

# POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR WILTSHIRE AND CHIEF CONSTABLE OF WILTSHIRE POLICE

**MINUTES of the INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE** held at Swindon Police Station, Gablecross on Friday 19 December 2014.

**PRESENT:** Mr K Bellamy, Mr W Fishlock (Chairman), Mr P Hall, Mr D Line, Mr R McMillan.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable P Geenty, Mr C Barker, Mr A Johns, Mr S Cooper, Mr S Garlick (Grant Thornton), Mr C Rockey (Grant Thornton), Ms V Davies (Internal Audit).

- 1 **Appointment of Chairman and Deputy Chairman** The Committee wished to discuss the appointment of a Chairman and Deputy Chairman for the coming year on a separate occasion. The Committee decided to appoint a Chairman for the meeting only.

**Resolved:** *To appoint Mr Fishlock Chairman of the Committee for the meeting.*

- 2 **Apologies for Absence** There were no apologies for absence.

- 3 **Declarations of Interest** There were no declarations of interest.

- 4 **Minutes of the Independent Audit Committee Meeting held on 18 September 2014** Referring to the minute 13 on Force Morale the Committee asked what would constitute success or failure in respect of the implementation of the values and behaviours programme. It was explained to the Committee that this is a culture change which should not be measured in terms of success or failure.

**Resolved:** *To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Independent Audit Committee held on 18 September 2014.*

- 5 **Update** The Commissioner and the Chief Constable gave their views on the current state of policing in Wiltshire. The main points they made concerned: the uncertainty generated by the General Election, the need to keep Neighbourhood Policing and Response Policing at the heart of local policing, the support for local policing from local authorities, the need to work in collaboration with other forces where more technical policing is involved, the state of force morale, and how policing and crime are changing.

The Committee asked whether the proposed policing model will work in view of the contracting budget. The Commissioner and Chief Constable believed it would.

**Resolved:** *To note the update.*

- 6 **Outstanding Actions**

A report by the Chief Executive was circulated.

**Resolved:** *To note the report.*

- 7 **Committee Terms of Reference** The Terms of Reference say that the Committee will publish for members of the public an annual statement setting out any significant concerns or issues identified by the Committee. The Committee decided that the statement would be aligned with the accounting year and would be approved at the September meeting of the Committee. It was also recommended

that the Committee should meet separately with the external and internal auditors.

**Resolved:** *To request the production of a draft annual statement of the Committee for 2014*

*To meet separately with the external and internal auditors*

- 8 **Risk registers** The Risk Registers for the OPCC and the Force were circulated. The Committee expressed the view that more information is needed surrounding mitigation of risks. If the scores for a risk are increasing, they need to be explained. Other points to consider are: when the mitigation programme for risks is to be completed, how the mitigation programme is progressing for a risk, and is it appropriate for interim milestones to be included.

It was explained to the Committee that it may not be possible to specify a timescale for mitigating some risks for example those involving integrity or complaints.

**Resolved:** *To recommend the inclusion of more information in the mitigation section for a risk.*

- 9 **Internal Audit: Summary Internal Audit Progress Report** A report by the internal auditor was circulated. The Committee's attention was drawn to improvements in the finance reviews.

**Resolved:** *To note the report.*

- 9a **Assurance Review of the Asset Management Arrangements** A report by the Internal Auditor was circulated which concluded there is limited assurance in this area of the business. The problems had been identified in previous reports to the Committee. Improvements are expected as a result of the integration with Wiltshire Council and use of the Wiltshire Council asset database. The Wiltshire Asset Management regime is better controlled and more secure. It was confirmed that any future internal audit of asset management would cover the Wiltshire Council systems.

**Resolved:** *To note the report*

- 10 **External Audit Update:** A report by the External Auditor was circulated which sets out the progress made on the External Audit and emerging issues for Wiltshire Police in particular the messages from recent HMIC Inspections. The point was made to the Committee that HMIC recommendations only consider what is needed to improve the police service and not what it costs.

**Resolved:** *To note the report.*

11. **External Audit – Annual Audit Letter** The Annual Audit letter was circulated.

**Resolved:** *To note the External Audit Annual Audit Letter.*

12. **Police Pension Board** The Committee was informed that a Police Pension Board is to be introduced to exercise governance over the Police Pension Scheme. The intention is to make sure that the administration of the Police Pension Scheme is satisfactory. The Board will operate on a regional basis and applications for its membership will be advertised.

13. **Dates of Future meetings**

9.30 am – 23 March 2015 at Police HQ, Devizes

9.30 am – 26 June 2015 at Police HQ, Devizes

2.00 pm – 18 September 2015 at Bourne Hill Police Station, Salisbury

9.30 am – 18 December 2015 at Swindon Police Station, Gablecross