

**ORIGINATOR: PCC CFO and CC
CFO**

PAPER NO: AC20/23

SUBMITTED TO: AUDIT COMMITTEE 27 NOVEMBER 2020

**SUBJECT: PCC AND CC STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20
INCLUDING THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENTS**

SUMMARY:

1. The Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Annual Governance Statement and Group Statement of Accounts are submitted to the Audit Committee for consideration in advance of their approval by the PCC on or before 30 November 2020.
2. The Chief Constable's (CC) Annual Governance Statement and Statement of Accounts are submitted to the Audit Committee for consideration in advance of their approval by the CC on or before 30 November 2020.
3. Both AGS and Statements of Account remain the subject of audit and may be amended to take account of any comments or adjustments recommended by the external auditors and Audit Committee Members.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Committee is recommended to consider the PCC's and CC's Annual Governance Statements and their respective Statements of Accounts.
2. Subject to the process described in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2, the Committee is invited to recommend the Statements of Accounts and adoption of the Annual Governance Statements for approval by the PCC and CC.

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the PCC and CC are defined as corporate entities (as Corporations Sole). These corporate entities have also been established as Schedule 2 (Accounts Subject to Audit) bodies under the Audit Commission Act 1998.
- 1.2** The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 amended by “The Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020” require authorities to follow “proper practices in relation to accounts” for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts. The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) constitutes “proper accounting practice” in England and Wales under the terms of Section 21 (2) of the Local Government Act 2003. PCCs and CCs in England and Wales are defined as local authorities under Section 23 (as amended by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011) and are required, therefore, to follow the Code.
- 1.3** The Home Office Financial Management Code of Practice for the Police Service of England and Wales sets out that the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) of the PCC will be responsible for ensuring the production of the Statements of Accounts and the Group Accounts of the PCC, and the CC CFO has the same responsibilities on behalf of the CC. The legal framework indicates that the Statements of Accounts including the Group Accounts and the single entity financial statements should be produced in accordance with the Code’s requirements.

2. PCC AND CC ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENTS

- 2.1** The two statements were published in draft on 30 May 2020. They remain the subject of audit and may be amended to take account of observations and comments made by the external auditors.
- 2.2** Attached is an updated PCC AGS for consideration by the Audit Committee in advance of its adoption by the PCC and approval of the PCC’s Statement of Accounts on or before 30 November 2020.
- 2.3** Also attached is an updated CC AGS for consideration by the Audit Committee in advance of its adoption by the CC, and approval of the CC’s Statement of Accounts on or before 30 November 2020.

3. STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS

A summary of significant sections of the accounts

Narrative Report

3.1 The Narrative Report provides information about the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk, and Suffolk Constabulary (together being the PCC Group), including the key issues affecting the Group and its accounts. It also provides a summary of the financial position at 31 March 2020, and is structured as below:

1. Policing context
2. Governance
3. Risks
4. Non-financial performance 2019/20
5. Financial performance 2019/20
6. Coronavirus pandemic
7. Outlook
8. Basis of preparation

Significant notes to the accounts

- 3.2** Note 3 in the Group/ PCC and CC accounts on Critical Judgements sets out those judgements that influenced the content of the accounts, including why transactions have been shown within the CC accounts, and how assets have accounted for.
- 3.3** Note 6 in the Group/ PCC accounts and note 5 in the CC accounts provides additional information to support disclosures within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the Expenditure and Funding Analysis. They include an analysis of the adjustments between the Accounting and the Statutory basis and a subjective analysis of the Deficit on the Provision of Services.
- 3.4** Note 29 in the Group/PCC accounts and note 17 in the CC accounts provides an explanation of the going concern basis in the light of the coronavirus pandemic. Reference is made to the pandemic, its impact on the PCC's finances and the CC's operations throughout both statement of accounts. On the guidance of CIPFA (The Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy), the draft accounts published in May 2020 provided significant explanations on the appropriateness of preparing the accounts on a going concern basis within the Narrative Report. However, the external auditor has requested the inclusion of a separate disclosure note.

Other issues

- 3.5** Note 16 to the Group and PCC Accounts and Note 13 to the CC Accounts relate to pension disclosures. Primarily the notes provide detail of actuarial evaluations carried out in accordance with IAS 19.

On 27 June 2019 the Supreme Court denied the Government's request for an appeal in the McCloud case in respect of age discrimination and pension protection.

This event had a direct impact on the pension liabilities of Police bodies, as claims against Chief Constables were likely to succeed. Pension regulations will need to be amended and compensation arrangements put in place. The estimated impact of the McCloud ruling was reflected in the 2018-19 financial statements. However, during the summer of 2020, clarity was provided as to those who would be impacted by the remedy. This led to a reduction in estimated pension liabilities and the requirement for an accounting adjustment to the draft 2019/20 published accounts.

The decrease in pension liabilities arising from the change amounted to £7.7m in the Group and Chief Constable's Balance Sheet's.

- 3.6** There are a relatively small number of rounding differences within the Statement of Accounts, which are unavoidable, and do not detract from the accuracy of the figures.
- 3.7** The accounts include many large and detailed tables, occasionally and in order to ensure the level of detail required is retained, some of the tables may appear to show letters and numbering in a smaller font. However, the same font has been used throughout the document, but appear smaller as the tables need to be contracted to fit into the document.

4. PROCESS FOR AUTHORISATION OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR ISSUE BY THE PCC AND CHIEF CONSTABLE

- 4.1** Unless any material changes are required by the external auditors as a result of their final testing on or before 30 November 2020:
- subject to a formal decision by the PCC, the Statement of Accounts of the PCC will become the approved accounts, and together with the annual Governance Statement (AGS), be published on the PCC website, and
 - subject to approval by the CC, the Statement of Accounts of the CC will become the approved accounts, and together with the Annual Governance Statement (AGS), be published on the Constabulary website.
- 4.2** However, in the event that the statement requires further amendment, it is recommended that the PCC CFO and CC CFO authorise the amendments as

necessary on or before 30 November 2020 and inform the Committee of the amendments made.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

6.1 There are no other implications or risks associated with consideration of this paper.

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?	Not applicable
Have human resource implications been considered?	Not applicable
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?	Not applicable
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?	Ethical considerations have been considered in the production of the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounts