

**ORIGINATOR: ASSISTANT CHIEF
OFFICER**

PAPER NO: AC20/15

SUBMITTED TO: AUDIT COMMITTEE 29 MAY 2020

**SUBJECT: CHIEF CONSTABLE OF SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY ANNUAL
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2019/20**

SUMMARY:

1. The Audit Committee is required to consider the corporate governance arrangements for the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable, which includes reviewing their Annual Governance Statements.
2. The draft Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 for the Chief Constable of Suffolk Constabulary is presented at appendix A for consideration. This is in advance of its adoption by the Chief Constable alongside the Constabulary's Statement of Accounts for 2019/20.
3. The Statement contains a review of the Chief Constable's governance arrangements and their effectiveness including the systems of internal control and risk management and reports on any significant governance issues during the year.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Audit Committee is requested to consider the Chief Constable's draft Annual Governance Statement 2019/20.

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable, as separate legal entities, are required under the *Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015* to prepare Annual Governance Statements.
- 1.2 The draft Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 for the Chief Constable of Suffolk Constabulary is presented for consideration at appendix A. The Statement contains a review of the Chief Constable's governance framework and its effectiveness including the systems of internal control and risk management and reports on any significant governance issues during the year.
- 1.3 The Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 is a key governance document and is presented to the Committee for consideration prior to its approval and adoption by the Chief Constable.
- 1.4 The Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 accompanies publication of the Chief Constable's Statement of Accounts 2019/20 and will be finalised following the Audit Committee meeting.

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 There are no financial implications of any significance arising from consideration of this paper.

3. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 3.1 Additional disclosures have been made on page 6 outlining the Constabulary's governance arrangements during the coronavirus pandemic and a review of the effectiveness of these arrangements on page 8.

The Chief Constable's of Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies have commissioned a joint review of their operational policing response to the coronavirus pandemic. The review will cover a number of key areas including governance and leadership; command, operational structures, and decision-making; internal and external communications; and forward planning to maximise the use of resources.

The Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable and Joint Audit Committee members have asked the internal auditor to undertake an assurance review of financial controls to test their resilience during the coronavirus pandemic. This will cover the new ways of working and police officers and police staff working from home or key personnel self-isolating and the Constabulary's application of government guidance and procurement regulations to expedite purchases of operational kit and equipment, extending key supplier contracts and providing supplier relief through variations to payment terms.

The results of both reviews are due later this year. The Annual Governance Statement will be updated to reflect their findings that impact the Constabulary's governance, its systems of internal control and risk management.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	Yes
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	Yes
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	Not applicable
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	This is a draft AGS and will be updated with feedback and comments from the Audit Committee, PCC and other relevant stakeholders.
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	No – not considered necessary.
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	No – not considered necessary.

In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.