

Warwickshire Joint Audit and Standards Committee Report Summary

Meeting Date: 17th March 2020

Subject: PCC Annual Governance Statement 2019/20

Contact details: Sara Ansell

Purpose of the Report:

The attached Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is attached as a draft document for consideration by the Committee. They are asked to comment and feedback on the document which will be finalised in April and May and be included within the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts.

In summary, the AGS is a statutory document which explains the processes and procedures in place to enable the PCC to carry out its functions effectively. The statement is produced following a review of the PCC's governance arrangements and includes an action plan to address any significant governance issues that have been identified.

CIPFA have outlined that the AGS is intended to be a public report on the extent to which the PCC complies with their own code of governance which is consistent with the good governance principles in the CIPFA framework. This includes:

- how the effectiveness of governance arrangements has been monitored and evaluated in the year
- any planned changes in the coming period.

The AGS should:

- reflect an individual PCC's particular features and challenges.
- provide a meaningful but brief communication regarding the review of governance that has taken place including the role of the governance structures involved (such as the PCC, the force, the Joint Audit and Standards Committee and any other Committees or Panels)
- be high level, strategic and written in an open and readable style
- focus on outcomes and value for money and relate to the authority's vision for the area.

The AGS should specifically include:

- an acknowledgement of responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of governance (including the system of internal control) and refer to the authority's code of governance
- a reference to and assessment of the effectiveness of key elements of the governance framework in supporting planned outcomes and the role of those responsible for its development and maintenance
- an opinion on the level of assurance that the governance arrangements can provide
- an agreed action plan dealing with significant governance issues and also indicating how previous actions have been resolved
- a conclusion
- the signature of the PCC and Chief Executive

It is hoped that this summary of requirements, provides some guidance to Committee members to enable them to feedback informatively on the draft document.

Recommendation:

The Committee are asked to consider the draft PCC AGS document for 2019/20 and feedback any comments or suggested amendments to the document, prior to it being finalised in the next few months.