



## **JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

#### **PRESENT**

Mr Paul Richardson (Chair)

Ms Claire Hounslea

Mr John Baker

Mr Stephen Dunstan

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr A Dalecki                      Head of Internal Audit, LCC

Mrs L Rix                              Audit Manager, LCC

Mrs G Routledge                  Chief Operating Officer, Lancashire Constabulary

Mr D Rogers                        Lancashire Constabulary

Mrs A Harrison                    Chief Executive, OPCC

Mr S Freeman                      Chief finance officer, OPCC

Mr I Dickinson                    Head of Governance and Accountability, OPCC

Mrs C Benton                        Governance and Accountability Officer, OPCC

#### **Part 1**

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Ms Margaret Rawding

Mr G Winstanley                  Grant Thornton

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the first meeting of the new Joint Independent Audit Committee.

## **Disclosure of Members Interests**

There were no Members' interests for disclosure.

## **Membership and Terms of Reference**

Subject to a query in relation to the appointment of a vice-chair it was explained that, due to the size of the committee, a vice-chair had never previously been appointed. It was agreed that, should the Chair be unavailable, then a Vice-Chair would be appointed.

**01/2023 Resolved:** The Terms of Reference were noted.

## **External Audit – Interim Audit Findings Report 2021/22**

The Chair registered disappointment in not being able to engage on this item.

The Committee noted that the interim report was positive for both organisations and that the full report would be presented at the next meeting.

The Committee noted the impact of the late conclusion of the 21/22 accounts.

**02/2023 Resolved:** That a letter expressing the concerns of the Committee in relation to the lateness of accounts for 2021/22 and the implications for the Constabulary and the PCC be sent to Grant Thornton.

## **Internal Audit Annual Report 2022/23**

The Committee received the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2022/23. It was noted that, since the last meeting of the Joint Audit and Ethics Committee two audits had been finalised, two follow up audits had been completed and others were in progress.

The Internal Auditors informed the Committee that good assurance levels were given in 73% of audits completed and overall, a moderate assurance level was given, evidencing the good progress made. It was noted that in order for there to be a substantial rating, certain key areas such as the Constabulary's governance and the audit process needed to be embedded further. In addition to this, more progress needs to be seen in the implementation of actions from previous audits.

It was also acknowledged that where actions were superseded or a decision made not to progress particular actions, it was important for the Committee to understand the context and rationale.

In response to a question about charging, Mrs Rix confirmed that the charge is for actual days used and not for the number of days allocated.

**03/2023 Resolved:** That the Committee noted the Annual Report.

## **Internal Audit Monitoring Report**

The Committee received the monitoring report for the period ended 31 May 2023, advising only limited work has been carried out so far with work having started on 3 audits, Payroll, Pensions and Firearms Licensing. Progress will be updated at the next meeting.

Mrs Routledge advised the Committee that, as the Constabulary had recently brought the Oracle system in-house, the payroll audit had been requested to provide assurance.

A discussion ensued about how audits were prioritised and some of the factors that could affect that.

**04/2023 RESOLVED:** That the Committee noted the monitoring report

## **Financial Monitoring Position as at 31 March 2023**

Mr Freeman presented the yearend financial report for the financial year 2022/23 which had recently been signed off by the Police and Crime Commissioner (Decision 11/2023) and presented to the Accountability Board.

A discussion ensued about the need to be agile and review the financial strategy during the year.

**05/2023 Resolved:** The Committee noted the financial position as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and the PCC's decisions.

## **Forward Plan**

The Committee were presented with a draft summary of the proposed work programme for the JIAC to consider.

## **06/2023 Resolved:**

That in addition to the proposed forward plan presented the Committee requested:

- i) A report be presented bi-annually in relation to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy to include the progress of the police uplift programme
- ii) The Fraud Strategy be presented to the November meeting

- iii) An annual review of the Committee performance be presented to include both Internal and External Audit
- iv) Separate meetings to be arranged with the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner at an appropriate time.
- v) Private meetings with Internal and External Audit, outside the formal meeting.

### **Urgent Business**

There were no items of Urgent Business raised at the meeting.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

#### **07/2023 Resolved:**

That the next scheduled meeting of the Committee be held at 10am on Wednesday 13 September 2023, at County Hall, Preston.