



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

Joint Audit Committee

**Tuesday 19th January 2016
11.00 a.m.**



Police HQ – Watson Room

Attendees

Mrs Elsie Davies - Chair

Members

Cllr E Bell, Mrs J Flynn, Mr R Humphries, Mrs M Raine

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Mr A Reiss, Mrs J Connor, Mr J Carling

Durham Constabulary

Mr G Ridley

Auditors

Mrs C Eddowes, Mr M Kirkham

Internal Auditors

Mr S Carter

Apologies:

Introductions

1. Minutes of meeting held on 18 November 2015

Amendments to the minutes were made with specific dates included rather than the “future”. All agreed.

2. Matters arising

Mr Reiss updated the members on collaboration of the Police and Fire including estates, control room, back office functions and training. Mrs Flynn questioned whether the Ambulance services were involved - Mr Reiss stated that it was their duty to consider this.

Mr Ridley suggested that collaboration be put on the risk register.

Mrs Davies suggested for further meetings Mrs Connor will ask members if they require anything additional for the agenda.

Cllr Bell advised the Committee that Durham County Council have the contract to do the internal auditor role and if asked if he had to declare an interest as he is a County Councillor – it was noted.

3. Revised Terms of Reference

Mr Reiss produced the revised version - amendments sent out to members 19/01/2016

4. Forward Plan

The Committee approved the forward plan for 2016.

5. Internal Audit Charter

The Committee were asked to approve the Internal Audit Charter. Various amendments were hi-lighted and a revised electronic copy was sent out to members on 22/01/2016.

6. Budget Setting Update

Mr Ridley advised the Committee that the budget was still to be finalised as they are still waiting for Grant announcements. The PCC is consulting the public with a view to increase the precept by 1.98% which will keep 11 police officers on the street.

Mr Ridley highlighted that he had not used reserves and still have approximately £11.7m in the pot. He also advised the Committee that Durham is the second lowest Police Force in the Country with low levels of debt due to sensible spending.

Durham Constabulary are going to increase PCSOs and reduce PCs to save money. Councillor Bell enquired if PCSOs are going to get more powers and Mr Ridley informed him they are awaiting consultation results.

Mr Humphries enquired how complaints are dealt with for PCSOs – Mr Ridley said they are dealt with exactly the same as a PC.

Councillor Bell asked what level of first aid training was given and Mr Ridley advised it was dependant on the role for example Detention Officers have a higher level of first aid training due to the nature of their job.

Councillor Bell asked if we had done benchmarking with other similar forces on ICT. Mr Ridley informed that Durham are middle of the road however there will be an increase on expenditure due to Airwaves needing to be upgraded and also linking up with National Databases was costly but necessary.

7. ODPCC Risk Register

Mr Reiss talked about the risks that emerge as the environment evolves including collaboration.

Mr Reiss updated on the new structure of the office and what happens when a new PCC is elected.

Mr Reiss agreed to bring emerging risks as they happen to the Joint Audit Committee.

8. Precept Update

Mr Reiss updated the Committee on the precept which would increase by 1.98% it was out for public consultation.

Mr Humphries asked if they had been any hostility or objectives by the public – nothing to note to date.

9. Decision Log

The decision log was shown to the Joint Audit Committee and Mrs Connor has sent the link out to the members for easy access.

It was agreed to add this to agenda to address 6 monthly.

10. Any other business

Mrs Davies wished to thank Mr Barnes and Mr Wardell for their work and welcomed the new members of the Mazars team, Mrs C Eddowes and Mr M Kirkham.