

Thames Valley Police

Strategic Risk Register 2009

Introduction

The Account and Audit Regulations 2003 require that TVP has a sound internal control system and that the effectiveness of this system is reviewed annually and a statement (the Statement on Internal Control) is published with the annual accounts. This statement has to be signed by the Chief Constable and the Chair of the Police Authority.

It is the policy of the Thames Valley Police Authority and the Chief Constable to adopt a pro-active approach to Risk Management (RM) consistent with the principles of Best Value and Corporate Governance. Thames Valley Police has an embedded risk management process where risks can be identified and escalated through the organisation, and are managed at the appropriate level.

Risk can be defined as the combination of the *likelihood* of an event and its *impact* on the organisation. We use these criteria to assess the risk. Risk management is the process by which risks are identified, evaluated, controlled, and monitored. It is not a one off exercise but an ongoing process.

Thames Valley Police maintain a Strategic Risk Register which is frequently updated, and reviewed quarterly by the Chief Officer team. Some of the main identified risks are set out below: each have a set of control measures which outline the actions we are taking to address or minimise the risk.

Identified risks

(Please note these are not in any order of priority)

- The impact of demographic growth and new housing development in the Thames Valley.
- Loss of one or more key suppliers as the result of the credit crunch.
- Potential organisational infiltration by undesirable/corrupt individuals or groups.
- Data security compromised either through accident or malicious action.
- Inaccurate data or data not being properly joined up / held on different systems.
- The terrorist threat.
- A rise in serious acquisitive crime – possibly exacerbated as a result of the credit crunch.
- Road traffic collisions involving the police.

Many of these risks are inherent in the environment and are not unique to the police. Others are national policing problems which have a national solution. We take whatever action we can to minimise those risks which are within our control.