

Warwickshire Joint Audit and Standards Committee Report Summary

Meeting Date: Tuesday 26th September 2023

Subject: Draft Audit findings Report 2022/23

Contact details: Jackson Murray, Grant Thornton

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 2022/23 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 nearing completion on the audit of the 2022/23 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.

Executive Summary

The audit work on the financial statements is largely complete, with no significant issues identified. However, this work cannot be finalised and audit opinions issued, without two pieces of external assurance being made available, relating to the external treasure advisors, and also in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme. The receipt of these outstanding documents, is largely outside the control of the audit team, and also finance staff at the OPCC and in the force. Whilst the plan has always remained for the audit opinion to be issued by the end of September, the absence of these documents, would prevent this and does therefore provide a risk to this being achieved, despite all other work being complete.

Grant Thornton had also hoped to conclude the value for money work in September, and since the last JASC had put in place plans to hopefully achieve this. Unfortunately

sickness in our team means this has not progressed in accordance with this plan, and it is now proposed that the VFM work will be reported at a later Committee.

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.