed content of the report
 - ii. Delegates final approval of the Combined Annual Report / Local Policing Summary Leaflet to the Chair of this Committee in conjunction with the Chairman of the Police Authority
 - iii. Receives a pre-publication copy of the Leaflet at the next meeting of the Consultation and Partnership Committee.

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Background Documents: Home Office "A practical guide to local policing summaries"
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