

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE**JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE:****16 JUNE 2014**

SENIOR MANAGERS' ASSURANCE STATEMENTS**REPORT OF JOINT CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the assurance which the Chief Executive to the PCC and Force managers have placed on their control systems to feed into the Annual Governance Statement for 2013/14.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 require Authorities to produce an Annual Governance Statement giving an assessment of governance arrangements and their effectiveness.
- 2.2 The Audit Committee agreed on 24th February 2014 an assurance framework which would provide evidence for the completion of the Annual Governance Statement. Assurances from managers on the effectiveness of controls they have in place in their departments were fundamental within the framework and form a key part of the review of the effectiveness of internal control as set out in the Annual Governance Statements for both the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Chief Constable reported on today's agenda.
- 2.3 The Chief Executive to the PCC, Heads of Departments and Area Commanders were asked to complete self-assessments, which took the form of a questionnaire covering the processes in place to manage their key business risks. They were required to state whether they agreed or disagreed that the processes they had in place provided an effective level of assurance and compliance. There was also a requirement to detail the evidence to support their assessment and highlight any areas of either above or below average performance or outputs.

3 Overall Opinion

- 3.1 Based on evidence arising from the self-assessments for 2013/14, all managers agreed that effective controls are in place to allow them to achieve their service objectives and therefore the objectives of the PCC and Chief Constable.

- 3.2 All assessments issued have been returned detailing satisfactory evidence. An example return is attached at Appendix A showing each process being assessed.
- 3.3 Managers have fully agreed that they have effective controls in place with the exception of one area of non-compliance being highlighted within the Crime Department in respect of the control of assets.
- 3.4 Internal Audit has time in the 2014/15 audit plan to review the evidence and actions identified by managers on their assurance statements. The outcome of this work will be reported to the Joint Independent Audit Committee prior to the end of September 2014 and the approval of each body's financial statements.

4 Equal opportunities implications

- 4.1 It is considered that there are no equal opportunities implications arising from the report.

5 Human rights implications

- 5.1 It is considered that there are no human rights implications arising from the report.

6 Risk Management implications

- 6.1 Ongoing reviews of controls and their effectiveness will assist managers in the identification and mitigation of risk.

7 Financial implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report

8 Recommendation

- 8.1 The Committee is asked to note the assurances provided by senior managers.