

## Police and Crime Panel

### Joint Independent Audit Committee Annual Report 2023-24



## Report of the Police and Crime and Commissioner

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### Purpose

1. To share the Joint Independent Audit Committee Annual Report 2023-24 with Panel Members.

### Background

2. The Annual Audit Report is designed to enable the reader to form a view about the effectiveness of the Committee's activities during the year and its oversight of the Assurance and Risk Management Frameworks within which the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner and Constabulary's Chief Constable operates.
3. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) recommends that Audit Committees report on their work and assess their performance.
4. The Joint Independent Audit Committee is an independent body which checks both Durham Constabulary and the PCC of Durham are following national and local regulations, handling public finances in accordance with the law and not taking undue risk.
5. The Committee is accountable to the PCC and the Chief Constable.
6. CIPFA's Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police Audit Committees sets the criteria for this accountability which forms the basis of this report (page 6 of Annual Report).

### Content of Annual Report

7. The report details the Committee's aims and objectives and contains a diagram describing where it fits within the Durham PCC Accountability Framework (page 4 of the Annual Report).
8. The Committee membership comprises elected members of Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council and independent members with a wide range of skillsets and experience. The meetings are attended by the OPCC and Constabulary's internal auditors and external auditors.
9. The members are paid an attendance allowance and records are maintained of their meeting attendance (in person or virtual).

10. The work of the Committee in 2023/24 and the range of reports it received are shared within the report. The Committee consider reports from officers and staff of the PCC or Constabulary, from internal and external auditors and request reports as felt necessary.
11. The Annual Report is reflective and asks a series of questions which are answered in the detail of the report:
  - Has the Committee fulfilled its terms of reference?
  - Has the Committee adopted recommended practice?
  - Has the Committee assessed its own effectiveness or been the subject of a review?
  - Have the development needs of Committee members been assessed and are they accessing briefing and training opportunities?
  - What impact has the Committee had on the improvement of governance, risk and control?
12. The Committee's conclusions are covered on page 17 of the Annual report.

### **Recommendation**

13. To consider the report and provide any comments or questions.

**Andrea Petty**  
Chief of Staff

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**Appendix 1: Risks and Implications**

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**Finance**

n/a

**Staffing**

n/a

**Equality and Diversity**

n/a

**Accommodation**

n/a

**Crime and Disorder**

n/a

**Children's Act 2004**

n/a

**Stakeholder/Community Engagement**

n/a

**Environment**

n/a

**Collaboration and Partnerships**

n/a

**Value for Money and Productivity**

n/a

**Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities**

n/a

**Commissioning**

n/a

**Other risks**

n/a

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