

**Report of the Chief Finance Officer for the PCC to the Chair  
and Members of Audit Committee  
28<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Executive and Presenting Officer: Mr M Porter, PCC CFO  
Status: For Decision**

**Title: Statement of Accounts 2022/23**

**1 Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable Members of the Joint Independent Audit Committee to discharge their responsibilities in relation to the Statement of Accounts for the PCC and CC as set out in the Terms of Reference for the Committee, which are specifically to:

- Review the Annual Statement of Accounts and make recommendations or bring to the attention of the PCC or CC, any concerns or issues.
- Consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and any changes to them.

1.2 In addition to these responsibilities the Terms of Reference also contain the following, which can be discharged through items elsewhere on today's agenda, but which are linked to the Statement of Accounts process:

- Reviewing the external auditor's Audit Completion Report and any other reports.
- Reporting on these to the PCC and Chief Constable of Cleveland Police as appropriate and including progress on the implementation of agreed recommendations.

1.3 It is expected that the final area of responsibility for the Committee will be addressed at a future meeting of the Committee:

- Reviewing External Auditor's Annual Audit Letter and making recommendations as appropriate to the PCC and Chief Constable of Cleveland Police.

1.5 Attached to this report are the Statement of Accounts for the Group and PCC, and also the Accounts for the Chief Constable.

## **2 Recommendations**

Members are asked:

- 2.1 Consider whether there are any concerns arising from the financial statements, which are appended to this report, or from the Audit that need to be brought to the attention of the PCC and/or Chief Constable prior to them formally signing off the accounts.
- 2.2 To review the accounting policies as set out in the Statement of Accounts. These policies are used consistently throughout the sets of accounts attached to this report.
- 2.3 To note that while all internal processes have been completed by the statutory deadlines, the publication of the finalised accounts, by the statutory deadline of the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2023 will not be met due to the external information required by the External Auditors in relation to the Local Government Pension Scheme.
- 2.4 To consider the analytical review of the accounts contained within the body of this report and specifically within paragraphs 3.10 to 3.29 below, to provide Members with confidence in the financial statements.

## **3 Reasons**

- 3.1 Under the amended Account and Audit Regulations, local authorities, including Police and Crime Commissioners, are required to publish the unaudited Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2023 by 31 May 2023.
- 3.2 The Accounts and Audit (amendment) Regulations 2022 came into force on 22nd July 2022 and revised the statutory deadline for publishing the audited financial statements to 30 September for 2022/23 accounts and the subsequent 5 years.
- 3.3 Members received the draft accounts at their meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> June and the accounts were provided for Audit by the statutory deadline.
- 3.4 In line with the requirements to do so the public were given an opportunity to [inspect the accounts](#).
- 3.5 In undertaking a review of the Statement of Accounts the Audit Committees' role is essentially to provide assurance to the PCC and CC and to the wider stakeholder base that they conform to proper practices.

- 3.6 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 established both the PCC and CC as separate 'corporations sole' which has therefore necessitated the production of 2 sets of accounts. These are attached to this report as follows:
- Group and PCC Statement of Accounts – 2022/23
  - Chief Constable of Cleveland – Statement of Accounts 2022/23
- 3.7 The changes that have been made to the draft Statement of Accounts since authorisation by the CFOs in June, which were provided to Members of this Committee in draft at their June meeting along with the following summary financial overview, are referenced in the Audit Completion Report from the External Auditors which is included elsewhere on today's agenda.
- 3.8 None of the changes have impacted on the Outturn.
- 3.9 The review of the Statement of Accounts has been undertaken with the following areas highlighted for Members information:
- 3.10 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Page 18)  
This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from precept. Authorities (including the PCC) raise precept to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The amount chargeable to precept is shown in the Movement on Reserves Statement.
- 3.11 This statement is impacted to a greater extent than others from the accounting entries required in relation to Pensions and also as a result of the technical accounting entries required to meet the statutory guidelines that differ significantly from the way that precept is raised and the budgets are managed and reported.
- 3.12 The 'Expenditure and Funding Analysis Year Ending 31 March 2023' (note 2 – starting on page 33) sets out the entries included within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account that are 'stripped' out to arrive at the 'actual Surplus/Deficit' for the financial year.
- 3.13 Movement on Reserves Statement (Page 20)  
This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the PCC, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local precept) and unusable reserves.

- 3.14 Usable reserves have increased by £3,278k to £25,077k. Of this £25.1m of reserves, £11.7m is set aside to fund Capital Expenditure, of which £9.3m is in the Capital Receipts reserve.
- 3.15 The Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the PCC's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance for council tax setting purposes.
- 3.16 The Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the PCC.
- 3.17 Balance Sheet (Page 22)  
The Balance Sheet shows the value as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 of the assets and liabilities recognised by the PCC.
- 3.18 The net assets of the PCC (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the PCC.
- 3.19 Property, Plant & Equipment, Intangible Assets and Assets held for sale has decreased by £3.965m which comprises spend of £6.524m which is offset by in year depreciation charges of £5.138m, a revaluation reduction of £1.930m and disposals of assets held for sale and other assets of £3.420m.
- 3.20 The value of Debtors (long and short term) has increased by £8.204m, primarily as an increase in Government debtors of £3.877m (comprising Pension and Uplift Grants), and net increase in Local Authority debtors and Other debtors of £1.454m (mainly due to Council tax rebate) an increase in Prepayments £3.569m (mainly due to the Pension payroll) and decrease in long term debtors of (£0.158m) and an increase in provision for bad debt of (£0.538m).
- 3.21 The value of Creditors (short and long term) has decreased by £0.159m, primarily as a result of the increase in the liability across all creditors with the main increase on Local Authority and Sundry creditors £0.575m offset by a reduction in the accumulated absence amount of £0.734m
- 3.22 Provisions have increased by £0.428m, as a result of the release of Insurance related provision £1.078m to offset the costs of Insurance claims paid and settled in year and in year additions of £1.505m to meet future liabilities.

- 3.23 New borrowing of £4.000m was undertaken in the year, however £3.000m was repaid, total borrowing stands at £22.020m and is well within the limits approved by the PCC.
- 3.24 The Pension Liability and Reserves have both decreased by £578.664m, mainly as a result of changes in actuarial assumptions as detailed within the notes to the accounts.
- 3.25 The Usable Reserves of the PCC Group has seen a net overall increase of £3.311m; primarily due to the final capital receipt in respect of former Police HQ (Ladgate Lane). As a result, the capital receipts reserve has increased by £3.131m. A detailed breakdown of the earmarked reserves can be found at Note 9 of the accounts.
- 3.26 Whilst the 'Net Assets' of the PCC is showing an overall negative balance of £1,291m this is as a result of the large liability showing on the Pension Fund of £1,318m. Once the Police Pension liability, of £1,335m is removed, and it is not unreasonable to do this given that this liability is effectively underwritten by the Government, then the Net Assets would show as £44m.
- 3.27 Of note in terms of Pensions is that the revaluation of the Local Government Pension Scheme as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, which was not available at the time of producing the 2021/22 accounts, has turned a £70m deficit that was reported at the end of 2021/22, into a £17m surplus as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.
- 3.28 Cash Flow Statement (Page 24)  
The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the PCC during the reporting period. The statement shows how the PCC generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities.
- 3.29 The Group had a Net decrease in cash in the year of £1.556m. This resulted from:
- A Net inflow of £3.5m from Operating Activities
  - And a net inflow of £1.0m from increased borrowing
- Offset by:
- £2.7m of outflows on Interest
  - £3.4m of outflows on Capital Activities

## **4 Implications**

### **4.1 Finance**

There are no financial implications other than those mentioned above.

### **4.2 Diversity & Equal Opportunities**

There are no issues arising from this report to bring to Members attention.

### **4.3 Human Rights Act**

There are no Human Rights Act Implications from this report.

### **4.4 Sustainability**

This report is part of the governance arrangements to oversee and assess the sustainable financial position of the PCC.

### **4.5 Risk**

Incorrectly prepared Statement of Accounts may materially misrepresent the financial position of the PCC, CC and PCC Group, giving rise to risks to reputation, service and financial planning processes, as well as exposure to additional costs. Adherence to proper practices, the closure processes undertaken within the Force, combined with reviews by the PCC CFO and CC CFO are designed to mitigate such risks.

## **5 Conclusion**

The role of the Audit Committee in reviewing the statement(s) of accounts is set out in the agreed terms of reference. This report is to provide Members of the Committee with the required information for them to discharge this role.

Both Chief Finance Officers are responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 and both will sign the Statement of Accounts stating that:

They give a true and fair presentation of the financial position of their organisations at the accounting date.