



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



Joint Independent Audit Committee

Tuesday 11th July 2017

11.00 a.m. – 13.00 p.m.

Watson Room, Police HQ, DH1 5TT

Minutes

1. Attendance/Apologies

Chair

Mrs Elsie Davies

Members

CLlr E Bell, Mrs J Flynn, Mr R Humphries

Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

Mrs J Connor

Durham Constabulary

Mr G Ridley, Mr C Oakley, Mr S Winship

Internal Audit

Mr S Carter,

External Audit

Mr M Kirkham

Apologies

Mr A Reiss, Mr D Shingleton, Mrs C Eddowes

Mrs Davies welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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 – nothing declared.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 30th May 2017

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30th May 2017 were amended to reflect the Committees updates on stop and search.

4. Budget Monitoring Report

This report outlined the performance of the 2017/18 revenue and capital budgets as at r

Mr Ridley advised that 2017/18 is the seventh year of the government's austerity programme which has significant implications for the forces' financial position in terms of

risk with rising service demand. Also the revised funding formulae may be implemented in 2018/19 which may impose additional pressure on budgets.

Mr Ridley updated the Committee on the Constabulary's financial position and the Committee were happy that the report demonstrated that revenue and capital expenditure were on track in line with set budgets.

The Committee considered and accepted the content of this report.

5. External Audit Progress Report

Mr Kirkham presented the External Audit Progress report. This report provided the Committee with the progress of Mazars, in delivering their responsibilities, as the external auditor of the Police Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham (PCVC) and the Chief Constable (CC) of Durham Police.

Mr Kirkham highlighted key emerging national issues and developments to members of the Committee.

The financial statements and the early findings were provided and the Committee were reassured with this information.

6. Quarterly Professional Standards Presentation

Mr Winship presented to the Committee an update on Professional Standards.

Mr Winship updated the Committee that there have been no gross misconduct hearings over the last year. He reported that from 1st January 2016 legally qualified chairs had replaced police chairs on Police misconduct panels. The evidence shows that less police officers have been dismissed since this process was adopted.

Mrs Flynn was interested to know how many public contacts there had been. Mr Winship will feedback at a later meeting giving a more detailed breakdown.

Mr Ridley updated the Committee on the good work going on delivered by Chief Inspector Vicky Martin around sexual assault.

The Committee were interested in data for *use of force* which is fed into a national database. There is currently a pilot where Tasers are been given out to Neighbourhood Policing Teams. A request from the Committee about the use of Tasers and how this pilot has worked to be brought to a later meeting.

Mr Winship satisfied the Committee in response to questions raised.

7. Internal Audit Charter

Mr Carter brought the Internal Audit revised Charter to the Committee which was agreed by the Executive Board on 14th June 2017.

Mr Carter explained that appropriate safeguards were in place and that the Internal Audit Service was there to enhance and protect the PCVC and the Chief Constables organisational values by providing risk based and objective assurance, advice and insight.

Mr Humphries proposed amendments to the Mission Statement which was accepted by Mr Carter.

The Committee considered and approved the report.

8. Custody Presentation

Inspector Jason Meecham gave an overview of custody provision in Durham Constabulary. He informed the Committee that Durham follow national process in line with Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE).

Inspector Meecham reported that out dated custody suites are now updated with CCTV to bring the suites up to standard. He informed the Committee that Custody are held to account by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary's (HMIC) as well as daily scrutiny by the Independent Custody Visitors who drop in at any station at any time.

The Committee asked questions on police officers replacing detention officers and the cost of paid overtime, also how many staff are assaulted in custody suites – detail of this to be brought to a later meeting.

The Committee were reassured that detainees in custody are suitably assessed and appropriate pathways are in place to ensure they are safe on their release.

Inspector Meecham extended an invitation to members of the Committee, who wish to do so, to visit custody.

The Chair commended Inspector Meecham on the detailed well-presented report.

Any other business

Mr Ridley informed the Committee that as a result of the HMIC Effectiveness inspection they wanted to look at the talent management process.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 5th September 2017

Time: 11.00

Place: Watson Room, Police HQ

Alan Reiss

G Ridley

Chief of Staff

Chief Finance Officer

