

Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey – Decision Making Record

Report Title: Adoption of updated Terms of Reference for the Joint Audit Committee
Decision number: 39/2020
Author and Job Role: Kelvin Menon – Treasurer
Protective Marking: OFFICIAL

Executive Summary:

The Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Chief Constable of Surrey (CC) have established a Joint Audit Committee (JAC), which is a key component of the corporate governance arrangements for both corporations sole. The Terms of Reference, which governs the work of the Committee, have been updated to ensure that they take account of CIPFA best practice and are therefore fit for purpose.

Background

It is a sign of good governance that committee Terms of Reference are kept under regular review. These TOR have been produced in order to align with CIPFA best practice and to ensure that the Joint Audit Committee has the tools its needs to fulfil its function.

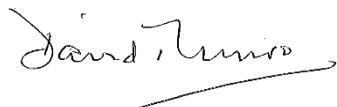
The new TOR were reviewed by the Joint Audit Committee at its meeting In July 2020 and have been recommended for adoption by the PCC.

Recommendation:

Police and Crime Commissioner Approval

I approve the adoption and publication of the new Terms of Reference for the Joint Audit Committee.

Signature:



Date: 7th August 2020

All decisions must be added to the decision register.

Areas of consideration

Consultation

The TOR has been reviewed by both Surrey JAC for comments and amendments

Financial implications

None

Legal

It is a sign of good governance that TORs are reviewed and updated regularly to reflect good practice

Risks

None

Equality and diversity

None

Risks to human rights

None

INDEPENDENT JOINT EXTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE SURREY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE APPROVED JULY 2020

Statement of Purpose:

The Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Chief Constable of Surrey (CC) have established a Joint Audit Committee (JAC), which is a key component of the corporate governance arrangements for both corporations sole.

The JAC provides an independent and high-level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards.

This supports the PCC and CC and other statutory officers in ensuring that effective governance is in place and is achieved by reviewing the comprehensiveness of assurances in meeting Statutory Officers' needs and reviewing their reliability and integrity.

The purpose of the JAC is to provide independent advice and recommendation to the PCC and CC on the adequacy of the governance and risk management frameworks, the internal audit control environment, and financial reporting, thereby helping to ensure efficient, effective and adequate assurance arrangements are in place. To this end the JAC is enabled and required to have oversight of, and to provide independent review of the effectiveness of governance assurance arrangements in place for:

- the risk management framework
- the internal control environment
- financial reporting
- annual governance processes
- internal audit and external audit

Governance, risk and Control

The JAC will provide advice and recommendations to the PCC or CC in relation to the following areas:

1. Consider and comment on the adequacy of the Scheme of Corporate Governance, comprising the Framework for Decision Making and Accountability, the Scheme of Consent, Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders and review and comment on the desirability of any proposed changes.
2. Review the corporate governance arrangements against the good governance framework, including the ethical framework, codes of

governance and policies on fraud, irregularity and corruption, including whistle blowing.

3. Review the Annual Governance Statements prior to approval and consider whether they properly reflect the governance, risk and control environment and supporting assurances and identify any areas for improvement where management may wish to take action.
4. Consider the arrangements to secure value for money and review assurances and assessments on the effectiveness of these arrangements.
5. Monitor the effective development and operation of risk management, review the risk profile, and monitor progress of the PCC/CC in addressing risk-related issues reported to them.
6. Consider reports on the effectiveness of internal controls and monitor the implementation of agreed actions.
7. Review arrangements for the assessment of fraud risks and potential harm from fraud and corruption and monitor the effectiveness of the counter fraud strategy, actions and resources.
8. Review the governance and assurance arrangements for significant partnerships or collaborations.
9. Consider the adequacy and effectiveness of the policies and procedures governing declarations of interest and receipt of gifts and hospitality within the Office of the PCC and the force.
10. Consider and comment on the adequacy and effectiveness of the PCC and CC policies on health & safety and equality & diversity arrangements.
11. To review any issue referred to the Committee by the statutory officers of the PCC or CC and make recommendations as appropriate.

Financial Reporting

The JAC will provide advice and recommendations to the PCC or CC in relation to the following areas:

12. Review the annual statements of accounts and recommend for approval to the PCC and CC. Consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and consider whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit of the financial statements that need to be brought to the attention of the PCC and/or CC.

13. Ensure that an effective system of scrutiny is in place in respect of Treasury Management, strategy, policies and practices.
14. Consider the adequacy and effectiveness of the arrangements for bad debt write-offs outlined in the Financial Regulations and commenting on bad debt write-offs approved under those arrangements.
15. Consider and comment on the appropriateness of contract waivers issued under the procedure outlined in Contract Standing Orders.
16. Review the PCC and CC arrangements for the making of grants to third party organisations.
17. Consider and comment upon any policy or strategy relating to sponsorship.

Internal Audit

The JAC will provide advice and recommendations to the PCC or CC in relation to the following areas:

18. Annually review the Internal Audit Charter and resources.
19. Review the internal audit plan and any proposed revisions. Monitor performance, with particular reference to the adequacy of cover, quality and timeliness of audits and to consider reports dealing with the management and performance of the providers of Internal Audit services.
20. Oversee the appointment and consider the adequacy of the performance of the internal audit service and its independence.
21. Consider the head of internal audit's annual report and opinion, and a regular summary of the progress of internal audit activity against the audit plan. Consider the level of assurance that can give over corporate governance arrangements and that appropriate action is being taken where necessary to address areas of weakness.
22. Consider the head of internal audit's statement of the level of conformance with the PSIAS and LGAN and the results of the QAIP that support the statement – these will indicate the reliability of the conclusions of internal audit.
23. Consider summaries of internal audit reports and such detailed reports as the JAC may request from the PCC and/or CC, including issues raised or recommendations made by the internal audit service, management response and progress with agreed actions.
24. Consider any impairments to independence or objectivity arising from additional roles or responsibilities outside of internal auditing of the

head of internal audit. To make recommendations on safeguards to limit such impairments and periodically review their operation.

25. Commission additional work from internal audit subject to prior agreement with the CFO's for any costs associated with such work to ensure that it gives value for money.

External Audit

The JAC will provide advice and recommendations to the PCC or CC in relation to the following areas:

26. Support the independence of external audit through consideration of the external auditor's annual assessment of its independence and review of any issues raised by PSAA.
27. Comment on the scope and depth of external audit work, its independence and whether it gives satisfactory value for money.
28. Consider the reports of the External Auditors and other inspection agencies (e.g. HMICFRS) and ensure that appropriate action is being taken where necessary to address identified areas of weakness.
29. Consider reports from External Auditors on the annual financial accounts and statements, including detailed consideration of the Annual Management Letter and the report to those charged with governance. Ensuring appropriate steps are being taken to address all issues of concern highlighted by the External Auditors.
30. Review and comment on the annual Letters of Representation provided by the PCC and the CC to the External Auditors.
31. Commission additional work from external audit subject to prior agreement with the CFOs for any costs associated with such work to ensure that it gives value for money.

General

32. On a timely basis report to the PCC and the CC with its advice and recommendations in relation to any matters that it considers relevant to governance, risk management and financial management.
33. The Committee is not responsible for the governance or oversight of change projects, which is the role of programme and project governance. The JAC's involvement is purely from a risk/control/assurance perspective.
34. Review JAC performance against its terms of reference and objectives on an annual basis and report the results of this review to the PCC and the chief constable.

35. There must be a quorum of three Members for the Committee meetings to take place.
36. These Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Appendix 2

OFFICE OF THE SURREY POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER & SURREY POLICE FORCE INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE ORIGINAL TERMS OF REFERENECE MARCH 2017

Statement of Purpose:

To provide independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment, independent scrutiny of the organisation's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects exposure to risk and weakens the control environment, and to oversee the financial reporting process.

Governance, Risk and Control

1. To support the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC), Chief Constable (CC) and the other statutory officers in ensuring that effective governance is in place for both the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable (separate corporation soles) as well as for the consolidation of "Surrey Police" as a whole.
2. To review any issue referred to the Committee by the statutory officers of the PCC or CC and make recommendations as appropriate.
3. To consider and comment on the adequacy of the Scheme of Corporate Governance, comprising the Framework for Decision Making and Accountability, the Scheme of Consent, Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders and review and comment on the desirability of any proposed changes.
4. To review and recommend approval of the PCC and CC's Annual Governance Statements.
5. To consider and comment on the effectiveness of the PCC and CC's risk management arrangements, including the control environment and associated anti-fraud and anti-corruption arrangements.
6. To review on a quarterly basis the Risk Registers and Assurance Frameworks for both the PCC and CC and provide assurance that the risk management arrangements that are in place are adequate to effectively manage organisational risk.
7. To review and monitor the effectiveness of the PCC and CC's policies on fraud, irregularity and corruption, including whistle blowing.
8. To review and monitor the effectiveness of the PCC and CC's policies on Health and Safety.

9. To review compliance within the Surrey Police Force and Office of the Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner, with the policies and procedures governing declarations of interest and the receipt of gifts and hospitality.
10. To support the implementation and operation of appropriate Equality Schemes and Human Rights Policies by the PCC and CC.

Financial Reporting

11. To review and recommend for approval to the PCC and CC their respective annual financial accounts and statements.
12. To ensure that an effective system of scrutiny is in place in respect of Treasury Management, strategy, policies and practices
13. To consider and comment on bad debt write-offs approved under the arrangements outlined in the Financial Regulations.
14. To consider and comment on the appropriateness of contract waivers issued under the procedure outlined in Contract Standing Orders.
15. To review the PCC and CC's arrangements for the making of grants to third party organisations.
16. To consider and comment upon any policy or strategy relating to sponsorship.

Internal and External Audit

17. To approve the internal audit plan and monitor performance, with particular reference to the adequacy of cover and quality of audits.
18. To consider reports from the Internal Auditors and seek assurance that appropriate action is being taken where necessary to address identified areas of weakness and in particular the Head of Internal Audit's annual report and opinion and the level of assurance that it gives over corporate governance arrangements as a whole.
19. Review the performance and effectiveness of the internal audit function.
20. To consider and comment on the arrangements for providing an Internal Audit Service at the end of each contract period with the appointed Internal Auditors.
21. To consider the reports of the External Auditors and other inspection agencies and ensure that the appropriate action is being taken where necessary to address identified areas of weakness.

22. To consider and comment on all fee proposals put forward by the External Auditors.
23. To consider the reports of the External Auditors on the respective annual financial accounts and statements, including detailed consideration of the annual Management Letter to ensure all appropriate steps are being taken to address all issues of concern highlighted by the External Auditors.
24. Where needed, directly commission assurance work (e.g. specialist advice or audit).

General

25. To annually review the effectiveness of the Audit Committee.
26. There must be a quorum of three Members for the Committee meetings to take place.
27. These Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an annual basis.

July 2020