Agenda Item 15

JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE
3 September 2014

SUBJECT	**HMIC Inspections**
REPORT BY	**DEPUTY CHIEF CONSTABLE**
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SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF REPORT To advise the Committee of HMIC inspections of Lincolnshire Police and any recommendations that affect risk, internal control or corporate control.	
RECOMMENDATION	*That the committee notes the report.*

A. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. HMIC

1.1 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) independently assesses police forces and policing across activity from neighbourhood teams to serious crime and the fight against terrorism in the public interest.

1.2 HMIC decides on the depth, frequency and areas to inspect based on their judgements about what is in the public interest. In making these judgements, they consider the risks to the public, the risks to the integrity of policing, service quality, public concerns, the operating environment, the burden of inspection and the potential benefits to society from the improvements that might arise from the inspection. Their evidence is used to drive improvements in the service to the public.

1.3 HMIC's annual inspection programme is subject to the approval of the Home Secretary in accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. In addition to the published programme, HMIC conducts specific inspections that are commissioned by the Home Secretary, as a consequence of high profile events, or by Police and Crime Commissioners.

2. LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE INSPECTIONS

2.1 Reports are awaited for the following inspections carried out in Lincolnshire during 2013/14:

- Undercover policing
- Making best use of police time (now known as core policing)

HMIC presented their national report on undercover policing to the Home Secretary on 22 June 2014, who will decide when the report will be published.

The HMIC report on core policing is due to be published during the first week of September 2014.

2.2 In April 2014, HMIC conducted their fourth annual inspection under their valuing the police programme, Valuing the police 4. The inspection regime reports on how well police forces have managed to achieve the savings required from the Government comprehensive spending review in October 2010.

The national and local reports relating to this inspection were published on 22 July 2014. HMIC praised the force for achieving substantial savings in extremely difficult circumstances, with extensive use of collaboration and outsourcing to maximise efficiency. It also recognised that options to achieve future savings in the face of this ongoing era of austerity, without having to cut frontline workforce and erode local policing, are extremely limited.

HMIC made three judgements, as follows:

To what extent is the force taking the necessary steps to ensure a secure financial position for the short and long term?	Good
To what extent has the force an affordable way of providing policing?	Outstanding
To what extent is the force efficient?	Good

2.3 HMIC carried out the following inspections of Lincolnshire Police during June and July 2014:

- Crime data integrity
- Information management
- Integrity and corruption

Reports for these inspections will be published between September and November 2014.

2.4 HMIC has notified the force that they will conduct the following inspections during September 2014:

- PEEL Interim Crime
- Disability Hate Crime (Joint Criminal Justice Inspection)

2.5 Other HMIC inspections that are programmed without specific dates are:
- Child sexual exploitation – missing children
- Child protection
- Strategic policing requirement
- Firearms licensing
- Vulnerable people in custody

2.6 The table attached as an appendix to this paper shows the current position in terms of reports received and the number of recommendations made by HMIC for the force to address. Action plans are in place to record and monitor implementation of accepted recommendations.

Details of inspections that are currently planned for 2014/15 are also included in the table.

B. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no specific financial considerations arising from this report.

C. LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The provision of internal audit services is one of the means by which the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable discharge their responsibilities to secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force under section 1 (6)(b) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, and the Chief Finance Officer and Force Chief Finance Officer meet their responsibilities under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, section 73 of the Local Government Act 1985 and section 112 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 for ensuring the proper administration of the Commissioner and Chief Constable's financial affairs.

D. PERSONNEL, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

(including any impact or issues relating to Children and Young People)

There are no specific personnel, equal opportunities or diversity issues arising from this report or any that relate to Children and Young People.

E. REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS

The Joint Independent Audit Committee will review progress on HMIC Inspections through quarterly update reports. A routine update will be provided to each scheduled meeting.

F. RISK MANAGEMENT

There is one specific risk relating to HMIC inspections included in the Force Risk Register:

MBUPT HMIC Inspection to identify how successfully Lincolnshire Police is performing regarding reducing crime rates with limited resources currently available.

The consequences of a negative report would lead to loss of public confidence and failure to secure external resourcing or funding. It attracts a score of 6; 3 (probability) X 2 (impact).

There is a risk that relates to the challenge to meet the reduction of funding required under the Government's comprehensive spending review (CSR). This issue is routinely scrutinised by HMIC under their programme of valuing the police inspections.

ST-40 CSR 2 score 3 x 4 = 12

There is also a risk around the failure to maintain or improve on compliance with the National Standards of Incident and Crime Recording. The score for this risk was reduced at the Risk Management Board in July 2014 following positive verbal feedback from the inspection team on the conclusion on the fieldwork for the HMIC inspection of crime data integrity.

ST-43 NSIR / NCRS score 1 x 4 = 4

These risks can be examined in the Force Risk Register, which is submitted to this Committee in a separate paper.

G. PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Information in this report along with any supporting material is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation.