

REPORT TO: **Audit and Corporate Governance Committee**
DATE: **30 June 2009**
SUBJECT: **HMIC Inspection Programme Update**
SPONSOR: **Deputy Chief Constable**
AUTHOR: **Head of Strategic Development**

1. PURPOSE OF PAPER

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek Members' agreement in relation to inspection activity planned by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) during this performance year.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Following the publication of the policing Green Paper last year, the Home Office declared an intention to step back from target-setting and monitoring police performance. The HMIC has now been assigned the lead role in monitoring overall performance and identifying and challenging under-performing forces in the public interest.

2.2 Following an action arising out of the last full Police Authority meeting, the Head of Strategic Development met with the HMIC Staff Officer on 8 July 2009 to seek clarification around the expected inspection programme for British Transport Police (BTP). An update is provided for Members at Appendix A. The Chief Executive to the Authority and Chair of this Committee have been kept informed regarding discussions and it has been agreed by the Chair that a regular HMIC update be provided to the Audit & Corporate Governance (A&CG) Committee as a standing item for future meetings.

2.3 If Members approve the Inspection Programme as set out in Appendix A, the Chief Constable and the Chair to the A&CG Committee will meet with Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary to formalise the inspection programme.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The British Transport Police Authority (BTPA) holds the budget for HMIC inspections. Whilst the fee for the coming year's inspection activity has not been discussed in detail, it is likely to be approximately £80,000.

4. RISK IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no risk implications arising directly from this paper.

5. DIVERSITY ISSUES

5.1 There are no diversity issues arising directly from this paper.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 That Members note the contents of this paper and agree to the inspection programme, which includes a Rounded Assessment of BTP, but excludes a bespoke Policing Pledge inspection.

APPENDIX A

AUDIT ACTIVITY	DATE/COMMENTS
<p>HMIC Force Data Quality Review of Most Serious Violent Offences (PSA23)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure BTP's compliance to Home Office Counting Rules for violent crime. 	<i>DEFINITE</i> – 22 June 2009
<p>HMIC revisit to Learning and Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up from BTP Baseline Assessment in which BTP received a 'poor' grading. 	<i>DEFINITE</i> – August 2009 – 2 days – date to be finalised.
<p>HMIC Neighbourhood Policing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based around the Home Office force inspection parts 2 and 3 of Neighbourhood Policing. 	<i>PROPOSED</i> – an inspection of Neighbourhood Policing within BTP will take place in the current performance year; however no date has been set. HMIC has agreed to work with BTP to design bespoke inspection protocols in liaison with the BTPA. Work on designing the protocols will not start until the BTPA Evaluation Project findings have been reported back to the SR&CS Committee later this year.
<p>HMIC Policing Pledge</p>	<i>REJECTED</i> – Given that BTP's bespoke Policing Pledge is very different to the Pledge operated by Home Office forces, there is little appetite to undertake a bespoke inspection of BTP's Pledge (both from BTP and the BTPA). It is unlikely to add any value given that it will not be possible to benchmark with other forces. Issues around quality of service will be covered by the Rounded Assessment inspection.

<p>HMIC Rounded Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMIC will be assessing forces against the following domains: Confidence and Satisfaction; Local Crime and Policing; Protection from Serious Harm; Value for Money and Productivity; Managing the Organisation. • HMIC will use this process to monitor progress against Action Plans/Areas for Improvement from previous inspections. 	<p><i>PROPOSED</i> – HMIC is currently undertaking a national consultation exercise to refine the inspection protocols for the new Rounded Assessment (RA). HMIC has acknowledged BTP's unique operating environment and agreed to BTP designing its own bespoke protocols which will be formally agreed and signed off with the HMIC and BTPA. Staff from the Strategic Development Department are currently updating previous inspection Action Plans and these will be used by HMIC to start informing BTP's assessment. It will be a continual process with quarterly visits from HMIC visiting BTP (Departments and/or Areas as appropriate) and they will undertake specific inspections on a risk-managed basis on issues raised through the RA.</p> <p>The next meeting with HMIC is scheduled for 28 July 2009 when it is envisaged they will start the RA process using information from previous inspection Action Plans and the first round of discussions on agreeing BTP's bespoke protocols will take place.</p>
<p>HMIC Custody Inspection</p>	<p>This is a national inspection and will entail unannounced visits to custody facilities (for checks on Health and Safety, cleanliness, etc). They are being targeted on a risk assessed basis and will run over the next 18 to 24 months.</p>
<p>HMIC Thematic – Workforce Modernisation</p>	<p>A planned major thematic inspection on workforce modernisation and supervision has been put on hold for the time being.</p>

<p>Police Authority Inspections</p>	<p><i>PROPOSED</i> – While it is possible that the BTPA will be inspected, no date has been scheduled and if it does take place it is likely to be at the end of the inspections of other Police Authorities. The first phase of Police Authorities have now been inspected and HMIC and the Audit Commission are in the process of evaluating the success of the process before starting on phase two.</p>
<p>HMIC National Standard of Incident Recording (NSIR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection of compliance with the NSIR 	<p><i>NOT CONFIRMED</i> – following completion of a self-assessment questionnaire, it is possible that HMIC may seek to follow up with an inspection but nothing has been confirmed yet.</p>
<p>HMIC Fraud</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection of compliance to the Home Office Counting Rules for Fraud offences. 	<p><i>NOT CONFIRMED</i> – following completion of a self-assessment questionnaire, it is possible that HMIC may seek to follow up with an inspection but nothing has been confirmed yet.</p>
<p>Action plans are being monitored from the following earlier inspections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PNC • Serious and Organised Crime • Major Crime • Neighbourhood Policing • Critical Incidents • Public Order • Civil Contingencies 	