



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER



JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE

**MONDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2016
AT 2:00 PM**

**MEETING HELD IN
MEETING ROOM 3
NEWCASTLE CITY CENTRE POLICE STATION**

MINUTES AND ACTIONS

PRESENT:

Members: J Cooke (Chair), P Wood, P Angier

Officers: M Tait Joint Chief Finance Officer
E Snaith Chief Executive, Police and Crime Commissioner
W Keenan Deputy Chief Constable
P Godden Head of Corporate Development

Invitees: C Waddell Partner, Mazars
J Wright Internal Audit Manager, Gateshead Council
J Worland Principal Accountant, Northumbria Police

Apologies: N Mundy (Member), K Amlani (Member)

154. INTRODUCTION

J Cooke opened the meeting.

155. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- With regard to Declarations of Interest, Mr Angier advised members that he holds the position of Chair for the Coalition against Crime which is an organisation which receives a level of funding from Northumbria Police.

RESOLVED – Members **Noted** this update

156. MINUTES OF JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE 12 SEPTEMBER 2016

Minute 143 (Annual Governance Statement 2015/16) – M Tait confirmed that Value for Money is included within the Governance report.

Minute 147 Complaints Against Police and Crime Commissioners and/or Deputy Police and Crime Commissioners – E Snaith advised members that she was awaiting changes in legislation with regard to this matter and a report will be presented at a future meeting of the group.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

RESOLVED - The minutes of the meeting held on the 12 September 2016 were **Agreed** as a true and accurate record.

157. ACTION LIST FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED - Following a brief discussion regarding this item members **Agreed** the Action list as presented.

158. JIAC ANNUAL REPORT

RESOLVED - Following a brief discussion members **Noted**, the Chair's report for the Year Ending 31st March 2016, and the interim update to December 2016.

159. ANNUAL AUDIT LETTERS 2015/16

C Waddell provided an update regarding the Annual Audit Letters 2015/16 for the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner. He advised that;

- Assurances had been received from the Tyne and Wear Pension Fund auditors;
- Assurance had been received from Central Government regarding the Police Officer Pension Fund;
- There were no concerns regarding internal controls;
- Both the financial statements and Value for Money for the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner have received an unqualified opinion.
- Challenges ahead will be primarily around increasing pressures on public sector funding.
- Audit fees for the next financial year will remain unchanged.

RESOLVED – Members **Noted** this update.

160. EXTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT

C Waddell provided a brief update regarding the plans for 2016/17, advising members that meetings are currently being scheduled with M Tait (Chief Finance Officer).

RESOLVED – Members **Noted** the contents of report.

161. INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER

J Wright presented the Internal Audit Charter report.

RESOLVED – Members **Agreed** the Internal Audit Charter.

162. EMERGENT AUDIT PLAN 2017/18 – 2019/20

J Wright presented the report in respect to the Emergent Audit Plan. A detailed discussion followed, where members sought assurances regarding the level of coverage in areas such as the Custody of Cash, ICT and Charities. The Chair specifically requested confirmation regarding the audit of Firearms Licences, and was advised by J Wright that an audit had recently been carried out in this area and a report will be provided to the next meeting of the group.

RESOLVED - The Committee reviewed the Emergent Audit Plan and **Agreed** to receive a final plan at the next meeting of the group.

163. EXTERNAL AUDIT APPOINTMENTS

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

M Tait provided members with an update regarding the national position with respect to appointing external auditors. He identified that the intentions would be to let the contract via the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) with the successful organisation also providing services to other Police bodies. He went on to say that the new national approach will require a decision by the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner by 9th March 2017.

RESOLVED Committee **Noted** the update and **Agreed** to receive a further update at the February 2017 meeting.

Note: C Waddell (Mazars) left the room to enable members to discuss this item.

164. STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT

P Godden presented the previously circulated Joint Strategic Risk Register. Referring to the paper he identified changes to controls and likelihood ratings of existing risks (risks 11, 15, 16, 20 and 21). He requested that members approve the removal of risk 18 which related to short term negative cash flow and requested that members note the reinstatement of risk 34 which relates to the working relationship between Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable.

P Godden went on to highlight the inclusion of new risks surrounding delays in the delivery of the national emergency services network (ESN), risk 35.

Following a discussion, members requested;

- Clarification regarding the type of RAG system used by other Forces;
- For an overall score for each risk to be added to the register;
- Clarification regarding any licencing issues/risks which may give rise following the delay in the national rollout of the ESN system.

RESOLVED – i) Members **Noted**, the report and **Agreed** the changes to the register as identified in the Report.

ii) Members also **Agreed** to P Godden providing clarification on the points raised at a future meeting of the group.

Note: Appendix B to be circulated with the minutes.

165. SUMMARY OF RECENT INSPECTION/EXTERNAL REPORTS

P Godden presented a previously circulated report which provided details of recent external inspections. He highlighted that the HMIC had given a 'Good' rating to Northumbria Police.

RESOLVED – Members **Noted** this report.

166. UPDATE ON REVIEW OF JOINT PCC/CC GOVERNANCE

M Tait provided a verbal update regarding the current position with reviewing the Governance statements for the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner. He advised members that when the final draft had been signed off it would be presented at a future meeting of the group.

RESOLVED – Members **Noted** this update.

167. MEETING PLAN 2016/17

RESOLVED - Members discussed the proposed meeting dates for 2017 and **Agreed** the following dates:

27 February 2017
19 June 2017
11 September 2017
4 December 2017

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

168. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC – EXEMPT BUSINESS

The Committee is asked to pass a resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the grounds indicated.

RESOLVED - The press and public were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining business in accordance of Paragraph 7 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.