



Report to: Audit & Risk Assurance Committee
Agenda item: 8
Date: 31 May 2013
Subject: HMIC Update
Sponsor: Deputy Chief Constable
For: Information

1. PURPOSE OF PAPER

- 1.1 To provide Audit & Risk Assurance Committee with an update in relation to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) inspections.
- 1.2 Following the revised BTPA committee structure, the HMIC report to Audit & Risk Committee will continue to provide an update on new inspections, but will now also include an update on progress made against recommendations from previous inspections, a function previously undertaken by Performance Review Group.

2. INSPECTION STATUS REPORT

2.1 HMIC Inspections 2013/14

- 2.1.1 The consultation document was published on 15 April 2013 and sought views on six potential inspections as detailed below. It should be noted that there were a number of inspections that were not included in the consultation process.
- 2.1.2 The six areas for consultation were as follows:
1. **Freeing up police time** – an examination of how police efficiency and working practices should be improved through the use of modern technology (June to September 2013)
 2. **Preventive policing** – an examination of police efficiency and effectiveness in preventing crime (August to November 2013)
 3. **Police attendance** – an inspection of police efficiency and effectiveness in responding to calls from the public (November 2013 to March 2014)



-
4. **Police leadership and culture** – an examination of the way the leadership of the police has responded to the findings of HMIC’s reports on police integrity and of the Leveson Inquiry report (January to March 2014)
 5. **Crime data integrity** – an inspection of the effectiveness of the police in dealing with reports of crime by members of the public (scoping/planning January to March 2014)
 6. **Police use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)** – an examination of the police use of ANPR to prevent crime (no timeframe).

2.1.3 The questions that HMIC sought views on were as follows:

1. Are the areas of policing listed above the right areas of policing to add to the inspection programme for 2013/14?
2. Which of the areas of policing listed above would you consider to be the most important for us to inspect and which the least?
3. Are there any factors we should take into account that might alter the proposed sequence or timing of these inspections?

2.1.4 BTP responded to HMIC via the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) on 3 May 2013. ACPO compiled the response on behalf of all forces prior to the HMIC response date of 7 May 2013. BTP’s response in relation to the three questions was as follows:

1. The majority of areas listed above are the right areas to add to the inspection programme as they sit at the centre of improving the police service as a whole in terms of efficiency and improving working practices. The proposed inspections also take into account public confidence and the confidence agenda as a whole. However in addition to the above, work around Mental Health should be considered, particularly as this has an impact on both the Police and Health.
2. There are differing views about the order of importance, but the collective view is that Police use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) is considered to be of least importance.
3. When considering the proposed sequence or timing, the proposed inspections that consider public confidence are potentially those that have higher priority.

2.2 Valuing the Police

2.2.1 To date HMIC has published three reports on Valuing the Police (VtP) following inspections of Home Office forces. These reports are: 'Valuing the Police – Policing in an Age of Austerity (July 2010), 'Adapting to Austerity' (July 2011) and 'Police in Austerity – One Year On' (July 2012). A fourth report is also linked 'Demanding Times' (June 2011). It should be noted that HMIC will be undertaking VtP3. However, for BTP this will be the first inspection as part of this programme, which HMIC has indicated will be an annual rolling programme.

2.2.2 The inspection will take place during week beginning 3 June 2013 with the fieldwork conducted over 4 to 5 June 2013. This will include interviews with individuals from the following areas: Finance; HR; Change; Performance; Collaboration; Local policing; and Control room. Additionally there will be two focus groups:

- Focus group 1 – a cross section of local policing and volume crime investigation staff (PC / DC / police staff equivalent)
- Focus group 2 – a cross section of staff in business support, e.g. finance, human resources, estates, fleet

2.2.3 There will be a Support and Challenge meeting at the beginning of the inspection which will involve the Chief Constable, Deputy Chief Constable, Interim Director of Corporate Resources, Head of Finance, Chair and Deputy Chair of the BTPA. This will be conducted by Stephen Otter HMI and will involve testing BTP's strategy and approach to it.

2.2.4 BTP has supplied pre-inspection material and data in advance of the inspection. The data was split into four sets: (1) Spending Review Plans; (2) Data Collection 2; (3) Detailed Plan; and (4) Collaboration. The Medium Term Financial Plan and the Draft Strategic Plan were also submitted. Supplementary information, as requested by HMIC, was also supplied on (1) Workforce – projections for supervisory ratios, diversity; (2) ICT; (3) Visibility; (4) Accessibility; and (5) Freeing up police time.



-
- 2.2.5 Separately HMIC had a semi-formal briefing meeting with the Head of Strategic Development on 20 May 2013 to discuss the work being undertaken around the comprehensive spending review.
- 2.2.6 HMIC is undertaking two surveys for Home Office forces; external public survey and internal survey for senior management, but BTP is not included in either of these.
- 2.2.7 There will be a 'hot' debrief at the end of the inspection and a BTP public facing report will be issued towards the end of June 2013. The thematic report will be issued in July / August 2013.

3. IMPROVEMENT PLANS

- 3.1 BTP develops improvement plans in response to recommendations contained in HMIC inspection reports. Progress against the improvement plans are reviewed at Integrity & Compliance Board (ICB). There are currently two improvement plans in place – Anti-Social Behaviour and Stop & Search. It should be noted that HMIC has not yet published the National Thematic Report on Stop & Search. Both of these improvement plans were reviewed by ICB on 18 February and progress will be assessed again on 10 June. A Force Integrity Plan is also being developed following the recommendations from the Without Fear or Favour inspection and revisit. This will be widened to include other integrity matters. Progress of these improvement plans will be provided to the next Audit & Risk Committee.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That members note the update provided in this report.