

## Item 3



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

### **Joint Independent Audit Committee**

**Minutes - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**11.00a.m – 13.00p.m.**

**Watson Room, Police Headquarters**



---

### **1. Attendees/Apologies**

#### **Chair**

Mrs Elsie Davies

#### **Members**

Cllr E Bell, Mrs J Flynn, Mr R Humphries

#### **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

Mr A Reiss, Mr C Oakley, Ms R Watterson and Mrs J Connor

#### **Durham Constabulary**

T Chief Supt K Wilson, Supt U Cuzzo, Mr M Campbell, Mr S Winship

#### **External Auditors**

Mrs C Eddowes

#### **Internal Auditors**

Mr S Carter

#### **HMIC Observer**

Garry Armstrong

**Apologies:** Mr G Ridley, Mrs S Sahani

### **2. Declaration of Interest**

Mrs Davies asked the Committee if they had any Declarations of Interest – Item 10 was declared by the Audit Committee.

### **3. Minutes of meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016 were recorded as a true record.

#### **4. Decision Log**

Mr Reiss updated the Joint Audit Committee on the PCVCs decision register and forward plan which is brought to this meeting quarterly.

The Committee were happy with the update and approved the report.

#### **5. Internal Audit Progress Report**

The Joint Audit Committee were presented with a report on the work undertaken by Internal Audit between 01 April 2016 and 31 December 2016.

A summary of all final assurance based audit reports issued in the last quarter was highlighted.

The Committee were pleased that the opinion rating on force overtime and time off in lieu had improved from limited to moderate assurance.

#### **6. Draft Corporate Governance Framework**

The Committee were shown a working document on the Corporate Governance Framework for information.

Mr Reiss informed the Committee the core principles to be adopted by both corporations sole are those contained in Delivering Good Governance in the Local Government Framework and is based on the Framework's seven principles.

The Committee requested that the role of the Joint Chief Finance Officer be explained and the protocol referring to this be added to the document. In addition the title of Chief of Staff be used in place of Chief Executive.

#### **7. Quarterly Professional Standards Report**

This item has been deferred to the next meeting.

#### **8. HMIC Update**

T Supt K Wilson gave an in depth update to the Committee of the latest HMIC inspection results.

Cllr Bell questioned how the process of vetting is prioritised as there was a substantial backlog due to manual input. Supt Cuozzo provided assurance that the priorities were given to new recruits and he would provide clearer detail at a later meeting.

The Committee approved this report.

## **9. Estates Strategy**

Mr Campbell gave an update to the Committee in relation to the status of the PCVC's Estate Strategy and provided data in relation to the estate.

Mr Campbell informed the Committee that due to the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review budgets have been reduced. This has impacted on the Police estates resulting in projects being abandoned. With the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners in 2012 an adjusted estate development was agreed and a capital programme was produced to allocate project funding accordingly.

Concerns were raised over the state of Consett Police Station and how this would impact on the morale and welfare of the teams who work there.

Mr Campbell assured the Committee that work is duly prioritised and offices and stations are fit for purpose although some cosmetic work does need doing.

Mr Campbell told the Committee that a joint estate strategy has been drafted between the Police and Fire Services. The Committee would like sight of this at a future meeting.

## **10. Joint Audit Committee Ethical Standards Review**

Mr Carter reported to the Committee the results of the Joint Audit Committee Ethical Standards Review.

Mr Carter provided a summary of findings looking at allowance and expense claim forms. There is no policy in place detailing the requirements of the Committee. A comparison was made with three other PCC offices and with the exception of Cumbria it is not practice for Committee member information to be published.

Members raised concerns that the use of the word discrepancies in the report implied wrong doing (of which it was acknowledged that there were none) and agreed that a clear policy would clarify future claims.

Mrs Davies stated that as a result of these findings a more structured framework is now in place. There is an electronic register of attendees/non attendees and claim forms are now submitted after each meeting.

The Committee are pleased to take forward the outcomes of this report.

## **11. IPCC Report – Complaints**

This item has been deferred to the next meeting.

## **12. Quarter 2 Performance Report**

Ms Watterson updated the Committee on the content of the latest PCVC's Public Performance Report which was published on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2016.

Areas highlighted included a full programme of public engagement events including consultation on the new Police, Crime and Victims' Plan and the PCVC'S Celebration of Superheroes' Event.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales has found an increase locally in the percentage of people who have confidence in the police – Durham now rated 12<sup>th</sup> nationally.

Ms Watterson informed the Committee that the overall number of road traffic collisions has decreased however the number of fatal collisions had increased by 3 which has led to negative perceptions of dangerous driving increasing.

The Committee commended Ms Watterson on the production of the report which has a lot of information and is displayed in a way that is easy to view.