



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



### Joint Independent Audit Committee

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019

11:00 – 12:50

Police HQ, Watson Room

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### Minutes

#### 1. Attendance/Apologies

##### Chair

Mrs E Davies

##### Members

Cllr E Bell, Mrs J Flynn, Mr R Humphries, Mr D Shingleton

##### Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

Mrs J Connor, Mr S White

##### Durham Constabulary

Mr G Ridley, Sgt A Stafford

##### External Audit

Mr M Kirkham, Mr J Collins

##### Internal Audit

Mr S Carter

##### Apologies

Mrs D Murphy, Cllr D Storr

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 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December were recorded as a true record. A copy of these minutes are available on the PCVC website.

#### 4. PCVC Gifts and Hospitality Register

A copy of the gifts and hospitality register was shared with the Joint Audit Committee members.

The Committee accepted the report and have requested further guidance for what and how information needs to be published by the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner. A copy of the protocol will be available at the next meeting.

## **5. Stop and Search Scrutiny Update**

Mrs Connor shared the dates provided by Mr Dove for the next round of Stop and Search which began in January 2019.

Mrs Davies asked for the analysis of this data to be fed back to a later meeting (scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019).

## **6. Spit Guards**

Mr Ridley explained that the Chief Constable has a duty of care under the Health & Safety at work Act to militate against a foreseeable risk and provide safe systems of work. It is the Police and Crime Commissioner's role to hold the Chief Constable to account and ensure officers are trained in recognising signs of vulnerability and to certify the correct procedures and protocols are in place to protect both staff and detainees.

Mr Ridley highlighted that the use of spit guards can be justified by factors that include the need to protect police officers but that their use must be proportionate and carried out correctly. He added that spit guards will be trialled later in the year in custody suites throughout the Constabulary.

The Committee asked for a Protocol around spit guards.

## **7. Annual Overview of Collaboration**

Mr Ridley updated the Committee in respect of collaboration. He explained that currently the Police and Fire & Rescue service provide training to each other where possible. It was hoped that the Police Station at Stanhope would move into the local fire station although some issues need to be resolved and the move was on hold until this was rectified.

The Joint Head of Legal Services continues to operate well across the North Yorkshire, Cleveland and Durham police forces and their PCC offices. Mr Ridley added progress had been made on moving towards a common IT system for legal casework which will save time and enable faster management information to be obtained.

Mr Ridley updated the Committee on the 7 force collaboration. Areas currently being considered are ICT and Digital Investigation.

The new Regional Organised Crime Unit has been jointly procured, refurbished and is now fully operational. The building still has space which enables further expansion in the fullness of time. Significant progress has been made to co-locate the Northumbria Fingerprint unit into Peterlee.

Mr Ridley said Durham Constabulary have continued to jointly develop Red Sigma with Cumbria currently developing the missing from home module.

The Committee thanked Mr Ridley for the report.

## **8. Budget Setting and Medium Term Financial Plan**

Mr Ridley shared with the Committee the high level position in respect of the 2019/20 National Draft Finance Settlement for Police, Durham's 2019/20 draft Revenue and Capital Budget and Durham's draft medium term financial outlook.

Key areas of note was the £970m national additional funding for the police service which includes £509m from the requested precept increase of £24 at Band D. This will be presented to the Police and Crime Panel on 1<sup>st</sup> February and to the Executive Board on 7<sup>th</sup> February.

Mr Ridley highlighted the additional funding is being given in return for improvements in efficiency and procurement, improvements in detective capacity and capability and improved serious and organised crime response.

He spoke of the on-cost rate for police officer pensions from April 2020 which will rise from 24.2% to 31%. When added to employers' national insurance of 13.8% this means the cost of a police officer is almost 45% greater than their gross salary.

Mr Ridley updated the Committee on the top slicing of grants nationally and where the money had been allocated.

Mr Ridley shared the 2019/20 draft Revenue and Capital this is underpinned by the 2% pay rise for officers and staff and there is no change to frontline police officer/staff numbers.

In relation to the Medium Term Financial (MTF) outlook a draft MTF plan has been produced indicating there is a balanced financial position for the next three years.

The Committee noted the report.

## **9. Treasury Management Report – Short Term Investments/Borrowings**

Mr Ridley presented a report which detailed the PCVC's short term investment and short term borrowing transactions during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

Mr Ridley updated the Committee of the primary objectives of the PCVC'S investment strategy looking at:

- Safeguarding the repayment of principle and interest of investments on time
- Ensuring adequate liquidity
- The investment return

Mr Ridley explained that the Treasury Management strategy was amended to revise the monetary and time limits to maximise investment return.

The Committee considered and approved the report.

#### **10. Internal Audit Progress Report**

Mr Carter shared the broad programme of work undertaken by Internal Audit between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

Mr Carter gave an update on the purpose of the report, the current position, a summary of all final assurance, amendments to planned work and a response to Audit recommendations.

The Joint Audit Committee were assured on the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control environment, with the progress made on delivering the Internal Audit plan for 2018/19. They thanked Mr Carter for the information shared.

#### **11. Statistics on Firearms Deployed**

Sgt Andy Stafford shared information on statistics of Firearms Deployed comparing the local picture against the national picture. He assured the Committee in County Durham and Darlington it is not a massive issue and anytime a firearm is discharged and hits the target there is a compulsory referral to Independent Office of Police Complaints (IOPC).

The Committee have asked what protocols are in place and a further breakdown is to be brought to a later meeting.

Mrs Davies thanked Sgt Stafford for stepping in at short notice and providing the information.

#### **12. Any Other Business**

No other business.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Time: 11.00am Place: Police Headquarters, Watson Room