

## Warwickshire Joint Audit and Standards Committee Report Summary

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

**Subject:** PCC/Group and Chief Constable Statement of Accounts 2022/23

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### Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to provide to the Joint Audit and Standards Committee the audited Statements of Accounts, for the PCC and Chief Constable, In accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (The Act)

The PCC for Warwickshire is required to produce a separate Statement of Accounts including group accounts, to those of the Chief Constable. These documents are both attached to this report. The Statements were last brought to the Committee in September last year, given that the audit work was largely complete. However, further clarification on the pension figures was required and still awaited at that point. That information has now been received from GAD the police pensions actuaries, and as a result of the revised valuation, some changes to the pensions liability in the Statements was required. These have now been incorporated into the documents, and the figures have been re audited. Any audit changes are highlighted in the accompanying documents.

### Recommendation

For the JASC to consider and comment on the draft statements as amended following the revised pensions valuations, prior to formal sign off by the Chief Constable, PCC and their respective staff, as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

### Background

Work is nearing completion on the audit of the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts, and a draft audit findings report has been shared with this committee. A further verbal update on the Statements and the audit work will be provided at the Committee.

### Executive Summary

The audit work on the financial statements is now complete, and no significant issues or concerns have been raised. This work was largely undertaken in September, and the draft statements were previously presented to the JASC at the last formal meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> September. However, JASC members will recall that the work could not be finalised and audit opinions issued at that point, as two pieces of further external assurances

regarding pensions were required. These have subsequently been received from the LGPS auditors, and also from GAD the actuaries for the police pensions. These reports have resulted in some final changes in the valuations and these have now been reflected in the Statements. All changes since September are highlighted in the accompanying documents. The changes to the statements have been re-audited and Grant Thornton have reissued their Audit findings report (AFR), which is included as an earlier agenda item at this meeting. All changes to the previous draft AFR version have been highlighted, and relate to the pensions changes.

Members of the Committee have received a pre-meeting brief on the Statement of Accounts and the audit process at the September meeting, and have also had an opportunity to raise any issues at the pre-meet in January 2024. These updates have touched on the role of external audit, current regulations and their reporting processes. The sessions have 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.