



west midlands  
police and crime  
commissioner



**AGENDA ITEM 06**

**JOINT AUDIT COMMITTEE  
2 July 2020**

**ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENTS**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Members of the requirement to produce & publish an Annual Governance Statement on Corporate Governance along with the assurance processes and protocols that are associated with this production.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Good governance has been a growing area of focus since the early 1990's and various good practice documents have been produced and improved as reform has taken place and governance has played an increasingly important role in the public services.
- 2.2 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (amended 2020) require that all principal authorities produce a statement on governance, having carried out a review of internal controls, at least annually. This requirement now takes the form of an Annual Governance Statement (AGS), which accompanies the Statutory Accounts. CIPFA's Better Governance Forum also produced a document highlighted the matters that should be considered as a result of the coronavirus pandemic on Annual Governance Statements.
- 2.3 The Commissioner and Chief Constable are respectively the responsible corporate bodies for the production of the AGS.
- 2.4 Attached to this report, at **Appendix A**, are the draft Annual Governance Statements for 2019/20. The Statements have been prepared in line with the framework produced by CIPFA and Solace in 2016 'Delivering Good Governance.' This includes CIPFA's Guidance Notes for Policing Bodies in England and Wales and the Better Governance Forum's document referred to above. Both statements will be published in the draft 2019/20 draft statements of accounts for both organisations.

### 3. PROCESS

3.1 The PCC's Chief Finance Officer and the Chief Constable's Assistant Director completed an assessment based on CIPFA's 'Delivering Good Governance' guidance notes. This including assessing both corporations governance arrangements against the core principles of the 'Delivering Good Governance' framework. The core principles are as follows:-

- Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law
- Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement
- Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits
- Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes
- Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it
- Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management
- Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability

3.3 Senior managers from the Commissioner's office and the Force, reviewed the draft Annual Governance Statements attached to this report to ensure they reflect the governance arrangements of the organisations. This includes the effectiveness of the arrangements and identifying any significant issues that need to be addressed. These are reported upon in the attached statements and actions will be put in place to address any issues during the year.

### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Committee is asked to consider and note the contents of this report.

4.2 The Committee is asked to consider the Annual Governance Statements for 2019/20, as attached at **Appendix A**.

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Chief Finance Officer  
Police and Crime Commissioner

**Neil Chamberlain**  
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West Midlands Police