

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR WILTSHIRE AND
CHIEF CONSTABLE OF WILTSHIRE POLICE
JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL STATEMENT 2018-19**

1. The Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) was established by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Chief Constable in 2012, implementing a recommendation in the Home Office's Financial Management Code of Practice for Police Forces.
2. The JIAC is totally independent of both the PCC and the Chief Constable and its role is to provide independent assurance to the PCC and Chief Constable on the adequacy of the governance and control processes within their organisations.
3. Each year the JIAC produces an annual statement. The last statement was issued in November 2018, covering the work of the meetings held during the period July 2017 to July 2018.
4. The purpose of the annual statement is to summarise the work undertaken by the Committee and to identify any significant concerns or issues.

Membership and Meetings

5. Committee Membership since June 2018 has been as follows:

Mr Keith Bellamy (Chairman)
Ms Kathryn Amey (appointed January 2019)
Mr Alex Blair
Mr David Line
Mr Rohan McMillan

6. Attendance at the meetings covered by this annual statement was Keith Bellamy 100%, Kathryn Amey 25% (*although attendance 100% for meetings since appointment*), Alex Blair 100%, David Line 75%, and Rohan McMillan 50%.
7. The Committee re-elected Keith Bellamy as JIAC Chairman at its meeting in November 2018.
8. The JIAC appreciate the attendance of senior officials and notably the role played by the CFO as well as the regular contribution of both the Commissioner (PCC) and the Chief Constable (CC) at its meetings. Feedback from audit committees elsewhere in the country indicates that the committee effectiveness is enhanced if the PCC and CC play an active part in the work of the JIAC.
9. The JIAC performs its work through meeting four times a year, all meetings are open to members of the public. Agendas, reports and minutes are published on the PCC's website (www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk).
10. In 2018-19 have implemented new reporting timeframe for approving the statement of accounts.

11. David Line attended the internal audit seminar "Auditing for the Future" in October 2018. Alex Blair and Keith Bellamy attended the Grant Thornton facilitated SWAP Audit Committee Workshop in November 2018 which was attended by representatives from all the local regional PCCs and Forces.

Workplan and Self-Assessment

12. The JIAC's provision of assurance on the adequacy of governance and control processes is undertaken through, but not limited by, a structured workplan, at the core of which is the review of the following:

- Risk management arrangements, focusing on issues of most significant risk
- Annual accounts, and their review by the external auditors
- Internal audit plans and reviews

13. The JIAC reviews its Terms and Reference and Standing Orders on an annual basis and this is supported by a review of JIAC effectiveness (members only) against CIPFA and Grant Thornton guidelines. This self-assessment was conducted in April 2019 and reported to the JIAC at its June 19 meeting. The key actions were:

- i. Given the importance JIAC places on the Risk Management process, members would welcome the opportunity to witness "risk management" in action at senior management meetings;
- ii. To consider different/alternative recruitment mechanisms for member recruitment following lessons learned from recent exercises;
- iii. To continue the JIAC focus on Audit volumetrics; management response times; follow-up activity and to seek early delivery of the SWAP work on the Assurance Framework;
- iv. To explore the delivery of outcomes against objectives given the absence of an SLA with Wiltshire Council;
- v. To request presentations at future meetings on Ethics and Values; External and Internal Communication Policy and Delivery of KPIs against Objectives including Complaints;
- vi. Finally, the JIAC, in order to close a gap in the self-assessment process, has invited the PCC, CC, CFO and Deputy Chief Executive to comment on the effectiveness of the JIAC in supporting Corporate Governance throughout the organisation(s). To include, if considered appropriate, discussions with the Internal and External Auditors. Any such process should also become an annual review and be included in the PCC Annual Report.

Key Findings, Developments and Issues from 2018-19

PCC and Force Risk Registers

14. The register is reviewed monthly on an informal basis and on a formal basis at quarterly meetings of the Commissioner's Monitoring Board. The PCC and CC presents and reports against their respective risk register to JIAC. Providing additional information on an exception basis with regard to all high and moderate risks.

15. JIAC continues to monitor closely both the PCC and Force risk registers at every meeting.

16. During the course of the year no significant issues or concerns were identified by the JIAC.

External Audit Plan

17. At the March JIAC meeting, Members raised how further comparisons with other forces on value for money risks and the Medium Term Finance Strategy (MTFS), would help identify areas for attention.

Statement of Accounts

18. Grant Thornton issued an unqualified opinion on the Commissioner's Group Statement of Accounts and the Chief Constable's Statement of Accounts for 2018-19. It also issued an unqualified opinion on value for money conclusions in respect of arrangements to secure economy efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources.

19. The use of the word 'unqualified' is misleading as this is a "standard" terminology for a positive outcome and as such is a good result for the organisation overall and in particular for the Chief Finance Officer, Senior Accounting Technician, and their team.

Internal Audit –South West Audit Partnership (SWAP)

20. At the June 2018 meeting and in their Annual Opinion report, SWAP gave 'reasonable assurance in respect of the areas reviewed' to both the Commissioner and the Chief Constable. The statement went on to say 'generally risks are well managed but some areas require the introduction or improvement of internal controls to ensure the achievement of objectives'.

21. Fourteen audits were conducted in the year, one of which was a follow-up audit.

22. Of these, eight received 'reasonable' opinion, two audits were given a 'partial' assurance, 3 'partial', 1 'substantial' and 1 'advisory'. There were no high risks identified.

23. These were considered further by Members at the March meeting. It was accepted that internal audit are being focused on identifying solutions to areas of concern to officers or committee members. At the time of reporting, one audit report was at draft stage with an initial assurance of 'partial'. This report would be considered by Members once the final report had been issued and if assurance remained as 'partial'.

24. The Committee approved an increase in budgeted days for audit delivery in 2018-19. With all five OPCC's and Forces using SWAP for internal audit there are opportunities for more joint working. All CFOs have agreed to pool 5 days to allow for coordinated regional auditing work.

Specific Areas of Note

25. *HMICFRS PEEL Inspections and Force Management statement*

Through the PCC risk register and HMICFRS PEEL inspections, Members continued to note the continuing 'good' performance of the Force despite the fact it is the fourth worst funded force in England and Wales. This was whilst providing an operational response to chemical attacks in Salisbury and Amesbury. The Force were making good use of HMICFRS Value for Money profiles to identify where, if any, further efficiencies could be found. 2018-19 the Force completed the first Force Management Statement.

This document aims to present future demand, capacity and capability requirements for policing across all aspects of the service. The HMICFRS continue to develop the requirements of this annual statement.

26. *Specialist Operations Transition*

In November 2018, it was agreed that the tri-force specialist operations collaboration between Avon and Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire would end. With firearms, dogs and roads policing returning to their respective individual forces. This decision was taken due a range of operational and leadership risks that meant the model required changing to a host force arrangement. This was not agreed by all partners as it was felt this would mitigate some risks, whilst causing others. In March 2019, the committee were updated on the transition plans (from 1 April – 31 August), before a revised model of specialist services for Wiltshire was implemented. Other specialist services – the Counter Terrorism Specialist Firearms Unit, Blackrock Specialist Training Centre and the Armed Policing Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment would remain collaborated.

27. *Cybercrime*

Work has been ongoing to mitigate this area of risk, the annual presentation on response to cybercrime has been deferred until July 19.

28. *ICT and National Enabling Programme*

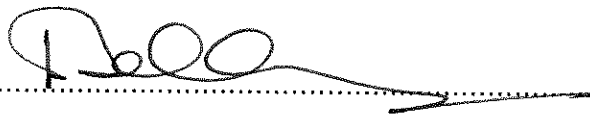
In 2018 the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) agreed the Police Vision 2025. Part of this strategy set out the national digital programme or National Enabling Programme (NEP). The programme prescribes nationally consistent digital services, standards and capabilities, in order to:

- Reduce the duplication of effort that would occur if all forces developed their own digital solutions
- Consolidate learning and share knowledge so that all forces benefit
- Reduce the 'service lottery' whilst enabling local tailoring and identity

Wiltshire Police established its local NEP programme to ensure delivery of the national strategy. It was identified that the current shared infrastructure would not be compliant as currently configured. The PCC invested £2.094m in 2018-19 to mitigate this risk to disaggregate and develop a separate police infrastructure.

In December 2018, as further details of national compliance was released, with a further review being conducted to report in June 2019. This will develop options to achieve national police compliance standards whilst maintaining the partnership benefits of shared ICT and estates such as shared WI-FI and Skype functionality.

Chairman Signature:
Keith Bellamy



Date:

18/7/2019