

JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE

**MONDAY 19 JUNE 2017
AT 2:00 PM**

**MEETING HELD IN
MEETING ROOM 1
NEWCASTLE CITY CENTRE POLICE STATION**

MINUTES AND ACTIONS

PRESENT:

Members: J Cooke (Chair), P Wood, P Angier, N Mundy, K Amlani

Officers: M Tait Joint Chief Finance Officer
E Snaith Chief Executive, Police and Crime Commissioner
W Keenan Deputy Chief Constable

Invitees: C Waddell Partner, Mazars
J Wright Internal Audit Manager, Gateshead Council
J Dafter Partner, Mazars
C Morton Treasury and Performance Accountant, Gateshead
K Laing Head of Finance
G Dickson Principal Accountant
J Lawson Director of People and Development
P Milner Superintendent South
P Godden Head of Corporate Development

Apologies: L Gosling Chief Inspector Training

186 INTRODUCTION

J Cooke opened the meeting.

187 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nothing to declare.

188 MINUTES OF JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE 27 FEBRUARY 2017

RESOLVED – The minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2017 were **AGREED** as a true and accurate record.

189 ACTION LIST FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

K Laing (Head of Finance) provided a verbal update on the appointment process of External Auditors.

The Chair confirmed that the next JIAC meeting would take place at Follingsby Firearms Facility on 18 September 2017.

A 30 minute training session was held at 13:00 prior to the meeting, to assist Members with understanding Treasury matters. All Members agreed that it was beneficial and Members are invited to stay following the meeting to discuss any issues further.

4i – 2017 Staff Survey Executive Summary

J Lawson provided an update on the 2017 Staff Survey, conducted by Durham University.

The results were very successful with a response rate of 67.9%, the highest in the country. Areas deemed 'low' such as Procedural Fairness and Perceived Organisational Support are consistent with other forces' results; however, workshops which aim to encourage supportive behavioural styles of management will take place in September 2017.

4ii – Stop and Search Inspection Update

Superintendent P Milner provided an update on the recent 'Stop and Search' external inspection report. Following removal from the scheme in October 2015, Northumbria initiated an action plan in 3 key areas: Community Trigger, Community Scrutiny and Publishing Performance and Statistics. As of 2017, Northumbria are now fully compliant following research from youth groups and projects which log complaints and are thoroughly assessed. A sample of 200 stop and search forms found we had a 94%+ compliance rate. The increased use of body cams also provides safety to officers, assists with street interviews and deters aggressive behaviour.

190 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2016/17

5i – Senior Managers' Assurance Statements

J Wright presented a previously circulated report which outlined the assurances which the Chief Executive to the PCC and Force Managers had placed on their control systems to feed into the Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17.

RESOLVED – Members **NOTED** this report.

5ii – Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Audit 2016/17

J Wright presented a previously circulated report which reviewed the effectiveness of the system of Internal Audit for 2016/17. N Mundy advised that a wider sample size may be beneficial in gaining a broader response in future. All members agreed with the overall effectiveness.

RESOLVED – Members **NOTED** this report.

5iii – Internal Audit Annual Report 2016/17

J Wright presented a previously circulated report regarding the assessment of work undertaken by the Internal Audit Service during 2016/17. Of the final audit reports issued, 21 of 27 systems and procedures were 'operating well.' Evidence arising from Internal Audit activity during 2016/17 showed that internal control systems, risk management and governance arrangements were considered to be effective.

RESOLVED – Members **NOTED** this report.

5iv – Corporate Risk Management – Annual Report

P Godden presented a previously circulated report which provided an overview on the management of strategic risk, as presented within the PCC and Chief Constable's Joint Strategic Risk Register. The report found that five new risks were added to the register and three removed within the last year.

RESOLVED – Members **NOTED** this report.

5v – Performance and Data Quality Assurance – Annual Report

P Godden gave an overview of the report of arrangements in place for performance management and data quality. The Data Quality Audit Plan of 2016/17 found systems and controls were 'operating well'. Despite an increase in compliance within recording crime, the judgement made by HMIC (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary) is 'requires improvement.' Mr Godden advised that the force is actively managing these improvements.

RESOLVED – Members **NOTED** this report.

5vi – Self-assessment of the Chief Finance Officer

M Tait presented a previously circulated report which was an assessment of his joint CFO

(CFO for the Chief Constable and for the Police and Crime Commissioner). The findings were that the joint role was operating well.

RESOLVED – Members **NOTED** this report.

5vii – Legal and Regulatory Assurance

M Tait provided members with an update on governance issues in relation to Legal and Regulatory services, and found that there were no issues to report that would impact on the AGS (Annual Governance Statement) of 2016/17.

RESOLVED – Members **NOTED** this report.

5viii – Other Assurances

K Laing presented a previously circulated report with regards to assurance work completed to support the AGS 2016/17. No new issues were identified.

RESOLVED – Members **NOTED** this report and **AGREED** to include it within the Annual Governance Statement.

191 SUMMARY OF RECENT EXTERNAL INSPECTION REPORTS

P Godden updated members with the most recent external inspection report findings, and found that the overall judgement for Northumbria Police was 'good'. One area found requiring improvement was the Force's ability to examine digital devices; an action plan has since been put in place to reduce the time taken to examine each device, along with a system to ensure devices are prioritised without compromising investigations. P Godden assured the Committee that reducing re-offending was included in this judgement rating.

RESOLVED – Members **NOTED** this report.

192 JOINT STRATEGIC REPORT JUNE 2017

- P Godden provided an update on the current Strategic Risk Register. Changes include:
- Risk 11 – Failure to have sufficient appropriate adults to support detainees in custody. Risk lowered from medium (3) to very low (1).
 - Risk 15 – Failure to maintain on-going recruitment of officers. Title altered to 'Failure to maintain an effective resourcing and deployment model through recruitment, retention and progression.' Work is on-going to explore routes into the Police, such as apprenticeships.
 - Risk 20 and 23 – Major ICT or telecommunications systems failure/significant cyber-attack on Force systems. Increased from low (2) to medium (3) due to recent cyber attack incidents.
 - Risk 24 – Failure to dispose of HQ site and other estate assets as valued within the MTF5. Contracts have been exchanged with a new developer and completion is estimated before March 2018.

RESOLVED – Members **NOTED** this report.

193 EXTERNAL AUDIT – MAZARS AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

J Dafter provided a verbal update on the progress in delivering responsibilities as external auditors.

RESOLVED – Members **NOTED** this report.

194 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

K Laing presented a previously circulated report of the Treasury Management Annual Report 2016/17. Borrowing costs were lower for the year 2016/17 due to internal cash resources being cheaper than external borrowing. Overall there was a net saving of over £1,000,000.

RESOLVED – Members **NOTED** this report.

195 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.