CLEVELAND POLICE

Report of the Chief Constable to the Chair and Members of the Audit Committee 23rd June 2016

Executive & Presenting Officer: Mr Graeme Slaughter, Chief Finance Officer

Status: For information

Annual Governance Statement 2015/16

1. Purpose

1.1 Following the introduction of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 Chief Constables are now required to prepare an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) separate to that of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

1.2 In line with their Terms of Reference, the Audit Committee has been tasked with considering the Annual Governance Statement for publication.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that Members agree the final draft of the 2015/16 Annual Governance Statement, attached at Appendix A, to be signed by the Chief Constable.

3. Reasons

3.1 The CIPFA guidance note 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government – Guidance Note for Police' issued in 2012 outlines the requirement for Chief Constables to produce a separate Annual Governance Statement to that produced by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

3.2 The Joint Independent Audit Committee has been tasked with 'Considering the Annual Governance Statement for publication with the annual accounts, together with associated action plans for addressing areas of improvement and advising the PCC and Chief Constable as appropriate'.

3.3 Members received a draft of the Annual Governance Statement at their March meeting and were given the opportunity to provide feedback on any areas requiring further clarification and explanation.

3.4 The Statement has been prepared outlining the Force's position as at 31st March 2016. However, it should be noted that the Force is in the process of reviewing its meeting structure and has made a number of changes to it since this date. These changes will be reflected in the AGS for 2016/17.

3.5 The changes have been made to remove duplication and in summary, the following meetings have been cancelled:

- Operations Board
- Enabling Services Board
- Business Transformation Portfolio Board

4. Implications

4.1 Finance
There are no financial implications arsing from the content of this report.

4.2 Diversity and Equal Opportunities
There are no diversity or equal opportunity implications arising from the content of this report.

4.3 Human Rights Act
There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from the content of this report.

4.4 Sustainability
There are no sustainability implications arising from the content of this report.

4.5 Risk
There are no risk implications arising from the content of this report.

5. Conclusions

5.1 The Annual Governance Statement provides a review of the effectiveness of the organisation's governance arrangements including internal control and risk management systems. The Statement gives assurance on the effectiveness or otherwise of these systems resulting in an action plan to address any identified areas of weaknesses.

Iain Spittal
Temporary Chief Constable