

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LEICESTERSHIRE JOINT AUDIT, RISK & ASSURANCE PANEL

PAPER MARKED

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Report of	OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
Subject	REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS
Date	TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2013 – 2.00 P.M.
Author :	ANGELA PERRY, HEAD OF GOVERNANCE

Purpose of Report

1. This report updates the Panel with proposal to undertake a review of the governance arrangements for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

Recommendation

2. The Panel are recommended to note the proposal for a governance review, and the format of that review to be commenced during Autumn 2013.

Background

3. With the election of a Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire a Corporate Governance Framework was introduced as a secure and robust operation of the two corporate soles of Police and Crime Commissioner and Office of Chief Constable. At that time the Framework was shared with the external auditor who had made some minor comments. It was also presented to the Joint Audit Risk and Assurance Panel (JARAP) on 13 December 2012 allowing for internal auditors to also comment on the document. The Framework was approved at the PCC Executive Board meeting on 6 December 2012.
4. Since this time the Framework has been put into action and been subject to further scrutiny by external and internal audit and legal services to ensure it is robust and fully compliant with legislation and other guidance. This resulted in a number of changes, especially in regard to delegations from the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Office of Chief Constable. A significant change to the document at this time was a revision to the PCC's Executive Board which was amended to a non-public Strategic Assurance Board meeting with new terms of reference. The revised document was approved by the PCC's Executive Board on 12 June 2013.
5. Risk OPCC1691, on the OPCC Risk register, refers to having in place a meeting structure that supports, with advice and guidance, decisions taken by

the PCC. Whilst the one year anniversary of the introduction of PCC's taking up office makes it an appropriate time for a further review of the Governance Framework, one of the main factors driving the need to review will be the outcome of the Stage 2 transfers from the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner to the Office of Chief Constable. A proposal for the transfer has been submitted to the Home Secretary and a response is expected from her in November 2013. If the proposal is approved this will require significant amendment to the current working arrangements and the Corporate Governance Framework for the future operation of the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner. It is foreseen that a number of areas will require a significant re-write and amendment. The review will commence during Autumn 2013 and the outcome will be reported to the JARAP at a meeting to be arranged for March 2014.

Governance Review

6. The review will cover the working arrangements for the PCC Committees and the decision making process together with a review of the Framework document.
7. Albeit that the review will need to take account of the Stage 2 transfer agreement any identified areas of difficulty within current working arrangements will be addressed. In relation to the Framework document those areas that have not as yet been completed i.e. Commissioning and Award of Grants Framework and the Complaints Protocol will be included. The review will also take into consideration how the framework has been embedded within the working arrangements for the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner.
8. Consultation with key individuals with responsibility for delivery of business areas will be undertaken, including the Chief Office Team, incoming Chief Finance Officer for the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner and Commissioning Manager. Any proposed amendments to the Framework document will be shared with internal and external auditors and provided to the legal services team to ensure compliance with legislation.

Implications

Financial :	None.
Legal :	Advice from legal services will be sought.
Equality Impact Assessment :	Advice from the Diversity and Equality Manager will be obtained on any proposed amendments to the Framework document.
Risks and Impact :	It is crucial that the working arrangements for the OPCC are robust and fit for purpose.
Link to Police and Crime Plan :	Identified amendments will be considered for any impact on the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.

List of Appendices

Appendix: None

Background Papers

None

Person to Contact

Mrs A Perry – Head of Governance Tel: 0116 229 8982

Email: angela.perry@leics.pcc.pnn.gov.uk