

Agenda Item 3



**Lancashire
Constabulary**

police and communities together

REPORT TO: JOINT AUDIT COMMITTEE

DATE: 21 SEPTEMBER 2015

REPORT AUTHOR: STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE OFFICER

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Appendices A & B refer

1 Issue for Consideration

1.1 The revision to the Committee's Terms of Reference.

2 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- a. consider including the requirement to scrutinise the basis of the assurances provided as to the integrity of crime data, including the related performance management systems to the Terms of Reference, and
- b. recommend that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Chief Constable (CC) to approve the addition subject to any amendments that may be highlighted through discussions at this meeting;

3 Background

- 3.2 Members will be aware that the Terms of Reference of the JAC were agreed by the Committee in June 2014. The Committee has since undertaken a review of the Terms of Reference which were presented to the Committee in June 2015 for discussion / amendment.
- 3.3 The Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable subsequently considered and approved the revised Terms of Reference (Appendix A) at the Joint Management Board on the 7 July.

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- 3.4 Since then officers have undertaken a further review taking cognisance of the recommendations (Appendix B) set out in the Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life 'Tone from the Top' following its publication in June 2015.
- 3.5 The Committee on Standards in Public Life is an advisory Non-Departmental Public Body which examines current concerns about standards of conduct of all holders of public office and makes recommendations as to any changes in present arrangements which might be required to ensure the highest standards of propriety in public life.
- 3.5 Overall, officers were happy that the current Terms of Reference met the requirements set out in the report with the exception that the report recommended that Joint Audit Committees should consider including the requirement to scrutinise the basis of the assurances provided as to the integrity of crime data, including the related performance management systems.

4 Implications

Financial:	Resource requirements to enable development and implementation of the above can be found from existing budgets.
Legal:	Approval of the attached revised Terms of Reference will ensure statutory compliance with all current legislation and guidance.
Equality Impact Assessment:	None
Risks and Impact:	Without an effective JAC, neither the PCC nor the CC will be able to publically demonstrate that they have established a suitably robust risk control framework. Consequently, neither will be able to produce a fair and representative Annual Governance Statement that has been subject to sufficient independent challenge and review for the purposes of ensuring its integrity. This could expose both the PCC and CC to the risk of external audit qualification as well as public criticism.
Link to Police and Crime Plan:	The JAC provide a mechanism through which assurance can be sought and the public assured with regards to the probity, regularity and value for money of resources deployed in the pursuit of the Police and Crime Plan.

5 List of attachments / appendices

- Appendix A: Terms of Reference

6 Background Papers

- None

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