

Warwickshire Joint Audit and Standards Committee Report Summary

Meeting Date: 20th December 2021

Subject: External Audit Draft Audit Findings Report 2020-21

Contact details: Jackson Murray and Andy Reid (GT)

Purpose of the Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide to the Joint Audit and Standards Committee the draft audit findings report, now that the completion of the audit of the 2020-21 Statement of Accounts for the PCC and Chief Constable is almost complete.

Recommendation:

For the JASC to note the draft audit findings report and provide any feedback to the PCC and Chief Constable. Any significant changes to the document will be shared with Committee once the audit is fully complete. Comments on the draft are invited prior to formal sign off of the Statement of Accounts by the Chief Constable, PCC and their respective staff.

Background:

Work is ongoing on the audit of the 2020-21 Statement of Accounts, and as such this document is included as a draft audit findings report. A verbal update on the report will be provided at the meeting, as further work is undertaken and the conclusion of the audit draws closer, but it should be noted that the audit work has not been fully completed in advance of issuing these draft audit findings.

Executive summary

Due to audit work on the financial statements still being ongoing at the time of preparing the reports, they are issued as draft documents at the current time. This will mean that the documents contain some further adjustments particularly for example in respect of pensions updates, or any other amendments arising as a result of the conclusion of the outstanding work. Work is being prioritised on the completion of the audit, and a further progress update and details will be shared with the Committee to enable a fuller discussion at the meeting.

Members of the Committee have received a pre-meeting brief on the Statement of Accounts and the audit process, which has touched on the role of external audit, current regulations and their reporting processes. This session has given members

a slightly more in depth opportunity to ask questions and challenge officers and the external auditors on issues arising from the accounts, and this should help members to fulfil the requirements under the latest Audit Committee guidance by CIPFA for monitoring the external audit process, and also the requirements of the terms of reference for the Committee.