

Police and Crime
Commissioner
North Yorkshire



JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE

13 DECEMBER 2016

REPORT OF THE JOINT CORPORATE RISK GROUP

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2015/16 PROGRESS UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to the Joint Independent Audit Committee an update on progress of the significant governance issue and the four key areas for development that were recorded in the 2015/16 Annual Governance Statement (AGS) of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for North Yorkshire and the Chief Constable (CC) of North Yorkshire Police (NYP).

2. KEY INFORMATION

Significant Governance Issue

- 2.1 The AGS recorded one significant governance issue. This identified the need to improve the processes for management and implementation of change in relation to Information Technology. Significant investment has been made in relation to this area. In addition to the work of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to modernise the technology infrastructure, the Police ICT Company have been engaged to provide advice on the best way to progress.
- 2.2 The work with the Police ICT Company has developed a much more detailed picture of the scale of demand on our ICT resources, and recognition that it will take longer to bring some of the many projects to fruition. There has been a decision that it is better to set realistic objectives than to try to tackle too much and spread resources too thinly. As a result of engagement with stakeholders throughout the year to date there is a clearer way forward for ICT. Whilst there is still much work to do we are develop stronger structures to support sustainable development of the technology infrastructure.
- 2.3 In addition to the significant governance issue there were four key areas for development identified in the AGS. A brief commentary on progress in each area of development (AFD) in included under the headings that follow.

AFD 1. Streamline meeting processes to ensure an appropriate flow of information between corporate meetings and their supporting structures.

AFD 2. Increase awareness of the requirement for compliance checking of decision making material and the timescales for that process.

2.4 As part of the Internal Audit Plan for 2015/16 RSM undertook a review titled "Governance – Structure, Reporting, Challenge and Decision Making". This was reported to the JIAC in September 2016. The recommendations and agreed management actions arising from this audit address these AFD. Of particular reference to AFD 2 were the agreed actions for the Governance Delivery Manager in relation to awareness raising and cascading of information pertinent to the decision making process. Implementation of these recommendations will continue to be monitored during the following quarter.

2.5 In addition to the AFD 1 but also pertinent to AFD 2 is the current activity that is underway in relation to a review of the current Governance Arrangements. Led by Acting CEO Fraser Sampson, supported by senior colleagues from both corporations sole this review will focus on meeting structure and decision making powers and make recommendations for streamlining these processes. Concurrently there shall be a review of the accompanying documentation such as the scheme of delegation. It is anticipated that any revisions will be implemented in order to support the delivery of the refreshed Police and Crime Plan.

AFD 3. Design processes to provide assurance relating to the service and value for money from Partnerships, Commissioning and Collaboration in light of developments in national/regional capabilities and commissioning and grants processes.

2.6 It is anticipated that the Policing and Crime Bill which is viewed as an enabler for further emergency service collaboration will receive royal assent in the New Year. Preparatory activity is ongoing in relation to additional responsibilities and ensuring effective use of resources.

2.7 Our existing collaborative activity continues to be actively monitored. From an assurance perspective in addition to regular oversight meetings there are Internal Audit protocols in place for those functions that are provided from a collaborative service from either of the Yorkshire and Humber region or with our counterparts in the Evolve programme (Cleveland and Durham). Oversight arrangements for collaborative initiatives within the wider North East region will be developed over the next 12 months.

2.8 Two pieces of Internal Audit activity, one pertaining to Commissioning and a separate Collaboration review will be reported to the March JIAC.

AFD 4. Develop scanning processes to create common awareness of impacting factors including NPCC / APCC / HMIC / Internal Audit / Home Office / Legislation to ensure related risks and opportunities are incorporated into business plans.

2.9 This AFD is being progressed in conjunction with the development of Nexus. As indicated Nexus is a developing initiative, it will draw on expertise from various functions within the

organisation to support improvements in service delivery. This will include scanning processes to ensure preparedness for changes that will shape future requirements.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Committee are invited to note this report.

Donald Stone
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