

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

JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE

REPORT FOR 2015

At its meeting in December 2014 the Committee resolved that it would approve at its September meeting an annual statement setting out any significant concerns or issues identified by the Committee.

1. MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

The membership of the Committee up to June 2015 was Mr W Fishlock (Chairman), Mr K Bellamy, Mr P Hall, Mr D Line, and Mr R McMillan. Mr Fishlock resigned after the June meeting of the Committee. Ms Caroline Baynes has been appointed as a member of the Committee. Mr Hall was appointed Chair and Mr Bellamy was appointed Vice Chair of the Committee with effect from the June meeting of the Committee.

The Committee wishes to thank Bill Fishlock for his chairmanship and contribution to the work of the Committee.

In the course of 2015 the Committee has met in March, June, and September. A further meeting is scheduled for December 2015. All the meetings were open to members of the public.

Attendance was Mr Fishlock 100% , Mr Bellamy [], Mr Hall [], Mr Line [], Mr McMillan [] and Ms Baynes [].

2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To provide independent assurance to the Commissioner and Chief Constable on the adequacy of the governance and control processes within their organisations.

3. KEY DEVELOPMENTS OF 2015

3.1 *[Summary of External Auditor Audit Findings report due for the September meeting].*

3.2 The Committee received reports from the internal auditor at each of its meetings. In June the Committee noted the Internal Auditor's conclusion that "in my opinion, the OPCC and the Force has adequate and effective management, control and governance processes to manage the achievement of its objectives". Of thirteen internal audit reviews conducted during 2014/15, the internal auditor's assessment was that eleven provided substantial or reasonable assurance and only two provided limited assurance. Recommendations made to strengthen the control environment in these areas were endorsed by the audit committee and management responses indicated that the recommendations had been accepted.

3.3 In the 2014 annual report of the Committee two issues were identified to take forward into 2015.

- 3.3.1 The integration between Wiltshire Police and Wiltshire Council is continuing. The neighbourhood policing team for Corsham operates out of the Springfield Campus in Corsham. The Council's Project Management has supported and continues to support several major police projects including the procurement of a detainee healthcare service and the establishment of a new custody suite in the South of the County.
- 3.3.2 The Committee is pleased to record that there is greater focus on how risks identified in their risk registers are to be mitigated by both the Commissioner and Chief Constable. Risk registers of both organisations are reviewed at each meeting by the Committee.
- 3.4 The Committee received a report by the internal audit service of Devon and Cornwall police service on the South West Police Procurement Department, which was established in 2012 to undertake procurements on behalf of the police services of Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Gloucestershire, and Wiltshire. The major development in this area is the taking forward of the proposal to create one procurement function to serve all police services in the region.

4. ISSUES TO TAKE FORWARD INTO 2016

- 4.1 In January 2015 the police services of Wiltshire and Avon and Somerset announced that they will enter into a strategic alliance. Wiltshire and Avon and Somerset have entered previously into collaboration arrangements both together and with others in respect of Major Crime Investigations, Special Branch, firearms, roads policing, use of dogs, firearms training, policing organised crime, forensic services, and legal services. The options for collaboration between Wiltshire and Avon and Somerset over other operational and support functions are currently being considered by a Project Team made up of officers and staff of both police services. To support this development the Committee will seek to work with the Independent Audit Committee established by Avon and Somerset.
- 4.2 *[Key agreed points from the self assessment].*