

North Yorkshire Police
Joint Independent Audit Committee
(JIAC)

Tuesday 23rd September 2025

DRAFT Summary Minutes



Meeting: Joint Independent Audit Committee
Date and Time: Tuesday 23rd September 2025, 10:00 – 12:00hrs
Location: Haigh Conference Room, Alverton Court Police Headquarters and via Teams
Chair: Dr Stuart Green

Attendees:

Name		Role
Dr Stuart Green	(SG)	Committee Member & Chair
Heather Cook	(HC)	Committee Member
Roman Pronyszyn	(RP)	Committee Member & Vice Chair
Michael Porter	(MPo)	YNYCA OPFCC Assistant Director of Resources (Deputy s73 Officer)
Paul Clark	(PC)	YNYCA Governance & Assurance Manager
Scott Bisset	(SB)	NYP Deputy Chief Constable
Louise Branford-White	(LB-W)	NYP Chief Finance Officer
Louise Flight	(LF)	NYP Risk Manager
Gillian Havelock	(GH)	NYP Strategy and Governance Lead
Jo Blenkinsopp	(JB)	NYP Data Protection Officer
Mark Outerside	(MO)	Forvis Mazars LLP - Director
Michelle Phillips	(MPH)	Evolve Legal Services - Head of Civil Litigation
Matt Stacey	(MS)	RSM Risk Assurance Services - Managing Consultant
Richard Malanaphy	(RM)	Member (pending vetting)
Ian McClelland	(IM)	NYP Governance Support Officer

Apologies:

Name	Role
Lisa Stitt	NYP Assistant Chief Officer
Sophie Hirst	Forvis Mazars LLP Audit Manager
Peter Topping	Member (pending vetting)

Items and Decisions:

No.	Discussion	Outcome / Decision
864	Attendance and Apologies. Attendance and apologies are noted above.	
865	Declaration of Interest. There were no declarations of interest.	
866	Minutes and Actions of Previous Meeting. The Minutes of the meeting held on 19.06.25 were reviewed. There were no comments or amendments and the Minutes were recorded as accurate and were proposed for approval by SG, seconded by RP.	Approved

No.	Discussion	Outcome / Decision
867	<p>Matters Arising.</p> <p>Open Action #68. Chief Constable's Detective Numbers Presentation. Update from IM noted that whilst vetting continues, the presentation has not been able to be shared. SB provided a comprehensive update on the vetting position within NYP. Broadly, due to the government's Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee for an uplift in officers, plus a re-published Authorised Professional Practice (APP) for Vetting which now has enhanced standards, has resulted in a requirement for an uplift in vetting resources to tackle to the demand. Failure to achieve the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee for 32 more officers, and conducting regulation re-vetting across the Force, would have resulted in a financial penalty. Therefore, a prioritisation framework was put in place to hit the government's targets; those targets have been met for the police entrants. This has resulted in a knock-on effect of creating a large vetting backlog. SB will review the prioritisation framework with a view to escalating outstanding JIAC Members vetting with an aim to completion prior to the next meeting.</p> <p>Open Action #77. Circulate the Link to the Force Management Statement (FMS) to Members. This had been actioned on 10.07.25. SG noted that the FMS remains available online¹ and is an excellent document.</p>	<p>Remains open</p> <p>Close</p>
868	<p>Internal Audit Reports and Plan Progress. All audits and reports were presented by MS, questions and challenges were fully addressed.</p> <p>a. Progress Report. High level overview provided on the plans to date. There has been flexibility within the audit plan due to staffing issues. Two audits had been completed in DRAFT over the summer period which will be finalised in readiness for the next meeting. The FY25/26 plan remains firmly on track for delivery. The report was approved.</p> <p>b. Follow-Up Visit 2 – Final Report. The visit focussed on providing assurance that the actions marked <i>completed</i> or <i>closed</i> by NYP had in fact been done so. The visit team were satisfied with the evidence presented against the 13 actions; a <i>reasonable assurance</i> opinion was provided. Further assurance was provided that RSM remain comfortable that the target dates set for actions are set in consultation with NYP and the dates are realistic and achievable. There are 3 medium priority actions set within the Health & Safety audit that have a deadline set as 30.09.26, predominately based on awaiting the arrival of the new Health & Safety Manager. Given that this involves health and safety, SG directed that this deadline is to be reviewed. SB provided further assurance that there does remain a good level of strategic oversight and governance across health and safety, and indeed across all governance areas, far better now than in previous years. MPo noted that NYP does need to be mindful of the audit report timelines; any poor outcomes reported at the December meeting won't have much time to be actioned prior to the end of the FY, progress is expected to be seen by the December meeting. The report was approved.</p> <p>c. Emergency Services News Briefing August 2025. Noted that the News Briefings are compiled and published quarterly and contain relevant details regarding new regulations, legislations and reports that have recently been published and which are hopefully a useful document for officers to refer to.</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>New Action #78</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Noted</p>

¹ [Force Management Statement 2025 | North Yorkshire Police](#)

No.	Discussion	Outcome / Decision
869	<p>Audit Recommendations Tracker Live Internal Audit Actions. GH provided an update and overview of the 13 open audits, the oldest dating back to May 2022. Since the last meeting, live actions have reduced from 67 to 47, which includes 10 new added actions within that period. Overall, 30 live actions have been closed, 10 more are scheduled for closure within the next month. Two actions remain overdue.</p> <p>Members welcomed the progress made. Actions on data quality were scrutinised. SB, as NYP SIRO, reported that a new Organisational Data Ownership Policy is currently in DRAFT and progressing through governance. This new policy clearly sets out who owns what data, and their responsibilities. Future reports to this committee will be expanded to provide a clearer interpretation of the issues on the Tracker, with assurance that there is the capability and capacity to resolve the actions within set target deadlines. The report was approved.</p>	Approved
870	<p>HMICFRS Reports / Overview. GH provided an update on the progress made against the HMICFRS Reports. There are currently 54 recommendations and Areas For Improvement live on the register, this is a reduction of 13 recommendations since the June meeting. Most recently, a further HMICFRS inspection report covering Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) has been received and is undergoing fact-checking prior to publication. The report was approved.</p>	Approved
871	<p>Principle Risk Register (PRR) and Business Continuity (BC) Overview. LF provided an update on the developments of the PRR and BC activity during the period 25.03.25 – 02.06.25. Noted that both PRR and BC are robustly scrutinised at the monthly Portfolio Assurance Boards and the bi-monthly Risk, Assurance and Improvements Board (RAIB). There are 3 risks on the PRR all of which have been reviewed with no change to the scoring. Changes to the PRR are all authorised by SB following scrutiny at the RAIB.</p> <p>A summary of the continual BC management was provided. Thirteen BC incidents had occurred within the reporting period; 10 relating to IT. None were Priority 1 incidents and there were no systemic themes to the incidents. Of the Priority 1 incident from October 2024, there remains just 1 outstanding action out of the 20, that action is also being tracked through RAIB.</p> <p>There will be a planned BC exercise scheduled for 30.09.25 which is designed to test NYPs ability to maintain critical functions following regional and national power outages. In addition, given the current cyber-crime landscape, an exercise will be conducted in January 2026 in partnership with the National Monitoring Centre. All staff are conducting cyber security training to increase their knowledge and skills and are being tested internally via a ‘phishing exercise’ led by ICT. SB provided assurance that NYP has multiple lines of defence and is technically robust. Given the known catastrophic effect on policing should it be a victim of cyber-crime, there is no complacency within the organisation on this issue. The report was approved.</p> <p>To appreciate the level of planning and training being undertaken on cyber-crime, JIAC Members have been invited to take part in an interactive training exercise scheduled to coincide with the date of the December meeting.</p>	Approved
872	<p>Civil Claims Overview for the Period 01.04.25 – 30.06.25. MPH provided an update on the information compiled from the last quarter by the Legal Team. The report covered the various areas of claims that NYP receive with the financial implications for defending each claim. The 26 claims received in this reporting period is consistent with the previous four quarters (average of 25 per quarter). Monthly meetings are held with</p>	

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	<p>finance colleagues to ensure they are fully aware of potential costs. Third party motor claims have reduced significantly; just 7 for this period compared to an average of 16 over the previous four periods.</p> <p>Members noted the impressively low costs that are required for the hiring of legal experts to defend the claims. This was noted as being due to the work conducted in-house by the legal services team. The spike in false imprisonment claims during this reporting period was scrutinised (11 claims against an average of 6). Noted that whilst most claims are received within 2 years of an incident, claimants do have a maximum of 6 years to submit a claim, there are no perceived concerns over this spike, it reflects improved performance in the increased number of suspects arrested and the modern preponderance to complain, rather than any drop in performance. Evolve Legal Services are members of the Association of Police, Lawyers, Civil Litigation Sub-Committee where much of the data is shared across Forces to assist in identifying national trends and sharing any learning. The report had previously been presented and scrutinised by the RAIB and was approved by the committee.</p>	Approved
873	<p>Finance and Accounts. MPo and LB-W provided detailed updates against each item, fully responding to Member's scrutiny and challenge.</p> <p>a. 2024/25 Budget Monitoring Outturn Covering Report. The outturn report highlights the exceptionally good performance by NYP during FY24/25, despite the challenging financial environment, and all aligned to the Terms of Reference. The report noted the £75k underspend from the £200M+ budget. The delivery of the capital programme was the best performance from NYP in the previous 10 years. MPo provided assurance that the report has been reviewed by the Deputy Mayor. SG welcomed the level of detail contained within the report, as well as the impressive outturn performance given the pressures on the budget. NYP remain alive to the continuing challenges of medical and insurance claims and the future budget has been set accordingly. The Outturn Report was noted.</p> <p>b. Police Audit Committee Annual Report. The draft report had been prepared by MPo for the Committee's review prior to submission to the Deputy Mayor and Chief Constable. The report highlights the challenges of the previous year including the extended financial year caused by the transfer of accounts to the newly formed Combined Authority, subsequent shorted period to produce the final accounts which led to the external auditors not being able to express an opinion (<i>a disclaimed opinion</i>) on the organisation's finances. Despite this situation, the Committee was of the opinion that there were no underlying issues with the processes or procedures within the accounts. Further areas for the organisation to consider include the importance of driving progress on the internal audit actions. MPo was thanked for the comprehensive report which was approved. The report will now move through governance to the Strategic Oversight Board and the Audit & Governance Committee at the Mayoral Combined Authority.</p> <p>c. Statement of Accounts 2024/25 and Annual Governance Statement. LB-W reiterated that FY24/25 had been a shorted year; 07.05.24 – 31. 03.25. The accounts had been published on the Combined Authority website and provided to the external authors. Despite resourcing pressures, LB-W provided assurance that the FY25/26 accounts are on schedule for the 30.06.26 auditing deadline. SG noted his thanks to LB-W and the Finance Team, FY24/25 had added a significant extra layer of complexity. The Accounts are noted. These accounts will now be audited, an extra-ordinary JIAC will be required in February 2026 prior to the backstop deadline so review the final accounts.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Noted Forward planner</p>

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874	<p>External Audits - Audit Progress Report. MO provided an update which noted that the FY23/24 Audit Certificate was issued on 27.08.25 which marks the completion of that external audit.</p> <p>As noted at paragraph 856 of the June JIAC, the anticipated Local Audit Reset and Recovery Implementation Guidance was received and reviewed in July. The guidance sets out the process of rebuilding assurance following <i>disclaimed opinions</i> due to backstop arrangements (refer to para 873b above).</p> <p>Planning discussions have commenced with MPo and LB-W, which once complete will result in an audit strategy being published, likely to include management override controls and pensions. The audit is likely to commence in December with an aim to have been completed prior to the backstop deadline. There are no perceived risks or weaknesses to bring to the committees' attention. There were no further questions and the report was noted.</p>	Noted
875	<p>Information Assurance Report – Performance Indicator In Fulfilling Statutory Information Requests. JB presented an overview of the relevant performance indicators and NYP's compliance with statutory timescales for the period 30.04.25 – 31.07.25. The report shows a continuing increase in Freedom of Information (FOI) and Subject Access Requests (SAR). Whilst every effort is made to comply to statutory timelines for response, these increases has resulted in a drop in compliance to response deadlines. Incidents of data breaches remain steady, all incidents escalated to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) have been return with no further action required. Progress is being made on clearing the backlog of submissions.</p> <p>The data was scrutinised which noted that there are no patterns or themes of FOI submissions, just very broad and generic, and some very odd. SB provided assurance that he reviews all submitted FOIs weekly, and that given the time and effort expended on replying to FOIs and SARs (circa +£200k pa), SB has written to the Home Office requesting that they re-implement a levy charge for those submitting an FOI or SAR to offset the significant cost for the increased submissions.</p> <p>SG welcomed the manner in which NYP are handling this issue, the transparency and robust control measures and direction provided by senior leadership. The report was noted.</p>	Noted
876	<p>DRAFT AGS 24/25 - Progress on Areas for Improvement Within 25/26. LF provided an update on the progress made on the noted areas for development captured within the FY24/25 AGS. All 3 areas for development have been updated.</p> <p>In particular, the review of the Devolved Resource Manual which had been carried forward from the FY23/24 AGS has continued and is expected to be complete by 31.12.25. Consultation across the Force will then commence with a deadline of 31.03.26. There is every expectation that this manual will go live on 01.04.26. The report was approved.</p>	Approved
877	<p>Forward Planner. GH presented the Forward Planner. Given the planned business continuity exercises scheduled for January 2026, the scheduled IT Health Check Vulnerability Risk Statement scheduled for the December 2025 meeting will be deferred until the March 2026 meeting. The planner was otherwise approved.</p>	Approved

No.	Discussion	Outcome / Decision
878	Next Meeting. Tuesday 4 th December 2025 at 15:00. Hybrid attendance.	
879	Proposed Dates of 2026 Meetings: Extra-ordinary meeting – date tbc in February 2026 to review the audited FY24/25 Chief Constables accounts and finalised Annual Governance Statement. Thursday 19 th March 2026 at 10:00. Thursday 25 th June 2026 at 10:00. Thursday 24 th September 2026 at 10:00. Thursday 17 th December 2026 at 10:00.	Approved
880	Chair's Closing Comments. SG noted the continued excellent standard of reports that are submitted to this committee. Mindful of the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to create these reports, SG expressed his thanks for that effort and asked that his thanks be passed to all relevant teams.	

Actions Agreed:

No.	Action / Update	Owner	Date Issued	Date Closed
68	Chief Constable's Detective Numbers Presentation. Chair directed that the presentation provided previously by the Chief Constable is to be forward to PB and PT, subject to satisfactory clearance of vetting requirements.	IM	19.09.24	
77	Force Management Statement (FMS). The FMS is in the public domain and a link is to be circulated to Members.	IM	19.06.25	23.09.25
78	Health & Safety Audit. The 30 September 2026 deadline for three Medium priority actions is to be reviewed. This is too generous a deadline within such a critical area.	LB-W	23.09.25	