

# JOINT AUDIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE



**Date:** Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**Time:** 13:00

**Venue:** Virtual/CR7, Cheshire Constabulary Headquarters, Clemonds Hey, Winsford, CW7 2UA

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Any member of the public who wishes to observe this meeting is asked to register their interest by midday on **Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022** via email to [police.crime.commissioner@cheshire.police.uk](mailto:police.crime.commissioner@cheshire.police.uk). A link to enable access to the meeting and joining instructions will then be provided to all attendees in advance of the meeting.

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## AGENDA

### Part 1 - Public Items

	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Report Page</b>
<b>1. Minutes of the Joint Audit Advisory Committee</b> <i>To approve the minutes of the Joint Audit Advisory Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022.</i>	<i>P Bearpark</i>	3
<b>2. Action Log</b> <i>To consider the attached action log update.</i>	<i>P Bearpark</i>	7
<b>3. Police &amp; Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable Update</b>	<i>J Dwyer/M Roberts</i>	-

### Public Items - *For Advice*

<b>4. Statement of Accounts 2021/22</b> <i>To consider the report from Head of Finance.</i>	<i>W Bebbington/C Hodgson</i>	8
<b>5. Annual Governance Statement 2021/22</b> <i>To consider the attached report from Head of Finance.</i>	<i>W Bebbington/C Hodgson</i>	121
<b>6. External Audit</b> <i>To consider the attached report by the External Auditor.</i> Audit Findings Report 2021/22	<i>L Luddington</i>	136
<b>7. JAAC Forward Plan Review</b> <i>To agree the attached forward plan.</i>	<i>P Bearpark</i>	184

<b>Public Items – For Information</b>		<b>Contact</b>	<b>Report Page</b>
<b>8. Internal Audit</b>	<i>To consider the attached reports from the Internal Auditor.</i>	<i>A Harrop</i>	185
	[a] Internal Audit Progress Report [b] NFI 2022/23 Briefing – Preparatory Work		
<b>9. Service Assurance Plan</b>	<i>To consider the attached report from the Chief Constable.</i>	<i>L Willis</i>	197
<b>10. Any Other Business</b>		<i>P Bearpark</i>	-

## **PART 2**

The following matters will be considered in private as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Freedom of Information Act 2000, in accordance with the section indicated below: -

<b>Item</b>	<b>Section</b>
Action Log	(31) Law Enforcement
Internal Audit: Final Report	(31) Law Enforcement
Internal Audit: Terms of Reference	(31) Law Enforcement
Joint Strategic Risk Register	(31) Law Enforcement
Business Services Futures Highlight Report	(43) Commercial Interests

<b>Part 2 - Private Items</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Report Page</b>
<b>11. Minutes of the Joint Audit Advisory Committee</b> <i>To approve the minutes of the Joint Audit Advisory Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022.</i>	<i>P Bearpark</i>	-
<b>12. Action Log</b> <i>To consider the attached action log update.</i>	<i>P Bearpark</i>	-

### **Private Items – For Advice**

<b>13. Joint Strategic Risk Register</b> <i>To consider the attached report by Chief Constable/PCC.</i>	<i>L Willis</i>	-
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### **Private Items – For Information**

<b>14. Internal Audit</b> <i>To consider the attached reports from the Internal Auditor.</i>	<i>A Harrop</i>	-
[a] MIAA Vetting Review – Final Report [b] MIAA Cyber Organisational Controls Review – Terms of Reference [c] MIAA Digital Investigation Review – Terms of Reference		
<b>15. Updates on Business Services Future Programme</b> <i>To consider the attached report from the Constabulary.</i>	<i>J Gill</i>	-

**For further information about this Agenda, please contact Clare Hodgson on 01606 364000.**

## Minutes of the Joint Audit Advisory Committee Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022 – Part 1

### **Present:**

Phil Bearpark [Chair]  
Jean Gleave [JAAC Member]

David Gilbert [Vice Chair]  
Tony Snape [JAAC Member]

### Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

John Dwyer, Police & Crime Commissioner  
Damon Taylor, OPCC Chief Executive

David McNeillage, Dep. Police & Crime Commissioner  
Clare Hodgson, OPCC Chief Finance Officer

### Cheshire Constabulary

Ali Ross, Chief Superintendent  
Wendy Bebbington, Head of Finance  
Jerry Faulkner, Chief Accountant  
Louise Willis, Planning, Performance & Risk Mgr.

Julie Gill, Assistant Chief Officer  
David Bryan, Head of Legal Services  
Stuart Rogers, Chief Information Security Officer (part)  
Paul Woods, Head of Planning and Performance

### Internal Audit

Charles Black, Principal Auditor (MIAA)

### External Audit

Michael Green, Director (Grant Thornton)

Liz Luddington (Grant Thornton)

**Apologies:** Mark Roberts, Chief Constable

Anne-Marie Harrop (M.I.A.A)

## **Part 1 - Public Items [Information/Discussion]**

### **1. Minutes of the Joint Audit Advisory Committee**

The Minutes of the Joint Audit Advisory Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 were discussed. The Chief Constable has asked for an amendment in point 3.10 of the previous Minutes providing the latest figure in relation to Police Officer numbers which is 2,347. The Minutes from the last meeting will be amended accordingly.

**ACTION: Minute Taker to ensure the Minutes from the last meeting are amended. [012]**

**The Chair** commented on the previous Minutes thanking the Minute Taker for the speed of distribution and concise nature of the content. **Damon Taylor** requested that Minutes be trimmed down going forward, this was confirmed as the general consensus of the panel.

**ACTION: Minute Taker to ensure content is more summarised. [013]**

### **2. Action Log – Reviewed by The Chair**

- JAAC Terms of Reference – Planned for November meeting.
- Meeting to be set up with External Auditors – now completed. A further meeting with the Internal Auditors is set for September 2022.

### 3. Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable Updates

#### **Police and Crime Commissioner**

##### ***Safer Streets***

From May 2021 to April 2022 the OPCC have gleaned £4m of support from the Government for Safer Streets. This year from April to date we have secured a further £5m, to be spread over 3 years.

##### ***Average Speed Cameras***

Out to procurement at the moment for three pilot sites for later this year.

Four sites also identified by local authorities on major roads, three for installing average speed cameras and one for a traffic light camera.

##### ***Estates***

Plans to dispose of older buildings and replace with new, more efficient ones.

##### ***Fleet***

Questions around do we go Hybrid, fully electric or do we wait and look at hydrogen? Looking at all options at the moment.

#### **Chief Constable (update provided by Chief Superintendent Ross)**

##### ***Administrative***

T/ACC Dutton and Jennings are going on Senior Command Course, therefore, during September to December T/ACC Welsted is covering T/ACC Dutton and DCS Lees is covering T/ACC Jennings.

##### ***Page Refresh***

Chief Constable's Plan on a Page (PoAP) to be refreshed

**ACTION: Copy of the PoAP Refresh to be sent to JAAC Members – CS Ali Ross [014]**

##### ***HMICFRS***

The PEEL inspection was published in July. Force delivery plan in place and on track with some really positive results around rape, murder, arrests and especially 999 calls answered in 10 seconds which have moved us to 7<sup>th</sup> in the country from 29<sup>th</sup>.

##### ***Covid – Op Panda***

Gold meetings have now been stood down from 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

We have won a National Award in regard to our response to Covid.

Sickness levels are down for Officers and staff

##### ***Pledge Events***

Inspectors pledge and Sergeants pledge now completed and being rolled out.

##### ***Operational Updates***

Operation Crossbow - Joint border operation with GMP – 12th July 2022. Plan to do these quarterly.

Operation Guardian – Public Protection – very positive results.

Operation Aztec – Firearms surrender operation held in May. North-West region hailed as best practice.

Road Safety – Recent jailing of drink driver for 12 years, these convictions are good results.

Hoax Calls – Individual who has made 85 emergency 999 calls within 10 months now has an order in place to prevent this.

**The Chair** asked if there were any questions for the Commissioner or Chief Superintendent.

**Tony Snape** asked if the force is happy to help out at the Commonwealth Games. **Superintendent Ross** stated there is huge support for the Games with 58 staff attending.

**David Gilburt** is pleased to hear the Commissioner's comments around average speed cameras as he feels they do make a difference.

### 4. Informing the Audit Risk Assessment

The Chair stated this is a really useful document, however, during the pre-discussion meetings the Committee felt some areas needed re-wording.

Page 18 - regarding advice by Committee needs amending.

Page 33 - regarding question 9 and the approval by the Committee, needs amending.

Page 23 - regarding fraud, formal reporting programme. Can this be amended as arrangements in place but no fraud needed to be reported as yet.? Clarification required for the Committee.

**ACTION: Amend Audit Risk Assessment as per comments - Liz Luddington [15]**

**Michael Green** stated that these questions are required to be asked around key areas such as fraud, to help them understand how the organisation manages these areas. Therefore, these questions were asked to prompt discussion and open debate around these arrangements to ensure all are aware what is required from them.

**The Chair** asked if there were any questions around the document. None were raised.

**5. Internal Audit - Update provided by Charles Black, Principal Auditor, MIAA**

***Internal Audit Follow Up Report***

Summarises the recommendations that have been raised during 2021/22 and progress against these. Only 2 outstanding. Valid reasons for this and they have revised dates of September and December. Credit to Louise and the team for making sure recommendations are followed and tracked and providing the evidence to show that they are being implemented.

**The Chair** commented that this is the best follow up report JAAC have seen, well done to Louise and the team.

***Estates Strategy Review Final Report***

Part of the 2021/22 Audit Plan. Received substantial assurance, only one recommendation raised around implementing an Estates Policy.

***Performance Management Review Final Report***

Substantial assurance with one medium and two low recommendations.

**The Chair** stated how positive the report is and wanted to thank everyone involved.

**6. HMICFRS Value for Money Profiles - Update provided by Paul Woods**

Overview given of the areas covered by himself and the department.

A full explanation given around the Value for Money Profiles including local policing, dealing with the public, intelligence, public protection and estates.

**Phil Bearpark** asked what the value is rather than the cost? How do we gain perspective against spend? **Paul Woods** explained this is picked up as part of the planning and performance at service levels and nationally through HMRC data sets, where available.

**David Gilbert** – Asked whether Page 83 of the pack could be checked for missing figures.

**ACTION: Ensure all figures are displayed on Page 83 of the pack - Paul Woods [016]**

**Jean Gleave** asked whether there are any gaps around key objectives or areas of concern for Cheshire? **Paul Woods** stated that we are fortunate as a force to be able to compare our historic data and that there is also a programme running at the moment working with Merseyside Police, using data warehouse and analytics.

**7. Service Assurance Plan - Update provided by Louise Willis**

The two outstanding audits from last year have now been completed.

**The Chair** thanked Louise and stated what a really useful and helpful document this is.

**8. Joint Strategic Risk Register - Update provided by Louise Willis**

No queries on this item which is discussed in detail in part 2 of the meeting.

***Part 1 - Public Items [Advice]***

**9. External Audit Plan - Update on Plan provided by Liz Luddington**

No questions raised.

**10. Head of Internal Audit Opinion and Annual Report - Update provided by Charles Black, Principal Auditor, MIAA**

**Jean Gleave** asked about Section 7 (7.2) of the report regarding Service delivery and outcome measures and whether there were any issues around access to personnel in any areas? Do you receive good cooperation or are there any areas that you have any difficulties in? **Charles Black** stated that there is really good contact with Louise Willis and anything required is chased up quickly and efficiently with no access issues.

**David Gilbert** stated that the Committee can take a lot of assurance from this plan and wanted to say well done to all involved.

#### 11. **Statement of Accounts – DRAFT - Update on Accounts provided by Wendy Bebbington**

The draft set of accounts are presented today. These will be handed over to the Auditors to start their formal audit process and this will trigger a public notice on the PCC and Constabulary Websites. The final audited accounts will be brought back to JAAC on 30<sup>th</sup> September (if the new date of November has gone through legislation this date may be put back).

**David Gilbert** asked if there is an external valuer for pension figures on the Balance Sheet? **Wendy Bebbington** confirmed that Hymans are used for the LGPS for staff and for the Police it is the Government Actuary Department.

**Tony Snape** asked what the employer's contribution is for the staff pension fund. **Wendy Bebbington** confirmed this is 19.8%.

The next formal valuation for employer is March 2023, this is recognised as a potential risk.

#### 12. **Annual Governance Statement – DRAFT - Update provided by Clare Hodgson**

This is a Joint Statement for the Constabulary and OPCC and includes internal and external governance.

**Clare Hodgson** thanked Jean Gleave for her input into producing the document.

**Jean Gleave** had two questions.

1. In relation to the internal audit report, is there anything in particular that the two sets of Auditors feel may be missing? Nothing to highlight from Auditors.
2. Paragraph 3.8 – Will this now be updated that the report has been issued? **Clare Hodgson** confirmed that yes, this information will be fed back.

**ACTION: Update AGS for PEEL report – Clare Hodgson [018]**

#### 13. **Forward Plan**

**The Chair** asked if there are any concerns in relation to the Forward Plan. **David Gilbert** flagged that the External Audit Progress Report and Value for Money Report are listed as February 2023, however, they are due September or November. **Clare Hodgson** confirmed that the Value for Money Report is due November 2022.

#### 14. **Any other Business**

**The Chair** stated that it would be really useful to have David Gilbert meet with a member of the Finance Team in the budget setting to go through the priority-based budget process. **Wendy Bebbington** said she will email a date and time for this to take place.

**ACTION: Email with date to be sent to David Gilbert – Wendy Bebbington [019]**

**The Chair** requested that meeting dates be set up for 2023 as soon as possible.

**ACTION: Meeting dates to be diarised for 2023 – Clare Hodgson [020]**

*Duration of meeting: The meeting commenced at 13:00 and finished at 16:00*



Date of Meeting	Action Number	Action Details	Responsible for Action?	Status	Notes
02/03/2022	008	Date of the CIPFA review to of Police Audit Committees to be checked and JAAC advised appropriately once available.	Clare Hodgson	Ongoing	<b>June Update</b> - CIPFA issued the general guidance in June however the police specific paper has been delayed and we have been advised this will be out at the end of Summer 2022. Terms of Reference have been scheduled for the November meeting. If the guidance is available earlier this will be brought forward to September <b>September Update</b> - Guidance has not yet been received from CIPFA
02/03/2022	010	Pre-meetings to be set up in July and September before the JAAC meetings between JAAC members and external and internal auditors respectively.	Phil Bearpark	Ongoing	<b>June Update</b> - Meetings are scheduled prior to the July JAAC meeting
28/07/2022	012	Minute Taker to ensure the Minutes dated 2nd March 2022 are updated with the new Police Officer number of 2,347.	Minute Taker	Completed	Action Completed - Minutes amended
28/07/2022	013	As per the request from the Chief Executive and panel members, Minutes are to be trimmed down in future.	Minute Taker	Ongoing	<b>September Update</b> - Minutes from September meeting will be in a more summarised format
28/07/2022	014	Copy of the Plan on a Page Refresh to be sent to the JAAC Members.	Chief Superintendent Ross	Ongoing	
28/07/2022	015	Informing the Audit Risk Assessment. Amend Pages 18, 23 and 33 as per comments.	Liz Luddington	Completed	<b>September Update</b> - Action Completed, pages amended
28/07/2022	016	Ensure all figures are displayed on Page 83 of the pack (Value for Money Profile).	Paul Woods	Completed	<b>September Update</b> - Action Completed
28/07/2022	017	Update Annual Governance Statement for PEEL report.	Clare Hodgson	Completed	<b>September Update</b> - Action Completed, updated AGS is on agenda for September meeting
28/07/2022	018	Meeting to be set up for David Gilbert to go through the priority based budget process.	Wendy Bebbington	Completed	<b>September Update:</b> Meeting set for 22/08/2022.
28/07/2022	019	2023 JAAC meeting dates to be set up in diaries	Clare Hodgson	Completed	<b>September Update</b> - Meetings are in diaries



**POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER  
FOR CHESHIRE AND GROUP  
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS  
2021/22**

# STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021/22

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# NARRATIVE REPORT

## Introduction

Welcome to the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts for Cheshire Police.

On 31 January 2021 the previous Commissioner set a gross revenue budget of £242.2m (net £207.8m) funded by government grants and the police share of council tax (known as the precept). He also approved a programme of capital investment totalling £9.4m for 2021/22. In May 2021 Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections took place and John Dwyer was duly elected as the new Cheshire PCC.

Following his election the new Commissioner launched his Police and Crime Plan for 2021-24, setting out his priorities for policing, crime and community safety in the county for his term in office. In addition to outlining the Commissioner's wider vision, the Plan sets out the strategic direction for Cheshire Constabulary and how the Commissioner will hold the Chief Constable to account in delivering on the public's priorities.

The six key priorities for policing and crime in Cheshire outlined in the Plan are:

- Prevent and tackle crime
- Make Cheshire's roads safer
- Deliver justice for victims of crime
- Protect vulnerable and at-risk people
- Improve public confidence in policing
- Modernise our police service

This budget provided funding to support the delivery of this Police and Crime Plan together with meeting the obligations of the national Strategic Policing Requirement. Further details of 2021/22 financial performance, expenditure and financing are provided in these accounts.

## Group Accounts

Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the roles of Commissioner and Chief Constable became Corporations Sole (separate legal entities) and required individual Statement of Accounts. However, the Act also recognises that the Chief Constable is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Commissioner and proper accounting practices require group accounts to be produced. These accounts include both the group accounts and the Commissioner's accounts.

Any interactions between the Commissioner and the Chief Constable are removed from the group accounts in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations and consolidated on a line-by-line basis. Further details are included in Note 4.

## Primary Statements

The Primary Statements within the Statement of Accounts include the Movement in Reserves Statement; Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement; Balance Sheet; and Cashflow Statement. These Primary Statements are complimented by an Expenditure and Funding Analysis note.

The Movement in Reserves Statement shows the movement from the start of the year to the end on the different reserves held by the Commissioner, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be used to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other 'unusable' reserves. It shows how the movements in year are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustments required to calculate the amounts chargeable to council tax for the year. This Statement has a strong link to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the Expenditure and Funding Analysis note.

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement shows the cost for the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. It essentially captures the inflow and outflow of resources for the financial year up to 31 March, which have been received or incurred as part of the ordinary activities of the Commissioner and Constabulary. The main figure to understand from this Statement is the Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services for which there was a deficit of £70.4m in the Group Accounts. This deficit is due to including within this statement a number of accounting entries that are not cash based and are explained in more detail within the Expenditure and Funding Analysis note. The most significant of these accounting entries relates to recognising the actuarial cost of pensions in the year which totals around £74.9m for 2021/22. This is explained further in note 33 to these accounts. Without these accounting entries, the overall outturn position shows an underspend of £0.2m (0.1% of budget).

The Balance Sheet is a statement showing the Commissioner’s assets and liabilities i.e. what is owned and what is owed as at 31 March. The net impact of this is funded by Reserves, which is the residual interest in the assets of the Commissioner after deducting all of the liabilities. The ‘net worth’ is calculated by deducting total liabilities from total assets. In the Group Accounts this was £2,468m as at 31 March 2022 (£2,489m 31 March 2021).

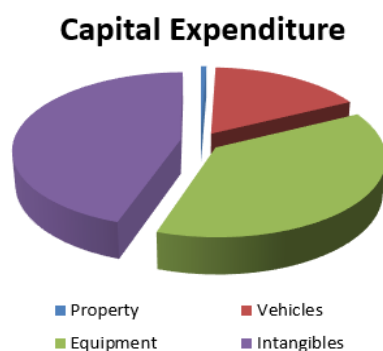
The final Primary Statement is the Cashflow Statement. This shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Commissioner during the financial year. The statement shows how the Commissioner generates and uses cash by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Commissioner are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of services provided by the Commissioner. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Constabulary’s service delivery. Cashflows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the Commissioner.

## Financial Position as at 31 March 2022

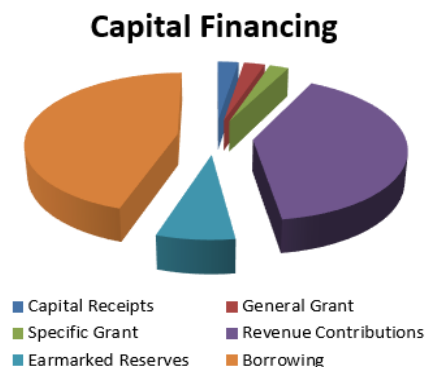
### Capital Expenditure and Financing

In 2021/22 capital investment in new technology, fleet replacement, estate management and equipment was identified in the approved Budget Report which required funding of £9.4m. The programme was reviewed, amended and changes approved throughout the year as necessary with the year-end position shown below together with details of how this was funded.

<u>Capital Expenditure</u>	<b>£000</b>	
Property	42	0.6%
Vehicles	1,137	17.0%
Equipment	2,519	37.6%
Intangibles	3,007	44.8%
	<u>6,705</u>	100.0%



<u>Capital Financing</u>	<b>£000</b>	
Capital Receipts	170	2.5%
General Grant	173	2.5%
Specific Grant	157	2.3%
Revenue Contributions	2,706	40.4%
Earmarked Reserves	482	7.2%
Borrowing	3,017	45.0%
Total	<u>6,705</u>	100.0%



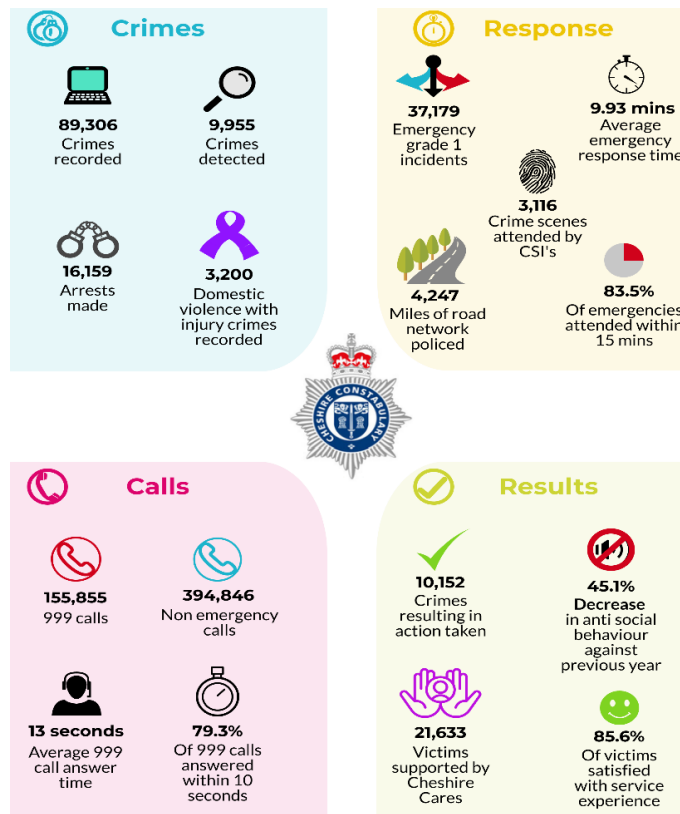
## Financial Performance

2021/22 has been another challenging year with the ongoing welcome priority of recruiting additional officers as part of the national uplift programme. This was achieved despite the continuing adverse impact of the coronavirus pandemic, which has again affected the delivery of some projects and plans. The 2021/22 outturn shows an underspend of £0.2m after taking into account £1.5m of approved carry-forward commitments into 2022/23. The following table shows the detail of this underspend against the service headings which are explained in full within the Outturn Report presented to the Joint Management Board in July 2022 – please see Commissioner’s website.

	Full Year Budget	Outturn Actual	Carry Forwards	Total Outturn	Outturn Variance	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
Police Pay	112,235	112,732	0	112,732	497	0%
Overtime	3,519	3,857	0	3,857	338	10%
Contact, Response & Resolution	11,469	10,515	0	10,515	(954)	(8%)
Crime	10,961	10,593	6	10,599	(362)	(3%)
Neighbourhoods	8,246	7,933	0	7,933	(313)	(4%)
Public Protection	6,197	5,797	61	5,858	(339)	(5%)
Centrally Delivered Services	6,033	5,707	275	5,982	(51)	(1%)
Business Services	39,845	38,779	753	39,532	(313)	(1%)
Collaborations	11,654	11,147	83	11,230	(424)	(4%)
Contingency	29	0	0	0	(29)	(100%)
Covid Surge Funding Projects	65	34	31	65	0	0%
Corporate Costs	(4,821)	(3,075)	0	(3,075)	1,746	(36%)
<b>Total Constabulary Costs</b>	<b>205,432</b>	<b>204,018</b>	<b>1,209</b>	<b>205,227</b>	<b>(205)</b>	<b>(0%)</b>
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner	1,100	1,097	0	1,097	(3)	(0%)
Commissioning	1,293	1,007	286	1,293	0	0%
<b>OPCC Total</b>	<b>2,393</b>	<b>2,104</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>2,390</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(0%)</b>
<b>Total Service Costs</b>	<b>207,825</b>	<b>206,122</b>	<b>1,495</b>	<b>207,617</b>	<b>(208)</b>	<b>(0%)</b>

## Non-Financial Indicators

The Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account for their performance. Details are published on the Commissioner’s website with the latest details at time of preparing the accounts shown below.

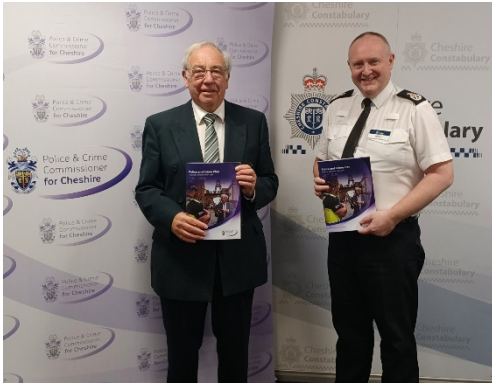


**Policing in Cheshire 2021/22**

## Review of 2021/22

### John Dwyer takes office as Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire

Mr Dwyer was declared as the county's Police and Crime Commissioner following the elections on Thursday 6 May 2021. He has taken on the role for the next three years. The term of office is normally four years but it has been reduced to three after the elections were postponed from May 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

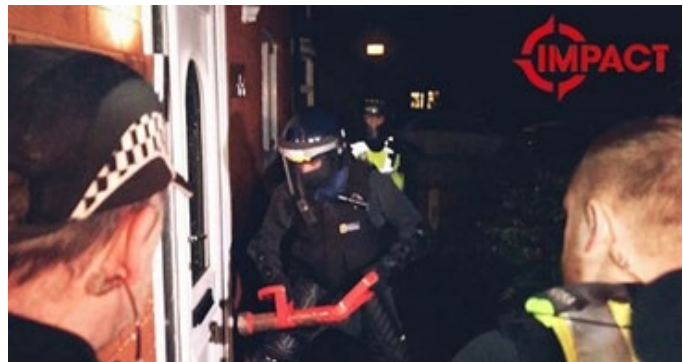


He previously held the same post between 2012 and 2016, in which time he oversaw 'outstanding' approval ratings for Cheshire Constabulary. Prior to this, he retired as Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) in Cheshire after a 30 year career which started in Nottinghamshire, followed by a transfer to the West Midlands as a Chief Inspector and finally to Cheshire as ACC. John's role will be to be the voice of local people in policing and he will do this by holding the Chief Constable to account, setting the police budget and commissioning services for victims of crime and to prevent crime. He said: "I am honoured that Cheshire residents have put their trust in me to be the next Police and Crime Commissioner and I'm excited to return to the role.

### Serious and organised crime is now 'everybody's business'

Our new Serious and Organised Crime Strategy has been launched to enable the force to more effectively tackle those who cause the most harm to our communities and to make the people of Cheshire safer. The whole system approach to tackling serious and organised crime (SOC) makes it 'everybody's business'. The strategy contains key deliverables and actions for Local Policing Units, as well as our Serious and Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) and Proactive teams, to implement. This enables the force to deal with the full range of SOC threats.

Chief Constable Mark Roberts said: "Serious and organised crime is one of the most serious threats facing Cheshire. Individuals and networks involved in it are amongst the most capable and resilient adversaries that we face. Criminals persistently erode our economy and our communities by exploiting children and ruthlessly targeting the most vulnerable, ruining lives and blighting communities. Serious and organised criminals may often think they are free to act with impunity against our children, our businesses and our way of life. They believe that they can use violence, intimidation and coercion to stay above the law. Our single whole system approach to tackling serious and organised crime outlines clear actions we will undertake to ensure that we relentlessly 'pursue, protect, prevent and prepare' in order to make Cheshire a hostile environment for serious and organised criminality in all its forms and bring offenders to justice."



The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, John Dwyer, added:

"In the Police and Crime Plan, tackling and disrupting serious and organised crime is a key strand in the preventing and tackling crime priority. Cheshire has a strong track record in tackling serious and organised crime – 30 organised crime groups were disrupted last year alone. The SOC Strategy will help in continuing to work on this success. The launch of this strategy makes it clear that Cheshire is a hostile place for criminals and anyone who exploits the vulnerable for their own personal gain will be caught in our county. By all working together and implementing this strategy, we can reduce the risk to vulnerable people and protect our communities from hardened criminals."

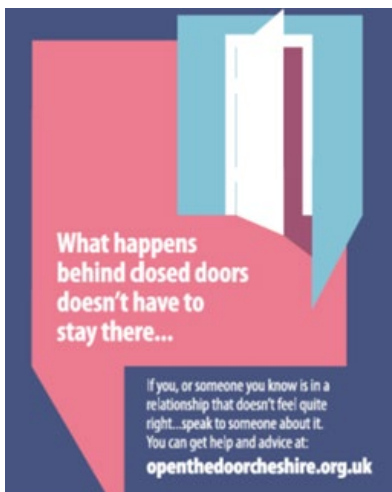
If you have information relating to serious and organised crime taking place in your community please contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or Cheshire Police by calling 101.

## Protecting and defending young children

An operation aimed at protecting and defending young and vulnerable children has taken place across Cheshire. Operation Guardians targeted and deterred predators, educated youngsters on signs of exploitation and staying safe online as well as providing reassurance and encouragement to report criminal behaviour. It saw the Constabulary's online child abuse investigation team conduct an online undercover operation – working alongside the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit and National Crime Agency – and using the force's new digital mobile forensics van to instantly check offenders' devices. Other activity included officers proactively visiting vulnerable children who repeatedly go missing to better understand underlying issues and triggers in order to prevent further occurrences.



John Dwyer, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire said: "A key priority in my Police and Crime Plan is to protect vulnerable and at-risk people, and children who are targeted by online predators are among the most vulnerable in our society. That's why I was keen to ensure that our Online Child Abuse Investigation Team received more funding and it has more than quadrupled in size as a result."



## Domestic abuse has no place in any home in Cheshire

Domestic abuse is not just physical violence, if you are threatened, made to dress or look a certain way, have no say over your day to day activity or are constantly criticised it is still abuse. ACC Jennings said: "Residents may see extra patrols out and about across the county and I would urge anyone with any concerns to speak to their local officers. Domestic abuse is not normal and it is not OK, it is not a matter of course in any relationship. We also understand that every case is different and must be treated as such. If you are in an abusive relationship, or suffering at the hands of family or carers, it is not your fault and you do not have to stand for it. I would urge anyone who is affected by domestic abuse to seek support and report any concerns to us to help and bring offenders to justice."

Anyone with any concerns regarding domestic abuse can call 101 or report online via:

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/domestic-abuse/a1/report-domestic-abuse/>

We know not all victims of domestic abuse want to speak to police, and advice can also be sought from Open the Door via [www.openthedoorcheshire.org.uk](http://www.openthedoorcheshire.org.uk)

## Improved response times help tackle crime in Cheshire

Residents from across the county have been benefiting from better police response times. The improvement was applauded by Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, John Dwyer, after a recent meeting where he held the Constabulary to account for their performance on a range of issues. On 27 January 2022 a Public Scrutiny Board meeting was held, which saw the Commissioner addressing Cheshire Police's performance with the Chief Constable and senior officers from the Constabulary. These included crime recording, solve rates, and recruitment, as well as the service being received by the communities in the county.



John Dwyer, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, said: "Improving public confidence in policing is a key aim of my Police and Crime Plan. I want people to have confidence in contacting the police, so I am extremely pleased with the improving response times in Cheshire. The fact that both of these figures are going up simultaneously demonstrates that the Constabulary is using its resources effectively and efficiently, making Cheshire a safer place for those who live, work and visit here. I know the Constabulary is working hard to improve these figures even more."

## Coronavirus (Covid-19)

2021/22 started with national pandemic related lockdown restrictions still in place and the continuing worldwide disruption has again had an impact both operationally and on the actual outturn expenditure, which necessitates carry forward of some commitments into 2022/23.

The Coronavirus situation brought about an unprecedented public health emergency. During this major incident, policing was at the forefront of ensuring that the public follow the rules and stay safe. This required additional patrols, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), social distancing and all the while continuing with operational policing, using the following strategy:

- Engage people in a friendly manner
- Explain why we and the Government are asking them to take the action
- Encourage people to take the appropriate action
- Enforce only when necessary

The Constabulary's top priorities have been to maintain the best service to the public, protect officers and staff and support the national response. The Constabulary continued to provide all of the essential and proactive services that you expect from them, whilst also supporting the NHS and other organisations to keep everyone safe. Agile working has facilitated a large part of the organisation to work from home and the use of technology has enabled social distancing to be observed. As a result, the sickness levels for the Constabulary, including self-isolation, have been low and resilience has been maintained throughout.

The majority of the costs relating to the pandemic were however, incurred during 2020/21 and to assist, additional funding was provided by Central Government for some of this additional expenditure – specifically around PPE, additional cleaning, creating Covid-19 secure buildings and overtime relating to Covid-19 restrictions compliance patrols. The Constabulary also received income loss compensation funding during 2020/21, relating to the loss of income in respect of specific services where all of the associated costs were not able to be fully reduced – for example speed awareness courses. No further pandemic related funding has been received during 2021/22.

In terms of Council Tax funding, the Commissioner's share of the Council Tax Collection Fund is included in these accounts with both debtors and creditors based on the position as at 31 March 2022. The coronavirus pandemic has had an impact on collection performance, whereas in previous years there has often been a relatively healthy overall surplus, there were deficits totalling £223k built into the 2021/22 budget and while grants were provided for some of the income loss, some remained to be funded locally. There is a further estimated deficit position of £34k built into the approved 2022/23 budget. The 2021/22 outturn position showed an improvement over the budgeted estimate for all four authorities with an actual surplus of £147k.

There are two further areas where the pandemic could impact – the valuation of assets and the valuation of the pension liability. In terms of assets, the financial instruments held are highly liquid and cash based and therefore have not been directly impacted. For land and buildings the valuer has provided valuations in line with their professional guidance. This valuation is not reported as being subject to 'material valuation uncertainty' as defined by VPS 3 and VPGA 10 of the RICS Valuation – Global Standards.

In terms of the pension liability, the Police Pension Scheme is an 'unfunded scheme' so there are no investment assets built up to meet the pension liabilities. The financial markets therefore have no impact on the actuarial valuation. However, the Cheshire Pension Fund scheme is a 'funded scheme' and holds assets and investments. The IAS19 balance sheet total is therefore based on financial market values and future market expectation indicators as at 31 March 2022 to comply with the accounting standard. The financial markets at the accounting date will have taken into account Covid-19 risks (and opportunities) as one of many national and worldwide economic considerations. There has been no explicit additional allowance or adjustment made for Covid-19.

- Asset returns and values have followed the market movements prompted by the pandemic and lockdowns, among other factors, which will therefore affect the asset share value. Bond yields and inflation expectations have also followed market movements, which will therefore affect the obligations value.

- The key non-financial assumption made within the accounts is for life expectancy. However at this stage it is not possible to extrapolate the longer term impact of the higher death rate due to Covid-19 in 2021/22 on either future mortality or morbidity rates as the data is not yet available to make an evidence-based assessment on the pandemic's impact on longer term expectations.

Additional information is included in note 33.

### **Future Developments**

In January 2022, the Commissioner set a gross revenue budget for 2022/23 of £255.3m (net £228.6m), together with a capital investment programme of £12.6m.

Our people are key to delivering our mission of *'Delivering even safer communities for the whole of Cheshire'* and prioritising where our resources are placed was a major consideration within the budget setting process. The approved 2022/23 budget will see 120 more officers recruited bringing the total to 2,347. In addition, with the support of the public and the Commissioner, the precept will also fund the addition of a further 82 staff roles – 63 in frontline areas and the remaining providing the additional support required.

### **Further Information**

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information provided in this Group Statement of Accounts is clear and informative. Should you require any further information or if you have any comments, please contact Clare Hodgson, Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, on telephone number 01606 364109 or Wendy Bebbington, Head of Finance, Cheshire Constabulary on telephone number 01606 362035 or via the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, Clemonds Hey, Oakmere Road, Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 2UA.

Clare Hodgson, Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

# STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

## Responsibilities of the Commissioner for Cheshire

The Commissioner is required to:

- make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. For the Office of the Commissioner, that officer is the Chief Finance Officer (Director of Finance, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner).
- manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- approve the Statement of Accounts.

I approve this Statement of Accounts.

John Dwyer

Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire

xx September 2022

## Responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer, Office of Commissioner

The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts for the Commissioner and the Group Accounts incorporating the Chief Constable's Statement of Accounts, in accordance with the proper practices set out in the *CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom* ('the Code').

### In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Chief Finance Officer has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent
- complied with the Code
- kept proper accounting records which were up to date
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities

### Chief Finance Officer's Certificate

I certify that the Statement of Accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Commissioner as at 31 March 2022 and of the expenditure and income for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Clare Hodgson

Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

xx September 2022

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CHESHIRE

## Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion on financial statements

To Follow

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Opinion on financial statements

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## EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS NOTE 2021/22 (Group)

	As reported for Resource Management £000	Adjust for Earmarked Reserve Movements £000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund £000	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis (a) £000	Net Expenditure Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £000
Police Pay	116,589	0	116,589	16,247	132,835
Contact, Response & Resolution	10,515	0	10,515	2,255	12,769
Crime	10,599	6	10,593	1,826	14,420
Neighbourhoods	7,933	0	7,933	1,125	9,057
Public Protection	5,858	61	5,797	1,353	7,150
Centrally Delivered Services	5,982	275	5,707	893	6,601
Business Services	39,532	1,783	37,749	5,279	43,027
Collaborations	11,230	856	10,374	1,513	11,887
Corporate Costs	(5,865)	3,011	(8,876)	(1,435)	(10,311)
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner	1,097	0	1,097	149	1,246
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner - Commissioning	1,293	286	1,007	0	1,007
Actuarial Pension Costs – McCloud Judgement	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>204,763</b>	<b>6,278</b>	<b>198,485</b>	<b>29,204</b>	<b>227,689</b>
Other Income & Expenditure	0	0	0	149	149
Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure	2,855	0	2,855	51,974	54,829
Taxation & Non Specific Grant Income	(207,825)	203	(208,028)	(4,256)	(212,284)
<b>(Surplus) or Deficit</b>	<b>(208)</b>	<b>6,481</b>	<b>(6,688)</b>	<b>77,071</b>	<b>70,383</b>
<b>Opening General Fund</b>			<b>(21,534)</b>		
<b>Less/Plus (Surplus) Deficit on General Fund in Year</b>			<b>(6,688)</b>		
<b>Closing General Fund at 31 March</b>			<b>(28,222)</b>		

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis is not a Primary Statement and forms part of the Notes to the Accounts. It demonstrates to the readers of the accounts how the funding available to the Commissioner (i.e. Government Grants, Council Tax and income) for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The Expenditure and Funding Analysis also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the departments shown above. Income and expenditure accounting under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. (a) Further details on the adjustments between the funding and accounting basis are included in Note 7.

## EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS NOTE 2020/21 (Group)

	As reported for Resource Management £000	Adjust for Earmarked Reserve Movements £000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund £000	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis (a) £000	Net Expenditure Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £000
Police Pay	110,898	0	110,898	1,172	112,070
Contact, Response & Resolution (b)	10,864	37	10,827	156	10,984
Crime (b)	8,946	65	8,881	115	8,997
Neighbourhoods (b)	7,103	100	7,003	76	7,079
Public Protection (b)	6,157	109	6,048	103	6,151
Centrally Delivered Services	5,148	180	4,968	59	5,027
Business Services	35,554	932	34,622	(618)	34,004
Collaborations	11,191	760	10,430	116	10,546
Corporate Costs	(6,016)	2,578	(8,595)	(1,421)	(10,016)
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner	675	0	675	7	682
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner - Commissioning	1,339	267	1,072	0	1,072
Actuarial Pension Costs – McCloud Judgement	0	0	0	15,890	15,890
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>191,859</b>	<b>5,028</b>	<b>186,831</b>	<b>15,656</b>	<b>202,486</b>
Other Income & Expenditure	0	0	0	43	43
Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure	2,921	0	2,921	50,551	53,472
Taxation & Non Specific Grant Income	(195,620)	900	(196,520)	(1,336)	(197,856)
<b>(Surplus) or Deficit</b>	<b>(839)</b>	<b>5,928</b>	<b>(6,767)</b>	<b>64,913</b>	<b>58,146</b>
<b>Opening General Fund</b>			<b>(14,767)</b>		
<b>Less/Plus (Surplus) Deficit on General Fund in Year</b>			<b>(6,767)</b>		
<b>Closing General Fund at 31 March</b>			<b>(21,534)</b>		

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis is not a Primary Statement and forms part of the Notes to the Accounts. It demonstrates to the readers of the accounts how the funding available to the Commissioner (i.e. Government Grants, Council Tax and income) for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The Expenditure and Funding Analysis also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the departments shown above. Income and expenditure accounting under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. (a) Further details on the adjustments between the funding and accounting basis are included in Note 7. (b) Contact, Response & Resolution, Crime, Neighbourhoods and Public Protection reorganised in 2021/22, 2020/21 figures restated to reflect the new structure – previously Local Policing £18,063k net; Investigations £15,148k net

## COMPREHENSIVE INCOME and EXPENDITURE STATEMENT (Group)

2020/21			2021/22			Notes	
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000	
Expenditure	Income	Net	<u>Police Services (b):</u>	Expenditure	Income	Net	
114,894	(2,824)	112,070	Police Pay	135,945	(3,110)	<b>132,835</b>	
15,305	(4,321)	10,984	Contact, Response & Resolution (a)	18,866	(6,096)	<b>12,769</b>	
11,315	(2,318)	8,997	Crime (a)	15,282	(2,862)	<b>12,420</b>	
7,470	(391)	7,079	Neighbourhoods (a)	9,410	(353)	<b>9,057</b>	
10,132	(3,981)	6,151	Public Protection (a)	11,324	(4,173)	<b>7,150</b>	
5,783	(755)	5,027	Centrally Delivered Services	7,475	(874)	<b>6,601</b>	
41,028	(7,024)	34,004	Business Services	49,737	(6,710)	<b>43,027</b>	
11,332	(786)	10,546	Collaborations	12,660	(773)	<b>11,887</b>	
662	(10,678)	(10,016)	Corporate Costs	465	(10,775)	<b>(10,311)</b>	
682	0	682	Office of Police & Crime Commissioner	1,246	0	<b>1,246</b>	
4,199	(3,127)	1,072	Office of Police & Crime Commissioner - Commissioning	6,435	(5,429)	<b>1,007</b>	
15,890	0	15,890	Actuarial Pension Costs – McCloud Judgement	0	0	<b>0</b>	33
<b>238,693</b>	<b>(36,206)</b>	<b>202,486</b>	<b>Cost of Services</b>	<b>268,845</b>	<b>(41,155)</b>	<b>227,689</b>	9
		43	Other Operating Expenditure & Income			149	9
		53,472	Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure			54,829	9
		<u>(197,856)</u>	Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income			<u>(212,284)</u>	9
		58,146	<b>Deficit / (Surplus) on Provision of Services</b>			70,383	9
		5,809	(Surplus)/Deficit on revaluation of fixed assets			(19,256)	
		0	(Surplus)/Deficit on revaluation of "available for sale" assets			0	
		283,429	Actuarial (gains)/losses on pension assets/ liabilities			(72,669)	33
		<u>289,238</u>	<b>Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>			<u>(91,925)</u>	
		<u>347,383</u>	<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>			<u>(21,542)</u>	

(a) Contact, Response & Resolution, Crime, Neighbourhoods and Public Protection reorganised in 2021/22, 2020/21 figures restated to reflect the new structure – previously Local Policing £18,063k net; Investigations £15,148k net. (b) The above expenditure and income shown against services such as 'police pay' are calculated in accordance with proper accounting practices and include several items that are not cash related. For example, the above includes depreciation which represents the indicative value of the assets consumed in year but for which no cash has been spent. These are explained in detail within the Expenditure and Funding Analysis note. However, the actual expenditure in cash terms is shown in the table at the top of page 6 in the Narrative Report where you can see as an example 'police pay' cash spend including overtime is £116,589k (£110,899k 2020/21).

## MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT (Group)

<b>2021/22</b>	General Fund (incl. earmarked) Reserve £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Reserves £000
<b>Balance at 1 April 2021</b>	<b>21,534</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>22,391</b>	<b>(2,511,713)</b>	<b>(2,489,322)</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income</b>	<b>(70,383)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(70,383)</b>	<b>91,925</b>	<b>21,542</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations – see Note 15	77,071	(170)	<b>76,901</b>	(76,901)	<b>0</b>
Increase/(Decrease) in year	<b>6,688</b>	<b>(170)</b>	<b>6,518</b>	<b>15,024</b>	<b>21,542</b>
<b>Balances at 31 March 2022</b>	<b>28,222</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>28,909</b>	<b>(2,496,689)</b>	<b>(2,467,780)</b>
<b>2020/21</b>	General Fund (incl. earmarked) Reserve £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Reserves £000
<b>Balance at 1 April 2020</b>	<b>14,767</b>	<b>2,526</b>	<b>17,293</b>	<b>(2,159,232)</b>	<b>(2,141,939)</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income</b>	<b>(58,146)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(58,146)</b>	<b>(289,238)</b>	<b>(347,383)</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations – see Note 15	64,913	(1,670)	<b>63,243</b>	(63,243)	<b>0</b>
Increase/(Decrease) in year	<b>6,767</b>	<b>(1,670)</b>	<b>5,098</b>	<b>(352,481)</b>	<b>347,383</b>
<b>Balances at 31 March 2021</b>	<b>21,534</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>22,391</b>	<b>(2,511,713)</b>	<b>(2,489,322)</b>

Details of the above reserves are in Note 16 & 30.

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022 (Group)

31 March 2021 £000		31 March 2022 £000	£000	Notes
121,562	Property, Plant & Equipment	135,372		17
1,336	Intangible Assets	3,349		18
1,159	Long Term Debtors	949		22
<u>124,057</u>	<b>Long Term Assets</b>		139,670	
933	Stock	609		
16,979	Short Term Debtors	23,485		23
23,080	Cash and Cash Equivalents	27,472		24
0	Assets (held for sale)	0		25
<u>40,992</u>	<b>Current Assets</b>		51,566	
0	Short Term Borrowing	(99)		22
(24,888)	Short Term Creditors	(26,038)		26
<u>(24,888)</u>	<b>Current Liabilities</b>		(26,137)	
(17,380)	Long Term Creditors	(16,223)		29
(538)	Provisions	(489)		27
(27,873)	Long Term Borrowing	(30,274)		22
(2,583,692)	Other Long Term Liabilities	(2,585,892)		33
<u>(2,629,483)</u>	<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>		(2,632,878)	
<u>(2,489,322)</u>	<b>Net Liabilities</b>		<u>(2,467,780)</u>	
	<b>Represented By:</b>			
22,391	Usable Reserves		28,909	16
(2,511,713)	Unusable Reserves		(2,496,689)	30
<u>(2,489,322)</u>	<b>Total Reserves</b>		<u>(2,467,780)</u>	

These accounts replace the unaudited accounts that were issued on 28 July 2022

Clare Hodgson, Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

Date: xx September 2022

## CASHFLOW STATEMENT (Group)

31 March 2021 £000		31 March 2022 £000	Notes
58,146	Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	70,383	
	Adjust net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movement:		
(11,210)	Depreciation	(9,990)	
(56,348)	Pensions - actuarial movement	(74,865)	
246	Movement in Creditors	(3,004)	
(5,377)	Movement in Debtors	6,045	
429	Movement of Stock	(45)	
(2,505)	Other non-cash items	1,722	
0	Adjust for items included in the net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities		
<u>(16,619)</u>	Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>(9,754)</u>	
4,606	Investing Activities	6,705	31
1,068	Financing Activities	(1,343)	31
<u>(10,945)</u>	<b>Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<u><b>(4,392)</b></u>	
(12,135)	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	(23,080)	24
(23,080)	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	(27,472)	24
<u>(10,945)</u>	<b>Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<u><b>(4,392)</b></u>	

Details of the above are included in Note 31

## POLICE PENSION FUND (Group & Police & Crime Commissioner)

The Government introduced new arrangements for the funding of Police Officers' Pensions with effect from 1 April 2006. Under these arrangements income and expenditure on Police Pensions is charged to a separate fund account. The overall net cost of the fund is met by specific grant from Government; see Note 34 for further details.

2020/21 £000	FUND ACCOUNT	2021/22 £000
	<b>Contributions Receivable from:</b>	
(24,036)	Employer at 31% of pensionable pay	(24,881)
(1,218)	Early Retirements	(723)
(10,464)	From current employees	(10,882)
(35,718)		(36,486)
0	Transfers in from other Police & Crime Commissioners	
(499)	Transfers in from other pension schemes	(119)
(36,217)		(36,605)
	<b>Benefits Payable:</b>	
50,860	Pensions	51,934
10,500	Commutations and lump sum retirement benefits	10,887
288	Lump sum death benefits	194
	<b>Payments to and on account of leavers</b>	
0	Transfers out to other schemes	10
36	Refunds of contributions	68
	<b>Other Payments</b>	
0	Pension Admin and Interest Charges	0
61,684		63,093
25,467	Net amount payable for the year	26,488
(25,467)	Additional contribution from the Commissioner <sup>1</sup>	(26,488)
Nil	Net balance on fund in year	Nil
	<b>NET ASSET STATEMENT</b>	
0	Unpaid Pensions Due	0
0	Amount Owing to General Fund	0
0		0

*Note <sup>1</sup> the 'additional contribution from the Commissioner' is reimbursed by specific grant from the Home Office.*

## EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS NOTE 2021/22 (Police & Crime Commissioner)

	<b>2021/22</b>		
	<b>Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund £000</b>	<b>Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis £000</b>	<b>Net Expenditure Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £000</b>
<b><u>Police Services</u></b>			
Police Pay	(3,110)	0	(3,110)
Contact, Response & Resolution	(6,096)	0	(6,096)
Crime	(2,862)	0	(2,862)
Neighbourhoods	(353)	0	(353)
Public Protection	(4,173)	0	(4,173)
Centrally Delivered Services	(874)	0	(874)
Business Services	(6,710)	0	(6,710)
Collaborations	(773)	0	(773)
Corporate Costs	(11,103)	0	(11,103)
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner	1,097	149	1,246
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner - Commissioning	1,007	0	1,007
	<b>(33,950)</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>(33,802)</b>
Funding to Cheshire Constabulary	232,435	7,575	240,010
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>198,485</b>	<b>7,723</b>	<b>206,208</b>
Other Income & Expenditure	0	149	149
Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure	2,855	21	2,876
Taxation & Non Specific Grant Income	(208,028)	(4,256)	(212,284)
<b>(Surplus) or Deficit</b>	<b>(6,688)</b>	<b>3,637</b>	<b>(3,051)</b>
<b>Opening General Fund</b>	<b>(21,534)</b>		
<b>Less/Plus (Surplus) Deficit on General Fund in Year</b>	<b>(6,688)</b>		
<b>Closing General Fund at 31 March</b>	<b>(28,222)</b>		

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis is not a Primary Statement and forms part of the Notes to the Accounts. It demonstrates to the readers of the accounts how the funding available to the Commissioner (i.e. Government Grants, Council Tax and income) for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The Expenditure and Funding Analysis also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the departments shown above. Income and expenditure accounting for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

## EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS NOTE 2020/21 (Police & Crime Commissioner)

	2020/21		
	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund £000	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis £000	Net Expenditure Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £000
<b>Police Services</b>			
Police Pay	(2,824)	0	(2,824)
Contact, Response & Resolution (a)	(4,321)	0	(4,321)
Crime (a)	(2,318)	0	(2,318)
Neighbourhoods (a)	(391)	0	(391)
Public Protection (a)	(3,981)	0	(3,981)
Centrally Delivered Services	(755)	0	(755)
Business Services	(7,024)	0	(7,024)
Collaborations	(786)	0	(786)
Corporate Costs	(10,724)	0	(10,724)
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner	675	7	682
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner - Commissioning	1,072	0	1,072
	<b>(31,377)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>(31,370)</b>
Funding to Cheshire Constabulary	218,208	8,798	227,006
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>186,831</b>	<b>8,805</b>	<b>195,636</b>
Other Income & Expenditure	0	43	43
Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure	2,921	7	2,928
Taxation & Non Specific Grant Income	(196,520)	(1,336)	(197,856)
<b>(Surplus) or Deficit</b>	<b>(6,767)</b>	<b>7,518</b>	<b>751</b>
<b>Opening General Fund</b>	<b>(14,767)</b>		
<b>Less/Plus (Surplus) Deficit on General Fund in Year</b>	<b>(6,767)</b>		
<b>Closing General Fund at 31 March</b>	<b>(21,534)</b>		

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis is not a Primary Statement and forms part of the Notes to the Accounts. It demonstrates to the readers of the accounts how the funding available to the Commissioner (i.e. Government Grants, Council Tax and income) for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The Expenditure and Funding Analysis also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the departments shown above. Income and expenditure accounting for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

(a) Contact, Response & Resolution, Crime, Neighbourhoods and Public Protection reorganised in 2021/22, 2020/21 figures restated to reflect the new structure – previously Local Policing £(4,713)k net; Investigations £(6,298)k net

## COMPREHENSIVE INCOME and EXPENDITURE STATEMENT (Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire)

2020/21			2021/22			Notes
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Expenditure	Income	Net	Expenditure	Income	Net	
<u>Police Services:</u>						
0	(2,824)	(2,824)	0	(3,110)	(3,110)	
0	(4,321)	(4,321)	0	(6,096)	(6,096)	
0	(2,318)	(2,318)	0	(2,862)	(2,862)	
0	(391)	(391)	0	(353)	(353)	
0	(3,981)	(3,981)	0	(4,173)	(4,173)	
0	(755)	(755)	0	(874)	(874)	
0	(7,024)	(7,024)	0	(6,710)	(6,710)	
0	(786)	(786)	0	(773)	(773)	
11,164	(21,888)	(10,724)	9,662	(20,765)	(11,103)	
682	0	682	1,246	0	1,246	
4,199	(3,127)	1,072	6,435	(5,429)	1,007	
16,046	(47,416)	(31,370)	17,344	(51,145)	(33,802)	
227,006		227,006	240,010		240,010	
		195,636			<b>206,208</b>	
		43			149	9
		2,928			2,876	9
		(197,856)			(212,284)	9
		751			<b>(3,051)</b>	
		5,809			(19,256)	
		0			0	
		645			(487)	
		6,454			<b>(19,743)</b>	
		<b>7,205</b>			<b>(22,794)</b>	

(a) Contact, Response & Resolution, Crime, Neighbourhoods and Public Protection reorganised in 2021/22, 2020/21 figures restated to reflect the new structure – previously Local Policing £(4,713)k net; Investigations £(6,298)k net

## MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT (Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire)

<b>2021/22</b>	General Fund (incl. earmarked) Reserve £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Reserves £000
<b>Balance at 1 April 2021</b>	<b>21,534</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>22,391</b>	<b>74,148</b>	<b>96,539</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income</b>	<b>3,051</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,051</b>	<b>19,743</b>	<b>22,794</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	3,637	(170)	3,467	(3,467)	0
Increase/(Decrease) in year	<b>6,688</b>	<b>(170)</b>	<b>6,518</b>	<b>16,276</b>	<b>22,794</b>
<b>Balances at 31 March 2022</b>	<b>28,222</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>28,909</b>	<b>90,424</b>	<b>119,333</b>

Details of the above reserves are in Notes 16 & 30.

<b>2020/21</b>	General Fund (incl. earmarked) Reserve £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Reserves £000
<b>Balance at 1 April 2020</b>	<b>14,767</b>	<b>2,526</b>	<b>17,293</b>	<b>86,452</b>	<b>103,746</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income</b>	<b>(751)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(751)</b>	<b>(6,454)</b>	<b>(7,205)</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	7,519	(1,670)	5,848	(5,849)	0
Increase/(Decrease) in year	<b>6,767</b>	<b>(1,670)</b>	<b>5,098</b>	<b>(12,303)</b>	<b>(7,205)</b>
<b>Balances at 31 March 2021</b>	<b>21,534</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>22,391</b>	<b>74,148</b>	<b>96,539</b>

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022 (Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire)

31 March 2021 £000		31 March 2022 £000		Notes
121,562	Property, Plant & Equipment	135,372		17
1,336	Intangible Assets	3,349		18
1,159	Long Term Debtors	949		22
124,057	<b>Long Term Assets</b>		139,670	
933	Stock	609		
16,979	Short Term Debtors	23,485		23
23,080	Cash and Cash Equivalents	27,472		24
0	Assets (held for sale)	0		25
40,992	<b>Current Assets</b>		51,566	
0	Short Term Borrowing	(99)		22
(20,109)	Short Term Creditors	(22,341)		
(20,109)	<b>Current Liabilities</b>		(22,440)	
(17,380)	Long Term Creditors	(16,223)		
(538)	Provisions	(489)		27
(27,873)	Long Term Borrowing	(30,274)		22
(2,611)	Other Long Term Liabilities	(2,477)		
(48,402)	<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>		(49,463)	
96,538	<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>119,333</b>	
	<b>Represented By:</b>			
22,391	Usable Reserves		28,909	16
74,147	Unusable Reserves		90,424	30
96,538	<b>Total Reserves</b>		<b>119,333</b>	

These accounts replace the unaudited accounts that were issued on 28 July 2022.

Clare Hodgson, Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner  
Date: xx September 2022

## CASHFLOW STATEMENT (Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire)

31 March 2021 £000		31 March 2022 £000	Notes
751	Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	(3,051)	
	Adjust net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movement:		
(11,210)	Depreciation	(9,990)	
1,046	Pensions - actuarial movement	(1,430)	
246	Movement in Creditors	(3,004)	
(5,377)	Movement in Debtors	6,045	
429	Movement of Stock	(45)	
(2,505)	Other non-cash items	1,722	
0	Adjust for items included in the net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities		
<u>(16,619)</u>	Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>(9,753)</u>	
4,606	Investing Activities	6,705	31
1,068	Financing Activities	(1,343)	31
<u>(10,945)</u>	<b>Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<u><b>(4,392)</b></u>	
(12,135)	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	(23,080)	24
(23,080)	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	(27,472)	24
<u>(10,945)</u>	<b>Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<u><b>(4,392)</b></u>	

Note: cash and cash equivalents above include the bank overdraft shown on the Balance Sheet (Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire) under Current Liabilities.

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# NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

## 1. Accounting Policies and Principles

### 1.1 General Principles

This Statement of Accounts summarises the Police and Crime Commissioner's (the Commissioner) transactions for the 2021/22 financial year and the position at 31 March 2022. The Commissioner is required to prepare an Annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts & Audit (England) Regulations 2015, which require such accounts to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices under Section 21 of the 2003 Act primarily comprise the Code of Practice of Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Accounting Standards (IAS). Where notes to the Financial Statements are presented, these are the notes to the Group Financial Statements unless there is a material difference between the Group and Commissioner's Statements.

#### 1.1.1 Accounting Conventions

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and where material, financial instruments as determined by the relevant accounting standard.

Activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place, not simply when cash payments are made or received. In particular:

- Revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed. Where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption they are carried as stock on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cashflows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

In addition, this Statement of Accounts assumes the Commissioner and Chief Constable will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future under the 'Going Concern' concept as a statutory Corporations Sole.

## **1.2 Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

In both the Balance Sheet and Cashflow Statement, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Commissioner's cash management.

## **1.3 Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors**

Prior period adjustments may arise as a result of a change in accounting policies or to correct a material error. Changes in accounting estimates are accounted for prospectively, i.e. in the current and future years affected by the change and do not give rise to a prior period adjustment.

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the Commissioner's financial position or financial performance. Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively (unless otherwise stated) by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy has always been applied.

Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

Items are material if they could, individually or collectively, influence the decisions or assessments of users made on the basis of the financial statements. Materiality depends on the nature and/or size of the omission or misstatement judged in the surrounding circumstances.

## **1.4 Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets**

Services, support services and trading accounts are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding non-current assets during the year:

- Depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service.
- Revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which the losses can be written off.
- Amortisation of intangible assets attributable to the service.

The Commissioner is not required to raise council tax (via their precept) to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisation. However, they are required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Commissioner in accordance with statutory guidance, known as the Minimum Revenue Provision.

Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisation are therefore replaced by the Minimum Revenue Provision contribution in the General Fund Balance by way of an adjusting transaction within the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

## **1.5 Council Tax and Non-domestic Rates**

The four local authorities within Cheshire act as agents, collecting council tax and non-domestic rates on behalf of the major preceptors – including the Commissioner for council tax. The authorities are required by statute to maintain a separate fund (called the Collection Fund) for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of council tax and non-domestic rates. Under the legislative framework for the Collection Fund, the local authorities, preceptors (including the Commissioner) and central Government share proportionately the risks and rewards should the amount collected be more or less than predicted.

The council tax income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) is the Commissioner's share of accrued income for the year. However, regulations determine the amount of council tax that must be included in the Commissioner's General Fund. Therefore, the difference between the income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account (an unusable reserve) and included as a reconciling item in the Movement of Reserves Statement.

The Balance Sheet includes the Commissioner's share of the end of year balances in respect of council tax relating to arrears, impairment allowances for doubtful debts, overpayments and prepayments together with appeals.

Where debtor balances for the above are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the statutory arrangements will not be made (fixed or determinable payments), the asset is written down and a charge made to the Financing and Investment Income line in the CIES. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the revised future cash flows.

## **1.6 Employee Benefits**

### **Benefits payable during employment**

Short-term employee benefits are those to be settled within 12 months of the year end. They include such benefits as salaries and wages, paid annual leave, paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits (for example cars) for current employees and are recognised as an expense for the service in the year in which employees render service to the Commissioner. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements, flexi leave and time off in lieu earned by employees but not taken before the year end, which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the salary rates applicable at year end. The accrual is charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that such benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the benefit occurs.

### **Termination benefits**

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Commissioner to terminate employment before the normal retirement date or an employee's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. These costs are charged on an accruals basis to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the Commissioner is demonstrably committed to the termination of the employment or making an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Commissioner to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with the debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

### **Post-employment benefits**

The Commissioner's employees may be members of one of two separate pension schemes:

- Police Staff - the Local Government Pension Scheme administered by Cheshire West and Chester Council; or
- Police Officers - the Police Pension Schemes for Police Officers; the Police Pension Schemes are unfunded schemes (Police Pension Fund Regulations 2007 (SI2007/1932) and subsequent updates), meaning there are no investment assets built up to meet the pensions' liabilities and cash has to be generated to meet actual pensions payments as they eventually fall due. The costs of the scheme are supported by an employer's contribution based on the costs of serving officers and central government grant.

Both schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions) earned as employees of the Commissioner. The impact of these two pension schemes is identified separately in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet and in the Notes to the Accounts.

### **The Local Government Pension Scheme**

The Local Government Pension Scheme is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme with the liabilities attributable to the Commissioner included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method. This is an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates etc. and projections of projected earnings for current employees.

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices in line with the actuary's agreed discount rate as stated in the relevant Note to the Accounts. The assets attributable to the Commissioner are also included in the Balance Sheet at fair value:

- Quoted securities – current bid price
- Unquoted securities – professional valuation
- Utilised securities – current bid price
- Property – market value

The change in the net pensions' liability is analysed as follows:

- Current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year. This is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and is apportioned across service headings according to numbers of employees.

- Past service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years and charged to the relevant service heading in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- Net Interest – on the net defined benefit liability (asset), i.e. the net interest expense for the Commissioner – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.
- The re-measurements comprise of:
  - The return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
  - Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
- Contributions paid to the pension fund – cash paid as employer’s contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities, not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Commissioner to the pension fund or directly to pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are appropriations to and from the IAS19 Pension Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for the retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the IAS19 Pension Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for the retirement benefits on the basis of cashflows rather than as benefits that are earned by employees.

### **Discretionary benefits – Local Government Pension Scheme**

The Commissioner also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of such an award are accrued in the year in which the decision was taken and accounted for using the same policies as applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

### **Injury awards – The Police Pension Scheme**

Injury awards under The Police (Injury Benefits) Regulations 2006 are not part of the Police Pensions Scheme and are funded direct from the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. However, liabilities in respect of injury awards are disclosed in the Statement of Accounts as part of the Commissioner’s overall liability and are measured on an actuarial basis, using the projected unit method.

## **1.7 Events after the Reporting Period**

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events both favourable and unfavourable that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

- Those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events.
- Those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events but, where a category of events would have a material effect, disclosure is made in the Notes of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect.

Events taking place after the date of authorisation of issue are not reflected in the Statement of Accounts.

## **1.8 Financial Instruments**

### **Financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Commissioner becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and are carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

For most of the borrowings that the Commissioner has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest); and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund Balance to be spread over future years. The Commissioner has a policy of charging the full effect of premiums and discounts to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year in which they are incurred.

### **Financial Assets**

Financial assets are classified based on a classification and measurement approach that reflects the business model for holding the financial assets and their cashflow characteristics. There are three main classes of financial assets measured at:

- Amortised cost,
- Fair value through profit or loss (FVPL), and
- Fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI).

The Commissioner's business model is to hold investments to collect contractual cash flows. Financial assets are therefore classified as amortised cost, except for those whose contractual payments are not solely payment of principal and interest (i.e. where the cash flows do not take the form of a basic debt instrument).

### **Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost**

Financial assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Commissioner becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the financial assets held by the Commissioner, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable plus accrued interest, and the interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

Any gains and losses that arise on the de-recognition of an asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

### **Expected Credit Loss Model**

The Commissioner recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost, either on a 12 month or lifetime basis. The expected credit loss model also applies to lease receivables and contract assets. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors) held by the Commissioner.

Impairment losses are calculated to reflect the expectation that the future cash flows might not take place because the borrower could default on their obligations. Credit risk plays a crucial part in assessing losses. Where risk has increased significantly since an instrument was initially recognised, losses are assessed on a lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased significantly or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12 month expected losses.

### **Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)**

Financial assets that are measured at FVOCI are recognised on the balance sheet when the Commissioner becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arise in other comprehensive income. Financial assets are classified in this way if they are held in a business model whose objective is achieved by both collecting contractual cash flows and selling financial assets.

### **Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss (FVPL)**

Financial assets that are measured at FVPL are recognised on the balance sheet when the Commissioner becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arise in the surplus or deficit on the provision of services. Financial assets not held in the amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income model are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

## **Fair value measurements of financial assets**

Fair value of an asset is the price that would be received to sell an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

The fair value measurements of the financial assets are based on the following techniques:

- Instruments with quoted market prices – the market price.
- Other instruments with fixed and determinable payments – discounted cash flow analysis.

The inputs to the measurement techniques are categorised in accordance with the following three levels:

- Level 1 – inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities.
- Level 2 – inputs are other than quoted prices in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 – inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

Any gains and losses that arise on the de-recognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

## **1.9 Government Grants and Contributions**

Whether paid on account, by instalments or in arrears, government grants and third party contributions and donations are recognised as due to the Commissioner when there is reasonable assurances that:

- The Commissioner will comply with the conditions attached to the payments, and
- The grants or contributions will be received.

Amounts recognised as due to the Commissioner are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset in the form of the grant or contribution are required to be consumed by the recipient as specified or future economic benefits or service potential must be returned to the transferor.

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the appropriate service line or Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income (for non-ring-fenced grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where capital grants are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the grant has not been used to finance capital expenditure it is posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve. Where it has been used to finance capital expenditure it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been used to finance capital expenditure.

## **1.10 Heritage Assets**

A tangible heritage asset is a tangible asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture. An intangible heritage asset is an intangible asset with cultural, environmental or historical significance. Examples of intangible heritage assets include recordings of significant historical events.

Such assets identified are to be carried separately on the balance sheet at valuation. The Commissioner sets a de-minimis value for such assets at £0.5m.

## **1.11 Intangible Assets**

Expenditure on non-monetary assets that do not have physical substance but are controlled by the Commissioner as a result of past events (e.g. software licences), is capitalised when it is expected that future economic benefits or service potential will flow from the intangible asset to the Commissioner.

Internally generated assets are capitalised where it is demonstrable that the project is technically feasible and is intended to be completed (with adequate resources being available) and the Commissioner will be able to generate future economic benefits or deliver service potential by being able to sell or use the asset. Expenditure is capitalised where it can be measured reliably as attributable to the asset and is restricted to that incurred during the development phase. Research expenditure cannot be capitalised. Expenditure on the development of websites is not capitalised if the website is solely or primarily intended to promote or advertise the Commissioner's services.

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are only re-valued where the fair value of the assets held can be determined by reference to an active market. In practice no intangible asset held by the Commissioner meets this criterion and they are therefore carried at amortised cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service lines in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired – any losses recognised are posted to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted to impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account or for any sale proceeds over £10,000, the Capital Receipts Reserve.

## **1.12 Stock**

Stock is valued at the lower of cost or current replacement cost where it is held for distribution at no charge. The stock reflected in the Balance Sheet relates predominantly to uniforms and equipment which is distributed to officers as appropriate.

### **1.13 Joint Operations**

Joint operations are arrangements where the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities relating to the arrangement. The activities undertaken by the Commissioner and/or Chief Constable in conjunction with other joint operators involve the use of the assets and resources of those joint operators. In relation to its interest in a joint operation, the Commissioner and/or Chief Constable as a joint operator recognises, if material:

- Its assets, includes its share of any asset held jointly.
- Its liabilities, including its share of any liabilities incurred jointly.
- Its revenue from the sale of its share of the output arising from the joint operation.
- Its share of the revenue from the sale of the output by the joint operations.
- Its expenses, including its share of any expenses incurred jointly.

### **1.14 Leases**

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the property, plant or equipment from the lessor to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases. Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and building elements are considered separately for classification.

Arrangements that do not have legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of specific assets.

#### **Finance Leases (taken out by the Commissioner)**

Property, plant and equipment held under finance leases are recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception or the present value of the minimum lease payments if this is lower. The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor. Initial direct costs of the Commissioner are added to the carrying amount of the asset. Premiums paid on entry into a lease are applied to writing down the lease liability. Contingent rents are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

#### **Lease payments are apportioned between:**

- A charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property, plant or equipment – applied to write down the lease liability, and
- A finance charge (debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).

Property, plant and equipment recognised under finance leases is accounted for using the policies applied generally to such assets, subject to depreciation being charged over the lease term if this is shorter than the asset's estimated useful life (where the ownership of the asset does not transfer to the Commissioner at the end of the lease period).

The Commissioner is not required to raise council tax to fund depreciation or revaluation and impairment losses arising from leased assets. Instead a prudent annual contribution is made from revenue funds towards the deemed capital investment in accordance with statutory requirements. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses are therefore substituted by a revenue contribution in the General Fund by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

## **Operating Leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the services benefiting from use of the lease property, plant and equipment. Charges are made on a straight line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (for example if there is a rent free period at the start or end of the lease).

### **1.15 Overheads and support services**

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to the service segments in accordance with the organisation's arrangements for accountability and financial performance.

### **1.16 Property, Plant and Equipment**

Assets that have physical substance and are held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, for rental to others, or for administration purposes and that are expected to be used during more than one financial year are classified as property, plant and equipment in line with International Accounting Standard (IAS) 16 and International Public Sector Accounting Standard (IPSAS) 17.

#### **Recognition of the asset**

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of property, plant and equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the asset will flow to the Commissioner and the cost of the asset can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to the asset's potential to deliver economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred. The Commissioner's policy is also to capitalise only those assets which have a material value where the cost is £10,000 or more (de-minimis level).

#### **Measurement of the asset**

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- the purchase price;
- any costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by the Commissioner, including any directly attributable salary costs of the Commissioner's employees; and
- the initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the items and restoring the site on which it is located.

The Commissioner does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred whilst assets are under construction.

The cost of assets acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its fair value, unless the acquisition does not have commercial substance (i.e. it will not lead to a variation in the cashflows of the Commissioner). In the latter case where an asset is acquired via an exchange, the cost of the acquisition is the carrying amount of the asset given up by the Commissioner.

Donated assets are measured initially at fair value. The difference between fair value and any consideration paid is credited to the Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement unless the donation has been made conditionally. In such cases until the conditions are satisfied the gain is held in the Donated Assets Account. Where gains are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Assets are carried in the Balance Sheet using the following measurement bases:

- Assets under construction – depreciated historical cost (actual expenditure incurred) until operational and then at fair value.
- All other assets – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use.

Where market based evidence of fair value is not available because of the specialist nature of an asset, Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC) will be used as an estimate of current value.

For non-property assets which have short useful lives, low value or both, depreciated historical cost will be used as a proxy for current value.

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are re-valued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at year end, but at a minimum of every five years. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

Where decreases in value are identified, they are accounted for as follows:

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance up to the amount of the accumulated gains.
- where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service lines in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The Revaluation Reserve contains revaluation gains recognised since 1 April 2007 only; the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the Capital Adjustment Account.

## **Impairment**

Assets are assessed at each year-end as to whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. Where indications exist and any possible differences are estimated to be material, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated and where this is less than the carrying amount of the asset, an impairment loss is recognised for the shortfall.

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for as follows:

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance up to the amount of the accumulated gains.
- where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service lines in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where an impairment loss is reversed subsequently, the reversal is credited to the relevant service lines in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement up to the amount of the original loss and adjusted for depreciation that would have been charged if the loss has not been recognised.

## **Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided for on all property, plant and equipment assets by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life (i.e. freehold land) and assets that are not yet available for operational use (i.e. assets under construction).

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- Land – no depreciation applied.
- Property (not land) – straight-line allocation over the life of the property as estimated by the valuer.
- Plant and Equipment – straight-line allocation over the life of the asset as advised by a suitably qualified officer.

Where an item of property, plant and equipment has major components (with different useful lives from the rest of the asset), whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately. Further details are included in the componentisation policy below.

Revaluation gains are also depreciated with an amount equal to the difference between current value depreciation charged on assets and the depreciation that would have been chargeable based on their historical cost being transferred each year from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.

## **Componentisation**

The Commissioner identifies any properties where it is considered that componentisation is appropriate and provides separate valuation of such components. Componentisation is only applied routinely to new buildings or refurbishments completed after 1 April 2010 onwards and will not apply to historical assets that have not been refurbished.

Specifically, componentisation is considered for:

- all properties over £1m;
- those which have been the subject of significant refurbishment or improvement during the year;
- those properties which are expected to be the subject of significant refurbishment or improvement during the next two years.

In this context significant expenditure is defined as 'greater than 25% of the total cost of the asset; and greater than £100,000'.

## **Disposals and non-current Assets held for Sale**

When it becomes probable that an asset will be sold it is reclassified as an Asset held for Sale. The asset is re-valued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previous losses recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets held for Sale.

If assets no longer meet the criteria to be classified as Assets held for Sale, they are reclassified back to non-current assets and valued at the lower of their carrying amount before they were classified as held for sale; adjusted for depreciation, amortisation or revaluations that would have been recognised had they not been classified as held for sale and their recoverable amount at the date of the decision not to sell.

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as Assets held for Sale.

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether property, plant and equipment or assets held for sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the disposed asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts and are required to be credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve. These can only then be used to fund new capital expenditure or set aside to reduce the Commissioner's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement). Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

All assets with a net present value of £nil (i.e. fully depreciated) will be reviewed annually and any unsubstantiated assets will be recorded as 'disposed of or scrapped'.

The written off value of disposals is not a charge against the council tax as the cost of non-current assets is fully provided for under separate arrangement for capital financing. Amounts are appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

### **1.17 Private Finance Initiative (PFI)**

PFI and similar contracts are agreements to receive services where the responsibility for making available the property, plant and equipment needed to provide the services passes to the PFI contractor. As the Commissioner is deemed to control the services that are provided under its PFI scheme and as ownership of the property, plant and equipment will pass to the Commissioner at the end of the contract, the Commissioner carries the assets used under the contract on its Balance Sheet as part of property, plant and equipment.

The original recognition of these assets at fair value (based on the cost to purchase) was balanced by the recognition of a liability for the amounts due to the scheme operator to pay for the capital investment. Non-current assets recognised on the Balance Sheet are re-valued and depreciated in the same way as property, plant and equipment owned by the Commissioner.

The amounts payable to the PFI operator each year are analysed as follows:

- fair value of the services received during the year – charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- finance cost – an interest charge on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- contingent rent – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract and charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- payment towards liability – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the PFI operator (the profile of write downs is calculated using the same principles as for a finance lease);
- lifecycle replacement costs – a proportion of the amounts payable is posted to the Balance Sheet as a prepayment and then recognised as additions to property, plant and equipment when the relevant works are eventually carried out.

## **1.18 Provisions, Contingent Assets and Liabilities**

### **Provisions**

Provisions are made when an event has taken place that gives the Commissioner a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement of that obligation and a reasonable estimate of the amount can be made. For example, the Commissioner may be involved in a court case that could eventually result in the making of a settlement or the payment of compensation.

Provisions are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year in which the Commissioner becomes aware of the obligation, based on the best estimate of the likely settlement taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties. When payments are eventually made they are charged to that provision in the Balance Sheet. Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year and where it becomes more likely than not that a settlement is no longer required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made), the provision is adjusted and credited back to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where some or all of the payment required to settle an obligation is expected to be met by another party (e.g. from an insurance claim) it is only recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received.

### **Contingent Assets**

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the Commissioner a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Commissioner. Contingent assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but are disclosed in a Note to the Accounts where it is probable that there will be an inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

## **Contingent Liability**

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the Commissioner a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Commissioner. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably. Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but are disclosed in a Note to the Accounts.

### **1.19 Reserves**

The Commissioner sets aside amounts as reserves for specific policy purposes through appropriations in the Movement of Reserves Statement. Expenditure funded by such reserves is charged directly to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement with the transfer from the reserve shown separately and accounted for in the Movement of Reserves Statement.

Certain reserves are held to manage the accounting processes of assets; council tax collection; employee benefits and retirement benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Commissioner – these reserves are explained in the relevant policies.

### **1.20 Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute**

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but which does not result in the creation of a non-current asset has been charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year. Where the Commissioner has determined to meet the cost of this expenditure from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the level of council tax.

### **1.21 Value Added Tax (VAT)**

VAT payable is included as an expense only to the extent that it is not recoverable from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. VAT receivable is excluded from income.

## **2. Accounting Standards issued, not yet adopted**

The Code of Practice for Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2021/22 (the Code) requires changes in accounting policy to be applied retrospectively unless alternative transitional arrangements are specified in the Code. The Code requires an authority to disclose information relating to the impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted for the relevant financial year. The additional disclosures that may be relevant for additional disclosures that will be required in the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial statements in respect of accounting changes that are introduced in the 2022/23 Code (i.e. that are relevant to the requirements of paragraph 3.3.4.3) are:

- Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2018–2020. The annual IFRS improvement programme notes 4 changed standards:
  - IFRS 1 (First-time adoption) – amendment relates to foreign operations of acquired subsidiaries transitioning to IFRS
  - IAS 37 (Onerous contracts) – clarifies the intention of the standard
  - IAS 41 (Agriculture) – one of a small number of IFRSs that are only expected to apply to local authorities in limited circumstances.
- Property, Plant and Equipment: Proceeds before Intended Use (Amendments to IAS 16).

The above changes have no impact on these accounts but will be reviewed during 2022/23 and any amendments required will be clearly shown in the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts.

### **3. Critical Judgements in applying Accounting Policies**

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1, the Commissioner has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- With the creation of the two corporations sole (the Commissioner and the Chief Constable) and the requirement for each to produce their individual statements of account, judgements have been made as to which statement of account income; expenditure; assets and liabilities have been allocated. This has been based on the substance of the transaction and not just the legal form.

The key judgements are:

- All income and grants are recognised in the Commissioner's Statement of Account.
- All day to day expenditure outside of those properly charged to the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner are recognised in the Chief Constable's Statement of Accounts.
- All assets are held by the Commissioner who consents to their usage by the Constabulary in pursuance of their policing service for which a 'fair use' charge is applied to the Chief Constable, received by the Commissioner.
- All liabilities are held by the Commissioner with the exception of the Accumulated Absences and Pension Liability applicable to the Constabulary for which the Chief Constable holds unusable reserves.
- All other reserves are held by the Commissioner.
- The Chief Constable is involved in various ways of delivering policing services and it has therefore, been necessary to consider carefully the accounting implications of collaboration covering all circumstance where working co-operatively with other police forces and Chief Constables. The Chief Constable has carefully considered all collaborative activity. The judgements and accounting treatment of collaborative activity can be found in Note 13.

### **4. Group Accounts**

Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the roles of Commissioner and Chief Constable became Corporations Sole (separate legal entities) and required individual Statement of Accounts. However, the Act also recognises that the Chief Constable is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Commissioner and proper accounting practices require group accounts to be produced.

#### **Basis of Consolidation**

The group accounts comprise of those of the Commissioner and his wholly owned subsidiary the Chief Constable as at 31 March 2022.

The financial statements of the subsidiary are prepared for the same reporting period as the parent company, using consistent accounting policies. They are fully consolidated from the date that the Commissioner obtains control until the date that such control ceases. These accounts are prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations with subsidiary companies being consolidated on a line-by-line basis.

All intra-group trading, balances and unrealised gains and losses as at the end of each period, are eliminated in full as part of the consolidation process. The main intra-group transactions are the Commissioner fully funding the net expenditure of the Chief Constable and the recognition in the two Balance Sheets of the relevant pension liability in the Chief Constable's accounts matched by an agreement to fund by the Commissioner in the form of a long term debtor. There are no significant restrictions on the ability of the subsidiary to transfer funds to the parent company in any form.

## 5. Assumptions made about the future & other major sources of estimation uncertainty

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Commissioner about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the Commissioner's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2022, for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year, are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Property, Plant and Equipment	Assets are depreciated over useful lives and are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs & maintenance that will be incurred. The current economic climate makes it uncertain that the Commissioner will be able to sustain current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets.	Each 5% change in the value of Land & Buildings assets would have an impact of £6.3m on their Net Book Value at 31st March 2022.  If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets falls. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge would increase by £1.968m for every year that useful lives have to be reduced.
Pensions Liability	Estimation of net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets (where applicable).  The Government's Actuary Department is engaged to provide the Commissioner with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied for Police Pensions and Cheshire West & Chester Council provide information on the Local Government Pension Scheme.	The effects on the net pension liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance a 0.5% decrease in the discount rate assumption would result in a decrease in the pension liability of £55.775m for the Local Government Pension Scheme.  However, the assumptions interact in complex ways. Where assumptions do change these are reported as actuarial gains and losses within the 'Other Income and Expenditure' line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These changes only impact on the Pension Reserve & Liability & have no impact on general reserve.

This list does not include assets and liabilities that are carried at fair value based on a recently observed market price.

## 6. Post Balance Sheet events

There are no post balance sheet events to report.

## 7. Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The following tables show the breakdown of the Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis shown in the Expenditure and Funding Analysis on page 16.

Adjustments from GF to arrive at the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement 2021/22	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for Pension Adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Police Pay	5,104	11,697	(554)	16,247
Contact, Response & Resolution	708	1,623	(77)	2,255
Crime	574	1,315	(62)	1,826
Neighbourhoods	353	810	(38)	1,125
Public Protection	425	974	(46)	1,353
Centrally Delivered Services	281	643	(30)	893
Business Services	865	4,633	(220)	5,279
Collaborations	475	1,089	(52)	1,513
Corporate Costs	(1,435)	0	0	(1,435)
OPCC	47	107	(5)	149
OPCC – Commissioning	0	0	0	0
Actuarial Pension costs - McCloud Judgement	0	0	0	0
<b>Net cost of services</b>	<b>7,398</b>	<b>22,891</b>	<b>(1,085)</b>	<b>29,204</b>
Other Operating Income & Expenditure	149	0	0	149
Financing & Invest. Income & Expenditure	0	51,974	0	51,974
Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income	(3,517)	0	(739)	(4,256)
<b>Difference between GF surplus/ deficit and CIES surplus/ deficit</b>	<b>4,030</b>	<b>74,865</b>	<b>(1,824)</b>	<b>77,071</b>

Adjustments from GF to arrive at the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement 2020/21	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for Pension Adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Police Pay	5,833	(5,247)	585	1,172
Contact, Response & Resolution (a)	777	(699)	78	156
Crime (a)	574	(517)	58	115
Neighbourhoods (a)	379	(341)	38	76
Public Protection (a)	514	(463)	52	103
Centrally Delivered Services	294	(264)	29	59
Business Services	1,171	(2,014)	225	(618)
Collaborations	575	(518)	58	116
Corporate Costs	(1,421)	0	0	(1,421)
OPCC	35	(31)	3	7
OPCC – Commissioning	0	0	0	0
Actuarial Pension costs - McCloud Judgement	0	15,890	0	15,890
<b>Net cost of services</b>	<b>8,732</b>	<b>5,797</b>	<b>1,126</b>	<b>15,656</b>
Other Operating Income & Expenditure	43	0	0	43
Financing & Invest. Income & Expenditure	0	50,551	0	50,551
Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income	(2,694)	0	1,358	(1,336)
<b>Difference between GF surplus/ deficit and CIES surplus/ deficit</b>	<b>6,081</b>	<b>56,348</b>	<b>2,484</b>	<b>64,913</b>

(a) Contact, Response & Resolution, Crime, Neighbourhoods and Public Protection reorganised in 2021/22, 2020/21 figures restated to reflect the new structure – previously Local Policing £232k total; Investigations £219k total.

## 8. Material items of income and expenditure

There are no material items of income and expenditure to report for 2021/22.

## 9. Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

### Subjective Analysis of Expenditure

	<b>2021/22</b>	2020/21
	<b>£000</b>	£000
Employees - Police Pay and Allowances	122,844	117,112
- Civilian Pay and Allowances	59,639	55,274
- Other Pay and Allowances	3,088	3,064
Premises	8,839	8,193
Transport	3,574	2,958
Supplies & Services	25,222	20,633
Third Party Payments	13,842	13,315
IAS19 Pension costs	22,891	5,797
Depreciation and Amortisation of Assets	9,990	11,221
Movement in Accumulated Absences Reserve	(1,085)	1,126
<b>Total Service Expenditure</b>	<b>268,845</b>	<b>238,693</b>
Service Income ( <i>see below</i> )	(41,155)	(36,206)
<b>Net Cost of Service</b>	<b>227,689</b>	<b>202,486</b>
(Profit)/Loss on Disposal of Assets	149	43
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	2,915	2,977
Interest and Investment Income	(60)	(55)
IAS19 Pension Net Interest Cost	51,974	50,551
<b>Net Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>282,667</b>	<b>256,002</b>
Police Grant	(71,378)	(66,803)
Formula Funding	(50,837)	(48,165)
Precept on Council Tax Collection Funds	(86,349)	(79,294)
PFI Grant - interest element	(1,924)	(2,007)
Covid Pressures Grant	0	(872)
Council Tax Collection Fund related grants	(1,340)	(300)
Capital Grants	(173)	(206)
Capital Contributions	(283)	(210)
<b>Deficit / (Surplus) on Provision of Services</b>	<b>70,383</b>	<b>58,146</b>
<b>Subjective Analysis of Service income</b>		
Fees & Charges	5,656	3,229
Sales	191	91
Reimbursements:		
Casualty Reduction Partnership, Hypothecated Fines	1,048	622
Secondments	13	32
Private Finance Initiative reimbursements	227	232
Asset Recovery	149	132
Other Reimbursements	4,922	4,641
Grants:		
Private Finance Initiative	5,306	5,222
Localisation of Council Tax Grant	8,256	8,256
Pensions Uplift grant	2,108	2,108
Counter Terrorism	870	848
Victims and Restorative Justice Grant	1,947	1,628
National Officer Uplift Grant	1,627	2,528
Covid-19 service specific grants	0	1,528
Major Investigation Grants	1,600	953
Commissioning Grants	2,630	729
Other Grants	723	640
Other Income:		
Mutual Aid	1,146	30
External Agency Funding	2,244	2,354
Proceeds of Crime Act	492	403
<b>Total Service Income</b>	<b>41,155</b>	<b>36,206</b>

Within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements there are three summary lines which are explained in more detail within the next five tables (split where appropriate between those for the Group Accounts and those for the Police & Crime Commissioner).

<b>Other Operating Expenditure (Group)</b>	<b>2021/22 £000</b>	<b>2020/21 £000</b>
(Profit)/Loss on Sale of Fixed Assets	149	43
Home Office Top Up Grant – Police Pensions	(26,488)	(25,467)
Police & Crime Commissioner contribution to Pension Account	26,488	25,467
<b>Total</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Other Operating Expenditure (Police &amp; Crime Commissioner)</b>	<b>2021/22 £000</b>	<b>2020/21 £000</b>
(Profit)/Loss on Sale of Fixed Assets	149	43
Income for fair use of assets	(9,990)	(11,210)
Home Office Top Up Grant – Police Pensions	(26,488)	(25,467)
Police & Crime Commissioner contribution to Pension Account	26,488	25,467
<b>Total</b>	<b>(9,841)</b>	<b>(11,167)</b>
<b>Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure (Group)</b>	<b>2021/22 £000</b>	<b>2020/21 £000</b>
Interest and Investment Income	(60)	(55)
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	2,915	2,977
Pension Net Interest	51,974	50,551
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,829</b>	<b>53,472</b>
<b>Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure (PCC)</b>	<b>2021/22 £000</b>	<b>2020/21 £000</b>
Interest and Investment Income	(60)	(55)
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	2,915	2,977
Pension Net Interest	21	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,876</b>	<b>2,929</b>
<b>Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (Group &amp; PCC)</b>	<b>2021/22 £000</b>	<b>2020/21 £000</b>
Police Grant	(71,378)	(66,803)
DCLG Funding	(50,836)	(48,165)
Precept on Council Tax Collection Funds	(85,832)	(79,996)
Movement on Collection Fund Debtors/Creditors	(517)	702
PFI Grant – Interest Element	(1,924)	(2,007)
Capital Grants and Contributions	(456)	(416)
Covid Pressures Grant	0	(872)
Council Tax Collection Fund related grants	(1,340)	(300)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(212,284)</b>	<b>(197,856)</b>

## 10. Members' Allowances & Expenses

The amounts shown below relate to the Joint Audit Advisory Committee & Ethics Advisory Panel Members only.

	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
Basic Allowances	12	13
Expenses	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>

## 11. Officer Remuneration

The Commissioner is required to detail the remuneration received by senior officers of the Constabulary and the Commissioner's Office which are shown in the following tables. The regulations require detailed disclosure for officers whose total remuneration excluding the employer's pension contribution exceeds £50,000. The following definitions apply:

**Salary including fees and allowances:** the amount received under a contract of employment, including any allowances such as housing allowance before the deduction of employees' pension contributions, but excluding payments such as bonuses and benefits in kind. The figures shown separately in the Pensions Contributions column refer to the employer's pension contributions.

**Bonuses:** payments made under Police Reform Pay and Conditions Agreement 2002 & 2004 and payments for exceptional work.

**Benefits in kind:** the estimated value of benefits received other than in cash, for example, use of a fleet vehicle.

**Compensation for loss of office:** includes payments made to or receivable by the person as a result of their termination of employment such as voluntary/compulsory redundancy, voluntary early retirement, pay in lieu of notice, accrued salary or holiday pay etc.

The number of employees whose remuneration, excluding employer's pension contribution exceeding £50,000 or more in bands of £5,000 (including those shown on the next table Senior Officers and Relevant Police Officers emoluments) is set out below:

For the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner:

Remuneration Band	Number of Employees	
	2021/22	2020/21
£50,000 - £54,999	0	0
£55,000 - £59,999	0	0
£60,000 - £64,999	1	0
£65,000 - £69,999	1	0
£70,000 - £74,999	1	0
£75,000 - £79,999	0	2
£80,000 - £84,999	0	0
£85,000 - £89,999	0	1

### Senior Officers and Relevant Police Officers emoluments exceeding £50,000 to £150,000

2021/22	Salary incl. Fees & Allowances £	Severance £	Benefits in Kind £	Total Remuneration excl. Pension Contributions 2021/22 £	Pension Contributions £	Total Remuneration incl. Pension contributions 2021/22 £
Post title						
Chief of Staff <sup>1</sup>	32,605	42,210	0	74,815	197,436	<b>272,251</b>
Police & Crime Commissioner <sup>2</sup>	67,657	0	0	67,657	13,396	<b>81,053</b>
Chief Finance Officer <sup>3</sup>	60,760	0	0	60,760	12,030	<b>72,790</b>
Chief Executive <sup>4</sup>	37,641	0	0	37,641	7,205	<b>44,847</b>
Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner <sup>5</sup>	35,063	0	0	35,063	6,942	<b>42,005</b>
Director of Operations <sup>6</sup>	13,685	0	0	13,685	2,710	<b>16,395</b>
Police & Crime Commissioner <sup>7</sup>	8,843	0	0	8,843	1,751	<b>10,594</b>

<sup>1</sup> Left July 2021, <sup>2</sup> Started May 2021, <sup>3</sup> Reduction in hours August 2021, <sup>4</sup> Started November 2021, <sup>5</sup> Started July 2021, <sup>6</sup> Left June 2021, <sup>7</sup> Left May 2021.

### Senior Officers and Relevant Police Officers emoluments exceeding £50,000 to £150,000

2020/21	Salary incl. Fees & Allowances £	Severance £	Benefits in Kind £	Total Remuneration excl. Pension Contributions 2020/21 £	Pension Contributions £	Total Remuneration incl. Pension contributions 2020/21 £
Post title						
Police & Crime Commissioner	76,500	0	0	76,500	15,147	<b>91,647</b>
Chief of Staff	86,450	0	0	86,450	17,117	<b>103,567</b>
Director of Finance	75,870	0	0	75,870	15,022	<b>90,892</b>
Head of Policy & Partnerships <sup>1</sup>	34,941	0	0	34,941	5,019	<b>39,960</b>
Director of Operations <sup>2</sup>	25,601	0	0	25,601	5,069	<b>30,670</b>

<sup>1</sup> Left in November 2020, <sup>2</sup> Started in November 2020

**Senior Officers and Relevant Police Officers emoluments >£150,000**

<b>2021/22</b>	<b>Salaries, Fees and Allowances</b>	<b>Bonuses</b>	<b>Severance</b>	<b>Benefits in Kind</b>	<b>Total Remuneration excluding Pension Contributions</b>	<b>Employers Pension Contribution</b>	<b>Total Remuneration including Pension Contributions</b>
Post Title							
Chief Constable <sup>1</sup>	149,636	0	0	0	149,636	45,471	195,107

**Senior Officers and Relevant Police Officers emoluments exceeding £50,000 to £150,000**

<b>2021/22</b>	<b>Salaries, Fees and Allowances</b>	<b>Bonuses</b>	<b>Severance</b>	<b>Benefits in Kind</b>	<b>Total Remuneration excluding Pension Contributions</b>	<b>Employers Pension Contribution</b>	<b>Total Remuneration including Pension Contributions</b>
Post Title							
Assistant Chief Constable	119,801	0	0	0	119,801	28,442	148,243
Assistant Chief Officer	111,573	0	0	0	111,573	21,497	133,070
Chief Superintendent	99,395	0	0	0	99,395	28,442	127,837
Assistant Chief Constable <sup>2</sup>	92,374	0	0	4,314	96,688	28,017	124,704
Chief Superintendent	95,816	0	0	0	95,816	27,406	123,222
Chief Superintendent	93,346	0	0	0	93,346	28,442	121,788
Chief Superintendent	92,988	0	0	0	92,988	28,442	121,430
Chief Superintendent	91,792	0	0	0	91,792	27,406	119,198
Chief Superintendent	92,185	0	0	0	92,185	26,436	118,621
Deputy Chief Constable <sup>3</sup>	76,915	0	0	0	76,915	22,621	99,536
Head of Legal Services	81,819	0	0	0	81,819	16,200	98,019
Head of IT	76,650	0	0	0	76,650	15,177	91,827
Head of People Services	76,650	0	0	0	76,650	15,177	91,827
Head of Planning and Performance	76,650	0	0	0	76,650	15,177	91,827
Head of Strategic Change	76,650	0	0	0	76,650	15,177	91,827
Head of Estates	76,650	0	0	0	76,650	15,177	91,827
Head of Finance	76,650	0	0	0	76,650	15,177	91,827
Deputy Chief Constable <sup>4</sup>	76,099	0	0	3,258	79,357	0	79,357
Head of Forensics	61,443	0	0	0	61,443	12,166	73,609
Head of Fleet	57,273	0	0	0	57,273	11,340	68,613
Head of Procurement	51,855	0	0	0	51,855	10,267	62,123
Head of Corporate Communications <sup>5</sup>	43,648	0	0	0	43,648	8,642	52,290
Chief Constable <sup>6</sup>	16,661	0	0	0	16,661	5,047	21,708
Assistant Chief Constable <sup>7</sup>	8,800	0	0	2,877	11,677	2,370	14,047

<sup>1</sup> Started May 2021, <sup>2</sup> Left January 2022, <sup>3</sup> Left October 2021, <sup>4</sup> Started September 2021, <sup>5</sup> Started September 2021, <sup>6</sup> Retired April 2021, and <sup>7</sup> Started February 2022

**Senior Officers and Relevant Police Officers emoluments >£150,000**

<b>2020/21</b>	<b>Salaries, Fees and Allowances</b>	<b>Bonuses</b>	<b>Severance</b>	<b>Benefits in Kind</b>	<b>Total Remuneration excluding Pension Contributions</b>	<b>Employers Pension Contribution</b>	<b>Total Remuneration including Pension Contributions</b>
Post Title							
Chief Constable	161,062	0	0	0	161,062	48,081	209,143

**Senior Officers and Relevant Police Officers emoluments exceeding £50,000 to £150,000**

<b>2020/21</b>	<b>Salaries, Fees and Allowances</b>	<b>Bonuses</b>	<b>Severance</b>	<b>Benefits in Kind</b>	<b>Total Remuneration excluding Pension Contributions</b>	<b>Employers Pension Contribution</b>	<b>Total Remuneration including Pension Contributions</b>
Post Title							
Deputy Chief Constable	134,935	0	0	0	134,935	39,665	174,600
Assistant Chief Constable	117,834	0	0	5,709	123,543	35,712	159,255
Temporary Assistant Chief Constable	110,550 <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0	110,550	28,153	138,703
Assistant Chief Officer	110,469	0	0	0	110,469	21,279	131,748
Chief Superintendent	92,156	0	0	0	92,156	28,153	120,309
Chief Superintendent	91,795	0	0	0	91,795	27,719	119,514
Chief Superintendent	91,770	0	0	0	91,770	27,679	119,449
Chief Superintendent	90,823	0	0	0	90,823	26,052	116,875
Chief Superintendent	84,130	0	0	0	84,130	25,247	109,376
Head of Legal Services	81,068	0	0	0	81,068	16,035	97,103
Head of Estates	75,870	0	0	0	75,870	15,022	90,892
Head of Strategic Change	74,533	0	0	0	74,533	14,698	89,231
Head of IT	74,300	0	0	0	74,300	14,698	88,999
Head of People Services	74,247	0	0	0	74,247	14,698	88,945
Head of Corporate Communications	74,235	0	0	0	74,235	14,698	88,933
Head of Planning and Performance	74,235	0	0	0	74,235	14,698	88,933
Head of Finance	74,235	0	0	0	74,235	14,698	88,933
Chief Superintendent <sup>2</sup>	70,766	0	0	0	70,766	21,100	91,866
Head of Procurement	51,328	0	0	0	51,328	10,163	61,491
Head of Fleet	55,442	0	0	0	55,442	10,978	66,420
Head of Forensic Investigations	60,818	0	0	0	60,818	12,042	72,860

<sup>1</sup> Temporary Assistant Chief Constable – £16,620 remuneration for temporary additional responsibilities is included in salaries, fees and allowances, <sup>2</sup> Chief Supt retired January 2021

Remuneration Band	Number of Employees		
	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
£50,000 - £54,999	247	149	110
£55,000 - £59,999	122	80	88
£60,000 - £64,999	55	39	19
£65,000 - £69,999	9	8	1
£70,000 - £74,999	10	10	14
£75,000 - £79,999	10	3	2
£80,000 - £84,999	5	5	5
£85,000 - £89,999	3	4	4
£90,000 - £94,999	5	4	0
£95,000 - £99,999	1	0	0
£100,000 - £104,999	0	0	1
£105,000 - £109,999	0	0	1
£110,000 - £114,999	1	2	0
£115,000 - £119,999	1	1	0
£120,000 - £124,999	0	0	1
£125,000 - £129,999	0	0	0
£130,000 - £134,999	0	1	1
£135,000 - £139,999	0	0	0
£140,000 - £144,999	0	0	0
£145,000 - £149,999	1	0	0
£150,000 - £154,999	0	0	0
£155,000 - £159,999	0	0	0
£160,000 - £164,999	0	1	1
£165,000 - £169,999	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>248</b>

The number of termination benefits with total cost per band and total cost of the compulsory and other redundancies are set out in the table below:

Exit package cost band (including special payments)	Number of compulsory redundancies		Number of other agreed departures		Total number of exit packages by cost band		Total cost of exit packages in each band	
	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21
£nil - £40,000	0	6	2	0	2	6	£6,217	£25,144
£40,001 - £60,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	£0
£60,001 - £150,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	£0
£150,000+	0	0	1	0	1	0	£228,967	£0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>£235,184</b>	<b>£25,144</b>

Further information on the above is included in Note 33.

## 12. External Audit Costs

Grant Thornton LLP, the external auditors received the following fees.

	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
Police and Crime Commissioner	45	43
Chief Constable	18	18
Total Fees payable to the Grant Thornton LLP with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed Auditor	63	61

Included in 2021/22 above are £23k of additional fees recommended but not yet paid at 31 March 2022.

## 13. Partnerships & Operational Collaborations

The Commissioner worked with a number of partners during 2021/22. Service level agreements exist to define the role of each of the bodies involved. In all of these agreements each party is responsible for their own liabilities and these cannot be passed or transferred to the other parties involved. They operate as joint operations in accordance with International Accounting Standard (IAS31).

### **North West Regional Organised Crime Unit (NWROCU)**

NWROCU consists of the Regional Organised Crime Team (ROCT); Regional Intelligence Unit (RIU); Operational Security (OPSY); Regional Confidential Unit (RCU); Regional Technical Surveillance Unit (RTSU); Regional Prison Intelligence Unit (RPIU); Business Support; Pooled; Premises; Covert Operations 1- 3 and Police Officer Uplift (new 2021/22). The combined unit serves the areas of Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Lancashire, Cumbria and North Wales. It is staffed by police officers and support staff from the six constituent forces with the overall expenditure being met from the six forces above with OPSY, RIU, RCU, TSU, PIU, Regional Business Support and Ops 3 part funded by Home Office Grant. The amount reflected in Cheshire's accounts 2021/22 is £1.5m (£1.4m in 2020/21).

### **Multi-Force Shared Services (MFSS)**

This collaboration commenced in April 2012 between Northamptonshire Police and Cheshire Constabulary. Nottinghamshire Police joined in April 2015 and Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) in April 2016. The areas of business include human resources, accounts, purchasing, payroll and service support. The costs are based on headcount and are currently allocated as Cheshire (33.47%), Northamptonshire (22.12%), Nottinghamshire (31.04%) and CNC (13.37%) as agreed by the MFSS Board. In addition, each force has specific costs such as licences, support, approved request changes and maintenance costs that are not part of the above percentage split. The Oracle Cloud licences are recharged based on the agreed headcount. On the 27 July 2020 the Joint Oversight Committee agreed that the partnership would end at the conclusion of the current contract in November 2022. The MFSS Management Board created a programme to manage the transition which will run from 2020/21 until November 2022. Partners have been charged their 2021/22 budget for both the operating, force specific and termination business areas (approved by SSJOC December 2021) and £0.8m has been allocated to an earmarked reserve held on Cheshire's balance sheet on behalf of MFSS to support 2022/23 commitments. The total cost of MFSS was £7.2m (£7.8m in 2020/21) with Cheshire's share of costs amounting to £2.4m (£2.6m in 2020/21).

### **North West Police Underwater Search and Marine Unit**

The North West Police Underwater Search and Marine Unit (UWSU) serves the areas of Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Lancashire, Cumbria and North Wales and is staffed by police officers and one part-time support staff from the six constituent police forces with the overall expenditure being met by those forces. For 2021/22, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire charged expenditure on the provision of police officers, police staff, equipment, vehicles and transport to the collaboration. The total cost of the UWSU collaboration was £0.9m (£0.9m in 2020/21) and apportioned based on each Commissioner's police grant allocation. Cheshire's contribution amounted to £0.1m (£0.1m in 2020/21).

### **North West Motorway Policing Group**

The North West Motorway Policing Group (NWMPG) serves the areas of Cheshire, Merseyside and Greater Manchester. It is staffed by an Inspector from Merseyside and police staff from Cheshire with the overall expenditure met by the three constituent police forces. All costs are apportioned based on the geographic share of the motorways being policed, population and the number of incidents occurring. In October 2019, Chief Officers agreed to continue the Regional Commercial Vehicle Unit (RCVU) as 'business as usual' and funded by Police to maintain a regional capacity and capability. The interim solution for 2021/22 reported the constables 'attached' to the unit would remain part of their home force roads policing department, whilst the Sgt post would be funded partly by Highways Grant (Apr-Jun 2021) and the remainder a third by each partner forces. A business case was submitted and approved to formally establish the RCVU as a part of the North West Motorway Police Group 2022/23. It was agreed for 2021/22 Cheshire charged the collaboration expenditure of £0.9m (£0.8m in 2020/21) with Cheshire's contribution amounting to £0.3m (£0.2m in 2020/21).

### **North West Armed Policing Collaboration**

The NW Armed Policing Collaboration was formed in 2012 with six member forces, since this time the region has been operating under a single interim College of Policing (CoP) Firearms Training Licence having previously operated under six full training licences. Lancashire left the collaboration on 31 March 2018. The collaboration team comprises of 5 Police Officers and 6 Support Staff who deliver this regional training and interoperability function. The collaboration has taken on governance of the Chronicle IT system on behalf of the region, which is funded separately as its remit is far wider than solely armed policing. It comprises of 1 police officer and 2 police staff, under a separate budget with the lead force being Lancashire Constabulary. For 2021/22, the total cost of NW Armed Policing Collaboration was £0.6m (£0.6m in 2020/21). This collaboration is apportioned based on each Commissioner's police grant. Cheshire's Contribution amounted to £0.08m (£0.08m in 2020/21).

### **Cheshire and North Wales Police (NWP) Armed Policing Alliance**

The Cheshire and NWP Armed Policing Alliance provide armed officers to both Cheshire and North Wales in a fully integrated joint force team since 2014. It is an armed policing alliance that serves the areas of Cheshire and North Wales and is staffed by police officers and support staff from the two constituent police forces with the overall expenditure being met by those forces. For 2021/22, Cheshire charged expenditure on the provision of police officers, police staff, equipment, vehicles and transport to the collaboration amounting to £4.1m (£3.8m in 2020/21). There is a reported £0.23m underspend for 2021/22 which the Strategic Armed Policing Group (SAPG) approved to be transferred to the earmarked reserve. The total cost of the Alliance was £7.2m (£6.9m in 2020/21) and apportioned based on each Commissioner's police grant allocation. Cheshire's contribution amounted to £3.9m (£3.8m in 2020/21).

### **Cheshire and North Wales (NWP) Police Dog Alliance**

The Cheshire and NWP Dogs provide dog handlers to both Cheshire and North Wales. The pilot went live operationally in April 2016 and has now been approved as a permanent part of the alliance. The dog alliance provides a range of police dogs skills to both Cheshire and North Wales and is staffed by police officers and support staff from the two constituent police forces with the overall expenditure being met by those forces. There is a reported £0.01m underspend for 2021/22 which the Strategic Armed Policing Group (SAPG) approved to be transferred to the earmarked reserve. For 2021/22 Cheshire charged expenditure on the provision of police officers, staff, equipment, supplies and services, vehicle costs and mutual aid income to the pilot amounting to £1.4m (£1.3m in 2020/21). The total cost of the Cheshire and North Wales Dog Pilot was £2.2m (£2.1m in 2020/21) and apportioned based on each force agreed share. Cheshire's contribution amounted to £1.4m (£1.4m in 2020/21).

### **Cheshire Road Safety Group**

The Cheshire Road Safety Group commenced in April 2011 and succeeds the former Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership. Financially contributing organisations are Cheshire East Council, Cheshire West and Chester Council and Warrington Borough Council. Halton Borough Council contribute a fixed amount of £20,000 per year. Cheshire Fire is the only non-financial contributing party. The aim of the partnership is to reduce the number of people seriously injured or killed on the roads through the operation and maintenance of speed and red light safety cameras on roads with a history of vehicle collisions. In 2021/22 costs of £0.47m were incurred which were fully reimbursed by the Group.

### **North West Strategic Roads Automatic Number Plate Recognition**

This collaboration commenced in 2008 with collaborative forces of Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire with Merseyside and Greater Manchester joining a short time later. The collaboration was reviewed and reaffirmed at Regional ACPO in April 2011 with North Wales joining in January 2012. The collaboration has strong links to the North West Motorway Policing Group as Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) is identified as an effective method of providing protective services across the region's strategic road network. Bids which secured funding amounting to £1.8m has enabled the ANPR infrastructure to be developed and supported over the last 12 years. The total cost of the collaboration in 2021/22 was £0.05m (£0.08m in 2020/21) and Cheshire's contribution amounted to £0.01m (£0.01m in 2020/21).

### **North West Regional Disaster Victim Co-ordinator**

At the North West NPCC on 12 April 2018, the Chief Constables of the 6 Forces in the region agreed to fund the above position for an initial period of six months which has since been reviewed and made a permanent regional post. The agreement was that the cost of the post would be split equally between the 6 Forces. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire is the lead force. The total cost of the collaboration in 2021/22 was £0.07m (£0.06m 2020/21) and Cheshire's share of costs amounting to £0.01m (£0.01m 2020/21).

### **North West Regional Chronicle Collaboration**

Chronicle is a computer system that manages training and operations for specialist functions (armed policing, public order, search, dogs and armoury). The main purpose of the collaboration is to standardise and merge six regional systems into one. The North West Regional Chronicle Collaboration serves the areas of Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Lancashire, Cumbria and North Wales. It is currently staffed by 1 police sergeant and 2 police staff with the overall expenditure being met by those forces. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire is the lead force. For 2021/22 the total cost of NW Regional Chronicle Collaboration was £0.18m (£0.15m in 2020/21) with Cheshire's share of costs amounting to £0.02m (£0.02m in 2020/21).

### **Regional Emergency Services Network (ESN)**

The Emergency Services Mobile Communication Programme is a nationally coordinated programme which will see a fundamental change to how each force and emergency service partner will receive critical voice and mobile broadband as part of a national Emergency Service Network for the UK. The North West will be the first region to transition, as such it is imperative to have a coordinated approach to the implementation of ESN. A NW ESN Programme structure has been implemented with the agreement and support of all North West Police Forces. It is currently staffed by 1 Chief Superintendent from Cheshire and 4 police staff (2 Cheshire, 1 Merseyside and 1 Cumbria) with the overall expenditure being met by Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Cumbria and Lancashire Police forces on the agreed basis. To support the programme itself the NW ESN Programme Board and NW ESN Project Coordination meet to coordinate and manage implementation and transition. For 2021/22 the total cost of the Regional ESN collaboration was £0.4m (£0.4m in 2020/21) with Cheshire's share of the costs amounting to £0.05m (£0.04m in 2020/21).

The ESN Programme (ESMCP) entered a phase of testing called Operational Assurance which is divided into 2 key parts – Operational Validation (technical and functional testing) and Operational Evaluation (scripted testing in operational scenarios). The North West Police region (Cumbria, Cheshire, GMP, Merseyside & Lancashire) alongside the South West were selected to be one of 2 Police regions to undertake the testing on behalf of UK Policing.

Operational Assurance is funded by a Home Office grant that enables the establishment of a team to plan, prepare and deliver the testing activities; originally awarded £690k for a period of 18 months from July 2020, the Home Office have recently confirmed funding will be available for the duration of Operational Assurance (scheduled to conclude December 2023). The grant covers staffing, office location & equipment and technology, to date 9 members of staff have been recruited with the potential to increase if required, at a later date – the Assurance Partner Manager is responsible for the managing and monitoring the grant and reports to the Home Office and regional NW ESN Programme Board on a quarterly basis. For 2021/22 the total cost of the Operational Assurance was £0.5m (£0.7m in 2020/21) which has been funded by Home Office Grant.

### **Regional ACC Lead**

The NW Joint Oversight Committee agreed on the 20 January 2017 that a regional Assistant Chief Constable would be recruited with an equal split of the funding between the six NW partner forces. This role has responsibility for all the regional collaborations including NWROCU, Armed Policing Collaboration, Motorway Policing Group and ANPR. For 2021/22 the total cost of the NW Regional ACC lead was £0.18m (£0.17m in 2020/21) shared equally between the NW police forces of which Cheshire's share of costs amounting to £0.03m (£0.03m in 2020/21).

### **West Coast Collaboration (WCC) BAU and Project Team (previously Tri-Force Niche)**

In February 2019 the Tri-Force collaborating forces of Cheshire, Merseyside and North Wales delivered a single instance of the Niche Records Management System (RMS). This single instance provides immediate access to all operational officers and staff to the combined information and intelligence of the three forces. This is a significant step forward in protecting vulnerable people, managing serious threats and tackling cross border criminality. During 2020/21 a new single networked Niche Business as Usual (BAU) Support Team was agreed and implemented with a centralised and co-ordinated management structure. Coupled with the new BAU team was the decision to continue with project team to develop further WCC opportunities (e.g. Criminal Justice). The Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside is the lead force. For 2021/22 the total cost of the West Coast Collaboration was £1.1m (£0.7m in 2020/21) of which the project costs are shared between 4 partners (Cheshire, Merseyside, North Wales and Dyfed Powys) and the BAU costs shared between 3 partners (Cheshire, Merseyside and North Wales). Cheshire's share of costs amounting to £0.3m (£0.18m in 2020/21).

<b>COLLABORATION / PARTNERSHIP</b>	<b>2021/22 Spend</b>	<b>Cheshire Contribution</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>North West Regional Organised Crime Unit (NWROCU)</b>			
Regional Confidential Unit	£2.66m	£0.277m	10.42
Regional Intelligence Unit	£0.20m	£0.021m	10.42
Operational Security (OPSY)	£0.05m	£0.009m	17.31
Regional Organised Crime Unit	£3.26m	£0.340m	10.42
Regional Technical Surveillance - Revenue	£3.67m	£0.372m	10.42/8.7
Regional Prison Intelligence	£0.76m	£0.080m	10.42
Business Support	£0.70m	£0.072m	10.42
Covert Operations 1	£1.89m	0	0
Covert Operations 2	£1.56m	£0.131m	8.36
Covert Operations 3	£0.89m	£0.058m	6.47
UPLIFT Year 1	£0.77m	£0.075m	9.76
Pooled	£0.15m	£0.016m	10.42
Premises	£0.33m	£0.034m	10.42
<b>TOTAL NWROCU 2021/22</b>	<b>£16.89m</b>	<b>£1.484m</b>	
Multi Force Shared Services – Main Budget	£5.73m	£1.920m	33.47
Multi Force Shared Services – Force Specific	£1.46m	£0.455m	FIXED
<b>TOTAL MULTI FORCE SHARED SERVICES 2021/22</b>	<b>£7.19m</b>	<b>£2.375m</b>	
NW Regional Underwater Search Unit	£0.89m	£0.093m	10.51
NW Regional Motorway Policing Group (NWMPPG)	£0.85m	£0.256m	29.94 (excl RVCU) 33.33 (RVCU only)
NW Armed Policing Collaboration	£0.63m	£0.080m	12.70
Cheshire & North Wales Armed Policing Alliance	£7.17m	£3.915m	54.60
Cheshire & North Wales Dog Pilot	£2.16m	£1.449m	67.02
Cheshire Road Safety Group	£0.47m	0	0
NW Strategic Roads ANPR	£0.05m	£0.006m	11.00 (Infrastructure) and 20.00 (Oracle)
NW Disaster Victim Coordinator	£0.07m	£0.012m	16.67
NW Regional Chronicle Collaboration	£0.18m	£0.020m	10.59
Regional Emergency Services Network	£0.41m	£0.046m	11.39
Regional Emergency Services Network – Operational Assurance Grant	£0.34m	0	0
Regional Emergency Services Network – Operational Assurance Evaluation Grant	£0.14m	0	0
NW Regional ACC Lead	£0.18m	£0.030m	16.67
SPOC Telecoms Collaboration (NEW 2021/22)	£0.32m	£0.177m	54.6
West Coast Collaboration – Project Team	£0.28m	£0.061m	21.79
West Coast Collaboration – BAU Team	£0.85m	£0.240m	28.24
<b>TOTAL 2021/22</b>	<b>£39.07m</b>	<b>£10.244m</b>	

## 14. Grant Income

The Commissioner credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b><u>Credited to Taxation &amp; Non-Specific Grant Income</u></b>		
Police Grant (Home Office)	71,378	66,803
DCLG Funding	50,837	48,165
PFI Grant – Interest Element	1,924	2,007
Council Tax Collection Fund related grants	1,340	300
Covid-19 Pressures Grant	0	872
<b><u>Capital Grants</u></b>		
General Capital Grant (Home Office)	173	173
Miscellaneous Capital Grants (Home Office)	100	33
Miscellaneous Capital Contributions (Partner Forces)	183	210
<b>Total</b>	<b>125,935</b>	<b>118,563</b>
<b><u>Credited to Other Operating Expenditure</u></b>		
Police Pension Grant (Home Office)	26,488	25,467
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,488</b>	<b>25,467</b>
<b><u>Credited to Services</u></b>		
Local Council Tax Freeze Grant	8,256	8,256
Private Finance Initiative	5,306	5,222
Pensions Uplift Grant	2,108	2,108
Counter Terrorism	870	848
PCC Victim Services, RJ and Sexual/Domestic Violence	1,947	1,628
National Officer Uplift grant	1,627	2,528
Covid-19 service specific grants	0	1,528
Major Investigation Grants	1,600	953
Commissioning Grants	2,630	729
Other Grants	723	640
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,067</b>	<b>24,440</b>

The Commissioner has received a number of grants, contributions and donations that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that will require the monies or property to be returned to the giver. The balances at the year-end are as follows:

<b>Grants Received in Advance (Revenue Grants)</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Emergency Services Network	(585)	(685)
Automatic Number Plate Recognition Phase 1&2	(61)	(61)
Safety of Women at Night Fund	(103)	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>(749)</b>	<b>(746)</b>

## **15. Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations**

This note details the adjustments that are made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the Commissioner in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Commissioner to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.

The following sets out a description of the reserves that the adjustments are made against:

### **General Fund**

The General Fund is the statutory fund into which all the receipts of the Commissioner are required to be paid and out of which all liabilities of the Commissioner are to be met, except to the extent that statutory rules provide otherwise. These rules can also specify the financial year in which liabilities and payments should impact on the General Fund balance, which is not necessarily in accordance with proper accounting practice. The General Fund balance therefore summarises the resources that the Commissioner is statutorily empowered to spend on police services or on capital investment.

### **Capital Receipts Reserve**

The Capital Receipts Reserve holds the proceeds from the disposal of land or other assets which are restricted by statute from being used other than to fund new capital expenditure or to be set aside to finance historical capital expenditure. The balance on the reserve shows the resources that have yet to be applied for these purposes at year end.

### **Unapplied Capital Grants Reserve**

The Unapplied Capital Grants Reserve holds the grant and contributions received towards capital projects for which the Commissioner has met the conditions that would otherwise require repayment of the money but which has yet to be applied to meet expenditure. The balance is restricted by grant terms as to the capital expenditure against which it can be applied and/or the financial year in which this can take place.

	General Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Total Usable Reserves	Movement in Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves
2021/22	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Adjustments Primarily Involving the Capital Adjustment Account</b>						
<i>Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income &amp; Expenditure Statement</i>						
Depreciation	(9,990)			(9,990)	9,990	0
Revaluation Gain/(Loss)						
<i>Insertion of items not debited or credited to the CIES</i>						
Statutory Provision for repayment of debt	2,592			2,592	(2,592)	0
Capital Grant Applied		273		273	(273)	0
Revenue Contribution to Capital Reserve	2,000	(2,000)		0		0
Earmarked Reserves Applied		3,244		3,244	(3,244)	0
<b>Adjustments Primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account</b>						
General Capital Grant	173	(173)		0		0
Specific Capital Grants/Contributions	283	(283)		0		0
<b>Adjustments Primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve</b>						
(Gain)/Loss on Sale of Assets	(149)			(149)	149	0
Capital Receipts Applied			170	170	(170)	0
<b>Adjustments Primarily involving the Pensions Reserve</b>						
Current Service Costs	(86,340)			(86,340)	86,340	0
Employers Contributions under IAS19	63,656			63,656	(63,656)	0
Past Service Costs	(207)			(207)	207	0
Curtailments						0
Pensions – Interest less Return on Assets	(51,974)			(51,974)	51,974	0
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	739			739	(739)	0
Accumulated Absences Account	1,085			1,085	(1,085)	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>(78,132)</b>	<b>1,061</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>(76,901)</b>	<b>76,901</b>	<b>0</b>

	General Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Total Usable Reserves	Movement in Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves
2020/21	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Adjustments Primarily Involving the Capital Adjustment Account</b>						
<i>Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income &amp; Expenditure Statement</i>						
Depreciation	(11,210)			(11,210)	11,210	0
Revaluation Gain/(Loss)	(11)			(11)	11	0
<i>Insertion of items not debited or credited to the CIES</i>						
Statutory Provision for repayment of debt	2,489			2,489	(2,489)	0
Capital Grant Applied		206		206	(206)	0
Revenue Contribution to Capital Reserve	2,103	(2,103)		0		0
Earmarked Reserves Applied		2,489		2,489	(2,489)	0
<b>Adjustments Primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account</b>						
General Capital Grant	206	(206)		0	0	0
Specific Capital Grants/Contributions	210	(210)		0	0	0
<b>Adjustments Primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve</b>						
(Gain)/Loss on Sale of Assets	(43)		(0)	(43)	43	0
Capital Receipts Applied			1,670	1,670	(1,670)	0
<b>Adjustments Primarily involving the Pensions Reserve</b>						
Current Service Costs	(67,632)			(67,632)	67,632	0
Employers Contributions under IAS19	61,835			61,835	(61,835)	0
Past Service Costs						0
Curtailments						0
Pensions – Interest less Return on Assets	(50,551)			(50,551)	50,551	0
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(1,358)			(1,358)	1,358	0
Accumulated Absences Account	(1,126)			(1,126)	1,126	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>(65,089)</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>1,670</b>	<b>(63,243)</b>	<b>63,243</b>	<b>0</b>

## 16. Usable Reserves

The Commissioner holds a number of reserves, detailed in the table below that are classified as usable (these can be used to fund the Commissioner's future activities).

<b>Usable Reserves</b>	<b>Balance as at 31 March 2020</b>	<b>Transfers Out 2020/21</b>	<b>Transfers In 2020/21</b>	<b>Balance as at 31 March 2021</b>	<b>Transfers Out 2021/22</b>	<b>Transfers In 2021/22</b>	<b>Balance as at 31 March 2022</b>
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Revenue Reserves</b>							
General Fund	5,773	0	0	<b>5,773</b>	0	0	<b>5,773</b>
Medium Term Financial Strategy	2,651	0	912	<b>3,563</b>	(461)	150	<b>3,252</b>
Carry Forward	1,803	(1,803)	2,812	<b>2,812</b>	(2,562)	3,624	<b>3,874</b>
Underwater Search Unit	971	(108)	0	<b>863</b>	(13)	0	<b>850</b>
Local Resilience Forum	145	(3)	178	<b>320</b>	(115)	184	<b>389</b>
Redundancy	783	0	0	<b>783</b>	(237)	0	<b>546</b>
Multi Force Shared Service	0	0	348	<b>348</b>	(348)	776	<b>776</b>
Armed Police Alliance	321	0	155	<b>476</b>	0	233	<b>709</b>
Dog Alliance	206	0	143	<b>349</b>	0	11	<b>360</b>
National Blue Light Procurement	136	0	17	<b>153</b>	0	16	<b>169</b>
POCA Reserve	437	0	19	<b>456</b>	0	125	<b>581</b>
Hardship Loan Reserve	50	0	0	<b>50</b>	0	0	<b>50</b>
N. West Armed Police Collaboration Reserve	0	0	25	<b>25</b>	17	0	<b>42</b>
Major Investigations Reserve	0	(30)	953	<b>923</b>	0	96	<b>1,019</b>
Pay and Pensions Reserve	830	0	0	<b>830</b>	0	56	<b>886</b>
Council Tax Deficit Reserve	0	0	300	<b>300</b>	0	1,315	<b>1,615</b>
Estates Strategy Reserve	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	500	<b>500</b>
Road Safety Initiatives Reserve	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	970	<b>970</b>
<b>Total Revenue Reserves</b>	<b>14,106</b>	<b>(1,944)</b>	<b>5,862</b>	<b>18,024</b>	<b>(3,719)</b>	<b>8,056</b>	<b>22,361</b>
<b>Revenue Reserves for Capital Purposes</b>							
Revenue Reserve for Capital Expenditure	177	(2,258)	4,036	<b>1,955</b>	(3,004)	4,100	<b>3,051</b>
ESN Reserve	485	0	1,070	<b>1,555</b>	0	1,255	<b>2,810</b>
IT Reimbursement	0	(226)	226	<b>0</b>	(227)	227	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Rev. Reserves for Capital Purposes</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>(2,484)</b>	<b>5,333</b>	<b>3,510</b>	<b>(3,231)</b>	<b>5,581</b>	<b>5,861</b>
<b>Capital Reserves</b>							
Capital Receipts Reserve	2,526	(1,670)	0	<b>856</b>	(170)	0	<b>686</b>
Unapplied Capital Grants	0	(206)	206	<b>0</b>	(273)	273	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Capital Reserves</b>	<b>2,526</b>	<b>(1,876)</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>(443)</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>686</b>
<b>Total Usable Reserves</b>	<b>17,294</b>	<b>(6,303)</b>	<b>11,402</b>	<b>22,391</b>	<b>(7,393)</b>	<b>13,910</b>	<b>28,909</b>

The Commissioner holds both revenue and capital usable reserves for a number of reasons, they provide a source of assurance to ensure the Commissioner is financially stable, investment funds for future initiatives and allow balances to be set aside to fund known cost pressures that will occur in later years.

The overall movements show a net £6.5m increase in reserves during 2021/22 reflecting the decisions made by the Commissioner to set aside funding towards a number of in progress commitments and to meet future funding for capital expenditure plans, including 'invest to save' initiatives, implementation costs and other one-off costs such as the impact of the McCloud/Sargeant pensions judgement.

### **Revenue Reserves**

**General Fund (Usable)** - The General Fund is available to support general revenue expenditure.

**Medium Term Financial Strategy Reserve (Earmarked)** - This reserve was created to support the Medium Term Financial Strategy in recognition of the challenging financial scenario. This will be used to support transition projects, including major estate's schemes and necessary organisational changes to meet future required savings.

**Carry Forward Reserve (Earmarked)** - Management Board approval at outturn places funding temporarily in this reserve for use in the following year.

**Underwater Search Unit Reserve (Earmarked)** - The Commissioner acts as the lead body for the regional underwater search unit. The reserve holds resources that the unit can use to support its operations.

**Local Resilience Forum Reserve (Earmarked)** - This represents the contributions from the collaboration of agencies representing the Local Resilience Forum. The reserve is held on behalf of the forum.

**Redundancy Reserve (Earmarked)** - This reserve funds the cost of redundancies should they be required.

**Multi Force Shared Service (Earmarked)** – This reserve is held to fund future Multi Force Shared Service related costs.

**Armed Police Alliance & Dog Alliance Reserves (Earmarked)** - This reserve is held on behalf of the Alliance which is a collaboration between Cheshire Constabulary and North Wales Police.

**Blue Light Procurement Reserve (Earmarked)** – This reserve is held on behalf of all the police forces and fire services. The reserve will be used to support future training, re-tendering and IT development costs.

**POCA Reserve (Earmarked)** – This reserve holds the balance of monies received from the proceeds of crime and is set aside to provide grants to support local communities.

**Hardship Loan Reserve (Earmarked)** – This reserve holds funds set aside to underwrite the Emergency Hardship Loan scheme for officers and staff.

**North West Armed Police Collaboration Reserve (Earmarked)** – This reserve is to fund the upskilling and training of National Firearms Instructors to increase resilience across the region.

**Major Investigations Reserve (Earmarked)** - This reserve holds funds to contribute towards the costs of ongoing and future Major Investigations.

**Pay and Pensions Reserve (Earmarked)** - the complexity of the McCloud judgement in terms of the remedy options requires additional support and more detailed analysis of individual pension choices. This reserve is to provide funding for any associated costs.

**Council Tax Deficit Reserve** – This reserve holds funds received from Government towards irrecoverable Council Tax income losses associated with the Coronavirus pandemic. It is held to mitigate against future resulting Council Tax Collection Fund deficits as they are declared by billing authorities.

**Estates Strategy Reserve** - This reserve holds funds to support transitional costs resulting from implementation of the Estates Strategy approved in 2021.

**Road Safety Initiatives Reserve** - This reserve holds funds set aside to enable the commissioning of projects in line with this objective.

## Revenue Reserves held for Capital Purposes

**Revenue Reserve for Capital Expenditure (Earmarked)** - This is used to finance capital expenditure in future years. The Commissioner's budget includes a revenue contribution to this reserve each year to support capital expenditure without further borrowing.

**ESN Reserve (Earmarked)** – This will be used to partly fund costs associated with the upgrade of the Emergency Service Network.

**IT Reimbursement Reserve (Earmarked)** - This represents funds for the replacement of computer equipment.

## Capital Reserves

**Capital Receipts Reserve (Usable)** - This holds the proceeds of asset sales and can be used to finance new investment or repay borrowing.

**Unapplied Capital Grants Reserve (Earmarked)** - This is specific capital grants received but not yet applied to finance capital expenditure.

## 17. Property, Plant & Equipment

The following table shows the movement of assets classified as property, plant & equipment including work in progress (WIP).

2021/22	Property	Vehicles	Equipment	Assets Under Construction	Total
<u>Cost or Valuation</u>	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
At 1 April 2021	110,887	15,682	31,504	0	158,073
Additions	42	1,137	2,519	0	3,698
Revaluations	15,262	0	0	0	15,262
Disposals	0	(1,634)	(5,140)	0	(6,774)
Reclassifications	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2022	126,191	15,184	28,883	0	170,258
<u>Depreciation</u>					
At 1 April 2021	(114)	(10,581)	(25,816)	0	(36,511)
Charge in year	(4,061)	(1,954)	(2,980)	0	(8,995)
Disposals	0	1,489	5,137	0	6,626
Revaluations	3,994	0	0	0	3,994
Reclassifications	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2022	(181)	(11,045)	(23,660)	0	(34,886)
Net Book Value at 1 April 2021	110,773	5,101	5,688	0	121,562
Net Book Value at 31 March 2022	126,010	4,139	5,223	0	135,372

Included in the above assets are £315k (NBV) of vehicles and equipment held by Cheshire Constabulary on behalf of the Underwater Search Unit collaboration, together with £452k (NBV) of vehicles for the Firearms Alliance collaboration. Details of these two collaborations can be found in Note 13.

<b>2020/21</b>	Property	Vehicles	Equipment	Assets Under Construction	Total
<u>Cost or Valuation</u>	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
At 1 April 2020	121,372	14,697	39,787	0	175,856
Additions	125	2,320	2,038	0	4,483
Revaluations	(10,609)	0	0	0	(10,609)
Disposals	0	(1,336)	(10,321)	0	(11,657)
Reclassifications	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2021	110,887	15,682	31,504	0	158,073
<u>Depreciation</u>					
At 1 April 2020	0	(9,662)	(32,723)	0	(42,385)
Charge in year	(4,903)	(2,220)	(3,406)	0	(10,529)
Disposals	0	1,301	10,313	0	11,614
Revaluations	4,789	0	0	0	4,789
Reclassifications	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2021	(114)	(10,581)	(25,816)	0	(36,511)
Net Book Value at 1 April 2020	121,372	5,035	7,064	0	133,471
Net Book Value at 31 March 2021	110,773	5,101	5,688	0	121,562

## Depreciation

In line with IAS16, depreciation is defined as the systematic allocation of the depreciable amount of an asset over its useful life. Land and buildings are separable assets and are accounted for separately, even when they are acquired together.

Land has an unlimited useful life and therefore is not depreciated. Each part of an item of property, plant and equipment with a cost that is significant in relation to the total cost of the item is depreciated separately. As stated in the accounting policies beginning on page 30, depreciation is charged as follows:

- Land – no depreciation applied.
- Property (not land) – straight-line allocation over the life of the property as estimated by the valuer.
- Plant and Equipment – straight-line allocation over 3 to 20 years.

## Significant commitments under capital contracts

At 31 March 2022, the Commissioner has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of property, plant and equipment in 2022/23 and future years budgeted to cost £5m. Similar commitments at 31 March 2021 were £0.8m. The major commitments are:

- Fleet Vehicles – £2.9m
- Business Services Futures IT Project – £1.3m

## Revaluation

Property (land and buildings) are revalued in detail every five years in accordance with the relevant standards and guidance issued by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. A full valuation was carried out on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 by Bruton Knowles. A desktop revaluation exercise has been undertaken at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 by Martin Wilson BSc (Hons) MRICS who was awarded the Certificate in Asset Valuation by CIPFA in March 2017 and Tony Milton BSc (Hons) MRICS. The valuation was supervised by Ian S Pitt BSc (Hons) FRICS IRRV (Hons), Partner and Head of Valuation Faculty within Bruton Knowles.

This Asset Valuation has been provided in accordance with the RICS Valuation – Global Standards that came into effect on the 31st January 2022, Valuation Information Paper 10, CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting, the International Financial Reporting Standards and the RICS professional standards and guidance, UK, depreciated replacement cost method of valuation for financial reporting, 1st edition, November 2018.

The methodology adopted for the majority of the valuations by the valuer is on a DRC approach.

Using this approach assets are valued on a Modern Equivalent Asset (MEA) basis which applies the principle of Least Cost Replacement which considers whether the same service can be provided in a smaller building in a cheaper location. BCIS build cost data is used to establish the cost of the MEA with the Instant Build approach being applied which reduces fees to only the professional fees incurred during the course of constructing the asset.

Obsolescence has been applied by considering physical, functional and external/economic forms of obsolescence.

## 18. Intangible Assets

The Commissioner accounts for software as intangible assets, to the extent that the software is not an integral part of a particular IT system and accounted for as part of the hardware item or property, plant and equipment. The intangible assets reflect the purchased software licences.

All software is given a finite useful life, based on assessments of the period that the software is expected to be of use to the Commissioner. The useful lives generally assigned to the major software suites used by the Commissioner are as advised by a suitably qualified officer.

The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight line basis. The amortisation of £1.0m charged to revenue in 2021/22 has been allocated across the CIES heading.

The movement on intangible assets during the year is as follows:

	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
<u>Carrying Amount</u>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Balance at start of year	11,684	12,682
Additions	3,007	124
Disposals	(1,086)	(1,122)
Balance at end of year	<u>13,605</u>	<u>11,684</u>
<u>Amortisation</u>		
Balance at start of year	(10,348)	(10,789)
Charge for the year	(995)	(681)
Disposals	1,086	1,122
Balance at end of year	<u>(10,257)</u>	<u>(10,348)</u>
Net Book Value at 1 April	<u>1,336</u>	<u>1,893</u>
Net Book Value at 31 March	<u>3,349</u>	<u>1,336</u>

The value of these intangible assets is based on cost less amortisation. Amortisation is calculated in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1.

## 19. Capital Expenditure & Financing

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the table below including the value of assets acquired under finance leases and PFI contracts, together with the resources that have been used to finance it. Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets are used, the expenditure results in an increase in the capital financing requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically that has yet to be financed. The Capital Financing Requirement is analysed in the second part of this note.

	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Opening capital financing requirement	46,268	48,514
<u>Capital Expenditure in year:</u>		
Property	42	125
Plant (e.g. vehicles)	1,137	2,320
Equipment	2,519	2,038
Intangibles	3,007	124
	<b>6,705</b>	<b>4,607</b>
<u>Less: Capital Financing</u>		
Capital Grants	273	205
Capital Receipts	170	1,670
Contribution from reserves	240	231
Revenue and Other contributions	3,004	2,258
Total Capital Financing	<b>3,688</b>	<b>4,364</b>
Less: Sums Set Aside from Revenue		
Revenue Provision for Repayment of Debt	2,592	2,489
Early Repayment of Debt		0
	<b>2,592</b>	<b>2,489</b>
Closing capital financing requirement	<b>46,693</b>	<b>46,268</b>
<u>Explanation of movement in year:</u>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Decrease in underlying need to borrow (supported by Government direct funding)	(1,445)	(1,355)
Decrease in underlying need to borrow (not supported by Government direct funding)	1,870	(890)
Increase/(Decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	<b>425</b>	<b>(2,246)</b>

## 20. Capitalisation of Borrowing Costs

In line with the accounting policies, the Commissioner does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred whilst assets are under construction. During 2021/22 no borrowing costs were capitalised.

## 21. Impairment Losses

An impairment review was undertaken by the Commissioner's Estates Department. The outcome of the review showed no impairments during 2021/22.

## 22. Financial Instruments (including Borrowing)

The definition of a financial instrument is “any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability, or equity instrument of another entity”.

The term ‘financial instrument’ covers both financial assets and liabilities. These range from straight forward debtors and creditors to more complex investments and borrowings. The following categories of financial instruments are carried in the Balance Sheet; current is deemed to be under one year and long-term over one year.

	Long-term		Current	
	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2021 £000	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2021 £000
<b><u>Cash and Cash Equivalents</u></b>				
Imprest and cash	0	0	27,472	23,080
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27,472</b>	<b>23,080</b>
<b><u>Debtors</u></b>				
Debtors at Amortised Cost	949	1,159	7,206	6,040
Items not classed as Financial Instruments	0	0	16,279	10,939
<b>Total Debtors</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>23,485</b>	<b>16,979</b>
<b><u>Borrowings</u></b>				
Financial Liabilities	30,274	27,873	99	0
<b>Total included in borrowings</b>	<b>30,274</b>	<b>27,873</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>Creditors</u></b>				
Financial Liabilities	0	0	14,096	14,801
Items not classed as Financial Instruments	750	746	11,942	10,087
<b>Total Creditors</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>26,038</b>	<b>24,888</b>
<b><u>Other Long-term Liabilities</u></b>				
PFI & Finance Leases	16,223	17,380	1,157	1,067
<b>Total other long term liabilities</b>	<b>16,223</b>	<b>17,380</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>1,067</b>

### Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

Financial assets and liabilities represented by debtors at amortised cost and long-term debtors and creditors are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost.

Financial liabilities relate to the outstanding borrowing with the fair value being calculated by Link Asset Services (the Commissioner’s advisors). Link use the Net Present Value (NPV) approach, which provides an estimate of the value of future payments in today’s terms.

The discount rate used in the NPV calculation is equal to the current rate in relation to the same instrument from a comparable lender. This will be the rate applicable in the market on the date of valuation, for an instrument with the same duration i.e. equal to the outstanding period from valuation date to maturity. The structure and terms of the comparable instrument should be the same, although for complex structures it is sometimes difficult to obtain the rate for an instrument with identical features in an active market. In such cases, the prevailing rate of a similar instrument with a published market rate is used as the discount factor. The rates quoted in this valuation were obtained by Link from the market on 31 March 2022, using bid prices where applicable.

All financial liabilities and financial assets represented by debtors at amortised cost and long term debtors and creditors are carried on the balance sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that take place over the remaining life of the instruments (Level 2), using the following assumptions:

- For both PWLB and non-PWLB loans payable, Link Asset Services has assessed the cost of taking a new loan at PWLB new loan rates applicable to existing loans on the Balance Sheet date (which could be viewed as a proxy for transfer value);
- For loans receivable prevailing benchmark market rates have been used to provide the fair value;
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised;
- PFI & Finance Leases, Link Asset Services has assessed the cost of taking a new loan at PWLB new loan rates applicable to existing loans on the Balance Sheet date (which could be viewed as a proxy for transfer value);
- Where an instrument has a maturity of less than 12 months or is a trade or other receivable the fair value is taken to be the carrying amount or the billed amount;
- The fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

	31 March 2022		31 March 2021	
	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
<b><u>Financial Liabilities</u></b>				
Borrowings	30,373	35,016	27,873	36,486
Creditors	14,096	14,096	14,801	14,801
PFI & Finance Leases	16,223	25,970	17,380	26,282
	<b>60,692</b>	<b>75,082</b>	<b>60,053</b>	<b>77,569</b>
<b><u>Financial Assets</u></b>				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	27,472	27,472	23,080	23,080
Loans and Receivables	8,155	8,155	7,195	7,195
	<b>35,627</b>	<b>35,627</b>	<b>30,275</b>	<b>30,275</b>

The fair value of the liabilities is greater than the carrying amount because the Commissioner's portfolio of loans includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the rates available for similar loans in the market at the balance sheet date. This shows a notional future loss (based on economic conditions at 31 March 2022) arising from a commitment to pay interest to lenders above current market rates.

Short-term debtors and creditors are carried at cost as this is a fair approximation of their value.

The Commissioner's activities in relation to financial instruments expose it to a variety of financial risks:

- Credit Risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Commissioner.
- Liquidity Risk – the possibility that the Commissioner might not have funds available to meet its commitments and payments.
- Re-financing Risk – the possibility that the Commissioner might be requiring to renew a financial instrument on maturity at disadvantageous interest rates or terms.
- Market Risk – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Commissioner as a result of changes in measures such as interest rates, foreign exchange rates or stock market movements.

The overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund police services. Risk management is carried out under policies approved by the Commissioner in the annual Treasury Management Strategy which was approved on 26 January 2021 and is published each year. The Strategy provides written principles for overall risk management as well as written policies covering specific areas such as interest rate risk, credit risk and the investment of surplus cash.

## **Credit Risk**

Credit risk relates to deposits with banks/financial institutions and the Commissioner's debtors.

This risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, in accordance with the Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's Credit Ratings Services. The Annual Investment Strategy also considers maximum amounts and time limits with a financial institution located in each category. It imposes a maximum sum of £10 million to be invested at any one time with any single institution or group.

The Commissioner uses the creditworthiness service provided by Link Asset Services. This service uses a sophisticated modelling approach with credit ratings from all three rating agencies - Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's, forming the core element. However, it does not rely solely on the current credit ratings of counterparties but also uses the following as overlays:

- credit watches and credit outlooks from credit rating agencies;
- credit Default Swaps to give early warning of likely changes in credit ratings;
- sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries.

This modelling approach combines credit ratings, credit watches and credit overlooks in a weighted scoring system which is then combined with an overlay of CDS spreads for which the end product is a series of colour coded bands which indicate the relative standing of counterparties. These colour codes are used by the Commissioner to determine the suggested duration of investments.

As this methodology uses a wide range of information beyond basic credit ratings, it ensures that no one source of information is given undue credence. All ratings and colour codes are monitored weekly via Link's credit listings and in-between via business press.

The Investment Strategy for 2021/22 was approved by the Commissioner on 26 January 2021 and is available on the Commissioner's website.

As at 31 March 2022 the Commissioner had £28.7m of deposits with Major UK Banks (£10.4m) and Money Market Funds (£18.3m). Under IFRS 9 the Expected Credit Loss on these is negligible.

In respect of debtors, action is taken when payments become overdue and may lead to legal action to recover the debt. The Commissioner provides for bad debts each year based on agreed debt management policy (non-statutory debt only). The amount provided for in 2021/22 was £0.1m (£0.1m in 2020/21).

The Invoiced Debt element of total Debtors held by the Commissioner at the end of the financial year, analysed by age is as follows:

	<b>31 March 2022 £000</b>	<b>31 March 2021 £000</b>
Current (0-30 days)	859	341
1 Month	80	51
2 Months +	289	256
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,228</b>	<b>648</b>

### Liquidity Risk

The Commissioner manages his liquidity position through the risk management procedures above (the setting and approval of prudential indicators and the approval of the treasury and investment strategy reports), as well as through a comprehensive cash flow management system, as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice. This seeks to ensure that cash is available when needed.

The Commissioner has ready access to loans from the money markets to cover any day to day cash flow need, and the PWLB and money markets for access to longer term funds. The Commissioner is also required to provide a balanced budget through the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which ensures sufficient monies are raised to cover annual expenditure. There is therefore no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

The following table shows the long-term borrowing outstanding at 31 March 2022. The overall value has increased by £2.5m due to a new £2.5m maturity loan taken in September 2021. No loans have been repaid during 2021/22. All existing loans are maturity loans with the first repayment due in March 2023.

	<b>31 March 2022 £000</b>	<b>31 March 2021 £000</b>
Analysis of loans by type		
• Public Works Loans Board (PWLB)	24,373	21,873
• Money Market	6,000	6,000
<b>Total Outstanding</b>	<b>30,373</b>	<b>27,873</b>

Analysis of loans by maturity		
• Less than 1 year	99	0
• Between 1 and 2 years	2,356	99
• Between 2 and 5 years	1,029	3,385
• Between 5 and 10 years	0	0
• More than 10 years	26,889	24,389
<b>Total Outstanding</b>	<b>30,373</b>	<b>27,873</b>

### Re-financing and Maturity Risk

The Commissioner maintains a debt and investment portfolio. Whilst the cash flow procedures above are considered against the refinancing risk procedures, longer-term risk to the Commissioner relates to managing the exposure to replacing financial instruments as they mature. This risk relates to both the maturing of longer term financial liabilities and longer term financial assets.

The approved treasury indicator limits for the maturity structure of debt and the limits placed on investments placed for greater than one year in duration are the key parameters used to address this risk. The Commissioner approved treasury and investment strategies address the main risks and the Finance Department addresses the operational risks within the approved parameters. This includes:

- monitoring the maturity profile of financial liabilities and amending the profile through either new borrowing or the rescheduling of the existing debt; and
- monitoring the maturity profile of investments to ensure sufficient liquidity is available for the Commissioner's day to day cash flow needs, and the spread of longer term investments provide stability of maturities and returns in relation to the longer term cash flow needs.

### **Market Risk**

The Commissioner is exposed to risk in terms of movement in interest rates on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Commissioner. For instance, a rise in interest rates would have the following effects:

- Borrowing at variable rates – the interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will rise.
- Borrowing at fixed rates – the fair value of the borrowings will fall.
- Investments at variable rates – the income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will rise.
- Investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the investments will fall.

Borrowings are not carried at fair value so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. However, changes in interest rates on variable borrowings and investments will have a direct impact on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and affect the General Fund balance.

The Commissioner takes into account interest rates as part of his investment strategy but recognises the need for security above return. Given the overall impact of the banking crisis of 2008, security has become an increasing area of risk and investments are only made with organisations with highest security ratings. To ensure the maximum security, the current strategy favours short-term or instant access deposits.

### **Premiums and Discounts on Early Repayment of Debt**

The Commissioner did not make any early repayment of debt in 2021/22.

### **Foreign Exchange Rates / Stock Markets**

The Commissioner has no material exposure to foreign exchange rates or stock market movements (price risk).

### 23. Analysis of Debtors (including Prepayments etc.)

Analysis of debtors and prepayments are shown below.

	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2021 £000	31 March 2020 £000
Central Government Bodies	12,111	6,970	8,323
Other Local Authorities	5,686	4,724	8,469
NHS Bodies	5	19	2
Council Tax Collection Fund* <sup>1</sup>	3,644	3,450	6,957
Other entities and individuals	2,174	1,946	1,886
LESS: Provision for Credit Losses	(135)	(130)	(108)
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,485</b>	<b>16,979</b>	<b>25,529</b>

\*<sup>1</sup> At 31 March 2020, an impairment allowance for doubtful Council Tax Collection Fund debtors of £3,712k is shown as part of the creditor balance (note 26). From 31 March 2021 the Council Tax Collection Fund debtor balance is shown net of this impairment allowance.

### 24. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The balance of Cash and Cash Equivalents is made up of the following elements:

	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2021 £000	31 March 2020 £000
Cash held	32	32	32
Operational Current Accounts	(1,308)	(1,316)	(1,068)
Short-term deposits	28,748	24,364	13,171
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,472</b>	<b>23,080</b>	<b>12,135</b>

In addition to the above, the Commissioner held £1.341m (£1.322m 2020/21) of funds as follows:

**Police Property Act** – At the 31 March 2022, the Commissioner held £0.141m (£0.127m in 2020/21) under the Police Property Act 1997. The Act applies to property that is in the possession of police where the owner of the property cannot be identified and where no order of a competent court has been made. The proceeds, after defraying the costs of handling the property, are available for distribution each year to local charities as directed by the Chief Constable.

**Proceeds of Crime and Misuse of Drugs Acts** – At the 31 March 2022, the Commissioner held £1.200m (£1.195m in 2020/21) under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and the Misuse of Drugs Act. This is money seized in connection with possible criminal activity and held pending a decision, by the courts, on the lawful owner, or distribution if no legal owner is identified.

These funds are not under the ownership of the Constabulary who acts as steward on behalf of various parties, and as such, does not form part of the Commissioner's accounts.

## 25. Assets Held for Sale

The Commissioner's Estates Strategy is to review all property held and when advantageous to do so place surplus property for sale. The following table shows the property for sale at the Balance Sheet dates. When classified as "for sale" the asset is no longer subject to depreciation.

	<b>31 March 2022 £000</b>	<b>31 March 2021 £000</b>	<b>31 March 2020 £000</b>
Balance at the start of year	0	0	210
Assets newly classified as held for sale			
• Property, Plant & Equipment	0	0	0
• Other Assets	0	0	0
Revaluations gains / (losses)	0	0	0
Impairment losses	0	0	0
Assets sold	0	0	(210)
Balance at the end of year	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## 26. Analysis of Creditors

Analysis of short-term creditors is shown below.

	<b>31 March 2022 £000</b>	<b>31 March 2021 £000</b>	<b>31 March 2020 £000</b>
Central Government Bodies	(5,254)	(4,697)	(4,183)
Other Local Authorities	(4,933)	(4,651)	(4,583)
NHS Bodies	(326)	(106)	(170)
Council Tax Collection Fund* <sup>1</sup>	(3,497)	(4,041)	(6,190)
Other entities and individuals	(12,028)	(11,393)	(10,903)
Total	<b>(26,038)</b>	<b>(24,888)</b>	<b>(26,030)</b>

\*<sup>1</sup> At 31 March 2020, an impairment allowance for doubtful Council Tax Collection Fund debtors of £3,712k is shown as part of the creditor balance. From 31 March 2021 the Council Tax Collection Fund debtor balance (Note 23) is shown net of this impairment allowance.

## 27. Provisions

A provision has been created to meet the cost of quantifiable claims in respect of Covert Human Intelligence Sources officer overtime pay. The Allard Case was referred to the Court of Appeal in 2015, where it was deemed that intelligence handlers were 'recalled to duty' when taking calls between shifts and would therefore be due overtime pay. The Commissioner has paid no claims during 2021-22 with the estimated value of outstanding claims being £0.394m. In addition a number of small ad-hoc provisions are held at 31 March 2022 and these will be reviewed during 2022/23.

	2021/22	2020/21
	£000	£000
<u>Allard Claims Provision</u>		
Balance at 1 April	394	395
Use of provision in the year	0	(1)
Balance at 31 March	<b>394</b>	<b>394</b>
<u>Small ad-hoc provisions</u>		
Balance at 31 March	<b>94</b>	<b>144</b>
Total provisions at 31 March	<b>488</b>	<b>538</b>

## 28. Leases: Finance and Operating

### Finance Leases

IAS 17 requires the minimum lease payments to be reported. The following table shows the minimum lease payments relating to PFI.

	2021/22	2020/21
	£000	£000
Not later than one year	3,114	3,151
Later than one year, not later than five years	12,611	12,574
Later than five years	20,593	23,743
Total	<b>36,318</b>	<b>39,468</b>

### Operating Leases

The Commissioner rents properties and equipment, mostly on short term leases, which are accounted for as operating leases. The rentals payable in 2021/22 and 2020/21 were £0.44m and £0.24m respectively. The Commissioner was committed at 31 March 2022 to making payments of £1.27m under operating leases as follows:

	Property	Equipment	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Not later than one year	207	115	<b>322</b>
Later than one year, not later than five years	432	363	<b>795</b>
Later than five years	143	11	<b>154</b>
Total	<b>782</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>1,271</b>

## 29. Private Finance Initiative

In 2002 the former Police Authority entered into a long term contractual agreement under a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) for its headquarters facilities. Under the agreement the contractor is responsible for providing the buildings and facilities at Headquarters in Winsford for a period of 30 years. The annual unitary charge is £6.7m (2021/22) and is subject to annual increases using indexation data agreed within the contract. The services provided under the contract are subject to periodic market testing.

The contract provides the Commissioner with fully serviced headquarters accommodation throughout the contract period. These services include building & grounds maintenance, security, receptions, cleaning and catering. At the end of the 30 year contract the Commissioner has the right to purchase the Headquarters for a nominal sum.

The contract transfers much of the operational risk to our private sector partner (Cheshire SPV Ltd.) supported by an agreed performance regime. The Commissioner retains the 'demand risk' whereby the Commissioner will be required to make payments for the facilities irrespective of the number of staff working from the site.

### Assets

The land and buildings at Headquarters, together with the associated equipment are included in property, plant and equipment shown on the Balance Sheet and Note 17. The costs, depreciation and valuations undertaken during 2021/22 are detailed below:

	Land £000	Property £000	Equipment £000	Total £000
Gross Book Value on 1 April 2021	2,961	30,415	403	33,779
Additions	0	0	0	0
Revaluations	272	7,477	0	7,749
<b>Gross Book Value on 31 March 2022</b>	<b>3,233</b>	<b>37,892</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>41,528</b>
Depreciation on 1 April 2021	0	0	(381)	(381)
Charge for the year	0	(2,535)	(22)	(2,556)
Revaluation	0	2,535	0	2,535
<b>Depreciation on 31 March 2022</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(403)</b>	<b>(403)</b>
Net Book Value on 1 April 2021	2,961	30,415	22	33,398
<b>Net Book Value on 31 March 2022</b>	<b>3,233</b>	<b>37,892</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41,125</b>

### Liabilities

At the start of the PFI contract the former Authority's liability was equal to the cost of the assets now recognised on the Balance Sheet. This was initially reduced by the Commissioner making a prepayment of £6.49m and further reduced each year by the element of the unitary payment attributable to the capital expenditure. This is shown in the accounts under the Minimum Revenue Provision and for 2021/22 equated to £1.157m. The current liability at 31 March 2022 is £16.223m.

	<b>31 March 2022 £000</b>	<b>31 March 2021 £000</b>	<b>31 March 2020 £000</b>
PFI Liability			
Balance at 1 April	17,380	18,447	19,441
Movement in year	(1,157)	(1,067)	(993)
<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>16,223</b>	<b>17,380</b>	<b>18,447</b>

### Payments due

As stated above the Commissioner has an obligation to make the annual payments for this contract until it ends in 2033. Details of the profiling of these payments split into their constituent parts are shown below and are based on the contractual figures before market testing and indexation:

<b>Analysis of payments due within:</b>	<b>Service Charges £000</b>	<b>Finance Charges £000</b>	<b>Reduction to Liability £000</b>	<b>Total £000</b>
1 year	1,866	1,897	1,217	<b>4,980</b>
2 to 5 years	7,469	6,462	6,149	<b>20,080</b>
6 to 10 years	9,340	6,826	8,857	<b>25,023</b>
11 to 15 years	2,955	4,909	0	<b>7,864</b>
<b>Total due</b>	<b>21,630</b>	<b>20,094</b>	<b>16,223</b>	<b>57,947</b>

### 30. Unusable Reserves

The Commissioner also holds unusable reserves (technical accounting adjustment accounts reflecting the difference between the outcome of applying proper accounting practices and the statutory requirements for funding expenditure within the public sector). This note shows the movements in year.

#### Revaluation Reserve (Unusable)

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains arising from increases in the value of Property, Plant and Equipment. The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

- revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost;
- used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation; or
- disposed of and the gains realised.

The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the Reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated in the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account.

	<b>2021/22 £000</b>	<b>2020/21 £000</b>	<b>2019/20 £000</b>
Balance at 1 April	(58,659)	(66,929)	(61,288)
Movement in year	(16,200)	8,270	(5,641)
<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>(74,859)</b>	<b>(58,659)</b>	<b>(66,929)</b>

### Capital Adjustment Account (Unusable)

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement and depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value into historical cost). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside to finance the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement.

The Account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant & Equipment before 1 April 2007 and the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains. Note 17 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Balance at 1 April	(17,973)	(19,923)	(22,848)
Depreciation & Amortisation	9,990	11,210	11,449
Revaluation losses and write down	(3,056)	(2,451)	(2,539)
Impact of disposals/sale of assets	149	43	229
Capital Financing – see Note 20	(3,687)	(4,364)	(3,877)
Minimum Revenue Provision/Debt Repayment	(2,592)	(2,489)	(2,337)
Balance at 31 March	<b>(17,169)</b>	<b>(17,973)</b>	<b>(19,923)</b>

### IAS19 Pension Reserve (Unusable)

The Pension Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding those benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. Post-employment benefits are accounted for in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. Statutory arrangements however, require benefits earned to be financed as the Commissioner makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pay any pensions for which he is directly responsible. The debt balance on the Pension Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Balance at 1 April	2,582,946	2,243,169	2,452,422
Movement in year	2,196	339,777	(209,253)
Balance at 31 March	<b>2,585,142</b>	<b>2,582,946</b>	<b>2,243,169</b>

\* Note: The Police and Crime Commissioner's element of the IAS19 Pension reserve is £1.727m in 2021/22 (£1.865m 2020/21)

### Collection Fund Adjustment Account (Unusable)

The Collection Fund Adjustment Account is the difference between the precept income included in the accounts and the amount required by statute to be credited to the General Fund. The balance relates to the net creditor/debtor from billing authorities when accounting for collection fund balances on an accruals basis at the year end.

	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Balance at 1 April	592	(766)	(1,046)
Movement in year	(739)	1,358	280
Balance at 31 March	<b>(147)</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>(766)</b>

### Accumulated Absences Reserve (Unusable)

As part of working terms and conditions employees at any given time can hold entitlement to leave, time off in lieu or flexi leave for additional hours worked. This reserve shows the financial impact of such untaken leave at the balance sheet date.

	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Balance at 1 April	4,807	3,680	3,030
Movement in year	(1,085)	1,127	650
Balance at 31 March	<b>3,722</b>	<b>4,807</b>	<b>3,680</b>

\* Note: The Police and Crime Commissioner's element of the Accumulated Absences reserve is £25k (£28k in 2020/21)

	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
<b>Total All Unusable Reserves</b>	<b>2,496,689</b>	<b>2,511,713</b>	<b>2,159,232</b>

\* Note: The Police and Crime Commissioner's element of total Unusable Reserves is £90.4m in 2021/22 (£74.1m 2020/21)

## 31. Notes to the Cashflow Statement

The cashflow include the following items:

<b>Other Operating Expenditure</b>	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
Interest received	(60)	(55)
Interest paid	2,915	2,977
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,855</b>	<b>2,921</b>

<b>Investing Activities</b>	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
Purchase of Property, Plant & Equipment & Intangible Assets	6,705	4,606
Proceeds from sale of assets	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,705</b>	<b>4,606</b>

<b>Financing Activities</b>	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
Cash receipts of short and long-term borrowing	(2,500)	0
Cash payments for the reduction of outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on-balance sheet PFI contracts	1,157	1,068
Repayment of short and long-term borrowing	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>(1,343)</b>	<b>1,068</b>

## **32. Related Parties**

The Commissioner is required to disclose material transactions with related parties (i.e. bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Commissioner or be controlled or influenced by the Commissioner). Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Commissioner might have been constrained in his ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with the Commissioner.

### **Central Government**

Central Government has effective control over the general operations of the Commissioner – it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Commissioner operates, provides the majority of the Commissioner's funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Commissioner has with other parties (e.g. council tax bills). Grants received from Government departments are set out in Note 14.

### **The Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011**

The above Act created two new corporations sole, the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable. Each organisation is required to produce a Statement of Accounts which is subject to external audit under the Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014. The Chief Constable for Cheshire is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Commissioner for Cheshire.

### **Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner**

Since November 2012 the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has maintained a Register of Interests for the Commissioner, Chief of Staff, and Chief Finance Officer. It has also maintained a Register of Business Interests covering the staff employed therein.

### **Officers and Staff**

The Constabulary maintains a Register of the Business Interests of Officers and Staff.

In the Chief Finance Officer's opinion there are no material transactions recorded between the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner or the Constabulary and any related parties.

### **Other Public Bodies (subject to common control by Central Government)**

Since the creation of the Multi-Force Shared Service on 1 April 2012, there have been significant transactions with Northamptonshire Police, Nottinghamshire Police and Civil Nuclear Constabulary as partner forces. The governance arrangements assure transparency over these transactions and are recorded in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement or as assets and contributions in the Balance Sheet.

Material transactions with other public bodies such as the Borough Councils and the Cheshire Pension Fund have been disclosed within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account and the Cashflow Statement. Separate specific disclosures have also been made in relation to partnerships and collaborations in Note 13.

Ammunition is held in stock on behalf of both the Constabulary and the Armed Police Alliance which is a collaboration between Cheshire Constabulary and North Wales Police, please see Note 13.

There are no other related party transactions to report.

### **33. Employee Benefits**

#### **Termination Benefits**

The Commissioner and Chief Constable terminated the contracts of 3 employees in 2021/22 incurring liabilities of £0.235m (£0.025m In 2020/21). 2 of these redundancies result from the termination of the multi force shared service arrangement and also, in 2021/22 a new Police and Crime Commissioner was elected and following a review of his office the Chief of Staff was made redundant.

#### **Participation in Pensions Schemes**

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of his officers and staff, the Commissioner offers retirement benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Commissioner has a commitment to make the payments (for those benefits) and to disclose them at the time when employees earn their future entitlement.

The Commissioner's and Chief Constable's officers and staff participate in two pension schemes:

- The Police Pension Scheme for police officers is an unfunded, technically defined benefit scheme, meaning there are no investment assets built up to meet the pension liabilities and cash has to be generated to meet actual pension payments as they eventually fall due. Under the Police Pension Fund Regulations 2007, if the amounts receivable by the pensions fund for the year are less than amounts payable, the Commissioner must transfer annually an amount required to meet the deficit to the pension fund. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny and approval, up to 100% of this cost is met by central government pension top-up grant. If however the pension fund is in surplus for the year, this must be repaid to central government. Details of this scheme are shown in the Pension Account on page 22.
- The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for Police Staff is administered by Cheshire West and Chester Council. This is a funded defined benefit scheme, meaning that the scheme's liabilities are backed by investment assets. The Commissioner and its employees pay contributions into the fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets.

#### **Transactions relating to retirement benefits**

The Commissioner recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the Net Cost of Services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However the charge made against council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The transactions on the next few pages have been charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement and General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year.

## Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (Pensions)

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Police Pension Scheme (1987)		Police Pension Scheme (2006)		Police Pension Scheme (2015)		Police Injury Awards Scheme		TOTAL	
	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<i>Cost of Services:</i>												
• Current Service Costs	(24,940)	(14,812)	(2,740)	(6,470)	(340)	(220)	(56,920)	(44,890)	(1,400)	(1,240)	<b>(86,340)</b>	<b>(67,632)</b>
• Past Service Costs	(207)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>(207)</b>	<b>0</b>
• Settlements & Curtailments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>Financing and Investment Income &amp; Expenditure:</i>												
• Net Interest Expense	(2,644)	(861)	(40,830)	(42,980)	(2,130)	(1,570)	(5,360)	(4,120)	(1,010)	(1,020)	<b>(51,974)</b>	<b>(50,551)</b>
<i>Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services</i>	<b>(27,791)</b>	<b>(15,673)</b>	<b>(43,570)</b>	<b>(49,450)</b>	<b>(2,470)</b>	<b>(1,790)</b>	<b>(62,280)</b>	<b>(49,010)</b>	<b>(2,410)</b>	<b>(2,260)</b>	<b>(138,521)</b>	<b>(118,183)</b>
<i>Other Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income &amp; Expenditure Statement</i>												
• Return on plan assets (not included in net interest expense)	17,892	40,601	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>17,892</b>	<b>40,601</b>
• Actuarial Gains and Losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	2,730	(7,045)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2,730</b>	<b>(7,045)</b>
• Actuarial Gains and Losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	41,036	(117,008)	2,880	(142,680)	4,670	(33,090)	3,400	(22,390)	1,120	(4,980)	<b>53,106</b>	<b>(320,148)</b>
• Other	(1,059)	3,163	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>(1,059)</b>	<b>3,163</b>
<i>Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income &amp; Expenditure Statement</i>	<b>60,599</b>	<b>(80,289)</b>	<b>2,880</b>	<b>(142,680)</b>	<b>4,670</b>	<b>(33,090)</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>(22,390)</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>(4,980)</b>	<b>72,669</b>	<b>(283,429)</b>

## Movement in Reserves Statement (Pensions)

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Police Pension Scheme (1987)		Police Pension Scheme (2006)		Police Pension Scheme (2015)		Police Injury Awards Scheme		TOTAL	
	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus and Deficit for the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code</li> </ul>	27,791	15,673	43,570	49,450	2,470	1,790	62,280	49,010	2,410	2,260	138,521	118,183
<b>Actual expenditure met from council tax through the General Fund</b>												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employer's contributions payable to the scheme</li> </ul>	9,906	9,145	60,260	57,460	20	(30)	(8,710)	(7,050)	2,180	2,310	63,656	61,835

## Pension Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Police Pension Scheme (1987)		Police Pension Scheme (2006)		Police Pension Scheme (2015)		Police Injury Awards Scheme		TOTAL	
	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
Present value of defined benefit obligation	(453,572)	(463,961)	(2,050,740)	(2,070,310)	(102,520)	(104,740)	(303,180)	(235,590)	(49,950)	(50,840)	(2,959,962)	(2,925,441)
Fair value of plan assets	374,821	342,496	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	374,821	342,496
Sub-total	(78,751)	(121,465)	(2,050,740)	(2,070,310)	(102,520)	(104,740)	(303,180)	(235,590)	(49,950)	(50,840)	(2,585,141)	(2,582,945)
Other movements in the liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	(78,751)	(121,465)	(2,050,740)	(2,070,310)	(102,520)	(104,740)	(303,180)	(235,590)	(49,950)	(50,840)	(2,585,141)	(2,582,945)

## Reconciliation of the movements in the fair value of scheme (plan) assets

### Local Government Pension Scheme

	2021/22	2020/21
	£000	£000
<b>Opening fair value of scheme assets</b>	<b>342,496</b>	<b>288,533</b>
Interest income	7,091	6,708
Re-measurement gain/(loss)		
▫ The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	17,892	40,601
▫ Other	0	0
The effect of changes in foreign exchange rates	0	0
Contributions from employer	9,906	9,145
Contributions from employees	3,196	2,997
Benefits paid	(5,760)	(5,488)
Other	0	0
<b>Closing fair value of scheme assets</b>	<b>374,821</b>	<b>342,496</b>

## Reconciliation of present value of scheme liabilities

	<u>Funded liabilities</u>				<u>Unfunded liabilities</u>						TOTAL	
	Local Government Pension Scheme		Police Pension Scheme (1987)		Police Pension Scheme (2006)		Police Pension Scheme (2015)		Police Injury Awards Scheme			
	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
<b>Opening balance at 1 April</b>	(463,961)	(323,181)	(2,070,310)	(1,935,640)	(104,740)	(69,830)	(235,590)	(157,140)	(50,840)	(45,910)	<b>(2,925,441)</b>	<b>(2,531,701)</b>
Current service cost	(24,940)	(14,812)	(2,740)	(6,470)	(340)	(220)	(56,920)	(44,890)	(1,400)	(1,240)	<b>(86,340)</b>	<b>(67,632)</b>
Interest cost	(9,735)	(7,569)	(40,830)	(42,980)	(2,130)	(1,570)	(5,360)	(4,120)	(1,010)	(1,020)	<b>(59,065)</b>	<b>(57,259)</b>
Contribution from scheme participants	(3,196)	(2,997)	(790)	(1,430)	(90)	(50)	(10,120)	(9,450)	0	0	<b>(14,196)</b>	<b>(13,927)</b>
Re-measurement gains/(losses)												
▫ Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	2,730	(7,045)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2,730</b>	<b>(7,045)</b>
▫ Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	41,036	(117,008)	2,880	(142,680)	4,670	(33,090)	3,400	(22,390)	1,120	(4,980)	<b>53,106</b>	<b>(320,148)</b>
▫ Other	(1,059)	3,163	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>(1,059)</b>	<b>3,163</b>
Past service costs	(207)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>(207)</b>	<b>0</b>
Losses/(gains) on curtailment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Liabilities assumed on entity combinations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Benefits paid	5,760	5,488	61,050	58,890	110	20	1,410	2,400	2,180	2,310	<b>70,510</b>	<b>69,108</b>
Liabilities extinguished on settlements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Closing balance at 31 March</b>	<b>(453,572)</b>	<b>(463,961)</b>	<b>(2,050,740)</b>	<b>(2,070,310)</b>	<b>(102,520)</b>	<b>(104,740)</b>	<b>(303,180)</b>	<b>(235,590)</b>	<b>(49,950)</b>	<b>(50,840)</b>	<b>(2,959,962)</b>	<b>(2,925,441)</b>

**Local Government Pensions Scheme assets comprised:**

	Fair value of scheme assets	
	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
<b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>	22,235	15,303
<b>Equity instruments: <i>by industry type</i></b>		
• Consumer	5,607	5,574
• Manufacturing	4,683	6,678
• Energy and utilities	271	286
• Financial institutions	2,503	3,487
• Health and care	2,216	2,479
• Information technology	20,216	25,184
• Other	2,979	2,301
Sub-total equity	38,475	45,989
<b>Bonds: <i>by sector</i></b>		
• Corporate	0	0
• Government	0	0
• Other	0	0
Sub-total bonds	0	0
<b>Property: <i>by type</i></b>		
• United Kingdom	26,057	24,391
• Overseas	433	435
Sub-total property	26,490	24,826
<b>Private equity:</b>		
• All	18,623	11,642
Sub-total private equity	18,623	11,642
<b>Other investment funds:</b>		
• Equities	77,275	65,302
• Bonds	155,576	144,590
• Hedge Fund	21,929	21,112
• Infrastructure	45	0
• Other	14,173	13,732
Sub-total other investment funds	268,998	244,736
<b>Derivatives:</b>		
• All	0	0
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>374,821</b>	<b>342,496</b>

## **Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities**

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels etc.

The Police Pension Scheme has been assessed by the Government Actuary's Department and the Cheshire Pension Fund liabilities has been assessed by Hymans Robertson and Co, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the Cheshire Pension Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2019.

### Covid-19 and Ukraine War impact and assumptions

The IAS19 balance sheet total is based on financial market values and future market expectation indicators as at 31 March 2022 to comply with the accounting standard. The financial assumptions used reflect the impact of Covid-19 and the Ukraine war on the market at 31 March 2022.

The Police Pension Scheme is an 'unfunded scheme' so there are no investment assets built up to meet the pension liabilities. The financial markets therefore have no impact on the actuarial valuation. However, the Cheshire Pension Fund scheme is a 'funded scheme' and holds assets and investments. The financial markets at the accounting date will have taken into account Covid-19 risks (and opportunities) as one of many national and worldwide economic considerations. There has been no explicit additional allowance or adjustment made for Covid-19 by Hymans. Asset returns and values have followed the market movements prompted by the pandemic and lockdowns, among other factors, which will therefore affect the asset share value. The effect of the Ukraine war on the accounting position is quite small. In the immediate aftermath of the invasion, there was a significant fall in the Fund's asset values. However, over the remainder of March 2022, the Fund's assets will have broadly recovered to similar levels to before the invasion. Bond yields and inflation expectations have also followed market movements, which were shaped by all global events including the war in Ukraine, and will therefore affect the value placed on the obligations.

The current population mortality projections for both schemes make no specific allowance for the impact of Covid-19 or any other pandemics. The starting rates of mortality improvement are based on projections of past trends in UK mortality and the effects of past pandemics will already be reflected in these trends. In general, the effects of pandemics on mortality rates are usually expected to be short term, with rates going back to what they would have been before the pandemic after a year or two, unless the pandemic remains over several years. Our view is that it remains too early to determine whether Covid-19 changes the long-term view of life expectancy in the UK. It was therefore considered not unreasonable to retain the existing mortality assumptions. A death rate from Covid-19 in excess of that already allowed for in the mortality assumptions would emerge as an experience gain over the next year's accounts.

### McCloud / Sargeant judgement

The Chief Constable of Cheshire, along with other Chief Constables and the Home Office, currently has a number of claims lodged against them with the Central London Employment Tribunal. The claims are in respect of alleged unlawful discrimination arising from the Transitional Provisions in the Police Pension Regulations 2015. Claims of unlawful discrimination have also been made in relation to the changes to the Judiciary and Firefighters Pension regulations. These claims against the Police pension scheme (the Aarons case) had previously been stayed behind the McCloud/Sargeant judgement, but have now been

lifted and a case management hearing was held on 25 October 2019. The resulting Order of 28 October 2019 included an interim declaration that the claimants are entitled to be treated as if they had been given full transitional protection and had remained in their existing scheme after 1 April 2015. This interim declaration applies to claimants only. However, the Government made clear that non-claimants who are in the same position as claimants will be treated fairly to ensure they do not lose out. This was re-iterated in the Written Ministerial Statement on 25 March 2020.

On 16 July 2020, HM Treasury issued a consultation regarding transitional arrangements for public sector pensions to eliminate discrimination as identified through the McCloud/Sargeant cases. This consultation introduced a requirement for members to have been members of the scheme on or before 31 March 2012 and on or after 1 April to be eligible for remedy. On 4 February 2021, HM Treasury issued their response to the consultation which confirmed the remedy arrangements set out in the consultation, and states that members would be given a choice as to whether to retain benefits from their legacy pension scheme, or their new scheme, during the remedy period (2015-2022). This choice will be deferred for members until retirement. As the findings of the original Employment Tribunal did not identify that the introduction of the new public sector pension schemes were discriminatory (rather it was the transitional provisions), the legacy schemes will be removed from April 2022 to be replaced by the new pension schemes originally introduced in 2015.

#### Impact on pension liability

Allowing for all members to remain in their existing scheme as at 1 April 2015 would lead to an increase in the Police Pension Scheme liabilities. Scheme actuaries estimated the potential increase in scheme liabilities for Cheshire to be approximately 4.4% or £99.6m of pension schemes liabilities. This increase was reflected in the IAS 19 disclosure as a past service cost in the 2018/19 accounts. In 2019/20, the estimated increase was a further £13.8m reflecting an additional years benefits from the remedy and a reduction of £17.5m resulting from the eligibility criteria for members set out in HM Treasury's consultation. In 2020/21, the estimated increase is a further £15.9m reflecting an additional years benefits from the remedy. The actuaries have highlighted that these estimates are based on the potential impact of any difference in the profile of the force's membership compared with the scheme as a whole and that the figures are highly sensitive to assumptions around short term earnings growth. From 2021/22 the current service cost allows for the higher expected cost of accrual under McCloud.

The impact of an increase in scheme liabilities arising from McCloud/Sargeant judgment will be measured through the pension valuation process, which determines employer and employee contribution rates. The next Police Pension valuation is due to be reported in 2023/24, although this timetable is subject to change. The impact of an increase in annual pension payments arising from McCloud/Sargeant is determined through the Police Pension Fund Regulations 2007. These require a Police and Crime Commissioner to maintain a police pension fund into which officer and employer contributions are paid and out of which pension payments to retired officers are made. If the police pension fund does not have sufficient funds to meet the cost of pensions in year the amount required to meet the deficit is then paid by the Secretary of State to the Commissioner in the form of a central Government top-up grant.

#### Compensation Claims

Claimants have lodged claims for compensation. Claims for financial losses are currently stayed as consideration is given to the HM Treasury consultation response. As at 31 March 2022, it is not possible to reliably estimate the extent or likelihood of these claims being successful, and therefore no liability in respect of compensation claims is recognised in these accounts.

## Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

With regard to the LGPS a similar adjustment to past service costs (£1.2m) within the IAS19 Disclosure was made for the McCloud judgment in the 2018/19 accounts. The impact of an increase in scheme liabilities arising from McCloud / Sargeant judgment will be measured through the pension valuation process, which determines employer and employee contribution rates.

The principal assumptions used in their calculations have been as follows:

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Police Pension Schemes	
	2021/22 %	2020/21 %	2021/22 %	2020/21 %
<u>Mortality assumptions:</u>				
Longevity at 65 (police), 65 (LGPS) for current pensioners:				
Men	21.2	21.4	22.1	22.0
Women	23.8	24.0	23.8	23.7
Longevity at 65 (police), 65 (LGPS) for future pensioners:				
Men	22.1	22.4	23.8	23.7
Women	25.5	25.7	25.4	25.3
<u>Other assumptions:</u>				
Rate of Inflation – RPI / CPI	3.55/3.15	3.3/2.8	3.0	2.4
Rate of increase in salaries – Long Term/Short Term	3.85	3.5	4.75	4.15
Rate of increase in pensions	3.15	2.8	3.0	2.4
Rate of CARE revaluation	-	-	4.25	3.65
Percentage of employees opting to convert annual pension to retirement lump sum:				
Pre April 2008 Service	50	50	n/a	n/a
Post April 2008 Service	75	75	n/a	n/a
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.75	2.05	2.65	2.00

Note: RPI figure not provided by pension administrator.

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the assumptions remain constant. The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice, this is unlikely to occur and changes in some assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in the previous period.

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analysis below shows the potential impact should the above assumptions change.

	Local Govt Pension Scheme		Police Pension Scheme (1987)		Police Pension Scheme (2006)		Police Pension Scheme (2015)		Police Injury Benefit Scheme	
	%	£000	%	£000	%	£000	%	£000	%	£000
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	12.3	55,775	8.5	178,000	15.5	16,000	15.5	47,000	8.0	4,000
0.5% increase in salary increase	1.5	6,885	1.0	17,000	7.5	8,000	0	0	0.5	0
0.5% increase in pension increase	10.7	48,475	7.5	158,000	10	10,000	17.5	53,000	7.5	4,000
1 year increase in life expectancy	3-5	13,607 - 22,679	3.5	70,000	3	3,000	3.0	9,000	3.5	2,000

### Impact on the Commissioner's cash flow

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers' contributions at as constant a rate as possible. The Local Government Pension Scheme run by Cheshire West and Chester Council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next few years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The next triennial valuation is due to be completed as at 31 March 2022.

The scheme will need to take account of the national changes to the scheme under the Public Pensions Services Act 2013. Under the Act, the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales and the other main existing public service schemes may not provide benefits in relation to service after 31 March 2014 (or service after 31 March 2015 for other main existing public service pension schemes in England and Wales). The Act provides for scheme regulations to be made within a common framework, to establish new career average revalued earning schemes to pay pensions and other benefits to certain public servants.

For 2022/23, the weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is 19 years (Police Pension 1987); 35 years (Police Pension 2006); 35 years (Police Pension 2015).

## 34. Notes Relating to the Police Pension Fund

### 34.1 Basis of Fund

The Police Pension Fund Regulations which came into force on 1 August 2007, with backdated effect from 1 April 2006, put on a statutory footing the requirement that police authorities:

- set up a pension fund;
- pay the employer contributions and officer contributions into the pension fund;
- make other specified *payments* into and from the pension fund; and
- transfer funds between the police fund and the pension fund as necessary to balance any audited deficit or surplus in the pension fund

and for the Secretary of State to:

- adjust grant funding to police authorities upwards to match the amounts transferred by them out of their police fund to balance their pension fund; and
- require police authorities to pay to the Secretary of State an amount to match the sums transferred from the pension fund to the police fund to balance their pension fund account

The financial arrangements introduced in 2007 apply to both the old & new police pension schemes – i.e. the Police Pension Scheme 1987 (PPS 1987), the New Police Pension Scheme 2006 (NPPS 2006) & the New Police Pension Scheme 2015.

## **34.2 Accounting policies**

The Police Pension Fund's accounting policies are set out in the main Statement of Accounting Policies as set out from page 30.

The Police Pension Fund account on page 22 summarises the transactions of the Fund. It does not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the Scheme year. The actuarial position of the Scheme, which does take account of such obligations, is dealt with in Note 34 and the Police Pension Fund account should be read in conjunction with that note.

## **34.3 Status of the pension fund**

The regulations refer to the new account as a "pension fund" since its legal status is that of a fund for the purposes of Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act. The pension fund accounts, which must be included in the Commissioner's statement of accounts as separate statements, comprise a fund account and net assets statement. The fund account must be ring-fenced to prevent unauthorised transfers taking place. It is through the fund account that each Commissioner discharges their responsibility for paying the pensions of retired officers and their survivors.

## **34.4 Administration of the Fund**

The fund is administered by the Commissioner within the management and operation requirements established under the Police Pension Fund Regulations 2007 (SI 2007 No 1932).

The police pension schemes operates as unfunded schemes and that consequently the fund has no investment assets, benefits payable are funded by contributions from employers and employees, with any difference between benefits payable and contributions receivable met by top-up grant from the Home Office. The Fund is balanced to nil each year by a transfer to or from the General Fund.

Employees' and employer's contribution levels are based on percentages of pensionable pay set nationally by the Home Office and subject to triennial revaluation by the Government Actuary's Department.

## **34.5 Benefits payable to and from the Fund**

Under the financial arrangements the funds payable into and out of the Commissioner's pension fund account will be:

### **Income**

- Officer contributions, including those of officers seconded elsewhere.
- Employer contributions, including those for officers seconded elsewhere.
- Incoming transfers from other pension schemes.
- Inter-Commissioner adjustments for 1966 and 1974 reorganisations.
- Re-instatement of pensions – mis-selling charges.
- Capital-equivalent charge payments for ill-health early retirements.
- Reimbursements of pension payments which could have been withheld under regulation K4 of the Police Pension Regulations 1987 and regulation 52 of the Police Pension Regulations 2006.
- Payments by an officer under regulation 84(3) of the Police Pension Regulations 2006.
- Other authorised income – to be specified by the Commissioner in the accounts.
- Top-up from the police fund (operating account) to meet any deficit.

## **Expenditure**

- Pension payments to retired police officers and other beneficiaries.
- Inter-Commissioner adjustments for 1966 and 1974 reorganisations.
- Refund of pension contributions.
- Outgoing transfers to other pension schemes.
- Payments by the Commissioner to HMRC on behalf of an officer under regulation 84 or regulation 85 of the Police Pension Regulations 2006.
- Other authorised expenditure – to be specified by the Commissioner in the accounts.
- Payments to the police fund (operating account) to clear a surplus at the end of the accounting year.

Injury awards, including awards payable on death attributable to a qualifying injury, are not part of either Police Pension Scheme 1987 or New Police Pension Scheme 2006 and are payable irrespective of whether an officer is a member of the pension scheme. Tax rules from April 2006 prevent injury awards from being part of the regulations for either scheme. In order to comply with this requirement injury awards have, with effect from April 2006, been set out in the Police (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006 which are entirely separate from the Police Pension Regulations 1987 and the Police Pension Regulations 2006. Injury awards are not pension scheme payments and therefore are not chargeable to the fund.

## **35. Contingent Assets & Liabilities**

### **Assets**

There are no contingent assets at 31 March 2022

### **Liabilities**

A multi-force collaboration to provide an effective and efficient business support service commenced in April 2012 between Northamptonshire Police and Cheshire Constabulary, with Nottinghamshire Police joining in April 2015 and Civil Nuclear Constabulary in April 2016. On the 27 July 2020 the Joint Oversight Committee agreed that the partnership would end at the conclusion of the current contract in November 2022. Although the Constabulary's primary aim is to avoid redundancy wherever possible and it will take all reasonable steps to minimise redundancies during the business change transition period including a commitment to redeploy existing staff to vacancies wherever possible, there are a number of staff who remain at risk of redundancy. Partners, including Cheshire, will have to meet such costs.

## **36. Authorisation of Accounts**

Under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 the pre-audited Statement of Accounts was signed by the Chief Finance Officer as responsible financial officer of the Commissioner on 28 July 2022 and released for audit purposes.

## **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021/22**

### **1. Scope of Responsibilities**

- 1.1 Governance is about how the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable ensure they are doing the right things in the right way for the right people in a timely, inclusive, open and accountable manner that is built on a foundation of integrity. It comprises the systems, processes, culture and values by which the Commissioner and the Chief Constable direct and manage together, along with the activity through which they account to and engage with the people of Cheshire.
- 1.2 The Commissioner's role is set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The Commissioner is responsible for securing the maintenance of the police force for their area and securing that the police force is efficient and effective. The Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account for the exercise of their functions and the functions of those under the Chief Constable's direction and control. The Commissioner is accountable to the people of Cheshire who elected him to represent their views on policing.
- 1.3 The Chief Constable is accountable under law for the exercise of police powers and to the Commissioner for the delivery of efficient and effective policing in Cheshire. While the Chief Constable discharges their responsibilities in support of the Commissioner's Police & Crime Plan, they remain at all times operationally independent.
- 1.4 Production of an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is a requirement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2015 and ensures that a reliable system of internal controls can be demonstrated. The AGS meets the requirements of Regulation 6 (1) (b) of the Accounts and Audit (England and Wales) Regulations 2015, which requires all relevant bodies to prepare an Annual Governance Statement. The AGS also demonstrates the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constables' commitment to the principles of good governance as identified in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016 where applicable to policing bodies.
- 1.5 In March 2022, CIPFA published an advisory note setting out key messages surrounding recent governance failures identified in statutory and non-statutory reviews and public interest reports. While Cheshire has not been part of these reviews or reports, there are lessons to be learned for all organisations that take governance seriously. One key message relates to the AGS - this is a key document for any organisation, and when completed correctly and with rigour, it can be used to identify failings of governance and provide an opportunity internally to improve and thereby reduce risk. It should normally be approved at the same time or no later than the statement of accounts and should be regarded as a vital tool by those charged with governance and the leadership team.
- 1.6 The AGS is and always has been, a key corporate document in Cheshire, which provides an accurate representation of the corporate governance arrangements and controls in place that have supported the delivery of organisational objectives during the year. The AGS provides information about where arrangements have been effective and notes where any improvements are required.

1.7 The governance framework detailed below has been in place for the year ended 31 March 2022 and up to the date of approval of the Statement of Accounts.

## 2. The Governance Framework

2.1 The Commissioner is responsible for ensuring that business is conducted in accordance with the law, with openness and engagement with stakeholders and that risk is managed through robust internal control and strong public finance management to deliver effective accountability. The Commissioner has adopted a Scheme of Corporate Governance, which sets out the governance framework that will assist in enabling the Commissioner and Chief Constable to fulfil their statutory functions. The Scheme is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure it remains up to date and relevant, taking into account local and national changes in the way the police service operates.

2.2 Within the Scheme of Corporate Governance, there are a number of documents as indicated below that can be viewed in full on the Commissioner's website ([Governance Documents](#)). These documents have all been reviewed and updated during 2021/22.

- Code of Corporate Governance – this describes how the Commissioner will discharge their responsibilities to secure an efficient and effective local police service and hold the Chief Constable to account for the exercise of their functions and those of persons under their direction and control.
- Procedural Rules – these rules relate to the business & proceedings of the Commissioner and Chief Constable including how decisions are taken.
- Scheme of Consent & Delegation - this sets out which functions are reserved to the Commissioner, which are delegated to the Chief Constable and how the Commissioner will delegate functions to his own staff.
- Financial Regulations - under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 'every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs'. Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, both Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables are required to comply with Section 151 requirements. The Financial Regulations set out how this duty is discharged.
- Constabulary's Scheme of Delegation – covers the financial and non-operational decision-making powers the Chief Constable has delegated to their officers and staff
- Memorandum of Understanding – this sets out how the Commissioner obtains additional services to supplement his core office of staff (OPCC) which the Chief Constable will provide in pursuant to their obligations of assistance and in furtherance of the Commissioner's and Chief Constable's joint vision of working together in partnership, without compromising the Commissioner's powers and duty to hold the Chief Constable to account

2.3 The above framework sets out the relationship between the Commissioner and Chief Constable in both decision-making and accountability. Within the Constabulary, there is an independent governance framework, which covers both operational and business decision

making with the SLT Business Meeting, being the primary decision-making body for the Constabulary.

- 2.4 In line with Home Office guidelines, the Commissioner and Chief Constable have established an independent Joint Audit Advisory Committee. This committee consider internal and external audit reports and advise and provide assurance to the Commissioner and Chief Constable according to good governance principles and proper practices.
- 2.5 The Covid-19 pandemic continued to have an effect on governance procedures during 2021/22 as face-to-face meetings were not always possible. The organisation's procedures had already been adapted to take account of the requirement for virtual meetings, remote working and electronic signature of documents during 2021/21 and in line with the Coronavirus Act 2020. Whilst face-to-face meetings are now possible as restrictions have been relaxed, the organisation continues to make use of more flexible working arrangements and virtual meetings alongside more traditional working methods and the governance procedures cover these eventualities to ensure adequate control is maintained throughout.
- 2.6 Economic and market forces are still recovering from the effects of covid-19 and the impact is likely to continue for some time with businesses and the public sector experiencing issues around staffing resources and the supply of some goods and services. The Covid infection rate is monitored, and the organisation's gold group will be stood up should this be necessary, with actions being taken to support officers and staff and to ensure service continuity.

### **3. Internal Financial Controls**

- 3.1 The objective of the internal financial controls is to maintain sound and proper financial arrangements; to explain why safeguards and controls are important and necessary; to profile a framework for financial management, which will enable, wherever possible, managerial and financial responsibilities to be aligned and safeguard all officers and staff.
- 3.2 The key documents that set out the internal financial controls are:
- Financial Regulations – as set out above
  - Scheme of Delegation – as set out above
  - Treasury Management Strategy – approved annually by the Commissioner. This sets out the Annual Investment Strategy, Borrowing Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Statement
  - Treasury Management Practices – which set out the detailed processes and practices to be followed in order to deliver the Treasury Management Strategy
  - Reserves Strategy – which details the reserves held, their intended usage and the strategy for ensuring the funds are maintained at an appropriate level.
- 3.3 In addition to the above, there are a series of governance checks and controls carried out through the Finance and HR teams to ensure financial systems are operating effectively.

These are supported by periodic Internal and External Audit reviews to provide appropriate assurance to those charged with governance or produce actions plans where necessary. The Director of Internal Audit's Opinion and his annual report for 2021/22 provide substantial assurance that there is a good system of internal controls designed to meet the organisation's objectives and that controls are generally being consistently applied. The Director of Internal Audit carries out his role in accordance with guidance issued in the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit (2019).

- 3.4 CIPFA published 'The Financial Management Code' (FM Code) in 2019. It is designed to support good practice in financial management and to assist local authorities in demonstrating their financial sustainability. The FM Code, for the first time, sets the standards of financial management for local authorities including police. The FM Code is based on a series of principles supported by specific standards which are considered necessary to provide the strong foundation to:
- financially manage the short, medium and long-term finances of a local authority;
  - manage financial resilience to meet unforeseen demands on services; and
  - manage unexpected shocks in their financial circumstances.
- 3.5 Each organisation designated to apply the FM Code must demonstrate that the requirements of the code are being satisfied. Demonstrating compliance with the FM Code is a collective responsibility of the Commissioner, Chief Constable, their respective chief finance officers (CFO) and their professional colleagues in the leadership team. Both CFOs are professionally qualified and are members of their respective leadership teams. Senior finance and leadership representatives sit on all key decision-making boards (e.g. Change Board and Programme Board).
- 3.6 The documents within the governance framework within which the Constabulary and OPCC operate are updated regularly to ensure that controls and procedures satisfy the requirements of the code and demonstrate good governance. The framework was reviewed and updated by the Constabulary and OPCC statutory officers during 2021/22 and the revised documents were signed off at Joint Management Board. Controls are reviewed by external audit as part of their work on the Statement of Accounts and also by Internal Audit in line with their annual audit plan.
- 3.7 A whistle blowing policy is in place which is managed and investigated by the Professional Standards Department (PSD). This policy is currently under review and will be updated shortly. The force has a corruption and control strategy which is formulated by a local and regional corruption threat assessment. PSD also approve and record business interests and ensure compliance with the gifts and hospitality policy.
- 3.8 Further assurance is provided by HM Inspectorate of Constabularies, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) who carried out a police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL) assessment of the effectiveness with which Cheshire Constabulary keep people safe and reduce crime. This review has now been completed and results will be published in due course.

#### 4. Good Governance in the Police

- 4.1 In 2016, CIPFA, in association with various groups including the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, issued best practice guidance on Delivering Good Governance. It sets out seven principles of good governance which are illustrated below:



- 4.2 The ethos of the above is for principles A and B to permeate the implementation of principles C to G. It also illustrates that good governance is dynamic and that an organisation as a whole should be committed to continually improving through a process of evaluation and review. Each principle will be considered from the perspective of both the Commissioner and Chief Constable.

#### 5. Principle A: Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law

- 5.1 Commissioners and Chief Constables have responsibility for creating an environment where the Code of Ethics can thrive by setting standards, policies and principles that help in embedding the Code. The Code of Ethics consists of two main parts – 'Policing Principles' and 'Standards of Behaviour'. The former originates from the Principles of Public Life to which has been added 'fairness' and 'respect' as the evidence base demonstrates they are crucial to enhancing public confidence. How fair an organisation is perceived to be internally by its people is likely to affect the extent to which they feel valued by, and part of, that organisation. This sense of having a stake in that organisation has been shown to affect staff willingness to comply voluntarily with work rules, hold positive attitudes about the public and engage in a range of positive work behaviours. The work environment fostered by police leaders and supervisors is, therefore, likely to affect the ethical health of a force.
- 5.2 Cheshire Constabulary has fully adopted the Code of Ethics from its inception in 2014 and this has been embedded into everyday decision-making.

- 5.3 The PSD is responsible for the receipt, recording and investigation of public complaints against the conduct of officers and members of police staff and investigating allegations of misconduct within the Cheshire Constabulary. The behaviour and integrity of police officers and members of police staff are at the very core of the Constabulary's values and service ethos and the department engages widely within the Constabulary to promote and uphold these exacting standards. The Department is responsible for the Constabulary's anti-fraud and corruption arrangements together with their whistle blowing procedures. In addition, the Department records all gifts and hospitality and business interests to ensure the integrity and transparency against any conflicts of interests.
- 5.4 The Policing and Crime Act 2017 and supporting regulations made significant changes to the complaints and disciplinary systems that took effect from 01 February 2020. They introduced a number of changes designed to achieve a more customer-focused complaints system. Local accountability was enhanced through changes to the role of local policing bodies (Police & Crime Commissioners) which now have a statutory responsibility to hold their Chief Constable to account for the performance of the complaints system locally and for ensuring there are appropriate processes in place for dealing with conduct and death or serious injury (DSI) matters.
- 5.5 In addition, all local policing bodies now have certain duties in relation to the handling of complaints, some of which are mandatory and now a statutory responsibility. For example, from 01 February 2020, the Police & Crime Commissioner became a relevant review body (RRB) for complaints (recorded on or after 01 February 2020) and assumed responsibility for determining whether the outcome of a complaint was reasonable and proportionate. This change aimed to increase independence and transparency, particularly at a local level.
- 5.6 It should be noted that depending on the circumstances of the initial complaint, the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) may be the relevant review body. The determination in relation to the relevant review body will be made by the Professional Standards Department.
- 5.7 Both the Commissioner and Chief Constable have Monitoring Officers whose role is to advise on the rule of law and ensure decision-making is legally sound and compliant with the Governance Framework. Any breaches are reported to the Commissioner and Chief Constable – no breaches were reported during 2021/22.

## **6. Principle B: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement**

- 6.1 Public views on policing, their priorities and their experiences both in terms of crime and interaction with the Constabulary has and continues to have, a direct impact on the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan and priorities.
- 6.2 In setting the Police and Crime Plan, the Commissioner stated 'Cheshire residents' views have been paramount in developing this Plan. Whether you've spoken to me face-to-face, written to me via email or letter or taken part in a consultation, your views have been considered as I developed the Plan's priorities to ensure they reflect yours.' The full plan is available on the Commissioner's website ([Police and Crime Plan](#)).

- 6.3 In November and December 2021 the Commissioner carried out the largest ever consultation on policing in Cheshire, with a survey sent to every household in the county and nearly 19,000 people sharing their view on policing and crime in their community.
- 6.4 As part of the budget and precept setting process, the Commissioner undertakes public consultation on his proposed council tax precept increase on an annual basis. The budget and precept proposals are also subject to scrutiny by the independent Police and Crime Panel on behalf of the public. Councillor members of the panel represent all local authorities across Cheshire.
- 6.5 In January 2022, the consultation on the Commissioner's precept proposal had the highest number of responses of any precept consultation and residents backed the proposal with 70% in support. During this consultation period, the Commissioner held more in-person 'consultation roadshows' around the county than had been held before.
- 6.6 The Constabulary undertakes regular telephone surveys of both victims of crime and the general public in Cheshire to gauge satisfaction with the services provided. The latest results show that 80% of victims of crime are satisfied with the overall level of service.
- 6.7 As of 2021, the Constabulary also runs a 'residents voice' campaign to gather views of the public on local policing and priorities. This is an innovative online satisfaction tool, which allows the public to complete a short online survey giving their views on crime, anti-social behaviour and policing within their local community. Officers and PCSOs provide members of the public with a 'QR code' which is scannable on a mobile device and takes the resident straight to the survey. The data obtained is then uploaded onto the Power Bi platform where it can be filtered, analysed and understood on a street by street or community basis. This powerful tool allows officers to canvass and respond to needs particular to a specific area. During 2021/22 there were over 10,000 responses provided from across the Force area which were used to inform local operational priorities.
- 6.8 As part of the virtual meeting arrangements brought in as a response to the pandemic as set out in paragraph 2.5, the ability of the public to have access to public meetings which were still held virtually was enabled through the use of technology. All public meetings are publicised together with the agendas, on the OPCC website.

## **7. Principle C: Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social & environmental benefits**

- 7.1 The Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan sets out how economic, social and environmental factors will be considered in decision making around delivering these priorities, and how the success in achieving these priorities will be monitored and reviewed, including holding the Chief Constable to account.
- 7.2 A Medium-Term Financial Strategy is produced annually, reviewed regularly and updated as necessary. It sets out the financial assumptions and demands upon the Constabulary to highlight budgetary pressures and the options available to address any funding shortfalls to ensure sustainability. Scenario planning is completed to highlight financial risks to key budget assumptions and ensure the authority understands the impact on its future

financial stability of any strategic, operational and financial challenges it might face. Financial risks such as inflationary pressures or changes to Police Uplift Programme funding are also considered in the MTFS and in the organisation's strategic risk register.

- 7.3 Alongside this overarching document are the more detailed Capital Strategy and Reserves Strategy. All of these financial strategies are directly linked to the Estates, Fleet and IT strategies which are reviewed and signed off at JMB meetings. All strategies are published on the PCC website.
  - 7.4 Clear reference is made to achieving value for money (VFM) in the annual budget and relevant strategic documents and the Constabulary and OPCC have a clear and consistent understanding of VFM and how this is measured and monitored. Annual reports on VFM which consider the HMICFRS VFM indicators are reviewed by the JAAC and senior leadership.
  - 7.5 Prudential indicators are set in line with the CIPFA Prudential Code, and these are included in the Annual Treasury Management Strategy. They are monitored by the s151 officers and reported to JMB in the Treasury Management Update report which is available on the PCC's website.
  - 7.6 An Asset Management Strategy and Plan are in place and are reviewed and updated regularly. The plan aims to ensure that the authority's property, plant and equipment contribute effectively to service delivery and the achievement of key objectives.
  - 7.7 The Ethical Procurement Strategy sets out the authority's position with regards to social value and ethical procurement. The strategy outlines the ethical responsibilities and core objectives of the Commissioner and the Chief Constable in relation to their supply chain and in regards to human rights (including modern slavery), social value, equality and diversity, environment and sustainability and fraud, corruption and bribery.
- 8. Principle D: Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes**
- 8.1 The Scheme of Corporate Governance sets out a decision-making framework which ensures that all decisions taken by the Commissioner and Chief Constable are supported by all relevant information, including financial, legal and other appropriate professional advice, that available options are considered and that internal and external stakeholders are consulted. All decisions are formally recorded, and published subject to confidentiality requirements.
  - 8.2 The Commissioner has a statutory duty and electoral mandate to hold the Chief Constable to account on behalf of the public of Cheshire. The Commissioner does this by scrutinising, supporting and challenging the performance of the Constabulary, including against the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan. The Commissioner undertakes this role at Scrutiny Board. These meetings consider performance against the priorities identified in the Police and Crime Plan as well as a wide range of performance information relating to all aspect of policing. Performance data can be found on the Commissioner's website [www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-i-do/holding-the-chief-constable-to-account/performance](http://www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-i-do/holding-the-chief-constable-to-account/performance).

8.3 HMICFRS produce Value for Money profiles, which are available via their website. These profiles benchmark Cheshire's costs and resources both operationally and for support services against our most similar forces and policing as a whole. These profiles are reviewed and used to support resource allocation debates and as part of the budget setting process.

8.4 Key risks to financial sustainability are highlighted in the annual budget and MTFs. These are also reported in the strategic risk register which is reviewed regularly at SLT and JMB. The latest strategic risk register is also considered at each JAAC meeting. Throughout the year, revenue and capital monitoring reports are prepared and reviewed at SLT and JMB. These reports highlight potential issues and suggest appropriate remedial actions.

## **9. Principle E: Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it**

9.1 Cheshire Constabulary is a high performing organisation offering a range of career opportunities. It provides a broad range of police and police staff roles with career pathways to develop. It is structured and provides progression and fast track opportunities. Support and advice are provided to assist everyone in their career journey. Overall, it is recognised that as professionals it is our responsibility to be as good as we can be and in doing so ensure we invest time to learn and develop to meet the changing needs of the communities we serve.

9.2 Cheshire Constabulary has a key priority for organisational learning. As an organisation, the vision is:

- To be a learning organisation through the creation, retention, sharing and using of knowledge.
- This Organisational Learning area is the Constabulary's hub where practitioners learn through the creation, retention, sharing and using of knowledge.
- The Organisational Learning area is the gateway to the Constabulary's What Works programme, where practitioners can learn about evidence-based practice, its practical application and view examples of effective problem solving.

9.3 As part of the national programme for uplifting officer numbers, the Constabulary has now welcomed 90 new officers during 2021/22, alongside the usual annual recruitment programme. The Constabulary continues to invest in the skills of its workforce, including areas such as detective training to ensure resilience and future capacity. Police officer numbers in Cheshire are now at their highest level in modern times and are higher than pre-austerity levels. Cheshire has fully met their national Police Officer Uplift target for both 2020/21 and 2021/22 and are on track to meet their 2022/23 target despite national recruitment issues, partially caused by Covid-19. Officer numbers are subject to scrutiny on a regular basis and returns are submitted to the Home Office quarterly.

## **10. Principle F: Managing risks & performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management**

- 10.1 The role of the Commissioner and the Chief Constable at the Joint Management Board is to scrutinise and approve the risk register quarterly as part of the approved Risk Management Framework. The role of Joint Audit Advisory Committee is to review and advise the Commissioner and the Chief Constable on the adequacy of action plans and actions taken to mitigate each risk on a quarterly basis. Risks provide a forward look at upcoming issues such as the Formula Funding Review as well as reflecting the current situation and are regularly reviewed and updated. All areas of operational, governance and financial risk are reflected in the register and there are sections for Constabulary risks, OPCC risks and joint risks.
- 10.2 During 2021/22, the JAAC provided independent assurance to those charged with governance on the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of the financial reporting and governance processes within the Constabulary and OPCC.
- 10.3 The review and subsequent update/amendment to the risk register ensures that there is a joined-up approach between the Commissioner and the Chief Constable and that the key risks are evaluated, managed, mitigated, scrutinised and reported top down and bottom up through both Leadership Teams.
- 10.4 In response to Covid-19, Cheshire Constabulary followed advice from Public Health England (PHE) and NHS in keeping our officers and staff safe. Structures were put in place to make sure the Constabulary were properly managing any impact on the organisation and regular Gold meetings were held during the pandemic to ensure up to date information was shared quickly and effectively.
- 10.5 The Constabulary has a comprehensive performance management framework in place known as 'Raising the Bar'. This includes a suite of key performance indicators which ensure delivery of the objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan and other key local and national priorities. The framework utilises the SARA approach to problem solving and sharing of good practice.
- 10.6 Performance against this framework is monitored through regular 1-2-1 meetings, Area Performance Meetings Quarterly Performance Meetings and a monthly Force Performance Day. These meetings highlight any problems which need to be solved, these are then entered into the problem-solving site on the intranet. Monthly audits are performed by the problem-solving team to review mitigations which are still open on the site.
- 10.7 Performance is scrutinised by the Commissioner at regular public scrutiny meetings and actions are identified at these meetings, which are kept under review and progress reported to the Commissioner.
- 10.8 Cashflow, short and long-term borrowing, investments and the use of reserves and balances are monitored by both s.151 officers and are reported to the Commissioner and Chief Constable in Treasury Management updates at Joint Management Board.
- 10.9 Processes are in place to ensure Officers and staff are aware of the threat of cyber crime and can recognise potential cyber security threats and take appropriate action. Plans are in

place to ensure this information is kept continuously up-to-date and is disseminated across the organisation.

## **11. Principle G: Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability**

- 11.1 All key joint decisions are taken collectively by the Constabulary's Senior Leadership Team and the Joint Management Board. The Joint Management Board is where decisions are made, and Scrutiny Board is where the Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account. Both meetings publish papers in advance of their meetings and the meetings themselves are open to the public. All key PCC decisions of significant public interest are published on the PCC's website.
- 11.2 The Police and Crime Panel (PCP), which is a statutory body, independent of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, oversees the work of the Commissioner. Its role includes reviewing the Commissioner's proposals for the amount of council tax local people pay towards policing. It has the power to veto these proposals if it considers the amount is inappropriate; considering the Police and Crime Plan and Annual Report; considering the Commissioner's proposals for the appointment of a new Chief Constable, with the power to veto; and investigating complaints about the Commissioner. Cheshire East hosted the PCP for 2021/22 and details of these meetings can be found on their website.
- 11.3 Both the Commissioner and Chief Constable have Publication Schemes on their respective websites listing information available and a means of contact should the information required not be included.
- 11.4 The Constabulary's Information Management team co-ordinate all information held to ensure compliance with all the appropriate requirements including Freedom of Information requests and Data Protection. The OPCC liaises closely with the Information Management team in relation to Freedom of Information requests and Data Protection issues, however these are managed by the OPCC Principal Governance and Compliance Officer to ensure that organisational independence is maintained.
- 11.5 Assurance on the effectiveness of governance and controls is also provided the Joint Audit Advisory Committee. The organisation's governance and controls are subject to review from bodies such as HMICFRS, External Audit and Internal Audit and reviews of the framework are undertaken by Joint Management Board. The governance framework and internal and external audit opinions are published on the PCC's website.
- 11.6 The authority has a good track record of early close-down and external audit sign off and was one of less than 10% of local authorities (including policing bodies) which received external audit sign off by the 2020/21 deadline.

## **12. Review of Effectiveness**

- 12.1 As part of the on-going governance roles, each of the above principles is reviewed and evidence sourced to show effectiveness in terms of communications, actions, policies and procedures. This evidence is scrutinised and is subject to challenge by the Commissioner's S.151 Officer and Chief Executive, the Constabulary S.151 Officer and Monitoring Officer.

- 12.2 The Constabulary report quarterly on their performance against key national priorities and advise on areas of focus for the forthcoming quarter. This information is shared publicly on the OPCC website.
- 12.3 External assurance in terms of accountability is provided by both Internal and External Audit, HMICFRS reviews and partner forces reviews of collaborations. Assurance is also provided by volunteers including Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) who make unannounced visits to police stations to check on the rights, wellbeing and treatment of detainees, the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) which advises on all aspects of equality and diversity and the Community Cohesion Group (CCG) which reviews policies and procedures and provides advice on ways to improve service delivery to all communities.
- 12.4 All audit reports are presented to the Joint Audit Advisory Committee and published on the websites. Public notices in relation to the accounts are also published on the websites in line with statutory requirements. Outstanding actions from relevant reviews are reported to each JAAC meeting in the Service Assurance Plan and follow up reports from internal and external audit also go to JAAC meetings.
- 12.5 Procurement savings are tracked internally through the Strategic Procurement Group and are reported to Blue Light Commercial on a quarterly basis. Cashable savings are reviewed during the annual Priority Based Budget (PBB) process and removed from the annual revenue budget.

**12.6 Report on Areas for Action during 2021/22**

Within the 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement, the review of effectiveness identified three areas where further action was required. The following re-visits the actions which have satisfactorily addressed the issues raised and reports on the outcomes in 2021/22.

**Business Services Future** – with the Multi-Force Shared Service (MFSS) closing at the end of the current contract, the Constabulary is setting up new systems and processes to replace MFSS. Governance and controls need to be built in to ensure service delivery and financial integrity. (Owner: Assistant Chief Officer)

**UPDATE:** Cheshire took control of running its own transactional services from April 2022 and transferred the final elements away from Oracle and onto the new suite of systems in July 2022. This was a phased process covering April 2021 (recruitment), November 2021 (training and learning management), June 2022 (DMS) and July 2022 (payroll, HR, Finance, Logistics). All transactions are now being run successfully away from the CapGemini and Oracle contracts, and the MFSS has been disbanded, with a small team in place to finalise the data transfers and safe removal in line with the contractual obligations. Liabilities relating to any staffing or contractual costs have either been mitigated or agreed inside the Section 22 cost sharing arrangements with partner forces, and Cheshire's share of these is in line with the partnership agreement. There are no excess costs falling on the Constabulary as a result of these changes, and any contractual threat resulting from delayed transfer from the systems has been avoided.

The systems are running well, and a period of consolidation is now underway to develop and integrate these systems to maximise efficiency going forwards (Phase 2). This will deliver enhanced performance and value for money and advance the digital and efficiency agenda for the Constabulary, and the management of the systems sits within our own IT, HR and Finance departments in line with all other IT systems.

Governance controls, internal control, risk and security environment have all been reviewed as part of this, and business continuity and integrity are kept under review, in line with force policies.

**Workforce capacity, engagement, wellbeing and development** – 2021/22 will see significant change within the organisation including new systems and processes. It is imperative that these are appropriately resources and managed. (Owner: Deputy Chief Constable)

**UPDATE:** In 2021 Cheshire Constabulary have or are in the process of onboarding or enhancing 4 major systems. During 2021 the Department on-boarded OLEEO to replace the recruitment system which was used nationally by a number of other police forces and provided more automated reporting for the Police Uplift Programme. This system is now fully embedded within the force and currently due to introduce the second phase of more enhanced reporting capability.

During 2022 the force enhanced its capability reporting through the on-boarding of further Chronicle modules over and above the firearms modules previously used by the force. This ensures that the force now has one main system to record all training. The Force is also working towards on-boarding Unit 4 for July 2022 which will replace the current Oracle HR system. As part of this work the department have completed full end to end reviews of the workflows across the main HR process of starters, leavers and movers as well as pay, position and organisation hierarchy.

Phase 2 of the systems development will be completed post July 2022 to optimise the integrations across all 4 systems to provide more automation from a capacity and capability perspective.

**Governance** – with the changes to both Commissioner and Chief Constable, the governance arrangements need to reflect their new priorities. The Scheme of Corporate Governance will need to be reviewed and updated accordingly. (Owners: Commissioner and Chief Constable)

**UPDATE:** The Scheme of Corporate Governance was reviewed and the revised Scheme was approved at Joint Management Board in September 2021. This is available on the OPCC website.

## **12.7 Areas for Action in 2022/23**

The governance framework, internal controls and application of the principles have been reviewed during 2021/22 with the following areas highlighted as risks together with the mitigating actions required.

- a) **Business Services Phase 2** - Consolidate and integrate new business services systems and processes to maximise efficiencies and use of resources over the next 12 months (Owner: Assistant Chief Officer)
- b) **HMICFRS Inspection Reports** – the Constabulary should ensure that there are effective governance and controls in place to respond to any ‘Areas for Improvement’ identified by Her Majesties Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) as part of its Inspection programme (Owner: Deputy Chief Constable).

August 2022 Update - The final version of the HMICFRS PEEL report for Cheshire is now available. The following table summarises the report’s findings.

Good	Adequate	Requires improvement
Preventing crime	Investigating crime	Responding to the public
Treatment of the public	Protecting vulnerable people	Managing offenders
Developing a positive workplace	Good use of resources	
	Recording data about crime	

The constabulary did not wait for the inspection report to be published and drew up a delivery plan to deal with the issues raised by the inspectorate and to ensure that we achieve our ambition of being “outstanding” in all areas of policing. New strategic and business leads have been appointed in key areas and progress is overseen by DCC Chris Armitt at his HMICFRS Strategic Oversight Meeting. The plan is already delivering results across the force – open crimes have been halved as has the number of outstanding suspects and the waiting time for computers and phones to be examined has gone down from three years and half a year respectively to a couple of months and a few days. The Force Control Centre has made significant improvements in 999 and 101 call answering times with Cheshire now outstripping most other forces in England and Wales in recently published national league tables.

### 13. Summary

- 13.1 We are satisfied that the governance framework and arrangements in place during 2021/22 and up to the date the accounts were signed are adequate and fit for purpose. The arrangements are subject to independent review and assurance from various sources as noted in paragraphs 12.3.
- 13.2 We propose over the coming year to take steps to address the issues identified in paragraph 12.7 above to further enhance the governance arrangements. Additional actions can be taken in-year through the business planning and objective setting processes. We are satisfied that these steps will address the need for improvement as identified in the review of effectiveness and will monitor their implementations and operation as part of the next annual review.

**Signed**

John Dwyer  
Police & Crime Commissioner

Mark Roberts  
Chief Constable

Clare Hodgson  
Chief Finance Officer, OPCC

On behalf of the staff and senior officers of the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for  
Cheshire and Cheshire Constabulary

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Accruals** - The concept that income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred, not as cash is received or paid.

**Actuarial Gains and Losses** - For a defined benefit pension scheme, the changes in actuarial deficits or surpluses that arise because (a) events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation; or (b) the actuarial assumptions have changed.

**Appropriations** - Amounts transferred to or from revenue or capital reserves.

**Budget** - A statement of the Commissioner's expected level of service and spending over a set period, usually one year.

**Capital Expenditure** - Expenditure on the acquisition of a fixed asset or expenditure which adds value to the life or value of an existing fixed asset.

**Capital Adjustment Account** - This account (formerly reserve) contains the amounts which are required by statute to be set aside from capital receipts for the repayment of external loans, and the amount of capital expenditure financed from revenue and capital receipts. It also contains the difference between the amounts provided for depreciation and that required to be charged to revenue to repay the principal elements of external loans. The balance on this account cannot be used to finance future capital expenditure.

**Capital Receipts** - These are proceeds from the sale of capital assets.

**Capital Reserve** - Created to provide an alternative source of financing for capital expenditure, and to ensure some stability in the level of capital programmes that can be financed.

**Chief Constable** – Where the term 'Chief Constable' is used within these accounts it refers to the office/role of the Chief Constable rather than a specific person.

**Contribution to Capital Expenditure** - The financing of capital expenditure by a direct contribution from revenue account, rather than by means of a loan or other forms of finance (sometimes referred to as revenue contribution to capital outlay).

**Council Tax** - The means of raising money locally to pay for the Commissioner's services. This is a property based tax where the amount levied depends on the valuation of each dwelling.

**Creditors** - Amounts owed by the Commissioner for goods and services received by 31 March, but for which payment has not yet been made.

**Current Assets and Liabilities** - Current assets are items which can be readily converted into cash. Current liabilities are items which are due immediately or in the short-term. By convention these items are ordered by reference to the ease that assets can be converted into cash, and the timescale in which the liability falls due.

**Debtors** - Amounts owed to the Commissioner for goods and services provided by 31 March, but for which payments have not yet been received.

**Deferred Capital Receipts** - Amounts representing capital receipts still to be received when disposals have taken place and deferred payments have been agreed.

**Unitary Council's Collection Fund** - A collection fund is maintained by each unitary council to receive all income raised through the Council Tax. The funds then pay precepts to the Commissioner, Fire Authority and parish councils to meet the cost of services. Central government support (Revenue Support Grant and National Non-domestic Rate) is no longer distributed via the collection fund, but is received by each Commissioner direct.

**Earmarked Reserves** - These reserves represent monies set aside that can only be used for a specific purpose.

**Fair Value** - The price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

**Financial Instrument** - A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity of another.

**General Reserve** - This is the Commissioner's main revenue reserve to which all revenue receipts are credited and from which all revenue liabilities are discharged. The movement shown in the fund represents the excess of expenditure over revenue within the 2012/13 revenue account.

**Income** - Amounts which the Commissioner receives, or expects to receive, from any source. Income includes fees, charges, sales, capital receipts, government grants, the precept on Council Tax collection funds, Revenue Support Grant and National Non-Domestic Rate.

**Long-Term Borrowing** - Long-term borrowing relates to loans taken out by the Commissioner from the Public Works Loan Board and commercial banks.

**National Non-Domestic Rate** - The government levies a standard rate on all properties and cannot increase it by more than the Retail Price Index. The rates are collected on behalf of the government by district councils and are then redistributed nationally.

**Net Debt** - This comprises cash in hand, cash overdrawn, short term investments and long term borrowing.

**Pension – Defined Benefit Scheme** - A pension or other retirement benefit scheme other than a defined contribution scheme. The scheme rules define the benefits independently of the contribution payable, and the benefits are not directly related to the investments of the scheme. The scheme may be funded or unfunded.

**Pension Assets – Expected Rate of Return** - For a funded defined benefits scheme, the average rate of return, including both income and changes in fair value but net of scheme expenses, expected over the remaining life of the related obligation on the actual assets held by the scheme.

**Pension – Interest Costs** - For a defined benefit scheme, the expected increase during the period in the present value of the scheme liabilities because the benefits are one period closer to settlement.

**Pension – Past Service Costs** - For a defined benefit scheme, the increase in the present value of the scheme liabilities related to employee service in prior periods arising in the current period as a result of the introduction of, or improvement to, retirement benefits.

**Police Services** – these are services as set out in the CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice.

**Precept** - The amount of money the Commissioner has to raise from Council Tax payers (via unitary collection funds) to pay for police services. Each collection fund pays a standard amount per Band D equivalent property.

**Provisions** – Provisions represent sums set aside for liabilities or losses which are certain to arise but owing to their inherent nature cannot be quantified with any certainty. The Commissioner's main provisions relate to insurances and pensions.

**Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)** - A government agency which provides longer term loans to Local Authorities at interest rates only slightly higher than those at which the government itself can borrow.

**Reserves** - There are two types of reserve; those which are available to meet revenue or, in some cases, capital expenditure and those which are not available to finance revenue or capital expenditure. Most revenue reserves are capable of being used to finance revenue or capital expenditure.

**Revenue Expenditure** - Amounts which the Commissioner pays or expects to pay to any source - includes the cost of employees, premises, transport, supplies and services.

**Revenue Support Grant** - General government grant support towards the Commissioner's expenditure.

**Temporary Investments** - This comprises of cash in hand, cash overdrawn and short-term investments which are readily convertible into known amounts of cash. These are deposited with banks or similar institutions under the Treasury Management Strategy.

**Unapplied Capital Grants** - Capital Grants received, but not yet used to finance capital expenditure

## ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021/22

### 1. Scope of Responsibilities

- 1.1 Governance is about how the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable ensure they are doing the right things in the right way for the right people in a timely, inclusive, open and accountable manner that is built on a foundation of integrity. It comprises the systems, processes, culture and values by which the Commissioner and the Chief Constable direct and manage together, along with the activity through which they account to and engage with the people of Cheshire.
- 1.2 The Commissioner's role is set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The Commissioner is responsible for securing the maintenance of the police force for their area and securing that the police force is efficient and effective. The Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account for the exercise of their functions and the functions of those under the Chief Constable's direction and control. The Commissioner is accountable to the people of Cheshire who elected him to represent their views on policing.
- 1.3 The Chief Constable is accountable under law for the exercise of police powers and to the Commissioner for the delivery of efficient and effective policing in Cheshire. While the Chief Constable discharges their responsibilities in support of the Commissioner's Police & Crime Plan, they remain at all times operationally independent.
- 1.4 Production of an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is a requirement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2015 and ensures that a reliable system of internal controls can be demonstrated. The AGS meets the requirements of Regulation 6 (1) (b) of the Accounts and Audit (England and Wales) Regulations 2015, which requires all relevant bodies to prepare an Annual Governance Statement. The AGS also demonstrates the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constables' commitment to the principles of good governance as identified in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016 where applicable to policing bodies.
- 1.5 In March 2022, CIPFA published an advisory note setting out key messages surrounding recent governance failures identified in statutory and non-statutory reviews and public interest reports. While Cheshire has not been part of these reviews or reports, there are lessons to be learned for all organisations that take governance seriously. One key message relates to the AGS - this is a key document for any organisation, and when completed correctly and with rigour, it can be used to identify failings of governance and provide an opportunity internally to improve and thereby reduce risk. It should normally be approved at the same time or no later than the statement of accounts and should be regarded as a vital tool by those charged with governance and the leadership team.
- 1.6 The AGS is and always has been, a key corporate document in Cheshire, which provides an accurate representation of the corporate governance arrangements and controls in place that have supported the delivery of organisational objectives during the year. The AGS provides information about where arrangements have been effective and notes where any improvements are required.

1.7 The governance framework detailed below has been in place for the year ended 31 March 2022 and up to the date of approval of the Statement of Accounts.

## 2. The Governance Framework

2.1 The Commissioner is responsible for ensuring that business is conducted in accordance with the law, with openness and engagement with stakeholders and that risk is managed through robust internal control and strong public finance management to deliver effective accountability. The Commissioner has adopted a Scheme of Corporate Governance, which sets out the governance framework that will assist in enabling the Commissioner and Chief Constable to fulfil their statutory functions. The Scheme is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure it remains up to date and relevant, taking into account local and national changes in the way the police service operates.

2.2 Within the Scheme of Corporate Governance, there are a number of documents as indicated below that can be viewed in full on the Commissioner's website ([Governance Documents](#)). These documents have all been reviewed and updated during 2021/22.

- Code of Corporate Governance – this describes how the Commissioner will discharge their responsibilities to secure an efficient and effective local police service and hold the Chief Constable to account for the exercise of their functions and those of persons under their direction and control.
- Procedural Rules – these rules relate to the business & proceedings of the Commissioner and Chief Constable including how decisions are taken.
- Scheme of Consent & Delegation - this sets out which functions are reserved to the Commissioner, which are delegated to the Chief Constable and how the Commissioner will delegate functions to his own staff.
- Financial Regulations - under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 'every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs'. Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, both Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables are required to comply with Section 151 requirements. The Financial Regulations set out how this duty is discharged.
- Constabulary's Scheme of Delegation – covers the financial and non-operational decision-making powers the Chief Constable has delegated to their officers and staff
- Memorandum of Understanding – this sets out how the Commissioner obtains additional services to supplement his core office of staff (OPCC) which the Chief Constable will provide in pursuant to their obligations of assistance and in furtherance of the Commissioner's and Chief Constable's joint vision of working together in partnership, without compromising the Commissioner's powers and duty to hold the Chief Constable to account

2.3 The above framework sets out the relationship between the Commissioner and Chief Constable in both decision-making and accountability. Within the Constabulary, there is an independent governance framework, which covers both operational and business decision

making with the SLT Business Meeting, being the primary decision-making body for the Constabulary.

- 2.4 In line with Home Office guidelines, the Commissioner and Chief Constable have established an independent Joint Audit Advisory Committee. This committee consider internal and external audit reports and advise and provide assurance to the Commissioner and Chief Constable according to good governance principles and proper practices.
- 2.5 The Covid-19 pandemic continued to have an effect on governance procedures during 2021/22 as face-to-face meetings were not always possible. The organisation's procedures had already been adapted to take account of the requirement for virtual meetings, remote working and electronic signature of documents during 2021/21 and in line with the Coronavirus Act 2020. Whilst face-to-face meetings are now possible as restrictions have been relaxed, the organisation continues to make use of more flexible working arrangements and virtual meetings alongside more traditional working methods and the governance procedures cover these eventualities to ensure adequate control is maintained throughout.
- 2.6 Economic and market forces are still recovering from the effects of covid-19 and the impact is likely to continue for some time with businesses and the public sector experiencing issues around staffing resources and the supply of some goods and services. The Covid infection rate is monitored, and the organisation's gold group will be stood up should this be necessary, with actions being taken to support officers and staff and to ensure service continuity.

### **3. Internal Financial Controls**

- 3.1 The objective of the internal financial controls is to maintain sound and proper financial arrangements; to explain why safeguards and controls are important and necessary; to profile a framework for financial management, which will enable, wherever possible, managerial and financial responsibilities to be aligned and safeguard all officers and staff.
- 3.2 The key documents that set out the internal financial controls are:
  - Financial Regulations – as set out above
  - Scheme of Delegation – as set out above
  - Treasury Management Strategy – approved annually by the Commissioner. This sets out the Annual Investment Strategy, Borrowing Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Statement
  - Treasury Management Practices – which set out the detailed processes and practices to be followed in order to deliver the Treasury Management Strategy
  - Reserves Strategy – which details the reserves held, their intended usage and the strategy for ensuring the funds are maintained at an appropriate level.
- 3.3 In addition to the above, there are a series of governance checks and controls carried out through the Finance and HR teams to ensure financial systems are operating effectively.

These are supported by periodic Internal and External Audit reviews to provide appropriate assurance to those charged with governance or produce actions plans where necessary. The Director of Internal Audit's Opinion and his annual report for 2021/22 provide substantial assurance that there is a good system of internal controls designed to meet the organisation's objectives and that controls are generally being consistently applied. The Director of Internal Audit carries out his role in accordance with guidance issued in the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit (2019).

- 3.4 CIPFA published 'The Financial Management Code' (FM Code) in 2019. It is designed to support good practice in financial management and to assist local authorities in demonstrating their financial sustainability. The FM Code, for the first time, sets the standards of financial management for local authorities including police. The FM Code is based on a series of principles supported by specific standards which are considered necessary to provide the strong foundation to:
- financially manage the short, medium and long-term finances of a local authority;
  - manage financial resilience to meet unforeseen demands on services; and
  - manage unexpected shocks in their financial circumstances.
- 3.5 Each organisation designated to apply the FM Code must demonstrate that the requirements of the code are being satisfied. Demonstrating compliance with the FM Code is a collective responsibility of the Commissioner, Chief Constable, their respective chief finance officers (CFO) and their professional colleagues in the leadership team. Both CFOs are professionally qualified and are members of their respective leadership teams. Senior finance and leadership representatives sit on all key decision-making boards (e.g. Change Board and Programme Board).
- 3.6 The documents within the governance framework within which the Constabulary and OPCC operate are updated regularly to ensure that controls and procedures satisfy the requirements of the code and demonstrate good governance. The framework was reviewed and updated by the Constabulary and OPCC statutory officers during 2021/22 and the revised documents were signed off at Joint Management Board. Controls are reviewed by external audit as part of their work on the Statement of Accounts and also by Internal Audit in line with their annual audit plan.
- 3.7 A whistle blowing policy is in place which is managed and investigated by the Professional Standards Department (PSD). This policy is currently under review and will be updated shortly. The force has a corruption and control strategy which is formulated by a local and regional corruption threat assessment. PSD also approve and record business interests and ensure compliance with the gifts and hospitality policy.
- 3.8 Further assurance is provided by HM Inspectorate of Constabularies, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) who carried out a police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL) assessment of the effectiveness with which Cheshire Constabulary keep people safe and reduce crime. This review has now been completed and results will be published in due course.

#### 4. Good Governance in the Police

- 4.1 In 2016, CIPFA, in association with various groups including the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, issued best practice guidance on Delivering Good Governance. It sets out seven principles of good governance which are illustrated below:



- 4.2 The ethos of the above is for principles A and B to permeate the implementation of principles C to G. It also illustrates that good governance is dynamic and that an organisation as a whole should be committed to continually improving through a process of evaluation and review. Each principle will be considered from the perspective of both the Commissioner and Chief Constable.

#### 5. Principle A: Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law

- 5.1 Commissioners and Chief Constables have responsibility for creating an environment where the Code of Ethics can thrive by setting standards, policies and principles that help in embedding the Code. The Code of Ethics consists of two main parts – 'Policing Principles' and 'Standards of Behaviour'. The former originates from the Principles of Public Life to which has been added 'fairness' and 'respect' as the evidence base demonstrates they are crucial to enhancing public confidence. How fair an organisation is perceived to be internally by its people is likely to affect the extent to which they feel valued by, and part of, that organisation. This sense of having a stake in that organisation has been shown to affect staff willingness to comply voluntarily with work rules, hold positive attitudes about the public and engage in a range of positive work behaviours. The work environment fostered by police leaders and supervisors is, therefore, likely to affect the ethical health of a force.
- 5.2 Cheshire Constabulary has fully adopted the Code of Ethics from its inception in 2014 and this has been embedded into everyday decision-making.

- 5.3 The PSD is responsible for the receipt, recording and investigation of public complaints against the conduct of officers and members of police staff and investigating allegations of misconduct within the Cheshire Constabulary. The behaviour and integrity of police officers and members of police staff are at the very core of the Constabulary's values and service ethos and the department engages widely within the Constabulary to promote and uphold these exacting standards. The Department is responsible for the Constabulary's anti-fraud and corruption arrangements together with their whistle blowing procedures. In addition, the Department records all gifts and hospitality and business interests to ensure the integrity and transparency against any conflicts of interests.
- 5.4 The Policing and Crime Act 2017 and supporting regulations made significant changes to the complaints and disciplinary systems that took effect from 01 February 2020. They introduced a number of changes designed to achieve a more customer-focused complaints system. Local accountability was enhanced through changes to the role of local policing bodies (Police & Crime Commissioners) which now have a statutory responsibility to hold their Chief Constable to account for the performance of the complaints system locally and for ensuring there are appropriate processes in place for dealing with conduct and death or serious injury (DSI) matters.
- 5.5 In addition, all local policing bodies now have certain duties in relation to the handling of complaints, some of which are mandatory and now a statutory responsibility. For example, from 01 February 2020, the Police & Crime Commissioner became a relevant review body (RRB) for complaints (recorded on or after 01 February 2020) and assumed responsibility for determining whether the outcome of a complaint was reasonable and proportionate. This change aimed to increase independence and transparency, particularly at a local level.
- 5.6 It should be noted that depending on the circumstances of the initial complaint, the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) may be the relevant review body. The determination in relation to the relevant review body will be made by the Professional Standards Department.
- 5.7 Both the Commissioner and Chief Constable have Monitoring Officers whose role is to advise on the rule of law and ensure decision-making is legally sound and compliant with the Governance Framework. Any breaches are reported to the Commissioner and Chief Constable – no breaches were reported during 2021/22.

## **6. Principle B: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement**

- 6.1 Public views on policing, their priorities and their experiences both in terms of crime and interaction with the Constabulary has and continues to have, a direct impact on the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan and priorities.
- 6.2 In setting the Police and Crime Plan, the Commissioner stated 'Cheshire residents' views have been paramount in developing this Plan. Whether you've spoken to me face-to-face, written to me via email or letter or taken part in a consultation, your views have been considered as I developed the Plan's priorities to ensure they reflect yours.' The full plan is available on the Commissioner's website ([Police and Crime Plan](#)).

- 6.3 In November and December 2021 the Commissioner carried out the largest ever consultation on policing in Cheshire, with a survey sent to every household in the county and nearly 19,000 people sharing their view on policing and crime in their community.
- 6.4 As part of the budget and precept setting process, the Commissioner undertakes public consultation on his proposed council tax precept increase on an annual basis. The budget and precept proposals are also subject to scrutiny by the independent Police and Crime Panel on behalf of the public. Councillor members of the panel represent all local authorities across Cheshire.
- 6.5 In January 2022, the consultation on the Commissioner's precept proposal had the highest number of responses of any precept consultation and residents backed the proposal with 70% in support. During this consultation period, the Commissioner held more in-person 'consultation roadshows' around the county than had been held before.
- 6.6 The Constabulary undertakes regular telephone surveys of both victims of crime and the general public in Cheshire to gauge satisfaction with the services provided. The latest results show that 80% of victims of crime are satisfied with the overall level of service.
- 6.7 As of 2021, the Constabulary also runs a 'residents voice' campaign to gather views of the public on local policing and priorities. This is an innovative online satisfaction tool, which allows the public to complete a short online survey giving their views on crime, anti-social behaviour and policing within their local community. Officers and PCSOs provide members of the public with a 'QR code' which is scannable on a mobile device and takes the resident straight to the survey. The data obtained is then uploaded onto the Power Bi platform where it can be filtered, analysed and understood on a street by street or community basis. This powerful tool allows officers to canvass and respond to needs particular to a specific area. During 2021/22 there were over 10,000 responses provided from across the Force area which were used to inform local operational priorities.
- 6.8 As part of the virtual meeting arrangements brought in as a response to the pandemic as set out in paragraph 2.5, the ability of the public to have access to public meetings which were still held virtually was enabled through the use of technology. All public meetings are publicised together with the agendas, on the OPCC website.

## **7. Principle C: Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social & environmental benefits**

- 7.1 The Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan sets out how economic, social and environmental factors will be considered in decision making around delivering these priorities, and how the success in achieving these priorities will be monitored and reviewed, including holding the Chief Constable to account.
- 7.2 A Medium-Term Financial Strategy is produced annually, reviewed regularly and updated as necessary. It sets out the financial assumptions and demands upon the Constabulary to highlight budgetary pressures and the options available to address any funding shortfalls to ensure sustainability. Scenario planning is completed to highlight financial risks to key budget assumptions and ensure the authority understands the impact on its future

financial stability of any strategic, operational and financial challenges it might face. Financial risks such as inflationary pressures or changes to Police Uplift Programme funding are also considered in the MTFs and in the organisation's strategic risk register.

- 7.3 Alongside this overarching document are the more detailed Capital Strategy and Reserves Strategy. All of these financial strategies are directly linked to the Estates, Fleet and IT strategies which are reviewed and signed off at JMB meetings. All strategies are published on the PCC website.
- 7.4 Clear reference is made to achieving value for money (VFM) in the annual budget and relevant strategic documents and the Constabulary and OPCC have a clear and consistent understanding of VFM and how this is measured and monitored. Annual reports on VFM which consider the HMICFRS VFM indicators are reviewed by the JAAC and senior leadership.
- 7.5 Prudential indicators are set in line with the CIPFA Prudential Code, and these are included in the Annual Treasury Management Strategy. They are monitored by the s151 officers and reported to JMB in the Treasury Management Update report which is available on the PCC's website.
- 7.6 An Asset Management Strategy and Plan are in place and are reviewed and updated regularly. The plan aims to ensure that the authority's property, plant and equipment contribute effectively to service delivery and the achievement of key objectives.
- 7.7 The Ethical Procurement Strategy sets out the authority's position with regards to social value and ethical procurement. The strategy outlines the ethical responsibilities and core objectives of the Commissioner and the Chief Constable in relation to their supply chain and in regards to human rights (including modern slavery), social value, equality and diversity, environment and sustainability and fraud, corruption and bribery.
- 8. Principle D: Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes**
- 8.1 The Scheme of Corporate Governance sets out a decision-making framework which ensures that all decisions taken by the Commissioner and Chief Constable are supported by all relevant information, including financial, legal and other appropriate professional advice, that available options are considered and that internal and external stakeholders are consulted. All decisions are formally recorded, and published subject to confidentiality requirements.
- 8.2 The Commissioner has a statutory duty and electoral mandate to hold the Chief Constable to account on behalf of the public of Cheshire. The Commissioner does this by scrutinising, supporting and challenging the performance of the Constabulary, including against the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan. The Commissioner undertakes this role at Scrutiny Board. These meetings consider performance against the priorities identified in the Police and Crime Plan as well as a wide range of performance information relating to all aspect of policing. Performance data can be found on the Commissioner's website [www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-i-do/holding-the-chief-constable-to-account/performance](http://www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-i-do/holding-the-chief-constable-to-account/performance).

8.3 HMICFRS produce Value for Money profiles, which are available via their website. These profiles benchmark Cheshire's costs and resources both operationally and for support services against our most similar forces and policing as a whole. These profiles are reviewed and used to support resource allocation debates and as part of the budget setting process.

8.4 Key risks to financial sustainability are highlighted in the annual budget and MTFS. These are also reported in the strategic risk register which is reviewed regularly at SLT and JMB. The latest strategic risk register is also considered at each JAAC meeting. Throughout the year, revenue and capital monitoring reports are prepared and reviewed at SLT and JMB. These reports highlight potential issues and suggest appropriate remedial actions.

## **9. Principle E: Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it**

9.1 Cheshire Constabulary is a high performing organisation offering a range of career opportunities. It provides a broad range of police and police staff roles with career pathways to develop. It is structured and provides progression and fast track opportunities. Support and advice are provided to assist everyone in their career journey. Overall, it is recognised that as professionals it is our responsibility to be as good as we can be and in doing so ensure we invest time to learn and develop to meet the changing needs of the communities we serve.

9.2 Cheshire Constabulary has a key priority for organisational learning. As an organisation, the vision is:

- To be a learning organisation through the creation, retention, sharing and using of knowledge.
- This Organisational Learning area is the Constabulary's hub where practitioners learn through the creation, retention, sharing and using of knowledge.
- The Organisational Learning area is the gateway to the Constabulary's What Works programme, where practitioners can learn about evidence-based practice, its practical application and view examples of effective problem solving.

9.3 As part of the national programme for uplifting officer numbers, the Constabulary has now welcomed 90 new officers during 2021/22, alongside the usual annual recruitment programme. The Constabulary continues to invest in the skills of its workforce, including areas such as detective training to ensure resilience and future capacity. Police officer numbers in Cheshire are now at their highest level in modern times and are higher than pre-austerity levels. Cheshire has fully met their national Police Officer Uplift target for both 2020/21 and 2021/22 and are on track to meet their 2022/23 target despite national recruitment issues, partially caused by Covid-19. Officer numbers are subject to scrutiny on a regular basis and returns are submitted to the Home Office quarterly.

## **10. Principle F: Managing risks & performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management**

- 10.1 The role of the Commissioner and the Chief Constable at the Joint Management Board is to scrutinise and approve the risk register quarterly as part of the approved Risk Management Framework. The role of Joint Audit Advisory Committee is to review and advise the Commissioner and the Chief Constable on the adequacy of action plans and actions taken to mitigate each risk on a quarterly basis. Risks provide a forward look at upcoming issues such as the Formula Funding Review as well as reflecting the current situation and are regularly reviewed and updated. All areas of operational, governance and financial risk are reflected in the register and there are sections for Constabulary risks, OPCC risks and joint risks.
- 10.2 During 2021/22, the JAAC provided independent assurance to those charged with governance on the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of the financial reporting and governance processes within the Constabulary and OPCC.
- 10.3 The review and subsequent update/amendment to the risk register ensures that there is a joined-up approach between the Commissioner and the Chief Constable and that the key risks are evaluated, managed, mitigated, scrutinised and reported top down and bottom up through both Leadership Teams.
- 10.4 In response to Covid-19, Cheshire Constabulary followed advice from Public Health England (PHE) and NHS in keeping our officers and staff safe. Structures were put in place to make sure the Constabulary were properly managing any impact on the organisation and regular Gold meetings were held during the pandemic to ensure up to date information was shared quickly and effectively.
- 10.5 The Constabulary has a comprehensive performance management framework in place known as 'Raising the Bar'. This includes a suite of key performance indicators which ensure delivery of the objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan and other key local and national priorities. The framework utilises the SARA approach to problem solving and sharing of good practice.
- 10.6 Performance against this framework is monitored through regular 1-2-1 meetings, Area Performance Meetings Quarterly Performance Meetings and a monthly Force Performance Day. These meetings highlight any problems which need to be solved, these are then entered into the problem-solving site on the intranet. Monthly audits are performed by the problem-solving team to review mitigations which are still open on the site.
- 10.7 Performance is scrutinised by the Commissioner at regular public scrutiny meetings and actions are identified at these meetings, which are kept under review and progress reported to the Commissioner.
- 10.8 Cashflow, short and long-term borrowing, investments and the use of reserves and balances are monitored by both s.151 officers and are reported to the Commissioner and Chief Constable in Treasury Management updates at Joint Management Board.
- 10.9 Processes are in place to ensure Officers and staff are aware of the threat of cyber crime and can recognise potential cyber security threats and take appropriate action. Plans are in

place to ensure this information is kept continuously up-to-date and is disseminated across the organisation.

## **11. Principle G: Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability**

11.1 All key joint decisions are taken collectively by the Constabulary's Senior Leadership Team and the Joint Management Board. The Joint Management Board is where decisions are made, and Scrutiny Board is where the Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account. Both meetings publish papers in advance of their meetings and the meetings themselves are open to the public. All key PCC decisions of significant public interest are published on the PCC's website.

11.2 The Police and Crime Panel (PCP), which is a statutory body, independent of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, oversees the work of the Commissioner. Its role includes reviewing the Commissioner's proposals for the amount of council tax local people pay towards policing. It has the power to veto these proposals if it considers the amount is inappropriate; considering the Police and Crime Plan and Annual Report; considering the Commissioner's proposals for the appointment of a new Chief Constable, with the power to veto; and investigating complaints about the Commissioner. Cheshire East hosted the PCP for 2021/22 and details of these meetings can be found on their website.

11.3 Both the Commissioner and Chief Constable have Publication Schemes on their respective websites listing information available and a means of contact should the information required not be included.

11.4 The Constabulary's Information Management team co-ordinate all information held to ensure compliance with all the appropriate requirements including Freedom of Information requests and Data Protection. The OPCC liaises closely with the Information Management team in relation to Freedom of Information requests and Data Protection issues, however these are managed by the OPCC Principal Governance and Compliance Officer to ensure that organisational independence is maintained.

11.5 Assurance on the effectiveness of governance and controls is also provided the Joint Audit Advisory Committee. The organisation's governance and controls are subject to review from bodies such as HMICFRS, External Audit and Internal Audit and reviews of the framework are undertaken by Joint Management Board. The governance framework and internal and external audit opinions are published on the PCC's website.

11.6 The authority has a good track record of early close-down and external audit sign off and was one of less than 10% of local authorities (including policing bodies) which received external audit sign off by the 2020/21 deadline.

## **12. Review of Effectiveness**

12.1 As part of the on-going governance roles, each of the above principles is reviewed and evidence sourced to show effectiveness in terms of communications, actions, policies and procedures. This evidence is scrutinised and is subject to challenge by the Commissioner's S.151 Officer and Chief Executive, the Constabulary S.151 Officer and Monitoring Officer.

- 12.2 The Constabulary report quarterly on their performance against key national priorities and advise on areas of focus for the forthcoming quarter. This information is shared publicly on the OPCC website.
- 12.3 External assurance in terms of accountability is provided by both Internal and External Audit, HMICFRS reviews and partner forces reviews of collaborations. Assurance is also provided by volunteers including Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) who make unannounced visits to police stations to check on the rights, wellbeing and treatment of detainees, the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) which advises on all aspects of equality and diversity and the Community Cohesion Group (CCG) which reviews policies and procedures and provides advice on ways to improve service delivery to all communities.
- 12.4 All audit reports are presented to the Joint Audit Advisory Committee and published on the websites. Public notices in relation to the accounts are also published on the websites in line with statutory requirements. Outstanding actions from relevant reviews are reported to each JAAC meeting in the Service Assurance Plan and follow up reports from internal and external audit also go to JAAC meetings.
- 12.5 Procurement savings are tracked internally through the Strategic Procurement Group and are reported to Blue Light Commercial on a quarterly basis. Cashable savings are reviewed during the annual Priority Based Budget (PBB) process and removed from the annual revenue budget.

**12.6 Report on Areas for Action during 2021/22**

Within the 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement, the review of effectiveness identified three areas where further action was required. The following re-visits the actions which have satisfactorily addressed the issues raised and reports on the outcomes in 2021/22.

**Business Services Future** – with the Multi-Force Shared Service (MFSS) closing at the end of the current contract, the Constabulary is setting up new systems and processes to replace MFSS. Governance and controls need to be built in to ensure service delivery and financial integrity. (Owner: Assistant Chief Officer)

**UPDATE:** Cheshire took control of running its own transactional services from April 2022 and transferred the final elements away from Oracle and onto the new suite of systems in July 2022. This was a phased process covering April 2021 (recruitment), November 2021 (training and learning management), June 2022 (DMS) and July 2022 (payroll, HR, Finance, Logistics). All transactions are now being run successfully away from the CapGemini and Oracle contracts, and the MFSS has been disbanded, with a small team in place to finalise the data transfers and safe removal in line with the contractual obligations. Liabilities relating to any staffing or contractual costs have either been mitigated or agreed inside the Section 22 cost sharing arrangements with partner forces, and Cheshire's share of these is in line with the partnership agreement. There are no excess costs falling on the Constabulary as a result of these changes, and any contractual threat resulting from delayed transfer from the systems has been avoided.

The systems are running well, and a period of consolidation is now underway to develop and integrate these systems to maximise efficiency going forwards (Phase 2). This will deliver enhanced performance and value for money and advance the digital and efficiency agenda for the Constabulary, and the management of the systems sits within our own IT, HR and Finance departments in line with all other IT systems.

Governance controls, internal control, risk and security environment have all been reviewed as part of this, and business continuity and integrity are kept under review, in line with force policies.

**Workforce capacity, engagement, wellbeing and development** – 2021/22 will see significant change within the organisation including new systems and processes. It is imperative that these are appropriately resources and managed. (Owner: Deputy Chief Constable)

**UPDATE:** In 2021 Cheshire Constabulary have or are in the process of onboarding or enhancing 4 major systems. During 2021 the Department on-boarded OLEEO to replace the recruitment system which was used nationally by a number of other police forces and provided more automated reporting for the Police Uplift Programme. This system is now fully embedded within the force and currently due to introduce the second phase of more enhanced reporting capability.

During 2022 the force enhanced its capability reporting through the on-boarding of further Chronicle modules over and above the firearms modules previously used by the force. This ensures that the force now has one main system to record all training. The Force is also working towards on-boarding Unit 4 for July 2022 which will replace the current Oracle HR system. As part of this work the department have completed full end to end reviews of the workflows across the main HR process of starters, leavers and movers as well as pay, position and organisation hierarchy.

Phase 2 of the systems development will be completed post July 2022 to optimise the integrations across all 4 systems to provide more automation from a capacity and capability perspective.

**Governance** – with the changes to both Commissioner and Chief Constable, the governance arrangements need to reflect their new priorities. The Scheme of Corporate Governance will need to be reviewed and updated accordingly. (Owners: Commissioner and Chief Constable)

**UPDATE:** The Scheme of Corporate Governance was reviewed and the revised Scheme was approved at Joint Management Board in September 2021. This is available on the OPCC website.

## **12.7 Areas for Action in 2022/23**

The governance framework, internal controls and application of the principles have been reviewed during 2021/22 with the following areas highlighted as risks together with the mitigating actions required.

- a) **Business Services Phase 2** - Consolidate and integrate new business services systems and processes to maximise efficiencies and use of resources over the next 12 months (Owner: Assistant Chief Officer)
- b) **HMICFRS Inspection Reports** – the Constabulary should ensure that there are effective governance and controls in place to respond to any ‘Areas for Improvement’ identified by Her Majesties Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) as part of its Inspection programme (Owner: Deputy Chief Constable).

August 2022 Update - -The final version of the HMICFRS PEEL report for Cheshire is now available. The following table summarises the report’s findings.

Good	Adequate	Requires improvement
Preventing crime	Investigating crime	Responding to the public
Treatment of the public	Protecting vulnerable people	Managing offenders
Developing a positive workplace	Good use of resources	
	Recording data about crime	

The constabulary did not wait for the inspection report to be published and drew up a delivery plan to deal with the issues raised by the inspectorate and to ensure that we achieve our ambition of being “outstanding” in all areas of policing. New strategic and business leads have been appointed in key areas and progress is overseen by the Deputy Chief Constable at the HMICFRS Strategic Oversight Meeting. The plan is already delivering results across the force – open crimes have been halved as has the number of outstanding suspects and the waiting time for computers and phones to be examined has gone down from three years and half a year respectively to a couple of months and a few days. The Force Control Centre has made significant improvements in 999 and 101 call answering times with Cheshire now outstripping most other forces in England and Wales in recently published national league tables.

### 13. Summary

- 13.1 We are satisfied that the governance framework and arrangements in place during 2021/22 and up to the date the accounts were signed are adequate and fit for purpose. The arrangements are subject to independent review and assurance from various sources as noted in paragraphs 12.3.
- 13.2 We propose over the coming year to take steps to address the issues identified in paragraph 12.7 above to further enhance the governance arrangements. Additional actions can be taken in-year through the business planning and objective setting processes. We are satisfied that these steps will address the need for improvement as identified in the review of effectiveness and will monitor their implementations and operation as part of the next annual review.

John Dwyer  
Police & Crime Commissioner

Mark Roberts  
Chief Constable

Clare Hodgson  
Chief Finance Officer, OPCC

On behalf of the staff and senior officers of the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for  
Cheshire and Cheshire Constabulary

# The Joint Audit Findings for Cheshire Police

**Year ended 31 March 2022**

The Police and Crime Commissioner for  
Cheshire and Chief Constable for Cheshire

September 2022



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**This Audit Findings presents the observations arising from the audit that are significant to the responsibility of those charged with governance to oversee the financial reporting process, as required by International Standard on Auditing (UK) 260. Its contents have been discussed with management and are being presented to the 29 September JAAC meeting.**

**Michael Green**

**For Grant Thornton UK LLP**

**Date : September 2022**

**UK LLP**

**Date :**

The contents of this report relate only to the matters which have come to our attention, which we believe need to be reported to you as part of our audit planning process. It is not a comprehensive record of all the relevant matters, which may be subject to change, and in particular we cannot be held responsible to you for reporting all of the risks which may affect the PCC and Chief Constable or all weaknesses in your internal controls. This report has been prepared solely for your benefit and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. We do not accept any responsibility for any loss occasioned to any third party acting, or refraining from acting on the basis of the content of this report, as this report was not prepared for, nor intended for, any other purpose.

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# 1. Headlines

This table summarises the key findings and other matters arising from the statutory audits of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire ('the OPCC') and the Chief Constable for Cheshire ('CC') and the preparation of the OPCC's and CC's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 for those charged with governance.

## Financial Statements

Under International Standards of Audit (UK) (ISAs) and the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'), we are required to report whether, in our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial positions of the OPCC and Chief Constable's income and expenditure for the year; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting and prepared in accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We are also required to report whether other information published together with each set of audited financial statements (including the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) and Narrative Report) is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

Our audit work was completed remotely during July-September. Our findings are summarised on pages 5 to 17.

We have identified no adjustments to the financial statements other than minor disclosure adjustments. Audit adjustments are detailed in Appendix C.

Our follow up of recommendations from the prior year's audits are detailed in Appendix B.

Our work is substantially complete and there are no matters of which we are aware that would require modification of our audit opinion for the PCC's financial statements (including the financial statements which consolidate the financial activities of the Chief Constable) or the Chief Constable's financial statements [Appendices E and F] or material changes to the financial statements, subject to the following outstanding matters;

- Completion of our work on Property, Plant and Equipment – delayed primarily due to not receiving responses from the valuer until 9 September, however this is now mostly complete;
- Finalisation of our work on pensions and the pension fund account, including receipt of assurances from the auditor of the Cheshire Pension Fund;
- Completion of our work on collection fund debtors and creditors;
- Finalising our work on collaborations;
- Completion of all substantive testing as well as final manager and engagement lead review
- Receipt of management representation letter – see appendix G and H; and
- review of the final set of financial statements.

We have concluded that the other information to be published with each set of financial statements is consistent with our knowledge of your organisations and the financial statements we have audited.

Our anticipated audit report opinions will be unmodified.

# 1. Headlines

## Value for Money (VFM) arrangements

Under the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'), we are required to consider whether in our opinion, both entities have put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Auditors are now required to report in more detail on the overall arrangements, as well as key recommendations on any significant weaknesses in arrangements identified during the audit.

Auditors are required to report their commentary on the arrangements under the following specified criteria:

- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness;
- Financial sustainability; and
- Governance

We have not yet completed all of our VFM work and so are not in a position to issue our Auditor's Annual Report. An audit letter explaining the reasons for the delay is attached in the Appendix I to this report. We expect to issue our Auditor's Annual Report by [add date]. This is in line with the National Audit Office's revised deadline, which requires the Auditor's Annual Report to be issued no more than three months after the date of the opinion on the financial statements (delete if n/a).

As part of our work, we considered whether there were any risks of significant weakness in the PCC and Chief Constable's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We identified a risk in respect of the transition from Multi-Force Shared Services (MFSS). Our work on this risk is underway and an update is set out in the value for money arrangements section of this report.

## Statutory duties

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ('the Act') also requires us to:

- report to you if we have applied any of the additional powers and duties ascribed to us under the Act; and
- to certify the closure of the audits.

We have not exercised any of our additional statutory powers or duties.

We expect to certify the completion of the audit upon the completion of our work on the Authority's VFM arrangements, which will be reported in our Annual Auditor's report in November/December 2022, and upon completion of our Whole of Government Accounts reporting, the timetable for which has not yet been issued.

## Significant Matters

We did not encounter any significant difficulties or identify any significant matters arising during our audit.

# 2. Financial Statements

## Overview of the scope of our audit

This Joint Audit Findings Report presents the observations arising from the audits that are significant to the responsibility of those charged with governance to oversee the financial reporting process, as required by International Standard on Auditing (UK) 260 and the Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'). Its contents have been discussed with management and will be presented to the JAAC meeting on 29 September 2022.

As auditor we are responsible for performing the audits, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and the Code, which are directed towards forming and expressing an opinion on each set of financial statements that have been prepared by management with the oversight of those charged with governance. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements.

## Audit approach

Our audit approach was based on a thorough understanding of the PCC and Chief Constable's business and is risk based, and in particular included:

- An evaluation of the PCC's and Chief Constable's internal controls environment, including its IT systems and controls;
- Substantive testing on significant transactions and material account balances, including the procedures outlined in this report in relation to the key audit risks

## Conclusion

We have substantially completed our audits of your financial statements and, subject to outstanding queries being resolved, we anticipate issuing an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements of both the PCC and the Chief Constable following the JAAC meeting on 29 September 2022, as detailed in Appendices E & F. These outstanding items are listed on slide 4.

### Acknowledgements

We would like to take this opportunity to record our appreciation for the assistance provided by the finance team and other staff. We did experience some delays in information from the OPCC & CC's experts on Property, Plant and Equipment only receiving responses to our enquiries from April 2022 in September 2022.

## 2. Financial Statements



### Our approach to materiality

The concept of materiality is fundamental to the preparation of the financial statements and the audit process and applies not only to the monetary misstatements but also to disclosure requirements and adherence to acceptable accounting practice and applicable law.

Materiality levels remain the same as reported in our audit plan on 28 July 2022.

We detail in the table opposite our determination of materiality.

	Group (£'000)	PCC (£'000)	Chief Constable Amount (£'000)	Qualitative factors considered
Materiality for the financial statements	6,476	5,208	6,296	Financial performance, focussing on the expenditure.
Performance materiality	4,857	3,906	4,702	Quality of working papers in prior year and client's response to audit processes.
Trivial matters	324	260	313	The amount below which matters would be considered trivial to the reader of the accounts.
Materiality for senior office remuneration	60	60	60	Materiality has been reduced for remuneration disclosures due to the sensitive nature and public interest.

We have determined financial statement materiality based on a proportion of the gross expenditure on the provision of services of the group, the PCC and the Chief Constable for the financial year. In the prior year we used gross expenditure on the cost of services. For our audit testing purposes we apply the lowest of these materialities, which is £5,208k (PY 4,472k), which equates to 2% of the PCC's gross expenditure or the year.



## 2. Financial Statements - Significant risks

Significant risks are defined by ISAs (UK) as risks that, in the judgement of the auditor, require special audit consideration. In identifying risks, audit teams consider the nature of the risk, the potential magnitude of misstatement, and its likelihood. Significant risks are those risks that have a higher risk of material misstatement.

This section provides commentary on the significant audit risks communicated in the Audit Plan.

Risks identified in our Audit Plan	Relates to	Commentary
<p><b>Management override of controls</b></p> <p>Under ISA 240 (UK) there is a non-rebuttable presumed risk that the risk of management override of controls is present in all entities. The OPCC &amp; CC faces external scrutiny of its spending and this could potentially place management under undue pressure in terms of how they report performance.</p> <p>We therefore identified management override of control, in particular journals, management estimates and transactions outside the course of business as a significant risk, which was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement.</p>	<p>Chief Constable, OPCC and Group</p>	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>evaluated the design effectiveness of management controls over journals</li> <li>analysed the journals listing and determine the criteria for selecting high risk unusual journals</li> <li>tested unusual journals recorded during the year and after the draft accounts stage for appropriateness and corroboration</li> <li>gained an understanding of the accounting estimates and critical judgements applied made by management and consider their reasonableness with regard to corroborative evidence</li> <li>evaluated the rationale for any changes in accounting policies, estimates or significant unusual transactions.</li> </ul> <p>A sample of journals was selected based on consideration of specific risk based criteria. Testing has not identified any instances of management override and that journal entries are consistent with expectations and our work is substantially complete.</p> <p>We did not identify any changes in accounting policies or estimation processes and review of key estimates has not identified any matters to bring to your attention. Work on pension estimates is still ongoing as noted in the specific sections for these areas.</p>



## 2. Financial Statements - Significant risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan	Relates to	Commentary
<p><b>ISA240 revenue and expenditure risk</b></p> <p>Under ISA (UK) 240 and PN 10 there is a rebuttable presumed risk that revenue and expenditure may be misstated due to the improper recognition of revenue and expenditure.</p> <p>This presumption can be rebutted if the auditor concludes that there is no risk of material misstatement due to fraud relating to revenue and expenditure recognition.</p>	<p><b>Chief Constable, OPCC and Group</b></p>	<p>Having considered the risk factors set out in ISA240, PN 10 and the nature of the revenue and expenditure streams of the OPCC and the Chief Constable, we have determined that the risk of fraud arising from revenue and expenditure recognition can be rebutted, because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is little incentive to manipulate revenue and expenditure recognition;</li> <li>• opportunities to manipulate revenue and expenditure recognition are very limited;</li> <li>• all revenue received by the Chief Constable comes from the OPCC; and</li> <li>• the culture and ethical frameworks of public sector bodies, including the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, mean that all forms of fraud are seen as unacceptable.</li> </ul> <p>Therefore we do not consider this to be a significant risk for the Chief Constable, OPCC or Group.</p> <p>We tested, on a sample basis, material revenue and expenditure transactions, ensuring that it remained appropriate to rebut the presumed risk of revenue and expenditure recognition. Our work is mostly complete with just some final parts of our grant income and employee remuneration testing to complete. There have been no changes to our assessment as reported in the audit plan.</p>
<p><b>Valuation of land and buildings</b></p> <p>The OPCC and Group revalue their land and buildings on a rolling five-yearly basis. This valuation represents a significant estimate by management in the financial statements due to the size of the numbers involved (£121 million as at 31 March 2022 per group balance sheet) and the sensitivity of this estimate to changes in key assumptions. Additionally, management will need to ensure the carrying value in the OPCC and Group financial statements is not materially different from the current value or the fair value (for surplus assets) at the financial statements date, where a rolling programme is used.</p> <p>We therefore identified valuation of land and buildings, particularly revaluations and impairments, as a significant risk of material misstatement.</p>	<p><b>OPCC and Group</b></p>	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• evaluated management's processes and assumptions for the calculation of the estimate, the instructions issued to valuation experts and the scope of their work</li> <li>• evaluated the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the valuation expert</li> <li>• written to the valuer to confirm the basis on which the valuation was carried out to ensure that the requirements of the Code are met</li> <li>• challenged the information and assumptions used by the valuer to assess the completeness and consistency with our understanding</li> <li>• tested revaluations made during the year to see if they had been input correctly into the OPCC and Group asset register</li> </ul> <p>Page 11 provides a detailed assessment of the estimation process for the valuation of the property, plant and equipment.</p> <p>At the time of writing, our work is substantially complete subject to final review. We noted that some of the floor areas on the floor plans were different than the floor areas used in the valuations. We calculated the differences identified and are comfortable there were no material differences, however we have raised a recommendation in respect of this at Appendix A.</p> <p>Based on procedures completed to date, we have no further matters to bring to your attention.</p>

## 2. Financial Statements - Significant risks

### Risks identified in our Audit Plan

### Relates to

### Commentary

#### Valuation of pension fund net liability

The Groups pension fund net liability is made up of amounts relating to the Local Government Pension Scheme (£79m) and the Police Pension and Injury award schemes (£2,506m). These liabilities totalling £2,585m in the Group balance sheet, represent a significant estimate in the financial statements that is sensitive to changes in key assumptions.

The methods applied in the calculation of the IAS 19 estimates are routine and commonly applied by all actuarial firms in line with the requirements set out in the Code of practice for local government accounting (the applicable financial reporting framework). We have therefore concluded that there is not a significant risk of material misstatement in the IAS 19 estimate due to the methods and models used in their calculation.

The source data used by the actuaries to produce the IAS 19 estimates is provided by administering authorities and employers. We do not consider this to be a significant risk as this is easily verifiable.

The actuarial assumptions used are the responsibility of the entity but should be set on the advice given by the actuary. A small change in the key assumptions (discount rate, inflation rate, salary increase and life expectancy) can have a significant impact on the estimated IAS 19 liability. In particular the discount and inflation rates, where our consulting actuary has indicated that a 0.1% change in these two assumptions would have approximately 2% effect on the liability. We have therefore concluded that there is a significant risk of material misstatement in the IAS 19 estimate due to the assumptions used in their calculation. With regard to these assumptions we have therefore identified valuation of the Authority's pension fund net liability as a significant risk.

#### Chief Constable and Group

We have:

- updated our understanding of the processes and controls put in place by management to ensure that the Authority's pension fund net liability is not materially misstated and evaluated the design of the associated controls;
- evaluated the instructions issued by management to their management expert (an actuary) for this estimate and the scope of the actuary's work;
- assessed the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the actuary who carried out the Authority's pension fund valuation;
- assessed the accuracy and completeness of the information provided by the Authority to the actuary to estimate the liability;
- tested the consistency of the pension fund asset and liability and disclosures in the notes to the core financial statements with the actuarial report from the actuary;
- undertaken procedures to confirm the reasonableness of the actuarial assumptions made by reviewing the report of the consulting actuary (as the auditor's expert) and performing any additional procedures suggested within the report;
- agreed the advance payment made to the pension fund during the year to the expected accounting treatment and relevant financial disclosures; and
- obtained assurances from the auditor of Cheshire Pension Fund as to the controls surrounding the validity and accuracy of membership data; contributions data and benefits data sent to the actuary by the pension fund and the fund assets valuation in the Cheshire Pension Fund financial statements.
- tested the data provided to the actuary of the Police Pension Fund.

Pages 12-13 provide a detailed assessment of the estimation process for the valuation of the pension fund net liability

At the time of writing, our work on pension liabilities is ongoing in particular in respect of assessing the reasonableness of the actuarial assumptions and also pending receipt of assurances from the auditor of Cheshire Pension Fund as to the controls surrounding the validity and accuracy of membership data, contributions data and benefits data sent to the actuary by the pension fund and the fund assets valuation in the pension fund financial statements.

Other assumptions in calculating the net pension liability of both schemes are considered to be in line with expectations and at this stage we have not identified any issues with the estimation process.

## 2. Financial Statements – key judgements and estimates

This section provides commentary on key estimates and judgements inline with the enhanced requirements for auditors.

Significant judgement or estimate	Relates to	Summary of management's approach	Audit Comments	Assessment
Land and Building valuations – £121m	OPCC/CC	<p>Management outsource the valuation of their land and buildings to an appropriately qualified external valuer, Bruton Knowles LLP.</p> <p>The valuations are undertaken on a 5 year rolling programme, the Police tender a 5 year contract for the revaluations. In year 1, a full valuation is undertaken and then a desktop valuation is undertaken in the 4 subsequent years, until a full valuation is again due to be undertaken.</p> <p>All Land and Buildings are revalued each year in line with the Entity's revaluation programme. The Valuation provided is at 31/03/22.</p> <p>Assumptions are selected by the valuer in accordance with the Valuation – Global Standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Management review these assumptions and challenge where necessary.</p> <p>The total year end valuation of land and buildings was £121m, a net increase of £10m from 2020/21 (£111m).</p>	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deepened our risk assessment procedures performed including understanding management's processes and controls for the determination of the estimates. This included understanding methods, assumptions and data used, as well as instructions issued to management's experts and the scope of their work.</li> <li>• Assessed the competence, capability and objectivity of management's experts</li> <li>• Tested the completeness and accuracy of the underlying information used to determine the estimate</li> <li>• Worked with the valuers to understand the basis on which the valuations were carried out and considered whether the requirements of the Code were met</li> <li>• Considered the potential impact of changes between valuation date and balance sheet date</li> <li>• Challenged the information and assumptions used by the valuer to assess completeness and consistency with our understanding, for example by agreeing to 3<sup>rd</sup> party RICS information.</li> <li>• Tested revaluations made during the to confirm that they had been input correctly into the Service's asset register</li> <li>• Considered the reasonableness of changes in estimated values based on all of the available evidence and wider sector knowledge</li> <li>• Considered the adequacy of the disclosure of the estimates in the financial statements.</li> </ul> <p>As noted on page 8, our work in this area is complete subject to final review.</p> <p>The work performed to date does not indicate any lack of robustness in management's process for producing this estimate.</p>	Light Purple

### Assessment

- Purple We disagree with the estimation process or judgements that underpin the estimate and consider the estimate to be potentially materially misstated
- Blue We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider optimistic
- Grey We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider cautious
- Light Purple We consider management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious

## 2. Financial Statements - key judgements and estimates

Significant judgement or estimate	Relates to	Summary of management's approach	Audit Comments	Assessment																								
<b>Net pension liability – LGPS : £79m</b>  <b>Police Officer Pension Schemes : £2,506m</b>	OPCC/CC	<p>The actuarial gains and losses figures are calculated by OPCC &amp; CC's actuarial experts. These figures are based on making % adjustments to the closing values of assets/liabilities.</p> <p>The Group's total net pension liability at 31 March 2022 is £2,585m (PY £2,584m).</p> <p>The Group use Hymans Robertson LLP and the Government Actuary's Department to provide actuarial valuations of the Authority's assets and liabilities derived from (this scheme/these schemes). A full actuarial valuation is required every three years.</p> <p>The latest full actuarial valuation was completed in 2019. Given the significant value of the net pension fund liability, small changes in assumptions can result in significant valuation movements. There has been a £324m net actuarial loss during 2021/22.</p>	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deepened our risk assessment procedures performed including understanding management's processes and controls for the determination of the estimates. This included understanding methods, assumptions and data used, as well as instructions issued to management's experts and the scope of their work.</li> <li>Undertook procedures to confirm the reasonableness of the actuarial assumptions made by reviewing the report of the consulting actuary (as auditor's expert) and performed additional procedures as suggested in the report (continued overleaf)</li> </ul>	TBC																								
			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Assumption</th> <th>Actuary Value - LGPS</th> <th>Actuary Value - PPS</th> <th>Assessment by Auditors expert PwC</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Discount rate</td> <td>2.75%</td> <td>2.65%</td> <td>● - Assumptions considered reasonable</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pension increase rate</td> <td>3.15%</td> <td>3.00%</td> <td>● - Assumptions considered reasonable</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Salary growth</td> <td>3.85%</td> <td>4.75%</td> <td>● - Assumptions considered reasonable</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Life expectancy – Males currently aged 45 / 65</td> <td>Current 21.2 Future 22.1</td> <td>Current 22.1 Future 23.8</td> <td>● - Assumptions considered reasonable</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Life expectancy – Females currently aged 45 / 65</td> <td>Current 23.8 Future 25.5</td> <td>Current 23.8 Future 25.4</td> <td>● - Assumptions considered reasonable</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Assumption	Actuary Value - LGPS	Actuary Value - PPS	Assessment by Auditors expert PwC	Discount rate	2.75%	2.65%	● - Assumptions considered reasonable	Pension increase rate	3.15%	3.00%	● - Assumptions considered reasonable	Salary growth	3.85%	4.75%	● - Assumptions considered reasonable	Life expectancy – Males currently aged 45 / 65	Current 21.2 Future 22.1	Current 22.1 Future 23.8	● - Assumptions considered reasonable	Life expectancy – Females currently aged 45 / 65	Current 23.8 Future 25.5	Current 23.8 Future 25.4	● - Assumptions considered reasonable	
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### Assessment

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- Light Purple We consider management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious

## 2. Financial Statements - key judgements and estimates

Significant judgement or estimate	Relates to	Summary of management's approach	Audit Comments	Assessment
Net pension liability – £2,585m	OPCC/ CC	See previous page	<p>Continued from page 11...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessed the competence, capability and objectivity of management's experts</li> <li>Tested the completeness and accuracy of the underlying information used to determine the estimate</li> <li>Tested the consistency of the pension fund asset and liability and disclosures in the notes to the core financial statements with the actuarial report from the actuary</li> <li>Considered the reasonableness of changes in estimated values based on all of the available evidence</li> <li>Considered the adequacy of the disclosure of the estimates in the financial statements</li> </ul> <p>As noted on page 9, our work on pension liabilities is ongoing in particular in respect of assessing the reasonableness of the actuarial assumptions and also pending receipt of assurances from the auditor of Cheshire Pension Fund as to the controls surrounding the validity and accuracy of membership data, contributions data and benefits data sent to the actuary by the pension fund and the fund assets valuation in the pension fund financial statements.</p>	TBC

### Assessment

- **Dark Purple** We disagree with the estimation process or judgements that underpin the estimate and consider the estimate to be potentially materially misstated
- **Blue** We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider optimistic
- **Grey** We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider cautious
- **Light Purple** We consider management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious

## 2. Financial Statements - other communication requirements

We set out below details of other matters which we, as auditors, are required by auditing standards and the Code to communicate to those charged with governance.

Issue	Commentary
Matters in relation to fraud	We have previously discussed the risk of fraud with the PCC & CC. We have not been made aware of any incidents in the period and no other issues have been identified during the course of our audit procedures.
Matters in relation to related parties	We are not aware of any related parties or related party transactions which have not been disclosed.
Matters in relation to laws and regulations	You have not made us aware of any significant incidences of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations and we have not identified any incidences from our audit work.
Written representations	Letters of representation has been requested from both the PCC and the Chief Constable, which are appended.

## 2. Financial Statements - other communication requirements



Issue	Commentary
Confirmation requests from third parties	We requested from management permission to send confirmation requests in relation to cash, investment and borrowing balances. This permission was granted and the requests were sent. All of these requests were returned with positive confirmation.
Accounting practices	We have evaluated the appropriateness of the PCC's and Chief Constable's accounting policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures. Our review found no material omissions in the financial statements.
Audit evidence and explanations/ significant difficulties	All information and explanations requested from management was provided. We experienced difficulties in communications with the Authority's valuer who only responded to our initial request for information from April 2022 in September 2022.

## 2. Financial Statements - other communication requirements



### Our responsibility

As auditors, we are required to “obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern assumption in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and to conclude whether there is a material uncertainty about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern” (ISA (UK) 570).

Issue	Commentary
Going concern	<p>In performing our work on going concern, we have had reference to Statement of Recommended Practice – Practice Note 10: Audit of financial statements of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom (Revised 2020). The Financial Reporting Council recognises that for particular sectors, it may be necessary to clarify how auditing standards are applied to an entity in a manner that is relevant and provides useful information to the users of financial statements in that sector. Practice Note 10 provides that clarification for audits of public sector bodies. Practice Note 10 sets out the following key principles for the consideration of going concern for public sector entities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the use of the going concern basis of accounting is not a matter of significant focus of the auditor's time and resources because the applicable financial reporting frameworks envisage that the going concern basis for accounting will apply where the entity's services will continue to be delivered by the public sector. In such cases, a material uncertainty related to going concern is unlikely to exist, and so a straightforward and standardised approach for the consideration of going concern will often be appropriate for public sector entities</li> <li>for many public sector entities, the financial sustainability of the reporting entity and the services it provides is more likely to be of significant public interest than the application of the going concern basis of accounting. Our consideration of the OPCC's and Chief Constable's financial sustainability is addressed by our value for money work, which is covered elsewhere in this report.</li> </ul> <p>Practice Note 10 states that if the financial reporting framework provides for the adoption of the going concern basis of accounting on the basis of the anticipated continuation of the provision of a service in the future, the auditor applies the continued provision of service approach set out in Practice Note 10. The financial reporting framework adopted by the OPCC and Chief Constable meets this criteria, and so we have applied the continued provision of service approach. In doing so, we have considered and evaluated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the nature of the OPCC and Chief Constable and the environment in which they operate</li> <li>the OPCC's and Chief Constable's financial reporting framework</li> <li>the OPCC's and Chief Constable's system of internal control for identifying events or conditions relevant to going concern</li> <li>management's going concern assessment.</li> </ul> <p>On the basis of this work, we have obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence to enable us to conclude that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a material uncertainty related to going concern has not been identified for either the OPCC or the Chief Constable</li> <li>management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of both sets of financial statements is appropriate.</li> </ul>

## 2. Financial Statements - other responsibilities under the Code

Issue	Commentary
Other information	<p>We are required to give an opinion on whether the other information published together with each set of audited financial statements (including the Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report), is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.</p> <p>No inconsistencies have been identified. We plan to issue an unmodified opinion in this respect – refer to appendices D and E.</p>
Matters on which we report by exception	<p>We are required to report on a number of matters by exception in a number of areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• if the Annual Governance Statements do not comply with disclosure requirements set out in CIPFA/SOLACE guidance or are misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audits,</li> <li>• if we have applied any of our statutory powers or duties.</li> <li>• where we are not satisfied in respect of arrangements to secure value for money and have reported [a] significant weakness/es.</li> </ul> <p>We have nothing to report on these matters.</p>



## 2. Financial Statements - other responsibilities under the Code

Issue	Commentary
Specified procedures for Whole of Government Accounts	<p>We are required to carry out specified procedures (on behalf of the NAO) on the Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) consolidation pack under WGA group audit instructions. The instructions for 2021/22 have not yet been received.</p> <p>However, in the case of the OPCC &amp; CC, no work is required as the entity is below the audit threshold determined by the NAO.</p>
Certification of the closure of the audit	<p>We intend to delay the certification of the closure of the 2021/22 audits of the OPCC and CC in the audit reports, as detailed in Appendices D and E, due to further time being needed to complete our Value for Money work and not having the WGA instructions. The NAO has extended the timetable for completion of the VfM work to three months post completion of the financial statements audit.</p>

# 3. Value for Money arrangements

## Approach to Value for Money work for 2021/22

The National Audit Office issued its guidance for auditors to consider whether the body has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

When reporting on these arrangements, the Code requires auditors to structure their commentary on arrangements under the three specified reporting criteria.



### Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness

Arrangements for improving the way the body delivers its services. This includes arrangements for understanding costs and delivering efficiencies and improving outcomes for service users.



### Financial Sustainability

Arrangements for ensuring the body can continue to deliver services. This includes planning resources to ensure adequate finances and maintain sustainable levels of spending over the medium term (3-5 years)



### Governance

Arrangements for ensuring that the body makes appropriate decisions in the right way. This includes arrangements for budget setting and management, risk management, and ensuring the body makes decisions based on appropriate information

## Potential types of recommendations

A range of different recommendations could be made following the completion of work on the body's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, which are as follows:



### Statutory recommendation

Written recommendations to the body under Section 24 (Schedule 7) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. A recommendation under schedule 7 requires the body to discuss and respond publicly to the report.



### Key recommendation

The Code of Audit Practice requires that where auditors identify significant weaknesses in arrangements to secure value for money they should make recommendations setting out the actions that should be taken by the body. We have defined these recommendations as 'key recommendations'.



### Improvement recommendation

These recommendations, if implemented should improve the arrangements in place at the body, but are not made as a result of identifying significant weaknesses in the body's arrangements

# 3. VFM - our procedures and conclusions

We have not yet completed all of our VFM work and so are not in a position to issue our Auditor's Annual Report. An audit letter explaining the reasons for the delay is attached in the Appendix I to this report. We expect to issue our Auditor's Annual Report by no later than 30 December 2022. This is in line with the National Audit Office's revised deadline, which requires the Auditor's Annual Report to be issued no more than three months after the date of the opinion on the financial statements.

As part of our work, we considered whether there were any risks of significant weakness in the OPCC's and Chief Constable's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in their use of resources. We identified the risk set out in the table below. Our work on this risk is underway and an update is set out below.

## Risk of significant weakness

## Work performed to date

MFSS is a collaboration between the Cheshire Constabulary, Northamptonshire Police, Nottinghamshire Police and Civil Nuclear Constabulary supported by Technology partners Capgemini. We understand that MFSS will no longer be supported from 2023 and the collaboration is coming to an end in 2022. There are programmes underway to manage the process of rolling down transition as well as putting in place and transitioning to new systems. There is a potential risk of reputation damage if the transition is not successful.

We have:

- held discussions with management to understand the nature and timing of the transition process;
- discussed the initial changeover and any issues arising.

We still need to review managements plans and actions in respect of the transition and assess how progress against actions is monitored and any associated reporting process.

# 4. Independence and ethics

We confirm that there are no significant facts or matters that impact on our independence as auditors that we are required or wish to draw to your attention. We have complied with the Financial Reporting Authority's Ethical Standard and confirm that we, as a firm, and each covered person, are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements

We confirm that we have implemented policies and procedures to meet the requirements of the Financial Reporting Authority's Ethical Standard and we as a firm, and each covered person, confirm that we are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements.

Further, we have complied with the requirements of the National Audit Office's Auditor Guidance Note 01 issued in May 2020 which sets out supplementary guidance on ethical requirements for auditors of local public bodies.

Details of fees charged are detailed in Appendix D.

## Transparency

Grant Thornton publishes an annual Transparency Report, which sets out details of the action we have taken over the past year to improve audit quality as well as the results of internal and external quality inspections. For more details see [Transparency report 2020 \(grantthornton.co.uk\)](https://www.grantthornton.co.uk/transparency-report-2020)

## Audit and non-audit services

No non-audit services were provided from the beginning of the financial year to September 2021.

All services have been approved by the OPCC & CC. None of the services provided are subject to contingent fees.

# Appendices

# A. Recommendations

We have identified 1 best practice recommendation for the OPCC as a result of issues identified during the course of our audit. We have agreed our recommendation with management and we will report on progress on these recommendations during the course of the 2022/23 audit. The matters reported here are limited to those deficiencies that we have identified during the course of our audit and that we have concluded are of sufficient importance to merit being reported to you in accordance with auditing standards.

Assessment	Issue and risk	Recommendations
	Our work on Property, Plant and Equipment revaluations identified that there are some differences between the floor plans and the floor areas used in the valuation process. As the floor area of buildings is a key factor in determination of value, it is important that this is kept under review and updated in order to ensure valuations are accurate.	<p>We recommend that the OPCC considers including a sample of land and buildings to be remeasured, perhaps on a rolling basis, as part of the valuer's scope.</p> <p><b>Management response</b></p> <p>TBC</p>

## Controls

- High – Significant effect on financial statements
- Medium – Limited Effect on financial statements
- Low – Best practice

# B. Follow up of prior year recommendations

We identified the following issues in the audits of OPCC's and Chief Constable's 2020/21 financial statements, which resulted in 5 recommendations being reported in our 2020/21 Audit Findings report. We have followed up on the implementation of our recommendations and note some are still to be completed.

Assessment	Issue and risk previously communicated	Update on actions taken to address the issue
✓	Our work on Property Plant & Equipment identified that management were not complying with their accounting policy and were not updating the useful economic lives of assets as per the valuers report and as a result the depreciation charge was too high in both 2020/21 and 2019/20.	We recommended that management update their asset register for the useful economic lives as provided by the valuer to ensure the depreciation charge is accurately calculated and management agreed that the asset register would be reviewed and updated for the 2021/22 accounts. Our UEL work is not complete at this point hence we cannot confirm it has been fully implemented.
TBC	As part of our additions testing in our work on Property Plant & Equipment, our sample identified assets that had been capitalised at the year-end which had not been received by the year-end	We recommended that management have processes in place to ensure that only assets that have been received are capitalised and management agreed to review our processes and update accordingly. Our additions work is not complete at this point hence we cannot confirm it has been fully implemented.
TBC	Our sample testing identified two instances of items where the accruals basis of accounting had not been used and an appropriate year-end prepayment or accrual hadn't been calculated. The financial reporting framework requires that accruals accounting is adopted. The errors were found in our debtors sample and our operating expenditure sample.	We recommended that management should review significant contracts where the contract spans the year-end and calculate the required prepayment or accrual as appropriate and management agreed to review year-end guidance and reinforce the relevant sections. As our substantive work is not fully complete at this point we cannot confirm it has been fully implemented.
x	Control deficiencies identified through the IT audit - 1) Segregation of duty threats due to Oracle system administrators with additional access/responsibilities. 2) Oracle system configuration access granted to an excessive number of users 3) Generic accounts inadequacy controlled in Oracle 4) Users self-assigning access in Oracle Fusion without documented management approval	Item 1 has been partially remediated during 2021/22 but the other 3 items have not. We understand this is due to the new system implementation and should be resolved as part of that implementation.

## Assessment

- ✓ Action completed
- x Not yet addressed

# B. Follow up of prior year recommendations

Assessment	Issue and risk previously communicated	Update on actions taken to address the issue
<p style="text-align: center;">x</p>	<p><b>Seized monies not being held in a separate bank account</b></p> <p>In accordance with the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) 2002, the CC holds monies on behalf of third parties arising from its operational responsibilities. Monies held under the POCA are correctly not accounted for on the balance sheet as the cash does not belong to the PCC at this stage.</p> <p>As part of our audit we identified POCA third party cash is co-mingled in the CC operational bank accounts from which payments and investments are made. As at 31 March, the POCA cash co-mingled in operational bank accounts with third party monies, the PCC is benefiting from several cashflow benefits, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• higher interest rates on investments; and</li> <li>• reduced interest payments because the increased liquidity could result in the Authority not needing to borrow when it otherwise would</li> </ul> <p>Given that the third-party cash does not belong to the CC, we recommend that management set up a separate non-operational bank account for third party cash to be deposited and maintained. In doing so, the CC would no longer inappropriately benefit from cash which is not theirs.</p> <p>The other reason we are recommending the CC to stop co-mingling third party cash is that it reduces the risk of third-party cash being incorrectly recognised on the balance sheet. This is because the current process requires third party deposits to be manually identified and coded during the reconciliation process. There is a risk that third party deposits are missed during the bank reconciliation and inappropriately recognised on the CC balance sheet. This risk is significantly reduced with a separate bank account for third party monies.</p> <p>We are satisfied based on our audit work that there is no material misstatement in the accounts because of third-party monies. Our recommendation is being made to reduce the risk of misstatement and strengthen the controls in place to ensure the propriety of third party assets held by the CC</p>	<p>This has been raised as a recommendation again in the current year.</p> <p><b>Management response</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All POCA monies are tightly managed through the receipt and processing of court orders. These are used to reconcile the holding account and payments from the funds.</li> <li>• There are clear processes in place to ensure that these holding accounts are not included in the Statement of Accounts and they are clearly noted to that effect.</li> <li>• Costs are incurred in holding bank accounts and the legislation requires repayment with interest if the monies are returned after the due legal process. A separate bank account would therefore cost both in charges and interest paid. Being part of the overall bank account means interest is earned to recompense accordingly.</li> <li>• Finally, to operate outside of main bank accounts would take POCA out of the finance system of controls/approval workflow which would increase the risk rather than mitigate.</li> </ul>

## Assessment

✓ Action completed

X Not yet addressed

# C. Audit Adjustments - OPCC

We are required to report all non trivial misstatements to those charged with governance, whether or not the accounts have been adjusted by management.

## Impact of adjusted misstatements

No adjustments have been identified, either unadjusted or adjusted.

## Misclassification and disclosure changes

Some minor disclosure recommendations identified during the audit have been made in the final set of financial statements.

## Impact of prior year unadjusted misstatements

There were 2 unadjusted misstatements for the OPCC for 2020/21 but these would not have an ongoing impact for 2021/22.



# C. Audit Adjustments – Chief Constable

We are required to report all non trivial misstatements to those charged with governance, whether or not the accounts have been adjusted by management.

## Impact of adjusted misstatements

No adjustments have been identified, either unadjusted or adjusted.

## Misclassification and disclosure changes

Some minor disclosure recommendations identified during the audit have been made in the final set of financial statements.

## Impact of prior year unadjusted misstatements

There were no unadjusted misstatements for the CC for 2021/22.

# D. Fees

We confirm below our final fees charged for the audit and we confirm there were no non audit services or audited related services have been undertaken for the OPCC and Chief Constable.

<b>Audit fees</b>	<b>Proposed fee</b>	<b>Final fee</b>
OPCC Audit	£44,895	£44,895
Chief Constable Audit	£18,200	£18,200
Total audit fees (excluding VAT)	£63,095	£63,095

The fees reconcile to the financial statements

# E. Audit opinion - OPCC

Our audit opinion is included below.

We anticipate we will provide the OPCC and Chief Constable with an unmodified audit report

## Independent auditor's report to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### Opinion on financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire (the 'Police and Crime Commissioner') and its subsidiary the Chief Constable (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and include the police pension fund financial statements comprising the Fund Account and the Net Assets Statement. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the group and of the Police and Crime Commissioner as at 31 March 2022 and of the group's expenditure and income and the Police and Crime Commissioner's expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law, as required by the Code of Audit Practice (2020) ("the Code of Audit Practice") approved by the Comptroller and Auditor General. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report. We are independent of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

# E. Audit opinion – OPCC (continued)

## Conclusions relating to going concern

We are responsible for concluding on the appropriateness of the Chief Finance Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Police and Crime Commissioner and group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the auditor's opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Police and Crime Commissioner and the group to cease to continue as a going concern.

In our evaluation of the Chief Finance Officer's conclusions, and in accordance with the expectation set out within the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 that the Police and Crime Commissioner and group's financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis, we considered the inherent risks associated with the continuation of services provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner and the group. In doing so we had regard to the guidance provided in Practice Note 10 Audit of financial statements and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom (Revised 2020) on the application of ISA (UK) 570 Going Concern to public sector entities. We assessed the reasonableness of the basis of preparation used by the Police and Crime Commissioner and group and the Police and Crime Commissioner and group's disclosures over the going concern period.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Police and Crime Commissioner's and the group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Chief Finance Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

The responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer with respect to going concern are described in the 'Responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Finance Officer for the financial statements' section of this report.

## Other information

The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the Police and Crime Commissioner and group financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the group obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Other information we are required to report on by exception under the Code of Audit Practice

Under the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office in April 2020 on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the Code of Audit Practice) we are required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with the 'delivering good governance in Local Government Framework 2016 Edition' published by CIPFA and SOLACE or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit. We are not required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement addresses all risks and controls or that risks are satisfactorily addressed by internal controls.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# E. Audit opinion – OPCA (continued)

## Opinion on other matter required by the Code of Audit Practice

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the financial statements and our knowledge of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the other information published together with the financial statements in the Statement of Accounts, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

## Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make a written recommendation to the Police and Crime Commissioner under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or;
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit.

We have nothing to report in respect of the above matters.

## Responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Finance Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities set out on page 10, the Police and Crime Commissioner is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. That officer is the Chief Finance Officer. The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Chief Finance Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Chief Finance Officer is responsible for assessing the Police and Crime Commissioner's and the group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention by government that the services provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner and the group will no longer be provided.

The Police and Crime Commissioner is Those Charged with Governance. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the financial reporting process.

## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

# E. Audit opinion – OPCC (continued)

## Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the ISAs (UK).

- The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:  
We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Police and Crime Commissioner and the group and determined that the most significant, which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements, are those related to the reporting frameworks (international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22, The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Government Act 2003 and the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011). We also identified the following additional regulatory frameworks in respect of the police pension fund, Public Service Pensions Act 2013, The Police Pension Fund Regulations 2007, The Police Pensions Regulations 2015, and The Police Pensions Regulations 2006.
- We enquired of senior officers and the Police and Crime Commissioner, concerning the Police and Crime Commissioner and group's policies and procedures relating to:
  - the identification, evaluation and compliance with laws and regulations;
  - the detection and response to the risks of fraud; and
  - the establishment of internal controls to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We enquired of senior officers, internal audit and the Police and Crime Commissioner, whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or whether they had any knowledge of actual, suspected or alleged fraud.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Police and Crime Commissioner and group's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, by evaluating officers' incentives and opportunities for manipulation of the financial statements. This included the evaluation of the risk of management override of controls. We determined that the principal risks were in relation to:
  - non-routine journal entries, and key accounting estimates around the valuation of land and buildings and the pension liability.

# E. Audit opinion – OPCC (continued)

Our audit procedures involved:

- valuation of the design effectiveness of controls that the Chief Finance Officer has in place to prevent and detect fraud;
- journal entry testing, with a focus on non-routine transactions, and journal entries falling within identified risk criteria such as final period accruals, senior officer journals, large period-end journals, unusual account combinations and journals posted by anyone with superuser access;
- challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in its significant accounting estimates in respect of the valuation of land and buildings and the pension liability;
- assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement item.
- These audit procedures were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from fraud or error. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error and detecting irregularities that result from fraud is inherently more difficult than detecting those that result from error, as fraud may involve collusion, deliberate concealment, forgery or intentional misrepresentations. Also, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it.
- The team communications in respect of potential non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations, including the potential for fraud in revenue and expenditure recognition, and the significant accounting estimates related to land and building valuations and the net pension liability valuation.
- Our assessment of the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner and group's engagement team included consideration of the engagement team's:
  - understanding of, and practical experience with audit engagements of a similar nature and complexity through appropriate training and participation
  - knowledge of the police sector
  - understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements specific to the Police and Crime Commissioner and group including:
    - the provisions of the applicable legislation
    - guidance issued by CIPFA, LASAAC and SOLACE

# E. Audit opinion – OPCC (continued)

- the provisions of the applicable legislation
- guidance issued by CIPFA, LASAAC and SOLACE
- the applicable statutory provisions.
- In assessing the potential risks of material misstatement, we obtained an understanding of:
  - the Police and Crime Commissioner and group’s operations, including the nature of its income and expenditure and its services and of its objectives and strategies to understand the classes of transactions, account balances, expected financial statement disclosures and business risks that may result in risks of material misstatement.
  - the Police and Crime Commissioner and group’s control environment, including the policies and procedures implemented by the Police and Crime Commissioner and group to ensure compliance with the requirements of the financial reporting framework.

## Report on other legal and regulatory requirements - the Police and Crime Commissioner’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

### Matter on which we are required to report by exception – the Police and Crime Commissioner’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, we have not been able to satisfy ourselves that the Police and Crime Commissioner has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Our work on the Police and Crime Commissioner’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources is not yet complete. The outcome of our work will be reported in our commentary on the Police and Crime Commissioner’s arrangements in our Auditor’s Annual Report. If we identify any significant weaknesses in these arrangements, these will be reported by exception in a further auditor’s report. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on our opinion on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

### Responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Police and Crime Commissioner is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

# E. Audit opinion – OPCS (continued)

## Auditor’s responsibilities for the review of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to be satisfied that the Police and Crime Commissioner has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

We undertake our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in December 2021. This guidance sets out the arrangements that fall within the scope of ‘proper arrangements’. When reporting on these arrangements, the Code of Audit Practice requires auditors to structure their commentary on arrangements under three specified reporting criteria:

- Financial sustainability: how the Police and Crime Commissioner plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;
- Governance: how the Police and Crime Commissioner ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks; and
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the Police and Crime Commissioner uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.
- We document our understanding of the arrangements the Police and Crime Commissioner has in place for each of these three specified reporting criteria, gathering sufficient evidence to support our risk assessment and commentary in our Auditor’s Annual Report. In undertaking our work, we consider whether there is evidence to suggest that there are significant weaknesses in arrangements.

## Report on other legal and regulatory requirements - Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate for the Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire for the year ended 31 March 2022 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have completed:

- our work on the Police and Crime Commissioner’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources and issued our Auditor’s Annual Report.
- the work necessary to issue our Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) Component Assurance statement for the Police and Crime Commissioner for the year ended 31 March 2022.

We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

## Use of our report

- This report is made solely to the Police and Crime Commissioner, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 [and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Police and Crime Commissioner those matters we are required to state to the Police and Crime Commissioner in an auditor’s report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Police and Crime Commissioner as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

# F. Audit opinion – Chief Constable

## Independent auditor's report to the Chief Constable for Cheshire

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### Opinion on financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Chief Constable for Cheshire (the 'Chief Constable') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and include the police pension fund financial statements comprising the Fund Account and the Net Assets Statement. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Chief Constable as at 31 March 2022 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law, as required by the Code of Audit Practice (2020) ("the Code of Audit Practice") approved by the Comptroller and Auditor General. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report. We are independent of the Chief Constable in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

We are responsible for concluding on the appropriateness of the Assistant Chief Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Chief Constable's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the auditor's opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Chief Constable to cease to continue as a going concern.

# F. Audit opinion – Chief Constable (cont.)

In our evaluation of the Assistant Chief Officer's conclusions, and in accordance with the expectation set out within the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 that the Chief Constable's financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis, we considered the inherent risks associated with the continuation of services provided by the Chief Constable. In doing so we had regard to the guidance provided in Practice Note 10 Audit of financial statements and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom (Revised 2020) on the application of ISA (UK) 570 Going Concern to public sector entities. We assessed the reasonableness of the basis of preparation used by the Chief Constable and the Chief Constable's disclosures over the going concern period.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Chief Constable's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Assistant Chief Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

The responsibilities of the Assistant Chief Officer with respect to going concern are described in the 'Responsibilities of the Chief Constable and the Assistant Chief Officer for the financial statements' section of this report.

## Other information

The Assistant Chief Officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge of the Chief Constable obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Other information we are required to report on by exception under the Code of Audit Practice

Under the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office in April 2020 on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the Code of Audit Practice) we are required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with the 'delivering good governance in Local Government Framework 2016 Edition' published by CIPFA and SOLACE or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit. We are not required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement addresses all risks and controls or that risks are satisfactorily addressed by internal controls.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Opinion on other matter required by the Code of Audit Practice

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the financial statements and our knowledge of the Chief Constable, the other information published together with the financial statements in the Statement of Accounts for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

# F. Audit opinion – Chief Constable (cont.)

## Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make a written recommendation to the Chief Constable under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or;
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit.

We have nothing to report in respect of the above matters.

## Responsibilities of the Chief Constable and the Assistant Chief Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities set out on page 10, the Chief Constable is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. That officer is the Assistant Chief Officer. The Assistant Chief Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Assistant Chief Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Assistant Chief Officer is responsible for assessing the Chief Constable's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention by government that the services provided by the Chief Constable will no longer be provided.

The Chief Constable is Those Charged with Governance. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the financial reporting process.

## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

# F. Audit opinion – Chief Constable (cont.)

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the ISAs (UK).

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Chief Constable and determined that the most significant, which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements, are those related to the reporting frameworks (international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22, The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Government Act 2003 and the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. We also identified the following additional regulatory frameworks in respect of the police pension fund, Public Service Pensions Act 2013, The Police Pension Fund Regulations 2007, The Police Pensions Regulations 2015, and The Police Pensions Regulations 2006.
- We enquired of senior officers and the Chief Constable, concerning the Chief Constable's policies and procedures relating to:
  - the identification, evaluation and compliance with laws and regulations;
  - the detection and response to the risks of fraud; and
  - the establishment of internal controls to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We enquired of senior officers, internal audit and the Chief Constable, whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or whether they had any knowledge of actual, suspected or alleged fraud.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Chief Constable's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, by evaluating officers' incentives and opportunities for manipulation of the financial statements. This included the evaluation of the risk of management override of controls. We determined that the principal risks were in relation to:
  - non-routine journal entries, and key accounting estimates around the pension liability.
- Our audit procedures involved:
  - evaluation of the design effectiveness of controls that the Assistant Chief Officer has in place to prevent and detect fraud;
  - journal entry testing, with a focus on non-routine transactions, and journal entries falling within identified risk criteria such as final period accruals, senior officer journals, large period-end journals, unusual account combinations and journals posted by anyone with superuser access;
  - challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in its significant accounting estimates in respect of the valuation of the pension liability;
  - assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement item.

# F. Audit opinion – Chief Constable (cont.)

- These audit procedures were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from fraud or error. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error and detecting irregularities that result from fraud is inherently more difficult than detecting those that result from error, as fraud may involve collusion, deliberate concealment, forgery or intentional misrepresentations. Also, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it.
- The team communications in respect of potential non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations, including the potential for fraud in revenue and expenditure recognition, and the significant accounting estimates related to the valuation of the net pension liability.
- Our assessment of the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the engagement team included consideration of the engagement team's.
  - understanding of, and practical experience with audit engagements of a similar nature and complexity through appropriate training and participation
  - knowledge of the police sector
  - understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements specific to the Chief Constable including:
    - **the provisions of the applicable legislation**
    - **guidance issued by CIPFA, LASAAC and SOLACE**
    - **the applicable statutory provisions.**
- In assessing the potential risks of material misstatement, we obtained an understanding of:
  - the Chief Constable's operations, including the nature of its income and expenditure and its services and of its objectives and strategies to understand the classes of transactions, account balances, expected financial statement disclosures and business risks that may result in risks of material misstatement.
  - the Chief Constable's control environment, including the policies and procedures implemented by the Chief Constable to ensure compliance with the requirements of the financial reporting framework.

## Report on other legal and regulatory requirements - the Chief Constable's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Matter on which we are required to report by exception – the Chief Constable's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, we have not been able to satisfy ourselves that the Chief Constable has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Our work on the Chief Constable's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources is not yet complete. The outcome of our work will be reported in our commentary on the Chief Constable's arrangements in our Auditor's Annual Report. If we identify any significant weaknesses in these arrangements, these will be reported by exception in a further auditor's report. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on our opinion on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

# F. Audit opinion – Chief Constable (cont.)

## Responsibilities of the Chief Constable

The Chief Constable is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

## Auditor's responsibilities for the review of the Chief Constable's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to be satisfied that the Chief Constable has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Chief Constable's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

We undertake our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in December 2021. This guidance sets out the arrangements that fall within the scope of 'proper arrangements'. When reporting on these arrangements, the Code of Audit Practice requires auditors to structure their commentary on arrangements under three specified reporting criteria:

- Financial sustainability: how the Chief Constable plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;
- Governance: how the Chief Constable ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks; and
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the Chief Constable uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.

We document our understanding of the arrangements the Chief Constable has in place for each of these three specified reporting criteria, gathering sufficient evidence to support our risk assessment and commentary in our Auditor's Annual Report. In undertaking our work, we consider whether there is evidence to suggest that there are significant weaknesses in arrangements.

## Report on other legal and regulatory requirements - Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate for the Chief Constable for Cheshire for the year ended 31 March 2022 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have completed:

- our work on the Chief Constable's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources and issued our Auditor's Annual Report,
- the work necessary to issue our Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) Component Assurance statement for the Chief Constable for the year ended 31 March 2022.

We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

## Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Chief Constable, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 [and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Chief Constable those matters we are required to state to the Chief Constable in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Chief Constable as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

# G. Management Letter of Representation - OPCC

[LETTER TO BE WRITTEN ON CLIENT HEADED PAPER]

Grant Thornton UK LLP

Landmark,

St Peter's Square,

1 Oxford Street,

Manchester M1 4PB

[Date] – {TO BE DATED SAME DATE AS DATE OF AUDIT OPINION}

Dear Sirs

Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire

Group Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

This representation letter is provided in connection with the audit of the financial statements of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Cheshire and its subsidiary undertaking, the Chief Constable for Cheshire for the year ended 31 March 2022 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the group and PCC financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 and applicable law.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

Financial Statements

- i. We have fulfilled our responsibilities for the preparation of the group and PCC's financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 ("the Code"); in particular the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance therewith.
- ii. We have complied with the requirements of all statutory directions affecting the group and PCC and these matters have been appropriately reflected and disclosed in the financial statements.
- iii. The PCC has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the group and PCC financial statements in the event of non-compliance. There has been no non-compliance with requirements of any regulatory authorities that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.
- iv. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- v. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable. Such accounting estimates include the valuation of the net pension liability and the valuation of land and buildings. We are satisfied that the material judgements used in the preparation of the financial statements are soundly based, in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements. We understand our responsibilities includes identifying and considering alternative, methods, assumptions or source data that would be equally valid under the financial reporting framework, and why these alternatives were rejected in favour of the estimate used. We are satisfied that the methods, the data and the significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements.

# G. Management Letter of Representation – OPCC (continued)

- vi. We confirm that we are satisfied that the actuarial assumptions underlying the valuation of pension scheme assets and liabilities for IAS19 Employee Benefits disclosures are consistent with our knowledge. We confirm that all settlements and curtailments have been identified and properly accounted for. We also confirm that all significant post-employment benefits have been identified and properly accounted for.
- vii. Except as disclosed in the group and PCC financial statements:
  - a. there are no unrecorded liabilities, actual or contingent
  - b. none of the assets of the [group and ]PCC has been assigned, pledged or mortgaged
  - c. there are no material prior year charges or credits, nor exceptional or non-recurring items requiring separate disclosure.
- viii. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code.
- ix. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
- x. We have considered the adjusted misstatements, and misclassification and disclosures changes schedules included in your Audit Findings Report. The group and PCC financial statements have been amended for these misstatements, misclassifications and disclosure changes and are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- xi. The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- xii. Actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards.
- xiii. We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.
- xiv. We have updated our going concern assessment. We continue to believe that the group and PCC's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis and have not identified any material uncertainties related to going concern on the grounds that :
  - a. the nature of the group and PCC means that, notwithstanding any intention to cease the group and PCC operations in their current form, it will continue to be appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting because, in such an event, services it performs can be expected to continue to be delivered by related public authorities and preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis will still provide a faithful representation of the items in the financial statements
  - b. the financial reporting framework permits the entry to prepare its financial statements on the basis of the presumption set out under a) above; and
  - c. the group and PCC's system of internal control has not identified any events or conditions relevant to going concern.

We believe that no further disclosures relating to the group and PCC's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements

- xv. The group and PCC has complied with all aspects of ring-fenced grants that could have a material effect on the group and PCC's financial statements in the event of non-compliance.

## Information Provided

- xvi. We have provided you with:

# G. Management Letter of Representation – OPCC (continued)

- a. access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the group and PCC's financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
  - b. additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of your audit; and
  - c. access to persons within the PCC via remote arrangements, from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- xvii. We have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which management is aware.
- xviii. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- xix. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- xx. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the group and PCC, and involves:
- a. management;
  - b. employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
  - c. others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- xxi. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.
- xxii. We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
- xxiii. We have disclosed to you the identity of the group and PCC's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.
- xxiv. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

## Annual Governance Statement

- xxv. We are satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the PCC's risk assurance and governance framework and we confirm that we are not aware of any significant risks that are not disclosed within the AGS.

## Narrative Report

- xxvi. The disclosures within the Narrative Report fairly reflect our understanding of the group and PCC's financial and operating performance over the period covered by the financial statements.

## Approval

The approval of this letter of representation was minuted by the JAAC at its meeting on 29 September 2022.

# H. Management Letter of Representation- Chief Constable

Grant Thornton UK LLP

Landmark,

St Peter's Square,

1 Oxford Street,

Manchester M1 4PB

[Date] – {TO BE DATED SAME DATE AS DATE OF AUDIT OPINION}

Dear Sirs

Chief Constable for Cheshire

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

This representation letter is provided in connection with the audit of the financial statements of the Chief Constable for Cheshire for the year ended 31 March 2022 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the Constabulary financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 and applicable law.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

Financial Statements

- i. We have fulfilled our responsibilities for the preparation of the Constabulary's financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 ("the Code"); in particular the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance therewith.
- ii. We have complied with the requirements of all statutory directions affecting the Constabulary and these matters have been appropriately reflected and disclosed in the financial statements.
- iii. The Constabulary has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance. There has been no non-compliance with requirements of any regulatory authorities that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.
- iv. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- v. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable. Such accounting estimates include the net pension liability. We are satisfied that the material judgements used in the preparation of the financial statements are soundly based, in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements. We understand our responsibilities includes identifying and considering alternative, methods, assumptions or source data that would be equally valid under the financial reporting framework, and why these alternatives were rejected in favour of the estimate used. We are satisfied that the methods, the data and the significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements.
- vi. We confirm that we are satisfied that the actuarial assumptions underlying the valuation of pension scheme assets and liabilities for IAS19 Employee Benefits disclosures are consistent

# H. Management Letter of Representation- Chief Constable (continued)

with our knowledge. We confirm that all settlements and curtailments have been identified and properly accounted for. We also confirm that all significant post-employment benefits have been identified and properly accounted for.

vii. Except as disclosed in the financial statements:

- a. there are no unrecorded liabilities, actual or contingent
- b. none of the assets of the Constabulary has been assigned, pledged or mortgaged
- c. there are no material prior year charges or credits, nor exceptional or non-recurring items requiring separate disclosure.

viii. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code.

ix. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

x. We have considered the adjusted misstatements, and misclassification and disclosures changes schedules included in your Audit Findings Report. The Constabulary's financial statements have been amended for these misstatements, misclassifications and disclosure changes and are free of material misstatements, including omissions.

xi. The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.

xii. Actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards.

xiii. We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.

xiv. We have updated our going concern assessment. We continue to believe that the Constabulary's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis and have not identified any material uncertainties related to going concern on the grounds that :

- a. the nature of the Constabulary means that, notwithstanding any intention to cease its operations in their current form, it will continue to be appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting because, in such an event, services it performs can be expected to continue to be delivered by related public authorities and preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis will still provide a faithful representation of the items in the financial statements
- b. the financial reporting framework permits the entry to prepare its financial statements on the basis of the presumption set out under a) above; and
- c. the Constabulary's system of internal control has not identified any events or conditions relevant to going concern.

We believe that no further disclosures relating to the Constabulary's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements

xv. The Constabulary has complied with all aspects of ring-fenced grants that could have a material effect on the Constabulary's financial statements in the event of non-compliance.

Information Provided

xvi. We have provided you with:

- a. access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the Constabulary's financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
- b. additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of your audit; and

# H. Management Letter of Representation- Chief Constable (continued)

- c. access to persons within the Constabulary via remote arrangements from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- xvii. We have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which management is aware.
- xviii. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- xix. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
  
- xx. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the Constabulary and involves:
  - a. management;
  - b. employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
  - c. others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- xxi. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.
- xxii. We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
- xxiii. We have disclosed to you the identity of the Constabulary's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.
- xxiv. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

## Annual Governance Statement

- xxv. We are satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the Constabulary's risk assurance and governance framework and we confirm that we are not aware of any significant risks that are not disclosed within the AGS.

## Narrative Report

- xxvi. The disclosures within the Narrative Report fairly reflect our understanding of the Constabulary's financial and operating performance over the period covered by the Constabulary's financial statements.

## Approval

The approval of this letter of representation was minuted by the JAAC at its meeting on 29 September 2022.

# I. Audit letter in respect of delayed VFM work

*J Dwyer, Police & Crime Commissioner*

*M Roberts, Chief Constable*

*29 September 2022*

Dear Sirs,

Under the 2020 Code of Audit Practice, for relevant authorities other than local NHS bodies we are required to issue our Auditor's Annual Report no later than 30 September or, where this is not possible, issue an audit letter setting out the reasons for delay.

As a result of the ongoing pandemic, and the impact it has had on both preparers and auditors of accounts to complete their work as quickly as would normally be expected, the National Audit Office has updated its guidance to auditors to allow us to postpone completion of our work on arrangements to secure value for money and focus our resources firstly on the delivery of our opinions on the financial statements. This is intended to help ensure as many as possible could be issued in line with national timetables and legislation.

As a result, we have therefore not yet issued our Auditor's Annual Report, including our commentary on arrangements to secure value for money. We now expect to publish our report no later than 30 December 2021.

For the purposes of compliance with the 2020 Code, this letter constitutes the required audit letter explaining the reasons for delay.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Green

Director

This letter does not form part of the report to Those Charged With Governance under ISA260.



## Overview of topics to be covered during the period September 2022-July 2023

Part 1 Items	Sep-22	Nov-22	Feb-23	Jul-23
Minutes of Joint Audit Advisory Committee	✓	✓	✓	✓
Matters Arising from Previous JAAC Meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓
Briefing from Police and Crime Commissioner & Chief Constable	✓	✓	✓	✓
JAAC Annual Report		✓		
Single Point of contact roles for 2023/24			✓	
External Audit Findings Report	✓			
External Audit Plan				✓
Informing the Audit Risk Assessment				✓
External Audit Progress Report			✓	
External Audit VFM Report		✓		
Annual Accounts	Final			Draft
Annual Governance Statement	Final			Draft
External Audit Letter of Representation	✓			
Internal Audit Annual Plan			Draft	
Internal Audit Progress Reports	✓	✓	✓	✓
Internal Audit Follow Up Report		✓		✓
Head of Internal Audit Opinion				✓
Internal Audit Final Reports	✓	✓	✓	✓
NFI Data Matching			✓	
Internal Audit Terms of Reference (Tor)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Value for Money profiles				✓
Service Assurance Plan	✓	✓	✓	✓
JAAC Terms of Reference Review		✓		
2022/23 Budget & Medium Term Financial Strategy			✓	
Part 2 Items	Sep-22	Nov-22	Feb-22	Jul-22
Minutes of Joint Audit Advisory Committee	✓	✓	✓	✓
Matters Arising from Previous JAAC Meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓
Strategic Risk Register	✓	✓	✓	✓
Internal Audit ToR/Reports	✓	✓	✓	✓
Updates on Business Services Futures Programme	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Internal Audit Progress Report Audit Advisory Committee (Sept 2022)

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire / Cheshire  
Constabulary

# Contents

## 1 Introduction

## 2 Key Messages for Audit Advisory Committee Attention

### Appendix A: Contract Performance

### Appendix B: Performance Indicators

## Your Team

Name	Role	Contact Details
Anne-marie Harrop	Engagement Lead	Anne-marie.harrop@miaa.nhs.uk 07920 150313
Charles Black	Principal Auditor	Charles.black@miaa.nhs.uk

## Limitations

The matters raised in this report are only those which came to our attention during our internal audit work and are not necessarily a comprehensive statement of all the weaknesses that exist, or of all the improvements that may be required. Whilst every care has been taken to ensure that the information in this report is as accurate as possible, based on the information provided and documentation reviewed, no complete guarantee or warranty can be given with regards to the advice and information contained herein. Our work does not provide absolute assurance that material errors, loss or fraud do not exist.

Responsibility for a sound system of internal controls and the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities rests with management and work performed by internal audit should not be relied upon to identify all strengths and weaknesses in internal controls, nor relied upon to identify all circumstances of fraud or irregularity. Effective and timely implementation of our recommendations by management is important for the maintenance of a reliable internal control system.

Reports prepared by MIAA are prepared for your sole use and no responsibility is taken by MIAA or the auditors to any director or officer in their individual capacity. No responsibility to any third party is accepted as the report has not been prepared for, and is not intended for, any other purpose and a person who is not a party to the agreement for the provision of Internal Audit and shall not have any rights under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.

## **Public Sector Internal Audit Standards**

Our work was completed in accordance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

## 1 Introduction

This report provides an update to the Joint Audit Advisory Committee in respect of the progress made in against the Internal Audit Plan for 2022/23 and brings to your attention matters relevant to your responsibilities as members of the Joint Audit Advisory Committee.

This progress report provides a summary of Internal Audit activity and complies with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

Comprehensive reports detailing findings, recommendations and agreed actions are provided to Committee Members. In addition a consolidated follow up position is reported on a periodic basis to the Joint Audit Advisory Committee.

This progress report covers the period July 2022 to September 2022

## 2 Executive Summary

Since the last meeting we have focused on the following areas:

2021/22 Audit Reviews	<p>The following reviews have been finalised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vetting Review – Substantial Assurance</li><li>• National Fraud Initiative Prep Briefing</li></ul> <p>The reviews below are currently in progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Property and Evidence Management Review – Draft Report</li><li>• Digital Investigation – Fieldwork</li><li>• Cyber – Organisational Controls – TOR Agreed</li><li>• Business Services Futures – Planning</li><li>• Blue Light Commercial Procurement - Planning</li></ul>
Follow Up	A report was provided at the July meeting
Audit Plan Changes	No changes to the Audit Plan
MIAA Quality of Service Indicators	<p>MIAA operate systems to ISO Quality Standards. Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) require MIAA to ‘develop and maintain a quality assurance and improvement programme that covers all aspects of the internal audit activity.’ This programme must include internal and external assessments.</p> <p>External assessments must be conducted at least once every five years. Our last external assessment was completed in 2020 and concluded MIAA fully complies with PSIAS (as previously reported to Audit Committee).</p>

We also undertake regular internal assessments to ensure our ongoing compliance with requirements. We have recently completed our annual self-assessment of compliance with PSIAS and can confirm full compliance with PSIAS.

## Insights

### Briefings

Our latest briefings/blogs are:

- [Interns report on their year at MIAA](#)
- [Key NHS Publications - August 2022](#)
- [How can strength-based working lead to healthier and happier communities?](#)
- [MIAA 2022/23 Checklist Series - Place Governance](#)
- [How does collaboration help keep the NHS secure from cyber threats?](#)
- [MIAA 2022/23 Checklist Series - PCN Governance](#)
- [MIAA support with CCG closedown and ICB establishment](#)
- [Supporting the Audit Committee in the changing governance environment](#)

### Audit Committee Chairs Webinars

We are continuing to hold webinars with groups of client Audit Committee Chairs focusing upon governance challenges and other key issues.

### Collaborative Masterclass Events

- [Restoration and Recovery: Improving the Health and Wellbeing Needs of Individuals, Teams and Communities \(16<sup>th</sup> September 2022\)](#)
- [Digital as Disrupter \(24<sup>th</sup> November 2022\)](#)
- [The Psychology of Leading High Performance Teams \(8<sup>th</sup> December 2022\)](#)

Events are free for MIAA clients and can be booked via our website [www.miaa.nhs.uk](http://www.miaa.nhs.uk)

## Appendix A: Contract Performance

The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) state that ‘The chief audit executive must deliver an annual internal audit opinion and report that can be used by the organisation to inform its governance statement.’

### Audit Plan 2022/23

HOIA Opinion Area	Status	Assurance Level
<b>Core/ Mandated Assurances</b>		
Key Financial Controls	Q4	
<b>Risk Based Assurances</b>		
Vetting	Complete	Substantial
Business Services Futures	Planning	
Blue Light Commercial Procurement	Planning	
Property/ Evidence Management	Draft Report	
Digital Investigation	Fieldwork	
Cyber – Organisational Controls	TOR Agreed Q3 delivery	
<b>Follow Up</b>		
Qtr 2	Complete	N/A
Qtr 4	Q4	

If due to circumstances beyond our control we are unable to achieve sufficient depth or coverage, we may need to caveat opinions and explain the impact of this and what will be done to retrieve the position in future.

## Appendix B: Performance Indicators

The primary measure of your internal auditor's performance is the outputs deriving from work undertaken. The following provides performance indicator information to support the Committee in assessing the performance of Internal Audit.

Element	Reporting Regularity	Status	Summary
Delivery of the Head of Internal Audit Opinion (Progress against Plan)	Each Audit Committee	Green	There is ongoing engagement and communications regarding delivery of key reviews to support the Head of Internal Audit Opinion.
Issue a Client Satisfaction Questionnaire following completion of every audit.	Each Report	Green	All final reports contain a link to post audit questionnaire.
Percentage of recommendations raised which are agreed	Each Audit Committee	Green	Noted in all final reports
Percentage of recommendations which are implemented	Twice per audit year	Green	Follow Up report provided twice per year.
Qualified Staff	Annual	Green	MIAA have a highly qualified and diverse workforce which includes 75% qualified staff. The Senior Team delivering the Internal Audit Service are CCAB/IIA qualified.
Quality	Annual	Green	MIAA operate systems to ISO Quality Standards. The External Quality Assessment, undertaken by CIPFA, provides assurance of MIAA's compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. MIAA conforms with the Public Sector Internal Audit Code of Ethics.

**To:** Julie Gill, Assistant Chief Officer (Cheshire Constabulary)  
Clare Hodgson, Chief Finance Officer (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner)  
Wendy Bebbington, Joint Head of Finance (Cheshire Constabulary and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service)  
Jerry Faulkner, Principal Accountant (Cheshire Constabulary and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service)  
Dawn Edwards, Management Accountant  
Louise Willis, Planning , Performance and Risk Manager

**From:** Anne-Marie Harrop, Regional Assurance Director  
Simon Davies, Senior Audit Manager  
Jeanette Sharp, Anti-Fraud Officer

**Date:** 18/8/22

**Re:** **National Fraud Initiative – Next Round (2022-23)**

---

## 1 Introduction and Background

The National Fraud Initiative (NFI) matches electronic data within and between public and private sector bodies to prevent and detect fraud. These bodies include police authorities, local probation boards, fire and rescue authorities as well as local councils and a number of private sector bodies. It has been run every two years since 1996 and, to date, has been used to identify fraud and overpayments totalling £1.69 billion. This participation offers a range of matches (payroll and creditors) designed to target fraud as well as providing assurance on a range of corporate governance issues. In addition, the inclusion of your data will help identify overpayments and uncover fraud at other participating bodies, including NHS organisations.

The Cabinet Office, as the 'relevant ministerial body' responsible for data matching exercises, conducts the NFI under its statutory data matching powers set out in Part 6 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act (LAAA) 2014. Under this legislation the Cabinet Office:

- may carry out data matching exercises for the purpose of assisting in the prevention and detection of fraud;
- may require certain bodies to provide data for data matching exercises;
- may accept data submissions on a voluntary basis;
- must prescribe a scale or scales of fees for mandatory data matching exercises;
- may charge a fee for voluntary data matching exercises; and,
- must consult mandatory participants and relevant stakeholders before prescribing the mandatory scale or scales of fees.

## 2 Mandated Participation & Fees

Mandatory participants include the same authorities from NFI 2021/22. Fees for the 2022/23 has been uplifted from £1,200 to £1,240 . There is also a penalty fee (5%) applicable in instances where participants fail to comply with data submission requirements as determined by the Cabinet Office.

## 3 Client and MIAA Anti-Fraud Roles

MIAA Clients are required to nominate or confirm an existing key contact who will act in this role from the 03/08/22 onwards.

The key contact is responsible for:

- Fulfilling data protection requirements;
- Ensuring that the data formats and specifications are followed;
- Nominating appropriate users to upload data submissions, investigate the matches and act as the point of contact for other bodies about a match;
- Co-ordinating and monitoring the overall exercise;
- Ensuring that outcomes from the investigation of matches are recorded on the web application promptly and accurately.

The core datasets required are:

1. payroll;
2. trade creditors' payment history and trade creditors' standing data.

The NFI will source the payroll / trade creditors' data directly from providers with direct responsibility to upload into the system.

It is the body's responsibility to ensure that:

- the payroll provider receives full and timely instructions about this requirement;
- employees are notified in line with privacy notice requirements (fair processing requirements).

## 4 Privacy Notice Compliance Returns (Previously Fair Processing Notice)

Under Article 14 of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), it requires NFI participants to tell individuals (i.e. employees) that their data will be processed. Providing this information is now known as a 'privacy notice'. The key contact for each body also needs to submit a declaration via the secure NFI application confirming that they have submitted a privacy notice compliance return.

For data processing to be fair, data controllers should give individuals whose data is to be processed:

- the identity of the data controller;
- the purpose or purposes for which the data may be processed;
- any further information which is necessary to enable the processing to be fair.

This lets people know that their data is being used in order to prevent or detect fraud. They can then take appropriate steps if they consider the use is unjustified or unlawful, in their particular case. **The MIAA Anti-Fraud Specialist (AFS) will ensure that appropriate privacy notices are undertaken and that the required return is submitted to the Cabinet Office.**

The user responsible for submission of the data should ensure that:

- the data meets the specifications, contains a header row and is in the correct format;
- they submit the data via the data file upload facility (DFU);
- the data is received by the required deadline (submissions are required by the 30/09/22).

## 5 Review of Data Matches

From the 21/01/23 the NFI will make the output available to the relevant participating body for consideration and investigation via the secure NFI software.

**We will use the contingency day within the MIAA Internal Audit Plan for the 2022-23 year, agreed by the Joint Audit Advisory Committee, to complete the preparatory work and an initial review of the data matches (received 21st January 2023).** The initial review will be followed by a more detailed examination of the matches, this will form part of the 2023/24 Internal Audit Plan.

**MIAA will action and complete all payroll related data matches including any UK Visa matches with the Home Office (if applicable).** MIAA will liaise with the organisations' payroll/HR representative to confirm the information highlighted within the matches. This will include verifying the employment status of individuals; secondary employment declarations; and sickness absences. MIAA will liaise with the matching authorities to establish any fraud or error.

**Creditor matches are to be actioned and completed by the client's nominated finance contact,** who will have full access to the NFI data. Any matters requiring formal investigation will be referred to the organisation's Fraud team.

## 6 Timetable

Activity	Who	How	Timing
Issue the data specifications for each data set	NFI Team (Cabinet Office)	The <a href="#">data specifications</a> are permanently available on the NFI GOV.UK web page.	29 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
Issue the instructions to bodies participating in NFI 2022/23	NFI Team (Cabinet Office)	The instructions and data specifications are permanently available on the NFI GOV.UK web page.  An email link will be sent to the Senior Responsible Officers and Key Contacts as a reminder.	Invites sent by 29 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
2022/23 national exercise part of the web application becomes available	NFI Team (Cabinet Office)	The web application will be made available for 22/23 access.	From 3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2022
Participants will check the list of expected data sets	NFI Key Contact	Log in to the list of expected datasets is accurate for 2022/2023 web application Data File Upload and check your particular organisation.  Advise us of any changes to the list by Friday 31 August 2022.	Between Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> August and Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022
Confirm who the web application users will be	NFI Key Contact	Key Contacts should ensure the person responsible for uploading data has a user account on the web application.	By 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2022 and as / when future changes occur
The privacy notice compliance declaration is completed online	NFI Key Contact	Submissions are made via the NFI web application.	By 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2022**
The data is extracted from the participant systems in	NFI Key Contact / User	Data should be extracted from your systems on 30 September 2022 (unless otherwise stated in the data specification) and uploaded to the DFU as soon as	Between 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2022** and

Activity	Who	How	Timing
accordance with the data specifications	(data upload)	quality checks have been completed. There is a separate data specification for each data set collected. These specifications can be accessed from the detailed <a href="#">data specifications</a> page. Data that is not received by close of business on Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2022 may be classed as officially late and a failure to fully meet your statutory duty*  Late data, or data that does not adequately meet specified data quality criteria may incur a penalty fee.	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2022**
The live data is uploaded to the NFI web application	NFI Key Contact / User (data upload)	The data for the 2022/23 batch exercise is uploaded through the 2022/23 web application, Data File Upload.	5pm on Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2022**
The 2022/23 exercise matches are available	NFI Team (Cabinet Office)	An email link will be sent to Senior Responsible Officers and Key Contacts as a reminder informing them that the matches are available.	From Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2023 ***

\* Under Part 6 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (England), Part 2A of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000, Part 3A of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004, Articles 4A to 4G of the Audit and Accountability (Northern Ireland) Order 202003.

\*\* A series of reminders will be issued from Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Failure to submit all of your data promptly may result in some datasets being excluded from the matching process for the results release at the end of January 2023.

\*\*\* There may be subsequent match releases should data not be provided by the required deadline.

## 7 Summary

Participation in the exercise is mandated under the Local Audit and Accountability Act (LAAA) 2014, therefore NHS organisations are required to strictly adhere to the timetable.

MIAA will be liaising with your Finance / Communications Team, about confirming compliance with the fair processing notifications and ensuring that the relevant declaration is submitted to the Cabinet Office to confirm that this activity has taken place.

MIAA will liaise with the nominated contact in your Finance Department to ensure submission of creditor data in accordance with required timescales.

All guidance referenced in this briefing is available on the NFI website, [GOV.UK](#).

## Cheshire Constabulary Service Assurance Plan – 2022/23

Review / Audit Team	Title and Reason for Audit	High Level scope	Status / Audit Date	Update	Board / Committee to receive Reports
MIAA	Performance Management - Local Policing Units (LPU)	A rolling programme of reviews across the eight local policing units to assess performance management against Business Plan objectives and compliance with the key corporate procedures e.g. Financial, HR, Duty of Care and Service Delivery. Three LPUs in 2021.	Transferred from Q4 21/22 (15 days)	<b>April 2022:</b> Internal Audit aiming to have draft report out by the end of April. <b>May 2022:</b> Draft report circulated and management responses returned. <b>June 2022:</b> Final report circulated.	Joint Audit Advisory Committee July 2022
MIAA	Vetting	To evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the vetting function against the Authorised Professional Practice (APP)	Q1 12 days	<b>June 2022:</b> Final TOR has been circulated. <b>August 2022:</b> Final Vetting assignment review report circulated.	Joint Audit Advisory Committee September 2022
MIAA	Key Financial Controls	To provide assurance that the most significant key controls are appropriately designed and operating effectively in practice.	Q4 12 days		Joint Audit Advisory Committee
MIAA	Business Services Futures	Audit days are allocated to support the BSF programme and evaluation of control environment, process maps and data transfer	Q1-3 9 days	Not yet commenced.	Joint Audit Advisory Committee
MIAA	Blue Light Commercial Procurement	To evaluate the effectiveness of procurement arrangements via Blue Light Commercial.	Q2 12 days	Initial meeting scheduled for Sept 22.	Joint Audit Advisory Committee
MIAA	Property/Evidence Management	To provide assurance that Cheshire Constabulary is dealing professionally with all evidence and property, safeguarding its integrity to support the prevention and detection of crime.	Q1 12 days	<b>May 2022:</b> Work underway to create the draft TOR. <b>June 2022:</b> TOR in development, Initial scoping meetings taken place. <b>30 June 2022:</b> Draft TOR circulated. <b>Sep 2022</b> Draft report circulated for management response.	Joint Audit Advisory Committee

Review / Audit Team	Title and Reason for Audit	High Level scope	Status / Audit Date	Update	Board / Committee to receive Reports
MIAA	Digital Investigation	Digital investigations are high on the national and local agenda with cases increasing year on year. This review will evaluate how Cheshire Constabulary are responding to these risks and the plans in place to manage increased caseloads and the workforce demands and skill sets required.	Q2 12 days	<b>July 2022:</b> Meeting to be convened in August 2022 to develop TOR. <b>Sep 2022:</b> TOR agreed and circulated.	Joint Audit Advisory Committee
MIAA	Cyber – Organisational Controls	The National Cyber Security Centre Cyber (NCSC), in recognising the strategic importance of cyber security published a toolkit for board assurance. This review will evaluate the effectiveness of the current cyber control framework arrangements in place. Against that framework .	Q3 12 days	<b>August 2022:</b> TOR circulated for review; fieldwork will commence in October.	Audit Advisory Committee
MIAA	Stores audit	To undertake an audited stock check at Stores, HQ.	Q3 3 days	Stock check to be undertaken at the beginning of October 2022.	Joint Audit Advisory Committee
MIAA	National Fraud Initiative (NFI)	The National Fraud Initiative (NFI) matches electronic data within and between public and private sector bodies to prevent and detect fraud. These bodies include police authorities, local probation boards, fire and rescue authorities as well as local councils and a number of private sector bodies.		<b>August 2022:</b> MIAA will use the contingency day within the MIAA Internal Audit Plan for the 2022-23 year, agreed by the Joint Audit Advisory Committee, to complete the preparatory work and an initial review of the data matches (received 21st January 2023).	Audit Advisory Committee

## On-going Regular Monitoring Activity – 2022/23

Review / Audit Team	Title and Reason for Audit	High Level scope	Status / Audit Date	Update	Board / Committee to receive Reports
NCRS	Enhanced review of Violent Crime / Domestic Abuse / Sexual Offences for NCRS compliance.	This ongoing work will establish that the three key areas of crime recording continue to comply with the 'victim focused' approach of NCRS.	June 2022	Audits of Sexual, Domestic and Violence incidents continue to be subject to FCR audits based on perceived risk and regularly reporting the Force performance Day and to the Strategic Crime Recording User meeting chaired by Ch Supt Ross. Such audits were undertaken in April 2022, together with an additional audit of ASB. An audit of Vulnerable Victim crime is currently being undertaken.	Force Performance Day  Strategic Crime Recording User Group
NCRS	Enhanced review of Violent Crime / Domestic Abuse / Sexual Offences for NCRS compliance.	This ongoing work will establish that the three key areas of crime recording continue to comply with the 'victim focused' approach of NCRS.	September 2022		Force Performance Day  Strategic Crime Recording User Group
NCRS	Enhanced review of Violent Crime / Domestic Abuse / Sexual Offences for NCRS compliance.	This ongoing work will establish that the three key areas of crime recording continue to comply with the 'victim focused' approach of NCRS.	December 2022		Force Performance Day  Strategic Crime Recording User Group

Review / Audit Team	Title and Reason for Audit	High Level scope	Status / Audit Date	Update	Board / Committee to receive Reports
NCRS	Enhanced review of Violent Crime / Domestic Abuse / Sexual Offences for NCRS compliance.	This ongoing work will establish that the three key areas of crime recording continue to comply with the 'victim focused' approach of NCRS.	March 2023		Force Performance Day  Strategic Crime Recording User Group
Information Compliance	PNC Transaction Monitoring (#TE)	PNC Transaction Monitoring is a requirement established by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to ensure the security and integrity of the Police National Computer System.	Quarterly	PNC Transaction Monitoring (#TE) Ongoing reviews being completed with compliance reported quarterly. Any issues are raised to PSD or Line Manager (as appropriate on an individual basis).	Any issues identified are reported to Line Manager and PSD if required.
Information Compliance	Police National Database (PND) Auditing and Transaction Monitoring	To ensure the security and integrity of this national CONFIDENTIAL system, forces are required to undertake transactional monitoring of Constabulary users. Monthly reports to the PND Governance Group chaired by Director of Intelligence.	Quarterly	Police National Database (PND) Auditing and Transaction Monitoring Ongoing reviews with compliance reported quarterly. Reports are issued to the PND Governance Group which is chaired by the Director of Intelligence.	Reports to the PND Governance Group chaired by Director of Intelligence.

Review / Audit Team	Title and Reason for Audit	High Level scope	Status / Audit Date	Update	Board / Committee to receive Reports
Information Compliance	Driver Validation Service (DVS) Transaction Monitoring	DVS is a browser based system owned by the Driver Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA). It provides nominated staff with direct access to DVLA driver records for road traffic offences.	Ongoing	Ongoing reviews completed, with compliance reported quarterly. Any issues are raised with the Line Manager or PSD (as deemed appropriate on an individual basis. Any breaches are required to be reported to DVLA.	Any issues identified are reported to Line Manager and PSD if required. Breaches are reportable to DVLA.
Information Compliance	Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Transaction Monitoring	ANPR data is currently accessed through three systems: Northgate, Cleartone and the National ANPR Service (NAS). National audit guidelines have been issued and a National Auditor appointed, in preparation for all Forces to move to the NAS.	Ongoing	Ongoing reviews completed, any issues are raised with the Line Manager or PSD (as deemed appropriate on an individual basis).	Any issues identified are reported to Line Manager and PSD if required.
Information Compliance	Child Abuse Indecent Images (CAID) transaction monitoring.	TM commenced Feb 2022 – this is a new process and will continue to develop. It is a requirement to audit to ensure compliance and integrity with national policy and codes of connection.	Ongoing	Ongoing reviews completed, any issues are raised with the Line Manager or PSD (as deemed appropriate on an individual basis).	Any issues identified are reported to Line Manager and PSD if required.  ** TM is pending subject to a minor IT service request for an encrypted USB.
Information Compliance	PNB – transfer to new process	To provide assurance that physical PNB are centrally stored and information is compliant post implementation of the electronic solution.	Transferred from Q4 2021-22 <b>COMPLETE</b>	<b>April 2022:</b> Ongoing monitoring of progress confirms legacy PNB's continue to be submitted. Formal report to TPTT and IRG to follow. <b>July 2022:</b> Formal report to be completed by CI Jez Taylor, all Info Compliance complete.	Information & Risk Management Board

Review / Audit Team	Title and Reason for Audit	High Level scope	Status / Audit Date	Update	Board / Committee to receive Reports
Information Compliance	Refresh and complete data flow audit (Transferred from 20-21)	Refresh mandatory Record of Processing Activities and identify areas of risk or non-compliance. Mandatory requirement under DPA 2018	Transferred from Q4 2021-22 <b>COMPLETE</b>	<b>April 2022:</b> The majority have been refreshed and completion is expected in time for the ICO audit follow up in June 2022. <b>July 2022:</b> Allowing for some minor post ICO actions in progress (completion pending), the audit is complete and has been signed off by the ICO.	Information & Risk Management Board
Information Compliance	PPD – domestic violence disclosures (Transferred from 20-21)	To provide assurance that disclosure process ensures compliance with MOPI and Data Protection requirements	Transferred from Q4 2022	<b>February 2022:</b> Due to the prioritisation of ICO Data Protection audit actions this audit has been delayed until later in 2022.	Information & Risk Management Board
Information Compliance	Firearms Licensing - Optional	To provide assurance that disclosure process ensures compliance with MOPI and Data Protection requirements	Q3 2022	Post ICO to be scoped to determine benefits/risk of auditing, need to determine the status following changes in process and Niche module.	Information & Risk Management Board
Information Compliance	Security - Optional	To determine compliance in Physical security risk, and data protection and records management.	Q3 2022	Post ICO – to liaise with the Chief Information Security Officer	Information & Risk Management Board
Information Compliance	Security review	To determine compliance in Physical security risk, and data protection and records management.	<b>COMPLETE</b>	<b>July 2022:</b> In June a test review was conducted on one police station to determine compliance, results were poor and a report will be submitted to the next IRG, and will be a contributory factor to determine necessity for full review.	Information & Risk Management Board
Governance Of Collaborations	Qtrly	To review collaborations of which Cheshire Constabulary is a party and check that performance reports have been received and given transparency at the relevant Force/ Regional Meeting.	Ongoing Monthly	<b>April 2022:</b> West Coast NICHE Collaboration S22a and Firearms and Dogs Alliance S22a went to SCT on 23/02/2022. As well as NWROCU updates. Aug 2022: NWROCU & NWMPG Collaboration updates went to SCT in April 2022.	Senior Command Team

Review / Audit Team	Title and Reason for Audit	High Level scope	Status / Audit Date	Update	Board / Committee to receive Reports
Taser Downloads	Governance and compliance monitoring	Audit of completion of Taser downloads	Taser's downloaded every 8 weeks (Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec) <b>Audited quarterly</b>	<b>April 2022:</b> Audit Completed <b>June 2022:</b> Audit Completed <b>August 2022:</b> Audit Completed	Procedural Justice Meeting
Finance - Compliance with GPC Cards Guidance Manual	Annually due September 2022	Dip sample to ensure compliance in the use of GPC Cards guidance against MFSS reports on GPC card use.	Annually		Information & Risk Management Board
Planning, Performance & Risk Management	Policy & Procedure Monitoring	Cheshire Constabulary's Policy & Procedures are published when the National Guidelines laid down by College of Policing – Authorised Professional Practice (APP) do not have adequate detail, specifically in respect of Cheshire local practices.  It is important that these Policies & Procedures are kept up to date and reviewed on a regular basis.	Ongoing	Ongoing regular monitoring and reviews, any overdue policies or procedures or issues are raised directly with the Policy Owner, Author and Business Area Leads.	Status reported at Information & Risk Governance Board twice yearly (April & September, or more frequently should there be any concerns).