



**Philip Seccombe  
Police and Crime  
Commissioner  
for Warwickshire**

## **Decision Application WPCC20090**

### **Creation of a new Joint Audit and Standards Committee for Warwickshire**

<b>Application Date:</b>	August 2019	<b>Name of Applicant:</b>	Sara Ansell
<b>Application Decision Reference: WPCC20090</b>			
<b>1. Summary of the application</b>			
<p>This decision notice outlines the process being adopted to create a Warwickshire Joint Audit and Standards Committee (JASC), following the termination of the Strategic Alliance and the consequent ending of the current joint arrangements with West Mercia.</p>			
<b>2. Background information:</b>			
<p>In October 2018, the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Chief Constable served notice on their Warwickshire counterparts to end the Strategic Alliance between the two forces. The Strategic Alliance will end on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Under the Alliance arrangements a JASC exists between both Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables, but this will cease at the end of the Alliance.</p> <p>A JASC is a key component of the Warwickshire PCC's and Chief Constable's Corporate Governance. It provides an independent and high-level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance, financial and ethical standards.</p> <p>The purpose of the JASC is to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Warwickshire PCC and Chief Constable on the adequacy of the governance and risk management frameworks, the internal control environment, financial reporting and ethics and standards, thereby helping to ensure that efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place.</p> <p>The Committee is therefore enabled and required to have oversight of, and to provide independent review of the effectiveness of the Warwickshire PCCs' and Chief Constable's governance, risk management and control frameworks, their financial reporting and annual governance processes, internal and external audit and adherence to appropriate standards and ethics.</p>			

The terms of reference of the JASC summarises its' core functions in relation to the Office of the PCC and the Police Force and describes the protocols in place to enable it to operate independently, robustly and effectively.

A total of 5 members will be required for the new Warwickshire JASC. Existing Alliance JASC members will be invited to express an interest in sitting on the new Warwickshire JASC. Subject to any transferring members, an open and transparent recruitment process will be undertaken to fill any remaining vacancies. All associated details and correspondence are attached as additional information to this decision notice.

It is hoped that a new Warwickshire JASC will be in place for their inaugural meeting in October.

### **3. Whether additional information/report is attached to support this decision application**

**Yes**

#### **List of additional information/report**

- a) The advert for new JASC members
- b) Role details for new JASC members
- c) Further relevant information for existing members and applicants
- d) JASC Member Code of Conduct
- e) JASC Terms of Reference
- f) Correspondence with existing members regarding expressing an interest in the new Warwickshire JASC

### **4. Expected benefits (non financial)**

The JASC is a key part of the corporate governance arrangements for the PCC and Chief Constable for Warwickshire. They will provide independent, high level advice and recommendations on audit, assurance, risk management, financial and ethical standards to ensure compliance with best practice.

### **5. Impact of not approving the application**

Warwickshire would not have a Committee in place to provide the scrutiny and independent assurances that the key corporate governance policies, practices and procedures are in place.

### **6. Costs**

**Revenue:** The Committee chair attracts an annual allowance of £2,500, the vice-chair £2,250 and each member £2,000. All members are also entitled to claim all reasonable travel expenses, incurred whilst carrying out their duties and responsibilities in line with the arrangements for police staff

**Capital:** Nil

**7. Savings:**

There are no direct savings from this work

**8. Equality and Diversity Implications:**

None

**9. Treasurer's comments**

The annual costs of the Committee are outlined in this notice. Audit committees are a vital part of an organisation, supporting good governance, strong public financial management and effective internal and external audit.

CIPFA also concurs that a dedicated and effective audit committee is important for all public sector bodies and sets out their key principles for Audit Committees in a Position Statement. On this basis a new Warwickshire JASC must comply with these principles

**10. Legal/Monitoring Officer comments**

The appointment of a JASC is critical to ensure that both the PCC and Chief Constable provide an efficient, effective and a financially well managed Police service.

The independent scrutiny provided by the Committee as set out in this notice, on behalf of the public, provides a safeguard that the force has effective governance arrangements in place and that its finances and risk management processes comply with the standards and rules required of a public sector organisation.

The committee also has a key role to play in ensuring that the police force has a high standard of integrity and acts ethically (in line with the police code of ethics) in everything it does.

**Decision of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

Approved.  - Agreed.

**PCC Signature:**

**Date of Decision:** 5/9/19