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## **REPORT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE CLEVELAND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013**

### **Police and Crime Commissioner's Audit Completion Report**

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To provide members with a copy of the Audit Completion Report for 2012/13 in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 That Members note the report.

#### **3.0 Background**

3.1 The PCC has many functions and responsibilities as set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and also as detailed in the Policing Protocol Order 2011. One of these responsibilities is that the PCC *'has a legal power and duty to maintain an efficient and effective police force for the police area'*

3.2 One of the mechanisms in place to aid the PCC in assessing this requirement is via the statutory independent functions provided through the External Audit of both the PCC and the Chief Constables annual statement of accounts.

#### **4.0 Annual Completion Report 2012/13**

4.1 As Members will see from the attached report, in the first year of the Police and Crime Commissioner the PCC has received an unqualified opinion on the statement of accounts and as such they have concluded

that ***'In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland as at 31 March 2013 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended'***

- 4.2 This is outcome that is sought when producing a set of annual accounts. The alternative being that the External Auditors provide a qualified opinion on the accounts. A qualified opinion would, for instance, be the External Auditors saying the accounts give a 'true and fair view of the financial position as at 31 March 2013 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended except for.....
- 4.3 In addition to the unqualified opinion on the Statement of Account the External Auditors have also concluded ***'that you have made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources.'***
- 4.4 The contents of the statement above should not be underestimated. In the final 2 years of the Police Authority the Value for Money conclusions provided were either adverse or qualified and as such there is demonstration of significant progress being made in addressing issues where External Audit had previous concerns.

## **5.0 Conclusion**

- 5.1 Despite the significant governance changes that took place during the 2012/13 financial year, which resulted in the requirement to produce 3 different sets of annual accounts (as opposed to 1), the PCC's first set of accounts have been signed off by the External Auditors as being a ***'true and fair view of the financial position of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland as at 31 March 2013 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended'*** and more importantly given the recent history they have also concluded ***'that you (the PCC) have made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources.'***

**Barry Coppinger**

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland