

**NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE
JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, 12 Granby Road, Harrogate HG1 4ST at 1pm on Monday 15 June 2015.

PRESENT:-

In the Chair: David Portlock (DP).

Members: Howard Cutler (HC); Steven Hawksworth (SH)

Officers: Police and Crime Commissioner Julia Mulligan (JM); Deputy Chief Constable Tim Madgwick (TM); Commissioner's Chief Executive Office Joanna Carter (JC); Chief Constable's Chief Finance Officer and Chief Accountant Jane Palmer (JP); Risk and Assurance Manager Donald Stone (DS); Commissioner's Chief Finance Officer Michael Porter (MP); External Audit Engagement Lead and Director (Mazars) Cameron Waddell (CW); External Audit Engagement Senior Manager (Mazars) Gareth Roberts (GR); Head of Internal Audit Neil Rickwood (NR).

Minute taker: Commissioner's Administration and Volunteer Officer Chris Tapster (CT)

165. **Introductions and Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Chief Constable Dave Jones. He was represented by Deputy Chief Constable Tim Madgwick.

166. **Minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2015**

These were approved for publication.

167. **Matters Arising**

The following updates were provided:

Action 1) of the meeting held on 16 March 2015 – the Volunteer Officer for Citizens in Policing (Mike Maiden) has been appointed.

Action 1) of the meeting held on 16 December 2014 – the Home Office complaints review and the review of the triage system are continuing.

Action 5) of the meeting held on 16 December 2014 - HMIC has now visited HQ; its feedback has been mainly positive and a favourable report is expected.

Action 3) of the meeting held on 08 August 2014 – the self-assessment and annual review of JIAC has been moved back to September 2015.

Action 5) of the meeting held on 08 August 2014 – DP was initially intended to take part in the selection of the Internal Audit service provider, however he has a personal interest in one of the three bidders for the tender and has therefore withdrawn from the selection process.

168. **Confidential discussion during consideration of Item 13 on the grounds that it will involve, or discussion of it will involve, the likely disclosure of exempt information**

It was agreed that Item 13 on the agenda should be treated as confidential, and that any confidential information be excluded from the minutes to be made available for public inspection.

169. **Draft Financial Statements (unaudited) for the year ended 31 March 2015**

JP announced that the figures for the Chief Constable were complete but the accounts were still being worked on. They will be ready in time for the next Executive Board meeting. DP stated that the financial statements should continue to be an agenda item for June meetings. MP commented that producing the statements is a three-month process and time is short to complete them for the June meeting.

170. **Draft Joint Annual Governance Statements for the year ended 31 March 2015**

The final draft is still awaited, and JM has some comments to add. DS is to advise when the document is ready. TM mentioned governance arrangements and the code of ethics, and added that HMIC has confirmed that the latter is positively embraced by North Yorkshire Police.

171. **External Audit Reports**

These reports are in progress and are on track. The focus has been on pension funds and deficits in payments to the pension scheme. A recent legal case has ramifications and may result in the requirement for an increase in pension payments. There have been FOI requests relating to expenditure by North Yorkshire Police.

172. **Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion**

Due to personnel factors only 60% of audit services have been delivered on time (page 5 of report *Audit Delivery* refers), however three audits performed scored the highest level of opinion when evaluated. JM expressed concern that too many detained persons with mental health issues (Section 136) are still being held in custody rather than places of safety (para 3.6 of report refers). TM stated the intention that by 2017 no Section 136 detainees are to be held in police cells. Police officers receive training in mental health matters and the street triage scheme is operating. There is an underspend of the health budget on mental health and children's services are still a major challenge. TM is confident that North Yorkshire Police will in due course attain "reasonable assurance" in this area. It was uncertain whether para 3.6 of the report is a true reflection of the situation, since the Harrogate place of safety is now open, making a total of four in North Yorkshire. JM stressed that demand for use of these and street triage must be assessed across the county. TM stated that mental health data will in future be reported as standard item. JC commented that internal control scoring (Para 3.2) will need more explanation in the final version of the JIASC report.

AGREED: The report was noted

173. **Internal Audit Progress Report**

Subject to finalisation of four draft reports, work on the 2014/15 Internal Audit Plan has been completed. The three reports now tabled indicate reasonable assurance, the report on the OPCC being very favourable.

There are three audits in progress for the 2015/16 Plan and they are all on target for completion on schedule. DP commented that he was unaware that the IT systems at the OPCC and HQ cannot communicate with each other. The OPCC does not use PNN (police) email addresses as it is separate from the police, and PNN addresses do not support the mobile working which is essential for the PCC. The future PSNP system will resolve the situation, and a major mobile communications system is also to be introduced.

AGREED: The report was noted.

174. **Update on Internal Audit Recommendations**

The implementation of audit recommendations has much improved over the past 12 months. The NICHE Exhibit Audit is still in progress. There has been investment at Fulford Road police station on improving the storage of exhibits. JM recommended that the wording "Victim Care" in the report be changed to "Victim Code of Conduct".

AGREED: The report was noted.

175. **Annual Review of the effectiveness of Internal Audit**

This item has been deferred to the September meeting.

176. **Corporate Performance Report**

JM noted that there has been an increase in crime in neighbouring police force areas (up by 25% in West Yorkshire), which presents a challenge for North Yorkshire Police. This is partly due to changes in crime recording methods. Main areas of concern are victim satisfaction, speeding and anti-social behaviour; York and Scarborough are classed as centres of excellence in dealing with the latter. There has been positive feedback on the work of the Traffic Bureau, Special Constables are performing very well and Community Speedwatch is expected to be fully operational shortly. Nationally, North Yorkshire has a low crime rate but high rates of casualties on its roads.

AGREED: The report was noted.

177. **Quarterly Strategic Risk Register Report – Confidential Report**

The item was discussed at the meeting. A more comprehensive assessment is to follow after the PEEL inspection.

AGREED: The report was noted.

178. **Committee Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2015**

This is the first JIAC Annual Report. It has been formally submitted to the PCC and the Chief Constable, and will be uploaded to the PCC website.

179. **Review and recommendation of revised Committee Terms of Reference and Workplan**

This is still in progress and it is proposed that it will be discussed at the September meeting.

180. **Commissioner's Decisions**

The major recent decision concerns the purchase of Alverton Court, which is to become the new HQ for North Yorkshire Police.

181. **Commissioner's and Chief Constable's items**

- TM stated that the main issues at present concern partnership arrangements, especially with local authorities.
- The performance of North Yorkshire Police is positive overall.
- Much new technology is now being implemented, for example ANPR.

- JM will be attending a question-and-answer session on integrity as part of the review of integrity pertaining to the Committee on Standards in Public Life.
- She expects there to be recommendations on the role of Police and Crime Panels and there may be a discussion of the powers invested in individuals.
- The devolution debate may have an impact on North Yorkshire Police: North Yorkshire may combine with the East Riding, or part of it may be transferred to West Yorkshire. In the latter case a metro mayor might run the police force. While this is causing uncertainty about the future of policing in North Yorkshire it will not affect the PCC election in 2016.
- There have been 1200 responses to the National Rural Crime Network survey and the results will be published in July. The survey results will provide good publicity for the problems faced by the rural community.

182. **Confirmation of date of next meeting:**

1pm Monday 21 September 2015 at Police Headquarters.

183. **Dates of remaining 2015 meetings:**

All 2015 meetings to take place at 1pm in Conference Room One, Police Headquarters:

- Monday 14 December 2015

184. **Any other urgent business**

It was suggested that meetings in 2016 should be held on Tuesdays rather than Mondays. DP asked for discussion and agreement on this as soon as possible. JC asked CT to ascertain preferences from all meeting attendees.

ACTION: CT to contact all attendees and inform DP of the result.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

JM stated that Purdah restrictions will apply to the 2016 PCC elections. She will be able to make decisions until four weeks prior to the elections but none may be published during Purdah.

The meeting closed at 1445 hrs.

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