



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



Joint Independent Audit Committee

Tuesday 7th March 2017

11.00 a.m.

**Bowburn Fire Training Centre,
DH6 5AD**

Minutes

1. Attendance/Apologies

Chair

Mrs Elsie Davies

Members

Mrs J Flynn, Mr R Humphries

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Mr A Reiss and Mrs J Connor

Durham Constabulary

Mr Ridley

Internal Audit

Mr S Carter

External Audit

Mr M Kirkham

Apologies: Cllr E Bell, Mrs S Sahani, Mr C Oakley

Mrs Davies expressed congratulations to the Chief Constable and everyone in the Constabulary on the excellent results of the HMIC inspection. For one of the smallest Police Forces in the country to be "Outstanding" for the third year reflects the hard work and commitment of everyone.

2. Declarations of Interest

To remind members of the Committee of the need to record any personal interest in items on the agenda. If a member has a personal interest that is a prejudicial interest,

he/she must withdraw from the room during consideration of that item of business.

Mrs Davies asked the Committee if they had any Declarations of Interest. Mr Kirkham agreed to leave the meeting when discussions around External Audit were discussed.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2017

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2017 were recorded as a true record.

4. Internal Audit Plan 2017/18

Mr Carter updated members of the Committee on the development of the 2017/18 Internal Audit Plan. He advised on the role of internal audit, the responsibilities of management and the productive audit days as part of the Service Level Agreement. The Committee felt assured with the information provided and agreed the Internal Audit Plan for 2017/18.

5. Draft Annual Governance Statement 2016/17

Mr Carter gave a verbal update on the Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 and advised he is working with Mr Ridley on a refresh of the statement for both the Chief Constable and the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner.

6. Corporate Governance Framework

The Committee have seen a draft version of the Framework and were happy to defer until all of the information is produced for a later meeting.

7. Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan

Mr Ridley updated the Committee on the budget and medium term financial plans. He highlighted areas of risk due to austerity and the need to increase the precept by 1.98%.

The Committee were satisfied that with the content of the reports.

Mr Kirkham from External Audit left the room.

8. Procurement of External Audit

Mr Ridley updated the Committee on the options available to procure external audit services for the audit of the statutory accounts from 2018/19 and the following 4 years.

The three options were discussed and the Committee agreed with the preferred option to go for the “appointing person” arrangements made by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA).

The Committee wished to note that Mazars had provided an excellent service.

Mr Kirkham returned to the meeting.

9. Quarterly Professional Standards Report

This report was not received in time for the Committee to review therefore it will be discussed at the next meeting.

10. IPCC – Complaints

Mr Ridley informed the Committee that Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) Mrs Farrell had looked at the structure and process of handling police complaints in Durham after a report published by the IPCC found that Durham upheld none of the 31 appeals into its complaint investigations in 2015/16. A report was presented outlining some of the issues and following discussion was accepted.

The DCC has met with Mike Kirtley from Professional Standard and Legal Services (PS&LS) and was reassured by his knowledge of each case and that the assessments carried out by the teams in PS&LS were sufficient.

The Committee were reassured by this process.

11. Quarterly Risk Management PCVC Update

Mr Reiss presented the latest PCVC risk register to the Committee.

Mr Reiss informed the Committee that it was challenging to keep track on what funds are available. He would like more clarity on process among senior officers and staff for arranging bids to the funds.

The Committee agreed clearer governance would ensure that opportunities are not missed.

12. Quarterly Risk Management CC Update – CC

Mr Ridley updated the Committee on the latest Plan on a Page risk register for the Force.

Key areas of discussion focused on the need to target crime prevention with early intervention. The performance management framework focus needs to be getting it

right first time. The force have invested in the recruitment of more staff looking at Cyber-crime as demand in this area has risen.

The Committee were satisfied with the update.

13. Quarterly Performance Management Report

Mr Reiss delivered the Public Performance Report for Quarter 3 to the Committee.

The Committee were pleased to hear that the percentage of people who have confidence in Durham Constabulary had increased again which ranked Durham Constabulary 8th nationally.

The Chair complimented the force on this achievement.

14. Complaints Files Sub Committee

Mrs Davies and Mr Reiss expressed the need to have a subcommittee that looks at the Professional Standards Files. It was felt the process currently in place is not robust enough and there is a need to document breakdown by nature of allegation, except those relating to conduct.

The Committee agreed that a separate sub-committee be formed and the new criteria applied. Feedback on possible lessons learned would be given to Professional Standards.

Any other business

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 18th April 2017

Time: 11.00 Place: Watson Room

Alan Reiss
Chief of Staff

G Ridley
Chief Finance Officer