

AGENDA NO: 15



INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE – 13 MARCH 2018

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENTS FOR DEVON & CORNWALL POLICE AND OPCC AND DORSET POLICE AND OPCC

REPORT BY KAREN JAMES HEAD OF AUDIT, INSURANCE AND STRATEGIC RISK

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present the Annual Governance Statements for Devon and Cornwall Police and OPCC, for Dorset Police and for Dorset OPCC.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Annual Governance Statement is produced and published each year as part of the accounts, in accordance with the updated CIPFA 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework' April 2016. This updated framework is supported by guidance notes for Policing Bodies.

2.0 PROGRESS UPDATE

2.1 The framework requires evidence to be compiled according specific criteria that sit below the following principles:

- A - Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law
- B - Effective engagement with individual citizens and service users
- C - Sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits
- D - Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of intended outcomes
- E - Developing the Forces capacity including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.
- F - Managing risk and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.
- G - Implementing good practice in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability.

2.2 There is a programme of work in place across the four legal entities to gather data for the AGS in a common format and to share that information where it is applicable, such as Alliance related matters, so as to avoid duplication of work.

- 2.3 This work is supported subjected to challenge by a working group with representatives from both Forces and OPCC. In addition there are also members from both Corporate Development Departments to help identify any overlaps with the production of the HMIC Force Management Statement and to prevent duplication of work.
- 2.4 The next meeting of the working group is on 23 February 2018.
- 2.5 Attached at Appendix A for information is a timetable for the production of the AGS and the Force Management Statement, detailing the relevant boards that are required to consider them prior to publication.
- 2.6 At Appendix B is the scoring methodology used to evaluate the evidence gathered.
- 2.7 Due to the Independent Audit Committee dates and the revised deadline for the publication of accounts, it is necessary to bring to the Committee a very early draft of each Annual Governance Statement for consideration. The first draft of each AGS is attached as an Appendix C – E:
- 2.8 Members will see that there are separate AGSs for the Force and OPCC in Dorset and a Joint statement and opinion in Devon and Cornwall.
- 2.9 Guidance states that the Chief Constable and the PCC must produce an Annual Governance Statement to go with their individual accounts. It is silent on whether this can be a joint statement or not.
- 2.10 Work will continue to develop and finalise each AGS in time for signature by the respective Chief Constable or PCC and be published with the accounts at the end of June 2018.
- 2.11 The final AGS will be presented to this Committee at the July meeting together with the final accounts.

3.0 RISK/THREAT ASSESSMENT

Financial/Resource/Value for Money Implications

- 3.1 The AGS helps to ensure the ongoing delivery of value for money by the Force and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and that resources and mechanisms designed to protect those resources are effective.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 There is a legal requirement for the AGS to be published as part of the accounts for each legal entity.

Implications for Policing Outcomes

- 3.3 By reviewing the internal control mechanisms of the Force and publishing our findings in the AGS as part of the accounts, we support the transparency and help to maintain the confidence of the public in the policing function. The AGS is not intended to be an accountancy document only, but should be used to inform the whole Force and internal and external stakeholders.

Equality

- 3.4 The AGS process is a review of the internal control processes and mechanisms and does not directly impact on equality. However should inequality be identified during the evaluation of effectiveness this would be addressed.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Members are asked to review and comment on the Annual Governance Statements and whether they properly reflect the governance, risk and control environment.

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