



Durham Police Crime & Victims' Commissioner/ Chief Constable



Joint Independent Audit Committee

Tuesday 11th December 2018

11:00 – 12:10

Darlington Police Station

Minutes

1. Attendance/Apologies

Chair

Mrs E Davies

Members

Mrs J Flynn, Mr R Humphries, Mr D Shingleton

Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

Mrs J Connor, Mr C Oakley

Durham Constabulary

Mr G Ridley, Mr S Winship

External Audit

Mr M Kirkham

Internal Audit

Mr S Carter

Apologies

Mr J Collins, Mrs Sahani

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.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 30th October 2018

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30th October were recorded as a true record.

4. National Audit Office – Good Practice note on Transformation Guidance for Audit Committees

Mr Ridley provided the Committee with a summary of the Good Practice note on Transformation Guidance for Audit Committees.

Mr Ridley explained how transformation programmes can be highly complicated and risky.

In Durham they look at continual improvement within the police service which is currently facing a considerable challenge to maintain service delivery in light of substantial budget cuts. Many forces are adopting business improvement techniques to examine current practices and explore where there may be scope to change processes to release savings. Durham Constabulary capture information, process the data then analyse, present and use the information and then implement improvement.

Mrs Murphy suggested that Durham Constabulary are a transformational workforce and Mr Ridley agreed.

Mr Kirkham said there was a degree of communality with this report and the Ombudsman report.

The Committee thanked Mr Ridley for the report.

5. Gifts and Hospitality Register

Mr Ridley shared with the members the gifts and hospitality register for 2018. As part of openness and transparency Durham Constabulary records the receipt of all gifts and hospitality on a central register. Mr Ridley explained this is subject to periodic scrutiny as well as being presented to this Committee.

The Committee were complimentary about the low value level of gifts that were recorded and agreed this was good practice. Mrs Davies said it was heartening and humbling to think that the public take time out to express their gratitude.

The Committee were assured that sufficient processes are in place to document all gifts and hospitality and have requested that the gifts and hospitality register for the PCVC be presented at the next meeting.

6. PCVC Risk Register

Mr Ridley presented a report to update the Committee on the latest Plan on a Page risk register for the PCVC

Mr Humphries asked about the processes in place when recruiting Senior Executives within the PCVC office.

Mr Ridley explained about the recruitment process and how an external company had been used for this part of the process (Gatenby Sanderson Ltd.). The company went through the applications and shortlisted selected candidates who were invited to interview.

The interview panel had representation from the Chief Executive of the council, the PCVC, The Chief Finance Officer from Durham Constabulary, an independent charitable organisation and the HR department. The successful candidate was informed. Then a report was taken to the Police and

Crime Panel about the proposed appointment of the Chief Executive for the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham. (A decision record with this information is published on the PCVC website).

The Joint Audit Committee expressed satisfaction with the robustness and transparency of the appointment process and asked this to be documented.

Mr Humphries wanted clarity on the risk raised if the PCVC was unable to perform duties for a sustained period of time that the Chief Executive would become PCVC as per the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Mr Ridley advised that this would be for a short term until a replacement is found.

The Committee accepted the report and the recommendations presented to them.

7. 2019/20 Provisional Grant Settlement

Mr Ridley intended to give a verbal update of the 2019/20 provisional grant settlement however this has been delayed.

Mr Ridley explained how in 2018/19 each PCC was given the same amount of core government grant funding as in 2017/18 and that Nick Hurd (The Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service) had provided further flexibility to PCCs in England to increase their Band D precept by up to £12 in 2018/19. He said there is a planning assumption for 2019/20 to increase the precept by £24 per annum and he would encourage the PCVC to apply this increase.

Mr Ridley agreed he would take the report that goes to the Police and Crime Panel to the Joint Audit Committee meeting.

8. Any Other Business

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 29th January 2019

Time: 11.00am Place: Police Headquarters, Watson Room

Jo'Anne Connor
PCVC Governance Manager