

Audit Advisory Committee

for

Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable

Annual Report 2018

Chairman's Foreword

This is the 2018 annual report of the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable's Audit Advisory Committee ['the Committee'].

The Committee provides an independent assurance function to the Police and Crime Commissioner ['the Commissioner'] and the Chief Constable on the effectiveness of governance, risk and audit arrangements and controls in place, within the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Constabulary.

From April 2017 the Committee comprised of 5 members in total, a chairman and 4 members. The 4 members all took up their posts following a successful recruitment campaign. As of the present time, Committee membership remains the same but David Gilbert is now chairman of the Committee with Phil Bearpark as vice-chairman.

Membership

Membership of the Committee is as follows:

Chairman

David Gilbert is a qualified accountant who has held senior finance positions including Director of Finance and Chief Finance Officer roles in NHS Organisations. He is also a Non-Executive Director of the RJAH Orthopaedic Hospital in Oswestry where he Chairs the Audit Committee.

Vice-chairman

Phil Bearpark is a Chartered Mechanical Engineer and has held a number of senior roles within the UK Rail Industry over the last 26 years. He still works part time in Rail and is now a Director of his own business. Phil is very experienced in audit, governance and risk management.

Members

John Pearsall is a fully qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors. He is also currently Head of Internal Audit, Risk and Insurance Services at Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council with overall responsibility for the delivery of assurance services to the Council. John is also currently a tutor, examiner and

moderator for the Chartered Institute. John has over 25 years of internal audit, governance, control and risk experience in both the public sector (three local councils) and the private sector (pharmaceuticals, retail and financial services).

Tony Snape is a Chartered Surveyor (Quantity Surveyor) who, following many years running the family building and civil engineering company, has held a variety of positions including: a consultant to Gleeds (Construction Consultants); a non executive Director of the Manchester Building Society; Board Member of Great Places Housing Association. His voluntary roles have included: a Trustee of MOSI (Manchester Museum of Science and Industry) and Chair of the Seashell Trust (a charity for very disabled children) where he is still involved.

Helen Waller is a non-practising barrister whose current roles include Examiner of the Court and law tutor. In 2008, she joined as a member, and later the chairman, of the Standards Committee for Cheshire Police Authority. Following on from this, Helen was on the Interim Joint Audit Committee from November 2012, and was Chairman of the Joint Audit Committee from December 2013 to March 2018.

Members of the Committee bring with them a range of experience and skills which cover the various aspects of the Committee's work. There has been training for members within the last 12 months which has ensured that all members are able to contribute fully to the work of the Committee and fulfil their roles effectively and professionally.

2017/2018

The Committee has supported the Commissioner and the Chief Constable, in particular through monitoring the strategic risk management framework to ensure that risks were adequately recorded and managed; and by considering the Commissioner's and the Chief Constable's Annual Governance Statement and Statements of Accounts to provide assurance that they complied with the relevant requirements.

We have also reviewed issues referred to us by relevant officers, analysing, questioning and making recommendations as appropriate. In addition, we received plans and reports from both the Internal and External Auditors which we have scrutinised to ensure that Cheshire Constabulary maintains the high standards of governance, finance and audit that the people of Cheshire would expect.

Further, we receive reviews from Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary to ensure that full consideration has been given to the appropriate action arising from the recommendations which includes monitoring implementation.

As the Committee has developed, as well as completing the general work of the Committee, members have chosen to focus on areas where they have a particular interest. These are areas where either the Chief Constable or the Commissioner

would like some additional input or the Committee sees that there is an issue pertinent to the Committee's work which may require further detailed attention.

The members undertaking these roles are termed the 'single point of contact' for that area. The single points of contact are as follows:

- David Gilbert - PFI;
- Phil Bearpark - health and safety;
- Tony Snape - crime recording;
- John Pearsall - change management; and
- Helen Waller - disclosure

Being the single point of contact requires the respective member to attend extra meetings or briefings so as to be appraised of any specific issues within that area. It also means that if the Constabulary or Commissioner has any queries or would like the view of an independent person, there is someone to whom they can go. That particular member then acts as the liaison between the Committee and those whose role is to deal with particular area.

The future

As the 2018/2019 financial year gets under way the Committee has advised the Commissioner and the Acting Chief Constable on the Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement as well as focusing particular attention on the contents of the risk register.

We also intend to continue our consideration of a number of areas of particular interest such as the improvements in crime recording and disclosure, in addition to issues pertinent to Mobile Data and Multi Force Shared Services.

Further information

For further information on the work of the Committee, its Terms of Reference, Minutes and Agendas, please refer to the website of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire.

David Gilbert FCCA

Chairman of the Audit Advisory Committee of the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable

2018