

MINUTES AND ACTIONS

DRAFT



Meeting	Joint Independent Audit Committee
Date and time	Thursday 25th June 2026, 10:00 – 12:00hrs
Location	Haigh Conference Room and via Teams
Chair	Dr Stuart Green

Attendees:

Name	Role
Dr Stuart Green (SG)	Committee Member & Chair
Roman Pronyszyn (RP)	Committee Member & Vice Chair
Michael Porter (MPo)	YNYCA Assistant Director of Resources (Deputy s73 Officer for Police, Fire & Crime Functions)
Tamara Stevens (TS)	YNYCA Director of Policing, Fire & Crime
Paul Clarke (PC)	YNYCA Governance & Assurance Manager
Scott Bisset (SB)	NYP Deputy Chief Constable
Louise Branford-White (LB-W)	NYP Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer
Louise Flight (LF)	NYP Risk Manager
Lucy Griffiths (LG)	NYP Deputy Data Protection Officer
Gillian Havelock (GH)	NYP Head of Strategy and Governance
Michelle Phillips (MPH)	Evolve Legal Services
Matt Stacey (MS)	Internal Audit - RSM UK Risk Assurance Services – Managing Consultant
Sophie Hirst (SH)	External Audit - Forvis Mazars LLP – Audit Manager
Ian McClelland (IM)	NYP Governance Support Officer

Apologies:

Name	Role
Heather Cook	Committee Member
Lisa Stitt	NYP & NYFRS Assistant Chief Officer
Mark Outerside	External Audit - Forvis Mazars LLP - Director

Items and Decisions:

No.	Discussion	Outcome / Decision
922	Attendance and Apologies. Attendance and apologies are noted above. Opening Comments. Despite HC having submitted apologies, under the revised ToRs approved at the 24.03.26 meeting (Minute 919), SG noted that the meeting was quorate. SG noted that once again the quality of the papers submitted was a very high standard and thanked all management and their teams for the effort.	

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	b. Annual Report. The draft Annual Report is nearing completion, with only follow-up work and minor QA points still being completed; no significant changes are expected. A <i>Positive Assurance opinion</i> (second line) has been issued for both the Chief Constable and Combined Authority, confirming that governance, risk management and internal control frameworks are <i>adequate and effective</i>. This represents a notable improvement from last year, where internal controls were given a negative opinion (third line). A comprehensive follow-up review of 77 actions has been undertaken, with the majority now closed (expected to increase further in the final report), supporting the strengthened assurance position. One area of negative assurance remains, but it is not significant enough to affect the annual opinion. Overall, the annual opinion confirms clear progress in internal control and action delivery, resulting in an improved assurance position year-on-year. MS emphasised the importance of actions being agreed and owned by responsible officers, ensuring clear accountability and avoiding situations where actions are not properly tracked or implemented. Report issuance timelines highlighted delays due to annual leave and quality assurance. GH noted the new governance controls in place requiring Chief Officer oversight for action feasibility and realistic achievement. SB raised the necessity to review the 10-day deadline for returning internal audit report action updates and sign-off, LB-W has recognised this tight timeframe within the AGS. 15 working days may be more realistic. GH is to provide an update at the next meeting on the agreed approach with RSM, recognising any new proposed deadline must still meet audit SLAs and scheduled JIAC meetings whilst balancing hitting required timelines and quality assurance. c. Police & Crime Plan. A highly positive audit, demonstrating mature and well-functioning governance with no material weaknesses identified. The audit reviewed governance arrangements, roles and responsibilities, and the assurance framework supporting delivery of the Police and Crime Plan, including oversight across key boards and committees. It also assessed monitoring, reporting, and stakeholder engagement, including interviews to validate how the plan operates in practice. The outcome was a <i>Substantial Assurance opinion</i>, with no actions required, reflecting strong governance, scrutiny, and effective delivery arrangements. SG noted the very pleasing result reflecting the effort from across the organisation. d. Sector Briefings. The very useful briefings had been provided for information only and highlighted macroeconomic risks, technology, digital, and AI trends, including concerns about knowledge gaps and the implications of AI replacing human roles. The growth of the use of AI across all sectors was highlighted by RP, requesting details of use of AI within the Force Control Room (FCR). SB provided assurance that AI is not currently used within NYP's FCR, but Robotic Process Automation (RPA) is being implemented for efficiency, and Microsoft Copilot is selectively deployed for transcription tasks. SB added that NYP has strengthening governance around AI, noting the existence of relevant policies, use of both the Ethics, Trust & Legitimacy Board and the Risk, Assurance & Improvement Board processes, as well as reviewing secure opportunities for exploiting RPA and AI being led by the Innovation Board. MS noted that AI governance will be subject to further audit scrutiny in the Sept JIAC meeting. e. External Quality Assessment. MS sought formal JIAC approval for the External Quality Assessment (EQA) approach. The EQA will be commissioned later in the year by RSM and will be conducted in line with Global Internal Audit Standards and public sector	Noted. New Action #84 (GH) Noted.

No.	Discussion	Outcome / Decision
	guidance. The approach outlines the domains to be assessed, providing a high-level view of the scope and coverage of the review. The EQA approach was approved.	Approved.
928	Audit Recommendations Tracker. GH provided the update on the tracker, noting that there are 11 open audits and 27 actions. There are three overdue actions related to data strategy pending finalisation by Print and Design colleagues. The steady reduction to the backlog and improving compliance was highlighted by RP. The Committee noted the report.	Noted.
929	HMICFRS Reports / Overview. Within the HMICFRS recommendations, GH discussed the recent publication of the PEEL report¹, noting 28 AFI recommendations and 48 actions, with NYP among just a few Forces showing improvement nationally, while most others have declined in gradings. A review of the PEEL Report will be provided at the Sept meeting. SB shared insights from the National Performance Committee, predicting that only a small number of Forces will demonstrate improvement in the current round of inspections underscoring the importance of continued progress. The Committee noted the report.	New Action #85 (GH) Noted.
930	Risk Register and Business Continuity Overview. LF presented the updated Risk Register and Business Continuity activities. a. Principal Risk Register. There are eight live risks, with one risk score increased due to national trends (supply chain risk due to fuel and equipment price volatility), particularly reflecting cyber and financial pressures. SG noted that the Principle Risks are aligned with those highlighted by the RSM Risk Radar. b. Business Continuity Incidents. Ten Business Continuity incidents were reported, primarily within IT, with ongoing monitoring of the final P1 incident action via the Risk, Assurance & Improvement Board. Further actions are taking place following a national Microsoft 365 outage. c. Risk Impact from Military Bases. Discussions noted the limited impact on the Risk Register profile of local military bases. SB highlighted that operational planning considerations are undertaken, with MPo further noting that additional funding is received for certain sites, with most risks subsumed by Military Police. d. ALARM Award. LF was very pleased to report that NYP had won the Response Award at the National ALARM Awards for Public Sector Risk Management Practitioners with the NYPreCOG submission. NYPreCog is an intelligence tool developed by NYP Business Insight that uses established criminal offending patterns to help identify individuals who may be on a trajectory toward more serious crime. By analysing behavioural trends and risk indicators, the system supports early, ethical, and evidence-based intervention. NYPreCog enables policing teams to provide targeted education, guidance, and support at the right moment — helping prevent escalation, reduce harm, and improve long term outcomes for individuals and communities. SG noted the Committee’s congratulations to the NYP team involved in this award. The Committee noted the report.	Noted.

¹ [PEEL 2025–27: Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy – An inspection of North Yorkshire Police](#)

No.	Discussion	Outcome / Decision
931	Civil Claims Overview - Case Statistics Report 01.01.26 – 31.03.26. MPh provided an overview of public liability, employer liability, and third-party motor claims from the reporting period. There had been 39 Public Liability Claims during the reporting period, with false imprisonment as the main claim, organisational reminders are published regarding necessity to arrest. Employee Liability Claims have remained steady, with previous increases in training-related injuries investigated across Evolve Legal Services, finding no significant trends. Motor claims saw a slight increase, with monthly reports provided to the Chief Officer Team and the Driver Standards Board for oversight. The increased use of AI tools, such as Copilot, by claimants was noted, which whilst can clarify claims, does also introduce factual legal inaccuracies, requiring careful review by Legal Services. MPo added that this is an area that is really well managed by NYP, confirming that there are robust financial provision for claims, including actuarial review and additional funding in the recurring revenue budget, ensuring quality information flow and financial management. Whilst costs are increasing significantly, the quality of information provided allows good planning to take place. The Committee noted the report.	Noted.
932	Finance and Accounts - DRAFT Statement of Accounts. LB-W presented the draft Statement of Accounts (SoA) for review, with follow-up discussions taking place regarding favourable variances in supplies and services due to delayed projects and ICT contract savings, and ongoing analysis to understand the £2.2M variance. An analysis of the variances and related challenges will be reported to the Deputy Mayor and Strategic Oversight Board (SOB) at the end of Q1 in Jul. The Outturn Report will be provided at the Sept meeting. SG formally recognised the team's significant efforts in preparing the SoA. The SoA was noted by the Committee, acknowledging that the variances will be subject to further scrutiny.	Noted.
933	External Audit - Final Auditor's Annual Report. SH presented the Audit Strategy which sets out the approach for the FY25/26 External Audit. Two key risks were identified (which remains consistent with last year); the management override of controls and pension (IAS19) valuation risk. Materiality levels established are based on previous year figures and will be updated once draft accounts are reviewed. Initial assessment indicates no expected significant weaknesses in Value for Money arrangements, subject to ongoing audit work. Overall, this reflects a standard, risk-based audit approach, consistent with previous years and with no immediate concerns identified. SH provided assurance that fieldwork would commence in Aug, with completion expected by Oct, allowing audited accounts to be presented at the scheduled Dec 26 JIAC meeting. Regular communication with management regarding planning takes place with the organisation. The Committee noted the report.	Noted.
934	DRAFT AGS 25/26. LF updated the committee on progress against the three areas for improvement in the AGS, including explaining the internal review practices and plans which raise awareness among the Chief Officers prior to any public release ensuring coherence and consistency with other accountability statements. MPo emphasised the importance of completing the review of the Devolved Resource Manual (AGS Action #1: DRM) by the extended deadline of 30.09.26 as this action has	

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	been open for some time and further progress on other recommendations is dependent on it. An update on the progress of the DRM is to be provided at the Sept meeting. The committee noted that the AGS reads very well and endorsed the document, subject to finalisation.	New Action #86 (LB-W) Approved.
935	Next Meeting. Thursday 24th September 2026 at 10:00. Hybrid attendance	
936	Date of Remaining 2026 Meetings: Thursday 17th December 2026 at 10:00. Hybrid attendance. Proposed Dates for 2027 Meetings: Thursday 18th March 2027 at 10:00. Hybrid attendance. Thursday 24th June 2027 at 10:00. Hybrid attendance. Thursday 23rd September 2027 at 10:00. Hybrid attendance. Thursday 16th December 2027 at 10:00. Hybrid attendance.	Approved.
937	Closed Session. PC withdrew from the meeting. a. Seized Exhibits - confidential paper. MS presented the findings of the Seized Exhibits Audit, reporting a <i>Partial Assurance opinion</i>. This is an improved opinion from previous audits. The audit scope, historical context, resourcing structural challenges and changes, dated infrastructure and robust management and governance actions taken were all discussed. MS highlighted the good control framework that is now in place. SB welcomed the audit report and recommendations. Governance has strengthened, compliance is much improved and first line leadership is functioning properly. The audit provides reassurance that the work that has taken place over the previous 18 months is being effective and led to an improved picture; improvements will continue. The Committee noted the report.	Noted.

Actions Agreed:

No.	Action / Update	Owner	Date Issued	Date Closed
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	25.06.26
80	Internal Controls and User Lockouts. As recommended in the External Auditor's Annual Report FY24/25 findings, procedures are to be put in place to strengthen journal approvals and also lock users out of the ledger after failed password attempts.	LB-W	26.02.26	25.06.26
81	Combined Authority Representation. Attendance of relevant Combined Authority representatives at future is to be put in place in order to address questions and provide updates on audit actions.	MP	24.03.26	25.06.26
82	Increase In Reported Police Misconduct. Police misconduct across the 43 Forces in England and Wales had seen a 20% increase in FY24/25. An update is requested at the next	DCC	24.03.26	25.06.26

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	meeting detailing the current position of NYP regarding any percentage increase in misconduct allegations.			
83	Performance Indicator In Fulfilling Statutory Information Requests. Clarity is to be provided as to whether the FOI percentage compliance rate reported is a cumulative figure, an update is required at the next meeting.	JB	24.03.26	
84	Deadline for Returning Internal Audit Report Action Updates and Sign-Off. The 10-day deadline is to be reviewed. GH is to provide an update at the next meeting on the agreed approach with RSM, recognising any new proposed deadline must still meet audit SLAs and scheduled JIAC meetings whilst balancing hitting required timelines and quality assurance.	GH	25.06.26	
85	PEEL Report Review. A review of the PEEL Report is to be provided at the Sept meeting.	GH	25.06.26	
86	Devolved Resource Manual. An update on the progress of the DRM is to be provided at the Sept meeting.	LB-W	25.06.26	

Use of Copilot

These Minutes have been supported by the use of Microsoft Copilot. The content has been reviewed and verified by the named reviewer below to ensure it represents an accurate and complete record of the meeting.

Reviewed by: I McClelland – Governance Support Officer

Date reviewed: 30.06.26

Signed off as a true and accurate record:

Name: Dr Stuart Green - Chair

Date signed off: