

Independent Audit Committee

19th December 2012

Arrangements for future meetings and membership of the Independent Audit Committee

Purpose of the report

1. To seek members' views on a number of matters concerning the future arrangements for meetings of the Independent Audit Committee, and the recruitment of members to the Committee.

Background and Main Considerations for Members

2. The Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable have decided to establish an Independent Audit Committee following the recommendation of the Home Office's Financial Management Code of Practice for the Police Service in England and Wales. Members are asked for their views on the following points.
3. Location of Committee meetings – Although meetings of the Committee can be accommodated at Police Headquarters, to reinforce the independence of the Committee members may wish to conduct their meetings in premises owned, for example, by the local authorities in Wiltshire and Swindon. Members may wish also to vary the locations where the Committee meets.
4. Timings of meetings – Meetings of the Audit Committee will be open to members of the public. In view of this members are asked whether meetings should take place during the evening.
5. Membership of the Committee - It is proposed that the membership of the Committee should be increased to five, and that each of the Members on the Committee should be selected as a result of the conduct of a recruitment process undertaken over the next two years. The Annex to this report proposes that three members are recruited as a result of a selection process during the year commencing in December 2012 (including a Chairman designate who will be the Chairman from December 2013). Two members will be recruited as a result of a selection process during the year commencing in December 2013.

All members will serve a three year term with an option to extend for one further three year term. The Chairman will need to have a recognised accountancy qualification.

6. Remuneration for Members – It is proposed that members will be paid at a rate of £26 per hour or £210 per day for their work on the Committee. This is on the basis that for the members other than the Chairman the business of the Committee will take up four days a year (four half day Committee meetings with half a day preparation time for each meeting). The Chairman may need to be available for more than four days but will be paid at the same rate for any additional days. The Chairman and Members will also be paid travel expenses.

Collaboration Assessment

7. No question of collaboration arises from the subject matter of this report.

Equality Assessment

8. No equality issue arises from the subject matter of this report.

Risk Assessment

9. No risk to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire or the Chief Constable arises from the subject matter of this report.

Recommendation

10. Members are asked for their views on the matters concerning the future arrangements for meetings of the Independent Audit Committee raised in this report, and the proposal for the recruitment of members of the Committee.

Mike Prince
Treasurer

Pat Geenty
Chief Constable