

**JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2018 at 14:00**

**MEETING HELD IN MEETING ROOM 2
NEWCASTLE CITY CENTRE POLICE STATION
FORTH BANKS**

MINUTES AND ACTIONS

PRESENT:

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

Officers: M Tait Joint Chief Finance Officer
D Best Deputy Chief Constable
R Durham Chief of Staff & Monitoring Officer

Invitees: J Dafter Senior Manager, Mazars
A Buckingham Internal Audit Manager, Gateshead Council
K Laing Head of Finance
P Godden Head of Corporate Development
T Reade Corporate Governance Manager
M Barton Superintendent Digital Policing
A Burdon Information Security Officer

Apologies: N Mundy Committee Member
C Waddell Partner, Mazars
P Godden Head of Corporate Development

232 INTRODUCTION

J Cooke opened the meeting.

233 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nothing to declare from Members.

234 MINUTES OF JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE 4 DECEMBER 2017

RESOLVED – It was **AGREED** that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

235 ACTION LIST FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

R Durham explained the role of the police & crime panel. J Cooke explained how the committee would like a record of complaints within the governance statement. P Wood requested to know about the nature and volume of complaints for within the Force and not the specific ones regarding the Commissioner or Chief Constable. D Best said there was a quarterly report produced by the Confidence and Standards Board, which draws in complaints and issues from many areas such as Firearms Licencing etc. Complaints and issues are discussed and monitored in detail and reported to the PCC.

ACTION - M Tait confirmed that information on complaints for the commissioner could be included within the Annual Governance Statements.

K Laing gave a full description of the situation regarding medical record checks before issuing or renewing Firearms Licences. J Cooke thanked Kevin for the information.

236 CYBER CRIME UPDATE

M Barton gave a PowerPoint presentation to inform the committee of the work the Force is undertaking in relation to cybercrime. J Cook asked if the Force had the capability to decode telephones and computers in light of national news reports of rape cases collapsing due to disclosure issues. M Barton explained these were two separate issues, he was confident that Northumbria had the capability to retrieve the information from devices, but the other issue was down to the disclosure of information. D Best explained that the cases had collapsed for the other Forces due to insufficient disclosure.

RESOLVED - Members **NOTED** the presentation.

237 THE ROLE OF THE INFORMATION OFFICER

A Burdon gave a verbal presentation regarding his role in the Force. J Cooke asked why the Force only carried out a yearly cyber check. A Burdon said that the yearly penetration test cost £17k and took over a week, but the Force had recently purchased new software that will allow them to test the network at any time for network vulnerability. P Angier asked if there was any peer cross checking with other Forces. A Burdon confirmed there was a regional Information Security Officer (ISO) network forum and the Force has close links with Durham and Cleveland police, as well as external audit from Newcastle City Council. P Wood asked if there had been any breaches of data disclosure. A Burdon replied that there had been a few incidents due to user error and no attacks from outside forces. J Cooke asked how confident do you feel about GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations), A Burdon said they were following the 12 step GDPR plan.

ACTION - M Tait said that an update on the 12 step plan would be brought to the next committee.

RESOLVED - Members **NOTED** the presentation.

238 AUDIT STRATEGY MEMORANDUM 2017/18

J Dafter gave the update regarding the memorandum. J Cooke asked if the work for close of accounts would be completed by the end of May, K Laing confirmed that it would be, due to the planning and work already completed to date. K Amlani asked why there was an accrual for holidays. M Tait explained it was due to the annual leave year differing from the financial year. P Angier enquired why the materiality was set low for remuneration information disclosed within the statement of accounts. J Dafter replied that from experience the public will normally enquire regarding pay & exit packages.

RESOLVED - Members **NOTED** this report.

239 SUMMARY OF RECENT EXTERNAL INSPECTION REPORTS

T Reade gave the report. J Cooke asked if being part of the National Police Air Scheme (NPAS) was cheaper than the Force owning a helicopter. M Tait said it was significantly cheaper but that charges are being nationally reviewed next year. K Amlani asked if the Force had a Drone, D Best said that they had an agreement with Tyne & Wear Fire Service to use theirs when needed. P Angier asked for clarification regarding Stop and Search. T Reade explained how they were using external scrutiny through the Strategic Independent Advisory Group as well as community engagement officers and youth groups who then give feedback to say if the use is proportionate.

RESOLVED - Members **NOTED** this report.

240 JOINT STRATEGIC RISK REPORT SEPTEMBER 2017

T Reade presented the report. K Amlani enquired about the sale of the headquarters site. M Tait has confirmed that it is still in progress.

RESOLVED - Members **NOTED** this report.

241 TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT & STRATEGY 2018/19 – 2021/22

K Laing presented the statement. J Cooke asked if there is a rise in interest rates in May or December will this affect the Force. K Laing said this would be analysed when making borrowing short term vs long term loans. P Angier asked if there was a table of trigger rates. K Laing said no, the trigger points were continually assessed and monitored in collaboration with our external Treasury Management advisors Link Asset Management.

P Angier asked if the Commissioner had to make the decision for changes to the Investment Strategy or had the powers been delegated to the Joint Chief Finance Officer. M Tait said the powers had been delegated and that they would review the use of the word commissioner to bring this in line with wording set in the financial regulations and standards. J Cooke requested that for future meetings this statement could be marked with a date and a version.

ACTION - M Tait agreed to this.

K Laing said that Northumbria Police had been accepted as a professional investor to the money market funds. P Wood asked if this would mean that higher risk funds would be used. K Laing stated this would not happen and only AAA+ funds would be used. K Amlani asked what the upper threshold was for borrowing. K Laing said we would spread the borrowing over a number of different time periods, this minimises the danger of a spike in interest rates and manages interest rate risk.

J Cooke said it would be useful for members to have a copy of the public document pack for the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), as reported to the Police and Crime panel, when reviewing the strategy as it would be useful to give background information.

ACTION - M Tait agreed to this.

RESOLVED - The strategy was **AGREED** - subject to amendments.

242 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2018/19 – 2020/21

A Buckingham gave the report.

RESOLVED - Members **NOTED** this report.

243 TERMS OF APPOINTMENT- JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE

M Tait gave the report. J Cooke asked if the position of chair was still an appointment by the committee members. M Tait confirmed this.

RESOLVED - Members **NOTED** this report.

244 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.