

Report to Audit Committee on The Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

Originator: Chief Finance Officer , PCC CFO

Summary

The report describes the work of the Corporate Governance Working Group and presents the draft Annual Governance Statement for review, comment and / or endorsement.

Introduction

1.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (Section 6) require the 'relevant authority', in this case both the PCC and the Chief Constable, to

- conduct a review of the system of internal control (the AGS process)
- prepare an annual governance statement.

1.3 The 'relevant authority' must then consider the findings of the review and approve the annual governance statement.

1.4 The corporate governance arrangements of the PCC and Chief Constable (CC) are set out in the Corporate Governance Framework and the Scheme of Governance and consent, both of which are available on the website of the PCC.

1.5 The Framework and the Code of Corporate Governance are drafted from the latest good governance guidance published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives.

1.6 The Framework includes the meeting structures for the PCC and the CC, both individually and jointly. Also presented are the meeting structures for Norfolk/Suffolk Constabularies (the Strategic Partnership) and the 7 Force Collaboration.

Financial reporting

2.1 The Corporate Governance Working Group, comprising the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner; the Assistant Chief Officer and Head of Strategic Business and Operational Services from the constabulary, one Audit Committee Member, with the addition of the Data Protection Officer and the Head of the Professional Standards Department, have overseen the review of the AGS.

2.2 The Audit Committee is also able to endorse the arrangements in place through its oversight of both governance and internal audit arrangements. The Head of Internal Audit's Annual Assurance Report 2023/24, elsewhere on the agenda, includes a positive opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the risk management, control and governance processes.

2.3 The revised Draft Annual Governance Statement which is, essentially, a commentary on compliance with the Code of Corporate Governance, is attached at Appendix 1.

Other matters

The revisions were changes to 3.5, 3.7, 3.47 and 3.48.

Conclusion

For Audit Committee to confirm acceptance of changes.