

**JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**APRIL 2024**

**ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/2023 AREA FOR DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRESS REPORT**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This paper provides the Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) with a brief summary of the progress made with the areas for development captured in the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2022/2023. This report pertains to the “Internal Control Environment” aspect of the JIAC terms of reference.

**2. AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

- 2.1 There were six areas for development identified during the review of governance arrangements undertaken to inform the AGS for 2022/2023. A summary of the progress made with each of those is set out in the table below.

Area For Development	Lead	Target Completion Date	Remarks
<p>1. The overspend as outlined on page 9 of the 2022/2023 AGS is considered to be a Significant Governance Issue. The Chief Constable has been formally asked by the Commissioner to report in writing, to the June Executive Board, across a range of issues in relation to financial controls, approvals and management, to provide assurances and understanding about how this happened, and to ensure that it does not happen again.</p>	Chief Constable	30 June 2023	<p>Following formal dialogue between the Commissioner and the Chief Constable in respect of financial governance; financial management and budgetary oversight has been enhanced, forming a key part of the OPFCC's Assurance Framework. During 2023/2024 there have been two new key appointments, both of whom who have restructured the governance process, with financial oversight scrutinised by the OPFCC within the monthly Executive Board. This platform facilitates clear oversight on spend analysis. It has been presented that there is now a shared understanding of the requirements in relation to budgetary control within North Yorkshire Police and the Enable team, to ensure that the risk of the previous overspend situation is mitigated.</p>
<p>2. Respond positively to the findings of the HMICFRS PEEL 2021/2022 report to ensure that progress is made towards the necessary improvements. With specific focus on addressing the Cause of Concern raised by HMICFRS which requires that within 3 months North Yorkshire Police should:</p>	Deputy Chief Constable	31 March 2024	<p>The implementation of our Improvement Plan and supporting oversight arrangements created the conditions for force to discharge this action. This was confirmed on 6 December 2023 when HMICFRS published a "progress review of identified cause of concern". In concluding the review HMICFRS recognised the "significant steps" that the force had taken and in light of the improvements made considered the cause of concern to be discharged.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make sure that senior leaders have effective oversight of the force’s enabling services and the current challenges associated with capability;</li> <li>• develop an effective workforce plan so it can provide a service that meets the policing needs of the community, now and in the future; and</li> <li>• develop and align departmental operational and strategic plans that are informed by accurate information and a detailed performance framework.</li> </ul> <p>This is considered to be a Significant Governance Issue for the organisation.</p>			<p>Further detail can be found here <a href="https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/northyorkshire-police/peel-cause-of-concern-letter-his-majestys-inspectorate-of-constabulary-and-fire-rescue-services/">North Yorkshire Police: PEEL cause of concern letter - His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire &amp; Rescue Services (justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)</a></p>
<p>3. Ensure that the Fire and Police enabling services collaboration governance, resources and performance deliver an efficient and effective service through undertaking a review and acting on the findings.</p>	<p>Chief Constable</p>	<p>31 March 2024</p>	<p>The Assistant Chief Officer and Head of enableNY has led on the appointment of an emergency service-focused consultancy called Practice to Progress (P2P) to conduct a review of enable NY.</p> <p>The review commenced in February 2024 and due to conclude in April 2024. Findings from the review will be reported accordingly.</p>
<p>4. Ensure that the force financial governance documents reflect current practice and that regular</p>	<p>Chief Constables</p>	<p>31 December 2023</p>	<p>This action will be carried forward to the 2023/24 AGS.</p>

review arrangements are introduced.	Chief Finance Officer		The Chief Constables Chief Finance Officer has the review in hand however due to competing priorities since arrival in post in November 2023, the review of the DRM is ongoing and due to be completed by 30 June 2024.
5. Consider the provisions of the Monitoring Officer Protocol and refresh to reflect the revised executive management arrangements of the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.	Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer	31 December 2023	Refreshment of the OPFCC Delegation and Monitoring Officer protocol has been completed, with the updated documents circulated to service leads in both Police and Fire December 2023. Copies are held with the OPFCC for access, and are subject to regular refresh and review.
6. Review and refresh the Chief Constable / Commissioner memorandum of understanding.	Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer	31 March 2024	Refreshment of the Memorandum of Understanding is subject to hold pending the transition to a Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) May 2024.

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**Date: APRIL 2024**

