



**Durham Police & Crime Commissioner/
Chief Constable**

Joint Audit Committee

Minutes - Tuesday 13th December 2016

11.00 a.m.

Consett Police Station, DH8 5DL



Attendees

Mrs Elsie Davies - Chair

Members

CLlr E Bell, Mrs J Flynn

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Mr C Oakley and Mrs J Connor

Durham Constabulary

Ms A Dodds, Mr S Winship

Internal Auditors

Mr S Carter

Apologies: Mr A Reiss, Mr G Ridley, Mrs S Sahani, Mr R Humphries

Mrs Davies asked the Committee if they had any Declarations of Interest – nothing was declared.

1. Minutes of meeting held on 1st November 2016

Amendments to minutes of the meeting held on 1st November to reflect a query raised by Mr Reiss in relation to an outcome of a complaints file – an acceptable response was given from Professional Standards.

2. Quarterly Risk Management update – PCC

Mr Oakley presented the current position of the PCVC risk register to the Audit Committee which identifies the key strategic risks.

Cllr Bell raised concerns over the condition of some of the Police Estates and Mrs Davies agreed that this topic will be a future agenda item.

The Audit Committee considered the report and agreed that appropriate controls are in place although a risk of reduction in funding could change things.

3. Quarterly Risk Management update – CC

Mrs Dodds presented to the Audit Committee the latest performance on a page. Mrs Dodds gave a thorough update on each element of the plan on a page and the rationale behind each assessment of risk and performance.

Mrs Flynn has requested a workforce report on levels of sickness within Durham Constabulary. Cllr Bell has requested a report on developing IT solutions to help meet demand. He also raised concerns over the growth of cyber-crime and how this was impacting on demand. Mrs Dodds assured the members that a new team had been selected to tackle this issue and a progress report would be presented at a later meeting.

4. Police and Crime Plan

Mr Oakley presented to the members the final Police, Crime and Victims' Plan 2016-21 which was published in November 2016.

Mr Oakley shared information from the public consultation which helped shape the plan. There were over one thousand members of the public who responded to the consultation which gives the team a great deal of confidence.

The members liked the style and content of the plan and would like to commend Mrs Sarah Harris for the excellent content.

5. Register of Interests, gifts and hospitality

Mr Oakley shared with the members the 2016 gifts and hospitality register which is held on a central register. The register relies upon officers and staff to record all gifts and hospitality where it cannot be reasonably declined in accordance with the Force policy.

Cllr Bell highlighted the gift for the Police Interceptors and questioned if the Force had made any money out of the Police Interceptor series.

The members felt reassured by the detail on the register.

6. IPCC Report

This item has been deferred to the next meeting.

7. Transfer of Grants from CC to PCVC

Mr Oakley presented to members an update on formal discussions about budget allocations between the PCVC Chief of Staff and the PCVC Chief Finance Officer.

Mr Oakley informed the members that a review of specific grant payments and contributions was undertaken with the aim to identify specific payments made from the Chief Constable's budgets that fall outside the delegated remit and transfer them to the Office of the PCVC.

The committee considered the report and have requested a breakdown of the £529,000 allocated to the National Police Air Support with detail relating to usage of this service in the County Durham and Darlington Area.

Mrs Davies was reassured around the Commissioned services.

8. Staff Survey – Chief Constable

Mrs Dodds reported on the most recent staff survey –.

Members were informed that for the past few years an annual survey has been carried out in conjunction with Durham University. The survey is anonymous, however there is still a low turnout of responses, (38%).

Mrs Dodds highlighted what we are good at, what we need to be better at and why perceptions of fairness positively influence.

Mrs Dodds also reported that Durham University have now broken down the results to Command level. She assured the members that work is currently being undertaken to make significant changes to improve areas with negative results.

The members felt the survey is more meaningful now it is done externally.