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Joint Independent Audit Committee

Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable

Annual Report 2017/18

This annual report of the Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable's Joint Independent Audit Committee covers the year 2017/18.

The purpose of the Joint Independent Audit Committee is to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Commissioner and the Chief Constable on the adequacy of the governance and risk management frameworks, the internal control environment, and financial reporting, thereby helping to ensure efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place. To this end the Committee is enabled and required to have oversight of, and to provide independent review of, the effectiveness of Humberside's governance, risk management and control frameworks, its financial reporting and annual governance processes, and internal and external audit.

Membership

Membership of the Committee is as follows:

Doug Chapman (Chair)
Martin Allingham
James Doyle
Pam Jackson
Andy Smith
Mandy Thomlinson
Clive Vertigans

Members of the Committee are also Members of the Humberside Fire and Rescue Service Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee and were recruited in their individual capacities in March 2017. Members bring with them a range of experience and skills which cover the various aspects of the work. In order to ensure that we are up-to-date with knowledge and skills Committee members have attended external training events facilitated by our treasury management advisers and CIPFA.

Attendance

In addition to an Induction meeting that was held on 27.03.17, formal meetings are held regularly and the Committee met on the following dates during 2017/18:

22 May 2017
30 June 2017
25 September 2017

11 December 2017
19 March 2018

Audit Committee Member	Possible Meetings	Meetings Attended
Doug Chapman (Chair)	5	5
Martin Allingham	5	5
James Doyle	5	5
Pam Jackson	5	5
Andy Smith	5	5
Mandy Thomlinson	5	4
Clive Vertigans	5	4

Total Possible Attendances	35
Total Actual Attendances	33
Percentage Attendance	94%

Work of the Committee

We agreed at the outset, and have amended as necessary, a cycle of business that is used to drive our agendas. We review our Terms of Reference at each meeting to ensure that the Committee fulfils its obligations.

We have advised and supported the Commissioner and the Chief Constable in considering the Commissioner's and the Chief Constable's Annual Governance Statements and Financial Statements of Accounts, providing assurance that they complied with the relevant requirements and recommending them for approval.

Since our establishment we have met regularly with the Internal Auditors and have approved the 2016/17 Annual Opinion and Outturn report and the Strategy and Plans for 2017/18 and recently for 2018/19. We have received progress reports against the Plan to each of our meetings. We have access to all Internal Audit reports and all summaries and details of recommendations outstanding are submitted formally to the Committee. We considered and supported the entering into of a S22a Collaboration Agreement to continue the current internal audit arrangements. We have also looked at wider audit and inspection activity conducted within the Force and the assurance work undertaken by the OPCC.

We have also met regularly with our External Auditors, who during 2017/18 were KPMG, and have received reports from them to each of our meetings. We received their Annual Audit Letters 2016/17 and was pleased to note that unqualified opinions had been given on the Statements of Accounts of the PCC Group and of the Chief Constable. We considered their Plan for 2017/18 and have been briefed regularly on the Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) exercise that has led to Mazars being appointed as External Auditors from 2018/19.

At the time that we were established, the Commissioner had already approved the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2017/18, however, we were fully briefed on it and received annual and mid-year review reports. We subsequently

considered and recommended to the Commissioner the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2018/19 which was approved.

We have received reports on the risk management activity within both the Force and the OPCC, together with the arrangements in place to provide assurance to the PCC on the activities of the Force. We also received reports on the Annual Fraud Risk Assessment and regular reports on civil claims and special payments made by the Force.

In addition we have considered and commented on the Commissioner's Annual Report, received briefings on current policing issues, including the Force's recent introduction of a Plan on a Page and the Medium Term Resourcing Strategy and precept. We now also receive resourcing updates to each of our meetings, which allows us an oversight of the Force's monitoring of its resources, both financial and staff.

The future

We have recently conducted a self-assessment exercise looking at our own effectiveness which will be used to help us to identify any gaps and enable us to develop further. As we sit on Committees for both Fire and the PCC/Chief Constable we are naturally interested in the increase in collaboration between the two services and the activity that is taking place both locally and nationally. This area of work, particularly with the introduction of a single HMICFRS inspection regime from 2018/19 will continue to have our attention.

Further information

For further information on the work of the Joint Independent Audit Committee (agendas, minutes and reports) please visit the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside's website at <http://www.humberside-pcc.gov.uk/Working-for-you/How-We-Make-Decisions/How-We-Make-Decisions.aspx>.

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