



ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2013

1. INTRODUCTION

This Annual Governance Statement reflects the position as at 30 September 2013, including the financial year 2012/13, when the Statement of Accounts was approved by the Police and Crime Commissioner (the PCC). This statement is an opportunity to demonstrate compliance with the PCC's Code of Corporate Governance issued on 4 March 2013.

On 22 November 2012, during the financial year 2012/13, the PCC for Suffolk commenced in office following the abolition of the Suffolk Police Authority (the Authority) on 21 November 2012. The governance arrangements that existed until the Authority's abolition are effectively and comprehensively described in the Authority's final Annual Governance Statement which was executed by the Chairman and the Chief Executive of the Authority on 21 September 2012. A copy of the Authority's final Annual Governance Statement can be accessed via the PCC website at www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk or can be obtained from the PCC's Offices at Police Headquarters, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, IP5 3QS.

2. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The PCC is responsible for ensuring that his business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

In discharging this responsibility, the PCC must put in place proper arrangements for the governance of his affairs and for facilitating the exercise of his functions. This includes ensuring that a sound system of internal control is maintained through the year and that arrangements are in place for the management of risk. In exercising this responsibility the PCC places reliance on the Chief Constable of the Suffolk Constabulary to support the governance and risk management processes.

The PCC has approved and adopted a Code of Corporate Governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE¹ Framework: "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government" published in 2007 and the CIPFA Guidance Note for Police on the Framework published in autumn 2012. A copy of the Code is available on the PCC website at www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk or can be obtained from the PCC's offices at Police Headquarters, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, IP5 3QS. This Annual Governance Statement explains how the PCC has complied with the Code of Corporate Governance and further how the PCC meets the requirements of regulation 4(2) of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011.

In accordance with the 2011/12 Code of Practice on Accounting, the PCC's Chief Finance Officer has reviewed the PCC's financial management arrangements against the governance requirements set out in Principle 3 of the CIPFA Statement upon the role of the Chief Finance Officer to the PCC. He is satisfied that the PCC's financial management arrangements conform with each of the governance requirements set out in Principle 3 and that accordingly public money is safeguarded at all times and used appropriately, economically, efficiently and effectively.

Both the PCC and the Chief Constable are subject to the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011. These Regulations require all relevant bodies to prepare an Annual Governance Statement which must accompany the Statement of Accounts. Group accounts must be completed by the PCC for the PCC and Chief Constable, and the Chief Constable must complete individual accounts. Both the PCC and the Chief Constable are required to produce Annual Governance Statements.

¹ CIPFA is the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. SOLACE is the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives.

3. THE PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

The governance framework comprises the systems, processes, culture and values by which the PCC directs himself and maintains control and the activities through which he accounts to and engages with the community. It enables the PCC to monitor the achievement of strategic objectives and to consider whether these objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services, including achieving value for money.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable and foreseeable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the PCC's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, to manage them effectively, efficiently and economically.

4. THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

This section describes the key elements of the systems and processes that comprise the PCC's governance arrangements. It explains the overarching structures that have been put in place to deal with these systems and processes and how they are linked to each other. In producing this explanation steps have been taken to ensure that the actions identified in the PCC's Code of Corporate Governance are being addressed. This statement refers to a number of documents and decisions made by the PCC which help to illustrate the Governance Framework of the PCC. These documents and decisions are available through the PCC website referred to above.

A. Identification, Communication and Review of the PCC's Aim and Objectives

This section describes how the PCC's vision for his purpose and the intended outcomes for citizens and service users are identified and communicated.

Police and Crime Plan

The PCC's Police and Crime Plan 2013/17 was issued at the end of March 2013. The Plan describes the PCC's medium term aspirations for policing Suffolk during his term of office. A strategic plan which will outline the PCC's longer term vision is in the course of being developed.

The PCC's Plan sets out his overall aim of making Suffolk a safer place in which to live, work, travel and invest. As required by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Plan contains:

- the PCC's police and crime objectives:
 - for policing;
 - for crime and disorder reduction;
 - for the discharge of national/international functions;
- the policing which the Chief Constable is to provide;
- the financial and other resources which the PCCs will provide to the Chief Constable;
- the means by which the Chief Constable will report to the PCC on the provision of policing;
- the means by which the Chief Constable's performance will be measured;
- the crime and disorder reduction grants which the PCC is to make and the conditions upon they are to be made.

The Plan for 2013/17 has been the product of extensive planning and development starting in early 2012. To facilitate this process and to ensure that the Plan was produced in a thorough and systematic way, a Strategic Planning Framework was developed during early 2012. This Framework (which can be found in PCC Decision No 4-2013) sets out all the steps that were required to address the statutory obligations upon the PCC in relation to the Plan. This included amongst other things:

- obtaining the views of the people of Suffolk and victims of crime;
- consideration of the Strategic Assessment of Policing and Community Safety (which included an analysis of risks and threats);
- having regard to the priorities of responsible authorities;
- ensuring that the draft Plan was available to the new PCC upon commencement in office on 22 November 2012;
- consulting the Chief Constable in preparing the draft Plan; and
- sending the draft Plan to the Police and Crime Panel for review in accordance with statutory requirements.

Accordingly the Plan has been produced during 2012 and early 2013 following extensive consultation and development with key stakeholders and communities. The Plan was widely circulated to partners and published on the PCC website. A summary document was also produced for ease of reading and communication of the message.

Plan Variation

Arrangements are in the course of being made for review and variation of the Plan by the PCC when required so as to involve stakeholders and communities as well as the Police and Crime Panel. Such review is likely to take account, amongst other things, of:

- the PCC's longer term strategy;
- emerging risks and threats;
- further consultation with stakeholders; and
- the emerging landscape and environment.

Annual Report

The PCC is required to produce an Annual Report. The PCC has, although he has not yet been in office for 12 months, produced a part-year Annual Report and which was formally submitted to the Police and Crime Panel for consideration in July 2013. This was an early opportunity for the PCC to report upon his progress in office since November 2012 in relation to his activities, achievements, financial position and performance.

B. Ensuring Delivery of Services and the Best Use of Resources

This section explains how the quality of policing and crime services is measured and how the PCC ensures that they are delivered in accordance with his objectives. Further it explains how it is ensured that the services represent the best use of resources.

Police and Crime Objectives

The Police and Crime Plan contains the police and crime objectives which all contribute toward achieving the PCC's overall aim of making Suffolk a safer place in which to live, work, travel and invest. Each objective is supported by actions that the Constabulary and/or partners will undertake which will contribute to successful outcomes. These objectives and actions are underpinned by performance measures which are used to assess how well the objectives are being achieved. The performance measures are set out in the PCC's Performance Management Framework which is appended to the Plan.

The PCC is able to utilise the funds available to him to award crime and disorder reduction grants. The PCC commissions services from any provider who he considers can provide services to contribute to his police and crime objectives.

Monitoring Delivery of Objectives

The PCC regularly reviews progress against his police and crime objectives. Where grants have been awarded the awards have been made against the timescales and milestones for delivery and include agreed success criteria or performance measures.

The Chief Constable is held to account for delivery of the objectives primarily through the PCC's Accountability and Performance Panel. Meetings are held every two months and are open to the public. The PCC holds the Chief Constable to account for typical performance against the average performance over the three year period from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2013. To add context the PCC also publishes information on performance against the previous year and shows comparison with

the group of forces most similar to Suffolk and the Crime Survey for England and Wales.

Where the PCC has awarded grant monies to organisations this has been undertaken against robust business cases which clearly set out the success criteria and how the initiative for which funding is sought will deliver clear and measurable outcomes against the police and crime objectives. Where funding has been awarded to a body that body reports on outcomes and progress deriving from the grant to the Accountability and Performance Panel as requested by the PCC.

Accountability and Performance Panel

The PCC has established the Panel primarily to hold the Chief Constable to account. A Schedule of Future Business for the Panel was published at its inception. As indicated above the Panel will monitor performance in a number of other areas and which includes financial monitoring, compliance with the Strategic Policing Requirement, estates issues, collaboration, protective services, human resources issues, stop and search, children and equality issues. The Constabulary Risk Register will also be viewed in private session at each Panel meeting. For more information about the Panel see PCC Decision No 6 – 2013.

Medium Term Financial Plan

The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2013/14 to 2016/17 has been drawn up in line with the PCC's manifesto commitments. The MTFP was drawn up following identification of the 2013-14 government grants in December 2012. Delivery of a balanced budget against the 4 year period of the MTFP is dependent upon the Constabulary delivering continued planned savings and currently unplanned savings initiatives. This represents a significant financial and operational challenge and will be monitored formally by the PCC through the Accountability and Performance Panel. The position will be monitored on the PCC's behalf on a day-to-day basis by the PCC's Chief Finance Officer,

For more information on the MTFP see PCC Decision No 3-2013.

Inspection

The PCC and Chief Constable carry out a large number of internal inspections each year. These are undertaken by either the Constabulary itself or through the joint programme of linked audits undertaken by the Internal Auditors.

There are also a number of external inspections undertaken of the Constabulary, in the main by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) but also including the external auditors. Reports from the external inspections and auditors are considered variously by the PCC. Where actions are required and as appropriate the necessary improvements are monitored by the PCC by consideration of progress against action plans. Any matters of concern are recorded upon the PCC's Risk Register.

By way of example, in June 2013, HMIC inspected the Constabulary in the latest round of the Valuing the Police Inspection Programme, in order to explore in detail the issues facing the Constabulary in meeting the financial challenge and consideration of future risks beyond the spending review in the context of the strategic direction the PCC has set for the force.

Overall therefore there are robust and effective arrangements for ensuring that policing services are delivered in accordance with the PCC's objectives and to a high standard and further for ensuring that they represent the best use of resources.

C. Roles and Responsibilities

This section explains the definition and documentation of the roles and responsibilities of the PCC, his statutory officers and those exercising delegated authority on his behalf. The nature of the delegation arrangements for challenging and scrutinising Constabulary activity are also explained.

PCC Functions

As a corporation sole established by statute the PCC performs a number of functions that are provided for in legislation, namely the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Principal amongst those functions are the duties to secure the maintenance of the police force, secure that the force is efficient and effective, and to hold the Chief Constable to account for the exercise of their functions and those under their direction and control.

The functions and responsibilities of the PCC are discharged by the PCC himself except insofar as the performance of the functions is delegated.

PCC's Governance Scheme

The PCC has established a corporate governance framework, known as the Governance Scheme. It comprises four essential elements, namely:

- a Decision-Making and Accountability Framework;
- a Scheme of Delegation;
- Financial Regulations; and
- Contract Standing Orders.

Decision-Making and Accountability Framework

The Decision-Making and Accountability Framework has been developed to enable the PCC and those exercising delegated authority on behalf of the PCC to make robust, well-informed and transparent decisions and hold the Chief Constable to account. The formalities relating to the making of decisions are clearly established with decisions, apart from those where there are reasons of confidentiality, being published on the PCC's website. The decision-making arrangements are detailed in PCC Decision No 1-2012.

The accountability arrangements whilst briefly explained in PCC Decision No 1-2012 were further developed in PCC Decision No 6-2013. In order to hold the Chief Constable to account and to enable issues to be discussed (and where appropriate decisions made) in public the PCC established an Accountability and Performance Panel. This Panel, scheduled to meet every two months, is the primary vehicle by which the PCC holds the Chief Constable to account in a public forum. A Schedule of Future Business for these meetings has been published, although the business for these meetings is added to as the year progresses. Although the Panel will receive bi-monthly reports on the delivery of the elements of the Police and Crime Plan as well as financial reports against the Budget, the PCC also receives updates on delivery between each of the meetings.

In addition to this formal accountability mechanism there are also regular meetings between the PCC and Chief Constable. Arranged on approximately a weekly basis, they are also attended by the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Constable.

Scheme of Delegation

A Scheme of Delegation, found in PCC Decision No 1-2012, has been established by the PCC. The Scheme of Delegation identifies those powers of the PCC which may be exercised by officers on his behalf. The Scheme requires to be read and operated together with the Decision-Making and Accountability Framework, as well the Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders and which are available through the PCC website.

The four essential elements of the Governance Scheme provide for how, in addition to operating within statutory parameters, the decisions of the PCC and those exercising authority on his behalf, are made.

The Chief Executive and the PCC's Chief Finance Officer monitor the Scheme of Governance on a continuous basis to ensure it is fit for purpose. The governance arrangements put in place have run from the commencement in office of the PCC on 22 November 2012.

Officer Roles

The Chief Executive, PCC's Chief Finance Officer, Chief Constable and others as appropriate, are required to advise and support the PCC in meeting his responsibilities.

Chief Executive

The Chief Executive's role is to support and advise the PCC in delivering his Police and Crime Plan and in undertaking his statutory duties and responsibilities. As well as responsibility for the management and day to day running of the Office of the PCC the Chief Executive is also the Monitoring Officer. In discharging this role the Chief Executive is required to report to the PCC if it appears that any proposal, decision or failure within their organisation constitutes, has given rise to, or is likely to break the law or a code of practice.

PCC's Chief Finance Officer

The PCC's Chief Finance Officer is required to ensure that the financial affairs of the PCC are properly administered. Whilst the PCC's professional adviser on financial matters, the PCC's Chief Finance Officer also has similar legal duties and responsibilities to the Monitoring Officer in connection with any unlawful, or potentially unlawful, spending by the PCC or those acting on the PCC's behalf.

The Chief Executive and PCC's Chief Finance Officer continually consider the resources and support necessary to perform effectively in their roles.

Papers to be considered by the PCC for decision are scrutinised by the Chief Executive and/or PCC's Chief Finance Officer, as appropriate for compliance purposes. Indeed any submission for decision by the PCC must be certified by the Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer or Deputy Chief Executive. More information about the roles and responsibilities of the Chief Executive and the PCC's Chief Finance Officer can be found in PCC Decision No 1-2012.

Chief Constable

The role and responsibilities of the Chief Constable are set out in the common law, legislation and Chief Constable's job description, amongst other sources. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the Policing Protocol 2012 are key in this regard. The functions designated to the Chief Constable are briefly summarised in the PCC's Scheme of Delegation.

The Police and Crime Panel

Whilst the PCC is ultimately accountable to the electorate the Panel provides a check and balance in relation to performance of the PCC. The Panel scrutinises the PCC's exercise of their statutory functions. Comprising 11 local county and district councillors and 2 co-opted members and appointed independently of the PCC, the Panel exercises its functions with a view to supporting the effective exercise of the PCC's functions. It has two powers of veto in relation to the PCC's proposed precept and the appointment of a Chief Constable. In the PCC's first months in office he fully engaged with the Panel regarding setting the Precept, the development of the Police and Crime Plan, including consultation responses on the Plan, arrangements for commissioning and the appointment of a new Chief Constable.

D. Standards of Conduct

PCC

The PCC is accountable to the electorate for his conduct. Upon taking up office the PCC made a statutory declaration of acceptance of office by which he committed to serving all the people of Suffolk. In discharging this responsibility he is not subject to any formal code of conduct but he is expected to adhere to the Nolan principles relating to standards of behaviour in public life. Briefly stated these relate to selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. The PCC is subject to the Official Secrets Act 1989 in the same way as police officers.

Complaints against the PCC fall to be considered under the Elected Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012. The appropriate authority for complaints made against the PCC is the Police and Crime Panel. The Panel is responsible for the initial recording of complaints and conduct matters and for referring any complaints which allege criminality to the Independent Police Complaints Commission. Where complaints do not allege criminality, the Panel is responsible for handling and informally resolving these complaints. At its meeting on 25 January 2013 the Panel delegated to the PCC's Chief Executive responsibility for receipt, initial handling and recording of complaints, and to the Monitoring Officer of Suffolk County Council, responsibility for securing informal resolution of complaints.

Under the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011 the PCC is required to maintain a register of interests of the PCC. Accordingly the Register of Interests is maintained and available for examination via the PCC's website.

Officers and others

The PCC has not adopted a specific code of conduct for those of its staff who are not under the direction and control of the Chief Constable. In any event PCC staff are subject to rules of conduct applicable under their contracts of employment.

Accordingly there are codes of conduct defining the standards of behaviour of Authority staff.

In addition to these rules of conduct the Chief Executive as a solicitor and the PCC Chief Finance Officer as an accountant, are also subject to professional codes of conduct.

Complaints against the PCC officers (and other volunteers utilised by the PCC) are handled in accordance with the explanation found on the PCC's website. The PCC is committed to maintaining the highest levels of honesty and integrity and the prevention of corrupt, dishonest, unethical and unprofessional behaviour. All PCC staff and volunteers performing custody visitor and Independent Advisory Group duties are subject to police vetting processes. The PCCs vetting policy is set out in PCC Decision No 7-2013.

Gifts and Hospitality

Under the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011 the PCC is required to publish a register of each offer of gift or hospitality made to the PCC or a member of staff, indicating whether the offer was accepted or refused. Accordingly a Register of Gifts and Hospitality is maintained.

E. Governance Scheme, including Contract Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and their Update

This section explains the arrangements that apply for Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, both of which are part of the Governance Scheme (see section C above).

Financial Regulations

The PCC has adopted a set of Financial Regulations. Available through the PCC website, the Regulations are a major part of the overall governance arrangements for the PCC and help establish a sound internal control environment. In order to conduct business effectively, the PCC and Chief Constable need to ensure that sound financial management policies are in place and that they are strictly adhered to. The Regulations that have been adopted have been drawn up to ensure that the financial affairs of the PCC and the Chief Constable are conducted properly and in compliance with all necessary requirements. They are designed to establish overarching financial responsibilities, and to provide clarity about the financial accountabilities of groups or individuals. They apply to all PCC staff and all of the Chief Constable's officers and staff and anyone acting on their behalf.

The Financial Regulations cannot be viewed in isolation but rather as part of the overall regulatory framework of the Governance Scheme.

The Regulations are subject to continuous monitoring by the PCC Chief Finance Officer and Chief Executive to ensure they are fit for purpose in view of the constantly changing environment.

The Regulations were originally developed by the Joint Head of Finance for Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies with the intention of agreeing a common set of Financial Regulations for Norfolk and Suffolk in view of the significant level of collaborative activity between the two policing areas. Latterly a common set of Financial Regulations have been agreed for Norfolk and Suffolk.

Contract Standing Orders

The PCC has also adopted a set of Contract Standing Orders. The PCC and Chief Constable require all procurement activity to be undertaken in a transparent, fair and consistent manner, ensuring the highest standards of probity and accountability. The Contract Standing Orders set out the arrangements to ensure that all contracts shall comply with statutory requirements. Developed by the Joint Head of Procurement for Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies (see Decision No 2-2013) they were initially drawn up with the intention of agreeing a common set of Contract Standing Orders in view of the significant level of collaborative activity between the two policing areas. Following discussion with Norfolk a common set of Contract Standing Orders for Norfolk and Suffolk were agreed during May 2-13 (Decision No 30-2013). The Contract Standing Orders are continuously monitored by the PCC Chief Finance Officer and Chief Executive to ensure they are fit for purpose.

F. Risk Management

Risk Management Strategy

A key aspect of decision-making by the PCC relates to risk management. The PCC has adopted a Risk Management Strategy and which is encapsulated within the document Risk Management Strategy (incorporating the statement of responsibilities). The PCC seeks to identify, analyse and prioritise the risks faced. He then seeks to manage and control the risks in order to maximise the quality and efficiency of service provision. The strategy recognises the importance of working closely with the Constabulary and sets out clearly the various responsibilities of the individuals and groups in the risk management regime.

The Chief Executive is overall responsible for overseeing the corporate approach to risk management and each year arranges, as judged necessary, for an audit of compliance with the strategy.

Both the PCC and the Chief Constable maintain strategic risk registers which are regularly reviewed. The PCC's Risk Register, which identifies, profiles, controls and maintains all strategic risks, is circulated to the Constabulary and is published upon the PCC's website at each update.

All submissions to the PCC for decision are required to address risk and this is specifically provided for in the Strategy.

All reports to the PCC's Accountability and Performance Panel require the originators to address the risks associated with the subject-matter of the report. This approach ensures that risk management plays a major role in the key elements of the PCC's work relating to financial and budgetary management, service planning and performance management.

For further information upon the PCC's Risk Management Strategy reference should be made to PCC Decision No 17-2013.

G. The Role and Functioning of the Audit Committee

Interim Audit Committee

The Audit Committee for the PCC and Chief Constable discharges the functions of an Audit Committee as suggested by the Guidance for Local Authorities on Audit Committees (2005) published by the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and

Accountancy (CIPFA). The Audit Committee was established in the first instance in February 2013 as an interim Audit Committee to meet on three occasions in the period until 30 September 2013. Arrangements are being made to appoint a substantive Audit Committee for the period from 1 October 2013 onwards.

The interim Audit Committee has performed the functions as set out in the CIPFA Guidance and achieved its purpose:

“to provide independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment, independent scrutiny of the organisation’s financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects exposure to risk and weakens the control environment, and to oversee the financial reporting process.”

For further information upon the interim Audit Committee and in particular the core functions of the Committee, reference should be made to PCC Decision No 11-2013.

H. Compliance with Law and Internal Policy and Procedure

This section addresses the arrangements that are in place to ensure that relevant law is complied with by the PCC and to ensure that internal policy and procedure is observed. In particular, the arrangements to ensure that all expenditure by the PCC is lawful is described.

Statutory Officers

The PCC is responsible for securing an efficient and effective police service for the area, for observing the duties imposed upon it and exercising the powers conferred upon it by legislation. The Chief Executive and the PCC’s Chief Finance Officer are required to support and advise the PCC in delivering his manifesto, as expressed through the police and crime plan, and in undertaking his statutory duties and responsibilities. This includes in relation to strategy and resource planning, partnership working, commissioning and service delivery, engagement and information management, scrutiny, evaluation and performance.

The Chief Executive is a statutory officer. Whilst responsible for the effective and efficient administration of the PCC’s office he also fulfils the statutory role of monitoring officer. In this regard he has responsibility to draw to the PCCs attention any actual or possible contravention of law, maladministration or injustice.

The PCC’s Chief Finance Officer, also a statutory officer, has similar responsibilities relating to financial management and governance, and is similarly required to report issues of a financial nature to the PCC where they may give rise to a breach of requirements, be they statutory or otherwise.

All originators of submissions to the PCC for decisions are required to consider a number of issues in the production of their submissions, namely, legal, financial, equality, diversity and human rights, human resources, consistency with the objectives of the Police and Crime Plan, consultation, media and risks. The Chief Executive must be satisfied that all relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of a submission before it is considered by the PCC. Similar issues must be considered by originators in the production of reports for the PCC’s Accountability and Performance Panel.

Whilst the PCC is reliant upon the statutory professional officers to scan and monitor the environment for potential legislative impacts upon him he is also assisted by

numerous professional networks. These include the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners which, amongst other things, is a source of support and advice to PCC's. This is supplemented by the Chief Executive and PCC's Chief Finance Officer membership of the Association of Policing and Crime Chief Executives and the Police and Crime Commissioners' Treasurers' Society respectively, both of which provide a conduit for further professional advice. Technical support services of a financial nature, in common with other police areas, are received from Somerset County Council.

Each year a programme of internal audits is undertaken which is aimed at ensuring compliance with internal policy and procedure. The Plan of internal audits, considered by the interim Audit Committee, takes into account current corporate governance and risk management issues.

It is clear therefore that there are numerous mechanisms across the PCC's office whereby steps are taken to ensure the PCC complies with both his external and internal obligations.

I. Whistleblowing and Complaints

This section describes the processes for whistleblowing and explains the transparent and accessible arrangements for handling complaints.

Whistleblowing

The statutory provisions relating to whistleblowing apply to police officers and police staff alike. This means that such staff are able to make disclosures protected by the legislation and remain protected from action by their employer. These statutory provisions are reflected in the policies that apply to staff of the PCC and the Constabulary and explain the action to be taken in cases of whistleblowing.

Complaints

The handling of complaints relating to the police service is an intricate and complex combination of statutory and employment related provisions. The PCC's website provides information regarding the various types of complaint which might arise and to where complaints should be addressed. It also advises on how the Office of the PCC deals with complaints which are its responsibility.

Complaints against the PCC

The appropriate authority for complaints made against the PCC is the Police and Crime Panel. The Police and Crime Panel is responsible for initial recording of complaints and conduct matters and for referring any complaints which allege criminality to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). Where complaints do not allege criminality, the Police and Crime Panel is responsible for handling and informally resolving these complaints. The Police and Crime Panel has determined that the Chief Executive of the Office of the PCC shall have delegated authority for the receipt and initial handling and recording of complaints against the PCC. However the Monitoring Officer of the Suffolk County Council has responsibility for securing the informal resolution of complaints as appropriate. Complaints are handled in accordance with the Elected Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012.

Complaints against the Chief Constable

The PCC is responsible for recording and investigating complaints against the Chief Constable. In dealing with complaints about the Chief Constable, the PCC follows the statutory guidance issued by the IPCC and in line with the Police (Complaints and Conduct) Regulations 2012.

Complaints against Police Officers and Police Staff

If anyone wishes to make a complaint against a police officer (other than the Chief Constable) or a member of police staff that works for the Suffolk Constabulary, the PCC's website directs them to the dedicated section of the Constabulary's website or alternatively to the PCC website.

The PCC does not deal with complaints about police officers (apart from the Chief Constable) and staff who work for the Constabulary. However the PCC does have a responsibility to monitor and keep themselves informed of complaints and misconduct issues relating to police officers and police staff. Where necessary, the PCC also has the power to direct the Chief Constable to take action in relation to complaints matters. The PCC regularly monitors information about complaints received by Suffolk Constabulary and the lessons learnt by the force.

Complaints against PCC Support Staff

For police staff who fall under the control of the PCC, their contractual terms provide for how complaints against individual staff are to be handled.

Other Complaints

If anyone wishes to make complaint about the conduct of an Independent Custody Visitor or a member of the Independent Advisory Group the PCC's website explains the action to be taken.

J. Conditions of Employment and Development of Officers in relation to their Roles and Training

Terms and Conditions

The staff of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner transferred to his employment by operation of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 from the Suffolk Police Authority on 22 November 2012. These staff, all of whom are under the direction and control of the PCC, were employed on the standard terms and conditions of the Suffolk Constabulary subject to local variation appropriate to their circumstances. The policies of the Suffolk Constabulary similarly are generally applicable to them subject to variation as necessary within the employment grouping. These variations are provided for in each member of staff's statement of conditions of employment.

The PCC also currently employs all police staff who were at 21 November 2012 in the employment of Suffolk Police Authority. These staff all fall under the direction and control of the Chief Constable. The future employment of these police staff will be with either the PCC or the Chief Constable. This will need to be determined by 1 April 2014. This is referred to in Section 6 below as a significant governance issue.

Development

The PCC has approved a Statement of Approach to Training. This modifies the previous Statement of Approach to Training adopted by the predecessor Authority. The document brings together all aspects of training and development into one place and demonstrates the PCC's commitment to training. Available via the website PCC Decision No 30-2013, it expands upon the arrangement described below.

The performance of and training needs of officers of the PCC are examined and actioned through Performance Development Review. Through this process steps are identified to enhance transferable skills of officers as well as increase and maintain the knowledge and skills base in police and governance specific disciplines.

The two statutory officers, namely the Chief Executive and PCC's Chief Finance Officer are required to undertake continuing professional development in order to sustain professional qualifications. Officers regularly attend conferences and seminars upon issues of relevance to the delivery of policing and governance.

Regular staff meetings are held and which provide an opportunity for staff to update and enhance their knowledge of key developments on an on-going basis.

All new staff are inducted into the work of the PCC and receive guidance appropriate to the roles to be performed.

K. Engagement with Communities and Other Stakeholders

This section describes how the PCC establishes clear channels of communication with all Suffolk communities and stakeholders, recognising that different sections of the Suffolk community have different priorities and how it ensures accountability and encourages open consultation.

Communication

The PCC's website, which is regularly updated, is one of the primary sources by which the PCC publicises his activity. In easily accessible format, it includes material upon the PCC's day-to-day activity, news stories, forthcoming meetings, meeting agendas and associated papers, key governance documentation, advice on how to make a complaint, and decisions as well as information that the PCC is statutorily required to publish. In this latter regard information of the expenditure and the running expenses of the Office of the PCC can be found. Responses to all Freedom of Information requests are also published.

Consultation

One of the PCC's key functions is to make arrangements for obtaining the views of the community upon policing. This includes obtaining the views of the people in Suffolk and victims of crime about the policing of Suffolk. Further the views of people in Suffolk and victims of crime in Suffolk must be obtained upon the draft Police and Crime Plan before it is issued. In addition the views of the people and ratepayers representatives must be obtained on proposals for expenditure. This means that decisions of the PCC about police and crime objectives, contained within the Police and Crime Plan, and decisions upon expenditure must be informed by the views gained in pursuit of the above obligations upon the PCC. In addition the PCC must exercise their functions having regard to the relevant priorities of each responsible authority.

During 2012 in readiness for the election of the PCC in November 2012 work began upon processes which lead ultimately to the issue of the PCC's first Police and Crime Plan in March 2013. As set out above in Section A, a Strategic Planning Framework was developed to lead up to the issue of a Police and Crime Plan in a thorough and systematic way. The Framework can be found in PCC Decision No 4-2013. This decision, along with PCC Decision No 14-2013, summarises the consultation that took place with responsible authorities, business representatives, stakeholders, obtaining the views of the people of Suffolk and victims of crime, and collaboration upon the draft Police and Crime Plan and expenditure, as well as how that consultation shaped the Police and Crime Plan.

The purpose of the Strategic Planning Framework was to ensure that the PCC secured and understood the views of local people about policing, that police and crime objectives were shaped around local needs and which would help improve public confidence. The PCC went on to provide feedback on how issues raised through consultation and community engagement were considered and acted upon.

Arrangements for further consultation are currently underway and consideration is being given how consultation responses and engagement with partners and stakeholders will feed into future variations to the Police and Crime Plan,

Engagement

The PCC has also put in place initial arrangements for engagement with the community through a series of planned meetings. These arrangements are described in PCC Decisions Nos 1-2012 and 6-2013. In order to enable engagement by the PCC with partners, representatives of community groups and the public, a range of Annual District Forums (one Forum for each of the 7 districts) and District Panels (one Panel for each of the 7 districts) have been programmed for 2013. These meetings will be held in local districts and will provide for regular engagement. It is arranged that after each District Panel meeting there will be a PCC surgery providing an opportunity for members of the public meet on a one-to-one basis with the PCC. The arrangements are subject to on-going review and will be adapted during the course of the year.

Business

In addition a range of Business Forums (four per year) have been programmed through 2013 for the PCC and Suffolk Constabulary to engage with representatives of the business community.

IAG

A channel of communication also exists through the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) which helps improve the trust and confidence of Suffolk's diverse communities in the police service.

It is through the arrangements summarised above that the PCC encourages individuals from all parts of the Suffolk community to engage with, contribute to and participate in the work of the PCC.

L. Partnerships

The PCC has a number of collaborative/partnership arrangements with members of the wider policing/local government family.

Collaboration with Norfolk

Both Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies are collaborating extensively across a range of service areas. At the point where collaborative opportunities are identified as able to deliver efficiencies, savings or improved service then the PCC is required to give its approval to collaborate. This is recognised by Norfolk and Suffolk alike. The PCCs of both Norfolk and Suffolk have agreed to meet on 6 occasions per year with the Chief Constables to consider issues of mutual interest and to discharge the governance responsibilities of the PCCs in relation to collaboration between Norfolk and Suffolk. The meetings are held in public unless the nature of the business to be transacted requires to be considered in private. Agenda, reports and minutes are produced and published in respect of all meetings (except where confidentiality must be maintained) and where appropriate they are published on the PCC website. This is determined by reference to the Government's Protective Marking Scheme. With the continuing expansion of collaborative activity with Norfolk, performance monitoring from the service delivery and financial perspective is undertaken across the agreed areas of collaboration. Any executive decisions arising from this meeting of PCCs, in Suffolk's case, need to be formalised in compliance with the PCC's decision-making arrangements.

The most longstanding collaborative project is the Police Investigation Centres Project which seeks to provide custody facilities across Norfolk and Suffolk under a private finance initiative. All of the custody facilities were formally commissioned during 2011. A legally binding Second Joint Working Agreement, which in general terms describes the management and governance arrangements between the two PCCs, and which runs for the 30 year life if the service, is in existence. The PCC currently maintains oversight of the project through membership of the Project Board by the Chief Executive and the PCC's Chief Finance Officer. Decision-making relating to specifically identified decisions requires PCC approval.

Regional Collaboration

Across the region collaboration is also being pursued. The six PCCs from the region are currently in the process of considering the governance mechanisms that they wish to initiate. All collaborations that have been entered into have a collaboration agreement and which specify the formalities of the collaboration arrangements in relation to specific collaborations. For example the previous 6 police authorities in the region approved a major 6 force collaboration upon serious and organised crime in March 2010. This was formalised into a collaboration agreement which provides for the specific detail of the arrangements.

Wider Public Sector

The PCC is also involved in partnerships outside of the police family and in this regard has continued the work overseen by the predecessor authority. The police service in Suffolk currently share use of a number of buildings with the County Council ranging from Landmark House in Ipswich (which involved the joint purchase and commissioning of this major capital asset) to the shared use of local fire stations throughout the county for Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

The PCC attends the countywide Safer Suffolk Partnership Board but does not attend regularly at the Community Safety Partnerships within the county. It is the role of the Community Safety Partnerships to work together to develop and implement a strategy for reducing crime and disorder. The strategic decision-making body of each Community Safety Partnership is the Responsible Group whose responsibility it

is to oversee all aspects of the work of the Community Safety Partnerships, including setting priorities, maintaining progress and agreeing funding for local initiatives.

For the financial year 2013/14 the PCC has awarded Crime and Disorder Reduction Grants to each of the County's Community Safety Partnerships and the Safer Suffolk Partnership Board from the Community Safety Fund (see PCC Decision No 22-2013). Each Partnership is required to spend their grants in accordance with the terms of award and account to the PCC for outcomes and progress in relation to the grants through the PCC's Accountability and Performance Panel. Crime and Disorder Reduction Grants have also been awarded to other community safety organisations (Drug and Alcohol Action Team, Positive Futures, Youth Offending Service).

The money is awarded to assist with the delivery of the PCC's Police and Crime objectives within the Police and Crime Plan. The PCC also attends or is represented on a number of other countywide strategic boards and which comprise the Norfolk and Suffolk Local Criminal Justice Board, the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board and the Children's Trust Board.

5. REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

The PCC has the responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of the governance framework, including the system of internal audit and the system of internal control. Review of these systems has been informed by the work of internal auditors, and officers of the PCC who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment. Comments made by external auditors and other review agencies have also informed this review.

The Corporate Group comprising the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and PCC's Chief Finance Officer, with the responsibility for drafting this Annual Governance Statement have considered the governance framework and the system of internal controls as necessary and vital concomitants to producing such a statement. These officers collectively have involvement in the oversight of the processes involved in maintaining and reviewing the effectiveness of the governance framework. In producing this statement full regard has been taken of the PCC's Risk Register. The maintenance and review of the effectiveness of the governance framework also extends to others within the Office of the PCC. The PCC himself maintains overall control of the governance framework and has been involved, for example, in considering and approving the Governance Scheme, the Risk Management Strategy, as well as challenging Constabulary performance. The interim Audit Committee has carried out work against its terms of reference, and which has included the consideration of the effectiveness of the PCC's risk management arrangements and the internal audit plan. Internal audit have carried out a programme of work at a level commensurate with the legal and professional obligations of the PCC.

The Audit Committee as part of its regular business reviews the effectiveness of the system of internal audit on an annual basis. In accordance with Regulation 6 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, the review of the effectiveness of internal audit has concluded that the opinion in the annual report on internal audit work can be relied upon as a key source of evidence. The effectiveness of the system of internal audit includes the effectiveness of the Audit Committee (interim or otherwise) (to the extent that its work relates to internal audit) as well as the performance of internal audit.

Internal audit provided an independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the PCC's system of financial control, including in particular the key controls operating within and around the core financial systems.

Deficiencies in internal controls are reported by internal audit to management whose responsibility is to consider them and act appropriately. The result of the internal audit review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control were reported to the Interim Audit Committee, and plans to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvements are in place.

The PCC and Constabulary demonstrate adequate and effective controls. Whilst the programme of initial (and external) audit work has identified the need to make certain improvements, overall there are no adverse control issues arising. Officers remain vigilant about the need to continue to apply effective controls and Audit Committee members (interim or otherwise) will continue to monitor performance on this. There are no significant audit issues in relation to the main financial systems and controls of the PCC and Constabulary.

In considering this Annual Governance Statement the Interim Audit Committee has reviewed the effectiveness of the governance framework including the system of internal control. In undertaking the review the Committee has been advised by the Chief Executive and the PCC's Chief Finance Officer.

6. SIGNIFICANT GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The Suffolk Police Authority, as the PCC's predecessor, took steps in the period leading up to its abolition in November 2012, to prepare for the introduction of a PCC. This was identified as a significant governance issue in the Authority's final Annual Governance Statement executed in September 2012. The PCC has taken forward the preparatory steps made by the Authority to ensure that initial governance management measures have been put in place to provide for proper and appropriate corporate governance.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provided that on 21 November 2012, all existing rights, assets and liabilities transferred from the Authority to the PCC. This included the transfer of all police staff and was referred to as the "Stage 1" transfer. The Act also provides for a second "Stage 2" transfer. The Home Secretary directed that each PCC submit a Transfer Scheme to her by 16 September 2013 setting out those police staff who will transfer from the employment of the PCC to the Chief Constable, to be effective from 1 April 2014.

Transfer "Stage 2" will impact upon corporate governance by the PCC and a number of the governance mechanisms described in this statement will need to be reviewed so that appropriate governance arrangements are put in place for the PCC for the period from 1 April 2014 onwards. Steps have been put in place to navigate this next transition phase. It goes to the heart of corporate governance by the PCC and is therefore considered a significant governance issue. A transition project group has been established comprising senior officers from the Offices of the PCCs and the Constabularies for both Norfolk and Suffolk, in view of the extensive collaborative activity. This group will lead on progressing the transition.

Signed:

Tim Passmore
Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk

Christopher Jackson
Chief Executive
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk

30 September 2013