



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
POLICE AUTHORITY

DATE	25 <sup>th</sup> August 2010
COMMITTEE	POLICE AUTHORITY MEETING
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## Servicing of Committees

### PURPOSE

1. To seek agreement to continue with the temporary arrangements that exist between the Police Authority and Corporate Governance Service at Nottinghamshire County Council to provide committee services until the new Police and Crime Commissioners are elected in May 2012

### RECOMMENDATION

2. To agree that the current temporary arrangements should continue.

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. Sufficiently qualified resources do not exist within the Police Authority secretariat to properly service committees

### SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. Members will be aware that the Corporate Governance Service at Nottinghamshire County Council currently provides committees services for Nottinghamshire Police Authority. This arrangement is due to come to an end on 31 August 2010.

The efficient operation of the Police Authority work is dependent upon good governance arrangements and there is currently a lack of sufficient experience within the secretariat to undertake this function.

To enable the Police Authority to arrange for longer-term provision, the Corporate Governance Service at Nottinghamshire County Council has offered to provide this service for a period of 21 months until the election of the new Police and Crime Commissioner in May 2012. Senior officers of the Council's team will continue to attend to the Committees and provide support in respect of meetings of those committees.

Governance Service will seek to employ extra staff to enable them to continue to provide this service until May 2012. They calculate that the overall cost of the service until that date will be £121.5k. The appropriate safeguards to ensure confidentiality of the governance work are in place. Senior and skilled corporate governance officers who will be providing the work on a service level basis will remain employees of the County Council.

As the authority does not currently possess such resources in-house, the other possible options would be to recruit Committee Support staff directly or to procure this service from another relevant authority. The option to recruit is not favoured currently in light of the uncertainty about the future of Police Authorities. The option to procure this service from other authorities is not favoured as this would potentially result in additional costs and would impact upon the knowledge, relationships and processes which have begun to be developed through the existing arrangements (which have started to improve governance within the Authority). The co-location of this function and the Authority within County Hall has also proven to be beneficial.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION**

5. The overall cost of the arrangement between Sept 2010 and May 2012 would be £121.5k. Discussions have taken place between the Authority and the County Council regarding the services of an Authority Staff member covering some of the work in this area. If this proposal is agreed those negotiations can continue and be finalised which will result in a reduced cost. Further details will be reported verbally to the Authority when arrangements are finalised.

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6. None

#### **DETAILS OF CONSULTATION**

7. None

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8. Police Authority paper 'I' February 2010

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

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**ALSO:**