

**AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AUTHORITY****PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE****15 MAY 2008****ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT****Report of the Treasurer****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report invites Members of the Performance and Audit Committee to consider the attached draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the Police Authority which will form part of the 2007/08 Statement of Accounts, before it is signed by the Chair of the Authority and the Chief Executive.

**Background**

2. From 2007/08 onwards the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006<sup>1</sup> will require the Authority and Constabulary as “proper practice” to each produce an AGS to sit alongside the Authority’s accounts in place of the current Statement of Internal Control. The purpose of these statements, to be signed by the Chair of the Authority, Chief Executive and the Chief Constable, is to provide assurance that the Authority and the Constabulary have a sound governance framework in place to manage the risks that might prevent achievement of their statutory obligations and organisational objectives.
3. To support the conclusions in the Authority AGS for 2007/08, a review has been carried out of the governance framework to highlight any serious governance issues and actions needed to deal with them. The process is in line with guidance published by CIPFA. The Constabulary has been carrying out a similar review and we have worked together to ensure consistency between the two statements .
4. The Authority review found that there is a sound framework of governance in place. It did, however, identify a number of areas where the framework could be improved although it did not identify any weaknesses that present an immediate risk to the achievement of the objectives and statutory duties of the Authority. These are summarised together with a plan for their achievement in Appendix A. The full statement which is based on the proforma suggested by CIPFA is attached at Appendix B.
5. The contents of the AGS will need to be reviewed immediately before the publication of the accounts to ensure that the governance framework and risks have not significantly changed since the review was carried out.

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<sup>1</sup> Accounts and Audit Regulations determine what the County Council publishes in its accounts  
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6. The action plan produced as a result of last year's review process has been reviewed. Most of the actions for that year have been completed. Any outstanding actions have been added to this year's action plan.

### **Recommendations**

7. Members are asked to approve the Authority's Annual Governance Statement.

**Tim Richens**  
**Treasurer**

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