

JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE

23 February 2015 AT Meeting Room 3, Forth Banks Newcastle

PRESENT: J Cooke (Chair), E Hayward and N Mundy

APOLOGIES: P Angier

OFFICERS: B McCardle - Assistant Chief Officer, Northumbria Police
M Tait - Joint Chief Finance Officer
E Snaith - Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
P Godden - Corporate Development Manager, Northumbria Police
L Donnelly - Business Administration Trainee, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

APOLOGIES: D Lowery - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
D Johnson - Chief Internal Auditor

INVITEES: G Davies - Mazars
J Dafter - Mazars
J Wright - Audit and Risk Manager, Gateshead Council

36. MINUTES

RESOLVED - (i) That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

37. ACTION LIST FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

(i) Members were provided with an update relating to the Terms of Reference. M Tait stated that the position remains unchanged but this will be reviewed alongside other governance issues and the recruitment of new members and will be reported at the next meeting.

(ii) J Wright provided an update on the progress against UKPSIAS. This was discussed in agenda item 11.

DISCHARGED

(iii) P Godden confirmed that the Crime Data Integrity was now included within the Risk Register.

DISCHARGED

(iv) M Tait confirmed he had sent out a summary of the key variances in regard to the VFM Profiles.

DISCHARGED

- (v) B McCardle confirmed that the information regarding penetration tests had been provided. N Mundy asked if it was possible, once work is done, to look at headline findings.

DISCHARGED

38. INTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2015/18 AND DRAFT ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2015/16

J Wright presented the Internal Audit Strategy Statement 2015/18 and Draft Annual Audit Plan 2015/16 to the Joint Independent Audit Committee. J Wright confirmed that the Strategy was largely a continuation from previous years but that the detailed Annual Plan had been subject to extensive consultation with the Director of Finance.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Internal Audit Strategy Statement 2015/18 be agreed; and
 - (ii) That the Annual Audit Plan 2015/16 be agreed and quarterly monitoring reports be received showing progress made against the plan.

39. AUDIT STRATEGY MEMORANDUM: PCC

G Davies, Mazars, presented the Audit Strategy Memorandum for year ended 31 March 2015 for the Police and Crime Commissioner.

N Mundy, raised question as to when there will be a move away from the Audit Commission Code. G Davies confirmed it will come into effect on the 1st April and will apply to audit 2015/16 onwards. G Davies noted in the Memorandum that there was a greater focus on Value for Money conclusion, ultimately taking a view on the concept of 'going concern'. G Davies asked the Committee if they wished any views to be taken into account. N Mundy proposed that income generation should be reviewed as part of this work.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

40. AUDIT STRATEGY MEMORANDUM: CHIEF CONSTABLE

G Davies, Mazars, presented the Audit Strategy Memorandum for the year ended 31 March 2015 for the Chief Constable.

G Davies advised that this Audit Strategy Memorandum is the same as the Police and Crime Commissioner's other than it omits all issues relating to fixed assets.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

41. SUMMARY OF RECENT INSPECTION REPORTS

P Godden presented the report to the Joint Independent Audit Committee and highlighted that the reports all related to national reviews and none were Northumbria specific.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

42. CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT

P Godden presented the report to the Joint Independent Audit Committee highlighting that a new strategic risk had been included regarding Data Integrity which satisfied the action from the previous meeting. The Chair suggested that the Risk Register should include a date and version reference.

RESOLVED - (i) That the information be noted.

43. CRIME DATA INTEGRITY - UPDATE

P Godden presented the report to the Joint Independent Audit Committee. The Chair acknowledged the tremendous progress that has been made in this area of business.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

44. TREASURY POLICY STATEMENT AND TREASURY STRATEGY 2015/16 TO 2017/18

M Tait presented the report to the Joint Independent Audit Committee. He advised that both the Treasury Policy Statement and the Strategy continues the approach taken in recent years and therefore there was no significant change that members needed to be aware of. He further added that the strategy support for treasury activity continues to be provided by Capita Asset Services who are engaged as specialist Treasury Management advisers. If approval given by the committee the report will be progressed through the Police and Crime Commissioner for formal approval.

The Chair suggested that the documents should be updated to reflect specific job title rather than using the generic term 'treasurer'.

RESOLVED - That the Treasury Policy Statement and Treasury Strategy 2015/15 to 2017/18 be agreed for formal progression to the Police and Crime Commissioner,

45. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW - ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK - 2014/15

M Tait, presented the report to the Joint Independent Audit Committee, subject to the following comments, the approach was fully endorsed and agreed.

- there should be a separate heading for the review of the effectiveness of the Joint Independent Audit Committee and that it not be subsumed within the review of Internal Audit.
- the section on performance management should make explicit reference to the Police and Crime Plan.

RESOLVED - Subject to the changes above the Annual Governance Statement – Assurance Framework 2014/15 is agreed.

46. UPDATE ON INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC SECTOR INTERNAL AUDIT STANDARDS (UKPSIAS)

J Dafter presented the report to the Joint Independent Audit Committee, and advised that the assessment of the Gateshead Council Internal Audit service was that it is substantially compliant with the PSIAS

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

47. DRAFT MEETING PLAN 2015/16

Members received the 2015/16 draft meeting plan for the Joint Independent Audit Committee including the proposed agenda items for each meeting.

It was confirmed that all meetings will commence at 2:00 pm.

RESOLVED: That the Meeting Plan 2015/16 is agreed.

48. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining business in accordance with the indicated paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.