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Originator:
Peter Skelton, Chief Finance Officer

Decision number: D25-2018

Submitted to: Martin Surl, Police & Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire

Subject: Responses from Management to Auditor Questions in regards to the PCC's and the Chief Constable's Financial Statements

Executive summary:

The auditors, Grant Thornton, have written to the PCC, to the Chief Constable and to the Chief Finance Officer asking for responses to a number of questions.

A joint response has been prepared, on the attached schedule, which is presented to the meeting for noting.

Recommendation:

That the Responses from Management in regards to the PCC's and the Chief Constable's Financial Statements are noted.

Outcome/approval by:

Signature:

Date: 24/07/2018

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<p>Public access to information</p> <p><i>Information in this form and associated reports is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011. Where it has been indicated that this is a decision of significant public interest, all of this form except Part Two will be made available on the website of the OPCC.</i></p> <p><i>Any information that should not be automatically available on request should not be included in Part One but instead on a separate Part Two form.</i></p>	
<p>Is this a decision of significant public interest?</p> <p><i>This includes a decision with any impact on the community, expenditure in excess of £50,000, or any decision that would be of obvious interest to the media or the general public</i></p>	<p>Yes. The management responses inform the statutory audit of the accounts.</p>
<p>Is there a Part Two form? <i>This section should only include information that, if published:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) would, in the view of the chief officer of the police, be against the interests of national security;</i> <i>b) might, in the view of the chief officer of police, jeopardise the safety of any person;</i> <i>c) might, in the view of the chief officer of police, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders, or the administration of justice; or</i> <i>d) is prohibited by any enactment.</i> <i>e) breaches commercial sensitivity</i> 	<p>No.</p>

<p>Originator checklist (must be completed)</p>	<p>Comments including who has approved the report if applicable</p>
<p>Has legal advice been sought on this submission if required?</p>	<p>Yes. Legal have helped to prepare the management responses.</p>
<p>Has the Chief Finance Officer been consulted, if required?</p>	<p>Yes, prepared the response to the auditors.</p>
<p>Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered, as appropriate?</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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How is the recommendation consistent with the objectives of the Police and Crime Plan?	Inform the statutory audit of the accounts.
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Various departments have been consulted on the contents of the response to the auditors.
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media, community, staff or partner interest and how they might be managed?	No.
Have all relevant implications and risks been considered?	Yes.

Part One – For publication

1. Purpose of the report

To present the responses from management to auditor questions in regards to the PCC's and the Chief Constable's Financial Statements, for noting by Governance Board.

2. Background

2.1 The auditors, Grant Thornton, have written to the PCC, the Chief Constable and the Chief Finance Officer, asking for responses to the following questions:

2.1.1 How do you oversee management's processes in relation to:

- Carrying out an assessment of the risk the financial statements may be materially misstated due to fraud or error.
- Identifying and responding to the risk of breaches of internal control
- Identifying and responding to risks of fraud in the organisation
- Communicating to employees views on appropriate business practice and ethical behaviour

2.1.2 Do you have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged frauds?

2.1.3 How do you gain assurance that all relevant laws and regulations have been complied with?

2.1.4 Are you aware of any actual or potential litigation or claims that would affect the financial statements?

2.1.5 How will you satisfy yourself that it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements?

2.2 A joint response has been prepared for both the PCC and the Chief Constable. The attached schedule of responses has been prepared to answer the questions above and other related questions asked by the auditors. The schedule is presented to the meeting for noting, and for comment by members.

2.3 The schedule of questions has been reviewed by Audit Committee members and a draft of the responses has been shared with the auditors.

2.4 The final version of the responses will be sent to Grant Thornton by the Chief Finance Officer, following this meeting.

3. Recommendations

That the Responses from Management in regards to the PCC's and the Chief Constable's Financial Statements are noted.

4. Financial and resource implications

There are no financial or resource implications.

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5. Risk assessment

Responses are included on risk issues (including fraud) and on the effectiveness of internal control.

6. Equality & Diversity impact assessment

N/A

7. Environmental impact assessment

N/A

8. Consultation

Consultation has taken place with various departments and the Audit Committee members.

9. Discussed with Communications & Engagement

N/A

10. Conclusion

That the PCC and the Chief Constable note the Responses from Management in regards to the PCC's and the Chief Constable's Financial Statements.

Originator approval

Name: Peter Skelton

Job title: Chief Finance Officer

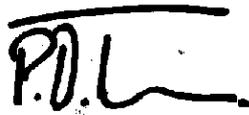
Signature: Peter Skelton

Date: 18/07/18

Chief Executive approval

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.

Signature:



Date: 19 July 2018