

Joint Audit Committee of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire and Bedfordshire Police

Meeting of 24 June 2015

Minutes

Present:

Jagtar Singh - Chair	Independent Committee Member
Wayne Brads	Independent Committee Member
Graham Seaby	Independent Committee Member
Paul Smith	Independent Committee Member
Phil Wells	Joint Chief Finance Officer for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire and Bedfordshire Police (CFO)
Nanci Hogan	Chief of Staff (CoS)
Jon Boutcher	Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)
Suzanne Lane	Baker Tilly
Pauline Gibbons	Minutes

15/JAC/10 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Andrew Godman (Independent Committee Member), Mark Hodgson (Ernst & Young) and Mark Jones (Baker Tilly).

15/JAC/11 MINUTES

The minutes of the Meeting of the Joint Audit Committee (JAC) held on 25 March 2015 were confirmed.

15/JAC/12 STATUS REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING

The Committee received a status report of activity taken to implement the actions arising from the meeting held on 25 March 2015.

Members also raised the following matters:

1. Portfolio activity of members:
The report has been deferred until the development day on 03 July.
2. Force SRR - presentation on the changed scoring within the SRR
This will be delivered at the development day on 03 July.
3. Collaboration Update – a further column to be added to Appendix A to show the amount of potential savings
Collaboration savings to be reviewed by tri-force CFOs on 24 June 2015.
4. Financial / Service Delivery Risk Presentation – an impact analysis of the referendum to be undertaken
Medium Term Plan to be reconsidered following budget announcement on 08 July 2015.
5. Internal Audit Plan 2015-16 – an eleventh risk needs to be added with regards to Firearms Licencing
To be considered upon the next review of the Strategic Risk Register.

IT WAS RESOLVED

- That members noted the report.
- That the report on the portfolio activity of members be deferred until the development day on 03 July.
- That a presentation on the changed scoring within the Force SRR be delivered at the development day on 03 July.
- That the Medium Term Plan be reconsidered following the budget announcement on 08 July 2015.
- That at the next review of the Force SRR, an eleventh risk needs to be considered with regards to Firearms Licencing

15/JAC/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interests from members.

15/JAC/14 EXTERNAL AUDIT

The external auditor was not in attendance and the CFO confirmed that there was nothing to report at the moment.

15/JAC/15 INTERNAL AUDIT

It was reported that there are no further changes to the audit plan and that 'recruitment' was an additional piece of work. Auditors to do follow-up in quarter 2.

Baker Tilly announced that from 26 October 2015, it will be adopting RSM as a common brand name, uniting under a single global brand with more than 100 fellow member firms of the RSM International network.

It was felt that the IT Strategy Review was less than the classification of moderate assurance and that there was a lot of reliance on the ICT business case being signed off in September. The CFO was hopeful that the business case would be signed off in September, based upon some of the bigger decisions being made on collaboration, particularly public contact.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- That the Committee noted the update on the progress made against the Plan

15/JAC/16

15/JAC/17 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2014/15

PCC website to be updated.

The Force has taken lead responsibility for the tri-force delivery of Protective Services as well as the regional responsibility for the Eastern Region Serious and Organised Crime Unit (ERSOU) and the Counter Terrorism Investigation Unit (CTIU) which we have had to account for even though they are collaborative services.

IT WAS RESOLVED

1. To consider the accounting policies for the Chief Constable and Police & Crime Commissioner.
2. To consider the Chief Constable and PCC's Annual Governance Statements and suggest amendments where appropriate.
3. To review the accounts of the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner which are in draft form and subject to final amendments.

15/JAC/18 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS UPDATE

Congratulations were extended from the members on the work undertaken in bringing three forces together.

The CFO advised that the proposed reduction in the delegation limit for the Chief Constable to settle civil claims was not agreed by the Strategic Board and that it remains at £20k.

IT WAS RESOLVED

1. That the Committee noted the updates to the Scheme of Governance (para 3)
2. That the Committee noted the updates to the Financial regulations (para 4)

15/JAC/19 JOINT AUDIT COMMITTEE EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW

The Committee felt that there were some areas of the effectiveness analysis where improvements were required and as a result adjusted some of the assessment scores downwards and will look to develop on these issues at their development days.

IT WAS RESOLVED

1. That the Committee considered and agreed the evaluation of the Committee.

15/JAC/20 STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR BEDFORDSHIRE

The register has been amended to take into account the following:-

1. The 'NO' vote at the referendum
2. The Chief Constable's retirement
3. The recent death in custody

It will be amended further to take into account the changes in the Force SRR.

A number of inconsistencies were noted in that the heat maps differ on documents and the March version appears in error and that some of the wording, particularly with regards to the use of 'causes' and 'effects', and asked that this be reviewed.

Two members expressed concerns with the SRR and commented that it needs to be integrated from the top. The Chair asked if the CFO could lend any support to the CoS until staff shortages in the Commissioner's office were resolved.

The Chair said it appeared to be all about reputational damage rather than delivering policing and reducing crime and it needs to focus on the risks in the PCC's remit rather than the Force's. It was also noted that work needs to be undertaken to ensure that there is a match between risks and the meeting of strategic challenges

SR 07 – funding decisions will be published on the PCC's website.

The Police and Crime Plan is due out on 08 July. and the SRR will be re-aligned with this. JAC members were invited to review the SRR and offer support face-to-face.

The Police and Crime Plan Priorities:

- **Protecting the Public** – cutting crime and anti-social behaviour to reduce harm and improve quality of life
- **Partnership Working** – working together to provide quality services and develop confident communities who trust and value their services
- **Preventing Crime** – tackling the underlying causes of crime to reduce the number of victims and break the cycle of reoffending

IT WAS RESOLVED

1. Members of the Joint Audit Committee noted and considered the risks in the OPCC's Strategic Risk Register.
2. That the CoS further reviews the risk register for the PCC to ensure its accuracy and liaises with the Members prior to the next meeting of the JAC.

15/JAC/21

15/JAC/22 AOB

The Development Day on Friday 11 December is to be rescheduled for January 2016 - date to be agreed. CFO to send email re Development Day.

It was agreed that future meetings would be held on Fridays where possible and earlier in the day, although the meeting in September needs to remain due to the External Auditors report on the Accounts.

Next meeting: Wednesday 23 September 2015 at 2:30pm