



Report of the Chief Constable to the Chair and Members of the Audit Committee

Executive & Presenting Officer: Mr Ian Wright, Assistant Chief Officer

Status: For information

Draft Annual Governance Statement 2025-26

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Members with an update on amendments made to the Annual Governance Statement to reflect changes made as part of the annual review.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members note the content of this draft report.
- 2.2 That Members note that all required updates are completed and incorporated.
- 2.3 That Members note that a complete Annual Governance Statement will be reported in Q3 once any audit (internal and external) assurances have been reported to the Force.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is reviewed and submitted on an annual basis to reflect any changes in legislation, governance or terminology that may be relevant.
- 3.2 The AGS has been reviewed by the Assistant Chief Officer, the Corporate Services Manager and the Senior Planning and Governance Officer, to ensure continuing accuracy and relevance and a number of changes have been made.
- 3.3 A summary of the amendments that have been are shown below:

Previous Para	Section	Change	Current Para
4.6	Good governance guidance	Updated to add Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: framework (2025).	4.6

Previous Para	Section	Change	Current Para
5.2 and 5.3	HMICFRS	Updated to reflect current position of inspection outcomes	5.2 and 5.3
6.1	CVF	Updated to further reflect embedding of College of Policing CVF	6.1
6.3	Code of Ethics	Updated to reflect embedding of new College of Policing Code of Ethics self assessment tool	6.3
6.4	Inspection	Update on monitoring governance	6.4
6.5	Discipline Peer Support	Update on progress of the initiative	6.5
6.6	Ethics and Standards Group	Update on activity of the group during past 12 months	6.6
6.12	Independent Ethics Committee	Update on activity of group and Young People's Scrutiny panel.	6.12
6.16	Historical Data Wash	Update on Continuous Integrity Screening	6.16
6.17	Induction	Update to entry routes	
6.18	Reporting professional standards concerns and protected disclosure policy	Updated to reflect that the policy is republished.	6.18
6.19	Culture and Inclusion	Updated to reflect updated strategy and aims	6.19
6.20	Staff Networks	Updated to reflect current staff networks	6.20
6.21	Scrutiny panels	Updated to reflect current position of RASSO Scrutiny panel	6.21
6.22	Ethnicity data	Updated to reflect updated governance boards	6.22
6.27	Police Complaint and Misconduct Regulations	Update to reflect current position of tranche 2	6.27
NEW	Legal Services	Addition to reflect legal services provision	6.29
7.1	Public Confidence survey	Updated to remove reference to COVID and reference small sample size	7.1

Previous Para	Section	Change	Current Para
7.3	Victim satisfaction	Updated to included latest annual satisfaction results	7.3
7.5	Community Engagement	Updated to include publication date of strategy	7.5
7.6	SIAG/IAG	Removal of references to YAG	7.6
7.8	Matrix	Updated to reflect position and governance arrangements	7.8
7.12 and 7.13	PCC/CC	Updated regarding frequency of OPCC and local authority meetings	7.12 and 7.13
8.4	LTFP and Capital Plan	Updated to current position (dates only)	8.4
8.6	Change Management	Updated to reflect changes to business change requests	8.6
9.2 and 9.3	Force Meeting Framework	Update to schematic and narrative to reflect current position and additional boards	9.2 and 9.3
9.4	FMS	Updated to FMS8	9.4
9.5	Performance framework	Updated to reflect frequency of IMPACT meetings (Improving and Managing Performance Across Cleveland Together)	9.5
9.6	Digital Strategy	Updated to current position	9.6
9.12	LTFP and Capital Plan	Updated to current position (dates only)	9.11
10.1	Entry routes	Updated to current position	10.1
10.2 – 10.3	Wellbeing	Updated to reflect Workforce Prioritisation Guidance and current position	10.2 – 10.3
10.4 – 10.6	Leadership	Updated to current position and to reflect updated PDR system	10.4 – 10.6
11.2 – 11.3	Risk Management / Business Continuity	Updated to reflect position	11.2 – 11.3
11.6	IMPACT	Update to reflect current position	11.5 – 11.6
11.7	Strategic contracts	Updated to reflect current position and suppliers	11.7
11.12	Internal audits	List of audits for 2025-2026 and outstanding actions from previous years updated	11.12

Previous Para	Section	Change	Current Para
11.21	Internal audit opinion	To be added once received	11.21
11.22	External audit opinion	To be added once received	11.22
12.7	Joint Audit Committee	Updated to current position regarding meetings	12.7
13.2	Auditor	Updated to current position (dates only)	13.2
13.4	Internal Audit Report	Updated to current position (dates only)	13.4
13.5	Internal Audit Opinion	To be added once received	13.5
13.6 – 13.7	AGS	Updated to current position (dates only)	13.6 – 13.7
14.1	Significant Governance Issues	Removal of Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee (to 14.3) and Adverse External Audit opinion on accounts (to 14.2) and Addition of significant governance issue in relation to audit findings	14.1
14.2	Governance Issues	Addition of one governance issue (from 14.1) in relation to the adverse external audit opinion on accounts	14.2
NEW	Issue for continued focus	Addition of Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee (from 14.1) as an area for continued focus	14.3
Overall	N/A	Updated to reflect change from Director of Finance and Assets to Assistant Chief Officer	Overall
Overall	N/A	Updated to reflect change from Department of Standards and Ethics to Professional Standards Department.	Overall

- 3.4 Members are asked to note that the amendments have been made within the draft AGS. A final version of the Annual Governance Statement will be submitted for approval in Q3.

Victoria Fuller
Chief Constable