

**INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER****JOINT REPORT OF THE JOINT FINANCE OFFICER AND CHIEF  
INTERNAL AUDITOR**

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**1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To approve the revised Internal Audit Charter.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 The purpose, authority and responsibility of Internal Audit must be formally defined in an Internal Audit Charter, consistent with the definition of Internal Auditing outlined in Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). The Chief Internal Auditor must periodically review the internal audit charter and present it for approval. The Internal Audit Charter was revised in September 2013 to comply with the introduction of a common set of UK Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) with effect from 1 April 2013.
- 2.2 The Internal Audit Charter was last presented to Committee in September 2014. This report seeks comments on and approval of the Internal Audit Charter on an annual basis in line with best practice.

**3 Revised Internal Audit Charter**

- 3.1 A key element of compliance with PSIAS is the regular review and approval by the Joint Independent Audit Committee of an Internal Audit Charter. The Charter is a formal document that defines internal audit's purpose, authority and responsibility and establishes its position within both the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and the Force.
- 3.2 Northumbria Police has always set out its terms of reference in an Audit Charter and so this is not a significant change, however the Charter was updated in September 2013 to ensure compliance with the new standards. The Charter sets out the Chief Internal Auditor's functional reporting relationships, authorises rights of access for internal audit staff and defines the scope of internal activity.
- 3.3 The Charter is now reviewed annually with any amendments reported to this Committee for approval.
- 3.4 This year's review has incorporated the restriction in rights of access for internal audit staff in relation to covert assets. One further minor

change reflects reference to the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 which became effective 1 April 2015.

- 3.5 The revised Audit Charter is attached at Appendix A for approval.

#### **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 There are no additional risk management implications arising directly from this report. The Internal Audit Charter supports the effective and efficient use of resources.

#### **7 Financial implications**

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

#### **8 Recommendation**

- 8.1 The Committee is requested to approve the Internal Audit Charter.