

<b>For Information and Decision</b>	
<b>Public/Non Public*</b>	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Audit and Scrutiny Panel</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> May 2018</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Chief Finance Officer</b>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>Charlotte Radford</b>
<b>Other Contacts:</b>	<b>Andrew Cardoza KPMG</b>
<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>7</b>

## EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2017-18

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide members with the proposed External Audit Plan covering the audit of the Accounts for 2017-18.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are requested to consider and approve the External Audit Plan attached at Appendix A.

### 3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 This complies with good governance, financial regulations and audit regulations.

### 4. Summary of Key Points

- 4.1 The External Auditor has assessed the required time to complete the audit for the accounts for 2017-18.

### 5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

- 5.1 None as a direct result of this report. The External Audit fees for the Force and OPCC accounts have been budgeted for within the OPCC budget.

### 6. Human Resources Implications

- 6.1 None

### 7. Equality Implications

- 7.1 None

<b>8. Risk Management</b>
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8.1 Risks identified by the External Auditor have been included within the plan.

<b>9. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities</b>
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9.1 None

<b>10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations</b>
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10.1 None

<b>11. Details of outcome of consultation</b>
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11.1 Not applicable

<b>12. Appendices</b>
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A – External Audit Plan



# External Audit Plan 2017/2018

**Police and Crime Commissioner  
for Nottinghamshire  
& Chief Constable for  
Nottinghamshire**

**January 2018**

# Summary for Joint Audit and Scrutiny Panel (JASP)

## Financial statements

There are no significant changes to the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting ("the Code") in 2017/18, which provides stability in terms of the accounting standards local authority bodies need to comply with. Despite this, the deadline for the production and signing of the financial statements has been significantly advanced in comparison to year ended 31 March 2017.

This represents a significant change for the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable and will need to be carefully managed in order to ensure the new deadlines are met. As a result we have recognised a significant risk in relation to this matter.

In order to meet the revised deadlines it will be essential that the draft financial statements and all prepared by client documentation is available in line with agreed timetables. Where this is not achieved there is a significant likelihood that the audit report will not be issued by 31 July 2018.

## Materiality

Materiality for planning purposes has been set at £3.3million for both the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable.

We are obliged to report uncorrected omissions or misstatements other than those which are 'clearly trivial' to those charged with governance and this has been set at a level of £160,000 for both the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable.

## Significant risks

Those risks requiring specific audit attention and procedures to address the likelihood of a material financial statement error have been identified as:

- **Pension Liabilities** – The valuation of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable's pension liabilities, as calculated by the Actuary, is dependent upon both the accuracy and completeness of the data provided and the assumptions adopted. We will review the processes in place to ensure accuracy of data provided to the Actuary and consider the assumptions used in determining the valuation.
- **Valuation of PPE** – Whilst the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable operates a cyclical revaluation approach, the Code requires that all land and buildings be held at fair value. We will consider the way in which the PCC and CC ensures that assets not subject to in-year revaluation are not materially misstated.
- **Faster Close** – As set out above, the timetable for the production of the financial statements has been significantly advanced with draft accounts having to be prepared by 31 May (2017: 30 June) and the final accounts signed by 31 July (2017: 30 September). We will work with the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable in advance of our audit to understand the steps being taken to meet these deadlines and the impact on our work.

# Summary for Joint Audit and Scrutiny Panel (cont.)

## Financial Statements (cont.)

### Other areas of audit focus

Those risks with less likelihood of giving rise to a material error but which are nevertheless worthy of additional audit focus have been identified as:

- **Management review of Accounts** – The draft set of accounts provided for audit are required to be fully compliant with the code and have undergone management review and necessary amendment for any known errors prior to the deadline dates and submission to the auditor. The draft accounts should match the Big Red Button with amendments made in the BRB system. We will work with the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable in advance of our audit to understand the steps being taken to meet these deadlines and the impact on our work

**See pages 4 to 11 for more details.**

## Value for Money Arrangements work

Our risk assessment regarding your arrangements to secure value for money has identified the following VFM significant risk to date:

- **Medium Term Financial Planning** – The Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable continue to face significant financial pressures and uncertainties in relation to its future funding levels with grant allocations for future years not yet being published. The Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable need to have effective arrangements in place for managing their annual budgets, generating income and identifying and implementing any savings required to balance its medium term financial plan. We will consider the way in which the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable identify, approve, and monitor both savings plans and how budgets are monitored throughout the year.
- **MFSS Governance and VFM** - MFSS currently provides transactional back office services to Nottinghamshire Police and other PCCs. PCCs have expressed concerns around governance of MFSS and the services provided to clients. We will review the governance arrangements to ensure proper arrangements in MFSS Financial Governance.

**See pages 12 to 17 for more details.**

## Logistics

Our team is:

- Andrew Cardoza –Director
- Anita Pipes – Manager

More details are in **Appendix 2**.

Our work will be completed in four phases from December to July and our key deliverables are this Audit Plan, an Interim Report/Letter and a Report to Those Charged With Governance as outlined on **page 20**.

Our fee for the 2017/18 audit of the Police and Crime Commissioner is £35,220 (£35,220 2016/17) and for that of the Chief Constable £15,000 (£15,000 2016/17). **See page 19**. These fees are in line with the scale fees published by PSAA.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to take this opportunity to thank officers and Members for their continuing help and co-operation throughout our audit work.

# Introduction

## Background and Statutory responsibilities

This document supplements our Audit Fee Letter 2017/18 presented to you in April 2017, which also set out details of our appointment by Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA).

Our statutory responsibilities and powers are set out in the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the National Audit Office’s Code of Audit Practice and the PSAA Statement of Responsibilities.

## Our audit has two key objectives, requiring us to audit/review and report on your:

- 01 | **Financial statements :**  
Providing an opinion on your accounts. We also review each Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report and report by exception on these; and
- 02 | **Use of resources:**  
Concluding on the arrangements in place for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources (the value for money conclusion).

The audit planning process and risk assessment is an on-going process and the assessment and fees in this plan will be kept under review and updated if necessary. Any change to our identified risks will be reported to the JASP.

## Financial Statements Audit

Our financial statements audit work follows a four stage audit process which is identified below. Appendix 1 provides more detail on the activities that this includes. This report concentrates on the Financial Statements Audit Planning stage of the Financial Statements Audit.



## Value for Money Arrangements Work

Our Value for Money (VFM) Arrangements Work follows a six stage process which is identified below. Page 12 provides more detail on the activities that this includes. This report concentrates on explaining the VFM approach for 2017/18 and the findings of our VFM risk assessment.





# Financial statements audit planning

## Financial Statements Audit Planning

Our planning work takes place during December 2017 to January 2018. This involves the following key aspects:

- Determining our materiality level;
- Risk assessment;
- Identification of significant risks;
- Consideration of potential fraud risks;
- Identification of key account balances in the financial statements and related assertions, estimates and disclosures;
- Consideration of management's use of experts; and
- Issuing this audit plan to communicate our audit strategy.

## Risk assessment

Auditing standards require us to consider two standard risks for all organisations. We are not elaborating on these standard risks in this plan but consider them as a matter of course in our audit and will include any findings arising from our work in our ISA 260 Report.

### Management override of controls

01

Management is typically in a powerful position to perpetrate fraud owing to its ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. Our audit methodology incorporates the risk of management override as a default significant risk. In line with our methodology, we carry out appropriate controls testing and substantive procedures, including over journal entries, accounting estimates and significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business, or are otherwise unusual.

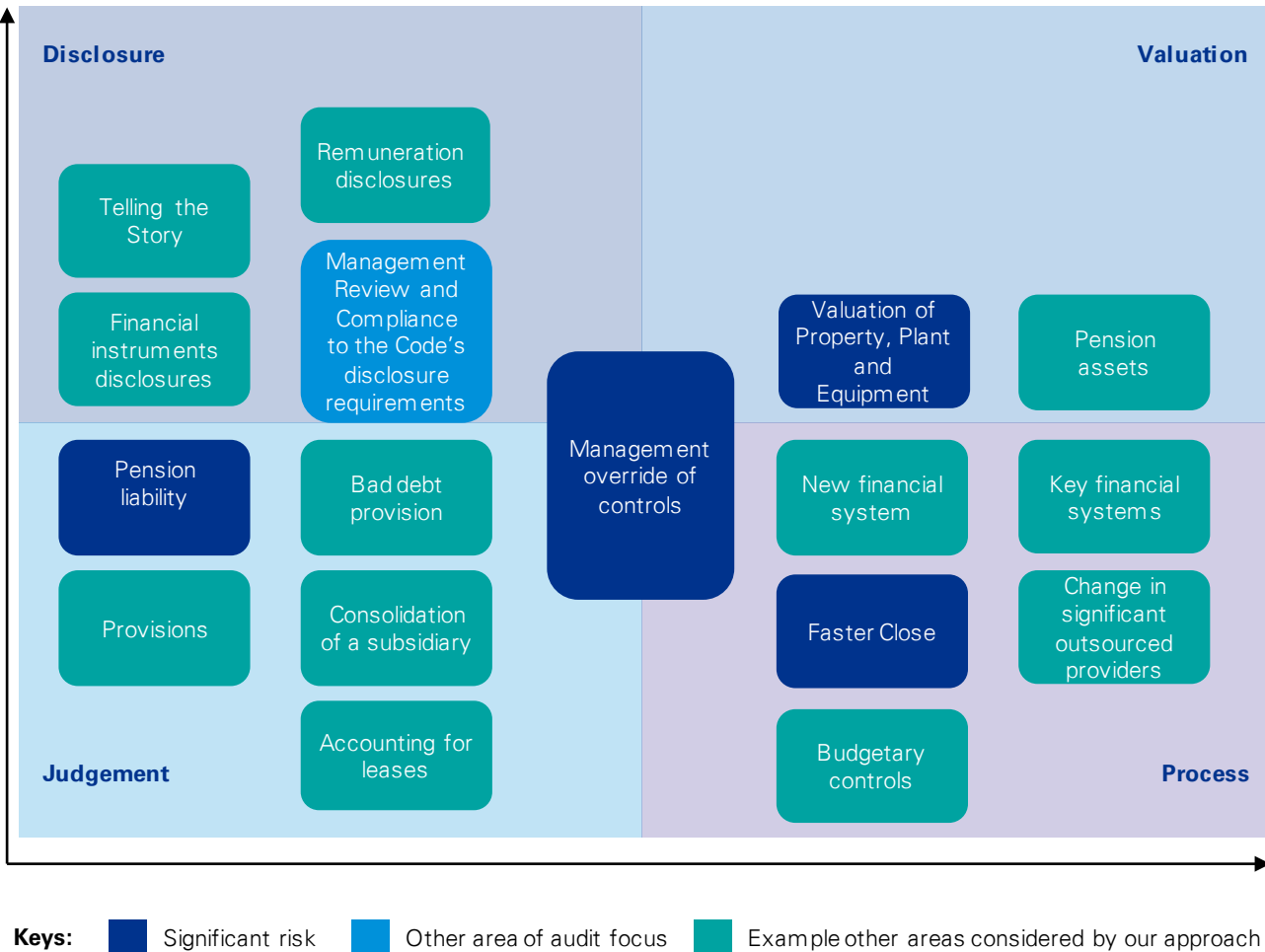
### Fraudulent revenue recognition

02

We do not consider this to be a significant risk for the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable as there are limited incentives and opportunities to manipulate the way income is recognised. We therefore rebut this risk and do not incorporate specific work into our audit plan in this area over and above our standard fraud procedures.

# Financial statements audit planning (cont.)

The diagram below identifies significant risks and other areas of audit focus, which we expand on overleaf. The diagram also identifies a range of other areas considered by our audit approach.





# Financial statements audit planning (cont.)

## Significant Audit Risks

Those risks requiring specific audit attention and procedures to address the likelihood of a material financial statement error in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner or Chief Constable.

### Pension Liabilities

#### Risk:

The net pension liability represents a material element of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable's balance sheets.

The valuation of the pension liabilities rely on a number of assumptions, most notably around the actuarial assumptions, and actuarial methodology which results in the overall valuations.

There are financial assumptions and demographic assumptions used in the calculations of the valuations, such as the discount rate, inflation rates, mortality rates etc. The assumptions should also reflect the profile of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable's employees, and should be based on appropriate data. The basis of the assumptions is derived on a consistent basis year to year, or updated to reflect any changes.

There is a risk that the assumptions and methodologies used in the valuations of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable's pension obligations are not reasonable. This could have a material impact to net pension liabilities accounted for in the financial statements.

#### Approach:

As part of our work we will review the controls in place over the information sent directly to the schemes' actuary. We will also liaise with the auditors of the Local Government Pension Fund in order to gain an understanding of the effectiveness of those controls operated by the Pension Fund. This will include consideration of the process and controls with respect to the assumptions used in the valuation. We will also evaluate the competency, objectivity and independence of Barnett Waddingham.

We will review the appropriateness of the key assumptions included within the valuation, compare them to expected ranges, and consider the need to make use of a KPMG actuary. We will review the methodology applied in the valuation by Barnett Waddingham.

In addition, we will review the overall actuarial valuations and consider the disclosure implications in the respective financial statements of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable.

# Financial statements audit planning (cont.)

## Significant Audit Risks

Those risks requiring specific audit attention and procedures to address the likelihood of a material financial statement error in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner or Chief Constable.

<b>Risk:</b>	<b>Valuation of PPE</b>  The Code requires that where assets are subject to revaluation, their year end carrying value should reflect the appropriate fair value at that date. The Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable have adopted a rolling revaluation model which sees all land and buildings revalued over a five year cycle. As a result of this, however, individual assets may not be revalued for four years.  This creates a risk that the carrying value of those assets not revalued in year differs materially from the year end fair value. In addition, as the valuation is undertaken as at the end of December there is a risk that the fair value is different at the year end.
<b>Approach:</b>	We will review the approach that the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable have adopted to assess the risk that assets not subject to valuation are materially misstated and consider the robustness of that approach. We will also assess the risk of the valuation changing materially during the year.  In addition, we will consider movement in market indices between revaluation dates and the year end in order to determine whether these indicate that fair values have moved materially over that time.  In relation to those assets which have been revalued during the year we will assess the valuer’s qualifications, objectivity and independence to carry out such valuations and review the methodology used (including testing the underlying data and assumptions).  .

# Financial statements audit planning (cont.)

## Significant Risks

Those risks requiring specific audit attention and procedures to address the likelihood of a material financial statement error in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner or Chief Constable

### Faster Close

#### Issue:

In prior years, the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable have been required to prepare draft financial statements by 30 June and then final signed accounts by 30 September. For years ending on and after 31 March 2018 however, revised deadlines apply which require draft accounts by 31 May and final signed accounts by 31 July.

These changes represent a significant change to the timetables that the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable have previously worked to. The time available to produce draft accounts has been reduced by one month and the overall time available for completion of both accounts production and audit is two months shorter than in prior years.

In order to meet the revised deadlines, the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable may need to make greater use of accounting estimates. In doing so, consideration will need to be given to ensuring that these estimates remain valid at the point of finalising the financial statements. In addition, there are a number of logistical challenges that will need to be managed. These include:

- Ensuring that any third parties involved in the production of the accounts (including valuers, and actuaries) are aware of the revised deadlines and have made arrangements to provide the output of their work in accordance with this;
- Revising the closedown and accounts production timetables in order to ensure that all working papers and other supporting documentation are available at the start of the audit process;
- Ensuring that the JASP meeting schedules have been updated to permit signing in July; and
- Applying a shorter paper deadline to the July meeting of the JASP in order to accommodate the production of the final versions of the accounts and our ISA 260 report.

In the event that the above areas are not effectively managed there is a significant risk that the audits will not be completed by the 31 July deadline.

#### Approach:

We will continue to liaise with officers in preparation for our audit in order to understand the steps that the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable are taking in order to ensure they meet the revised deadlines. We will also look to advance audit work into the interim visit in order to streamline the year end audit work.

Where there is greater reliance upon accounting estimates we will consider the assumptions used and challenge the robustness of those estimates.

# Financial statements audit planning (cont.)

## Other areas of audit focus

Those risks with less likelihood of giving rise to a material error but which are nevertheless worthy of audit understanding.

### Issue:

#### Management Review of Accounts

In 2016-17 Nottinghamshire PCC and CC were a pilot site for the new CIPFA financial system known as the Big Red Button. Our ISA 260 report for 2016/17 highlighted a number of challenges with the statement of accounts provided for audit last year.

The initial draft statement of accounts provided for audit was not code compliant and we identified a number of issues with version control and timely management review of the accounts.

We understand that recommendations made in the ISA 260 report will be actioned.

In order to meet the earlier deadlines this year the S151 officers of the PCC and CC will need to ensure the Big Red Button has been updated correctly with all prior year adjustments and supports the figures presented for audit. The draft statement will need to be code compliant and a full and detailed management review will be required prior to the audit. All working papers will need to be in line with the statement of accounts and updated as necessary when changes are made in the Big Red Button.

In the event that the above areas are not effectively managed there is a significant risk that the audits will not be completed by the 31 July deadline.

### Approach:

We will continue to liaise with officers in preparation for our audit in order to understand the steps that the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable are taking in order to ensure they meet the requirements of the code and that they have reviewed and amended the accounts prior to the first draft being submitted to auditors by the required deadline. We will also look to advance audit work into the interim visit in order to streamline the year end audit work.

# Financial statements audit planning (cont.)

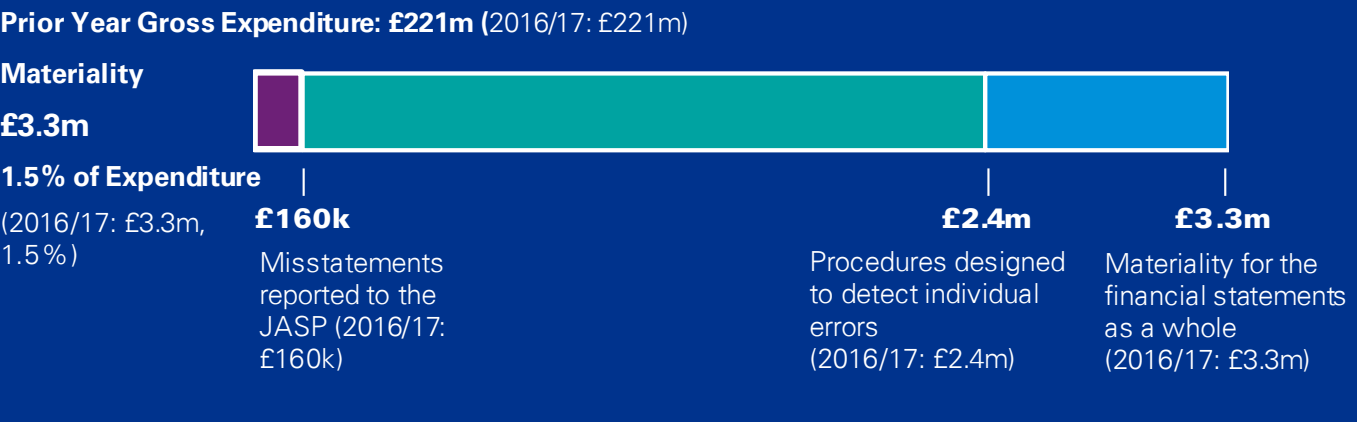
## Materiality

We are required to plan our audit to determine with reasonable confidence whether or not the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An omission or misstatement is regarded as material if it would reasonably influence the user of financial statements. This therefore involves an assessment of the qualitative and quantitative nature of omissions and misstatements.

Generally, we would not consider differences in opinion in respect of areas of judgement to represent 'misstatements' unless the application of that judgement results in a financial amount falling outside of a range which we consider to be acceptable.

For both the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable, materiality for planning purposes has been set at £3.3 million, which equates to 1.5 percent of the Chief Constables gross expenditure.

We design our procedures to detect errors in specific accounts at a lower level of precision.



# Financial statements audit planning (cont.)

## Reporting to the Joint Audit and Scrutiny Panel (JASP)

Whilst our audit procedures are designed to identify misstatements which are material to our opinion on the financial statements as a whole, we nevertheless report to the JASP any unadjusted misstatements of lesser amounts to the extent that these are identified by our audit work.

Under ISA 260(UK&I) 'Communication with those charged with governance', we are obliged to report uncorrected omissions or misstatements other than those which are 'clearly trivial' to those charged with governance. ISA 260 (UK&I) defines 'clearly trivial' as matters that are clearly inconsequential, whether taken individually or in aggregate and whether judged by any quantitative or qualitative criteria.

In the context of both the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable, we propose that an individual difference could normally be considered to be clearly trivial if it is less than £160,000.

If management has corrected material misstatements identified during the course of the audit, we will consider whether those corrections should be communicated to the JASP to assist it in fulfilling its governance responsibilities.

### We will report:



Non-Trivial  
corrected audit  
misstatements



Non-trivial  
uncorrected audit  
misstatements



Errors and omissions in disclosure  
(Corrected and uncorrected)

# Value for money arrangements work

## VFM audit approach

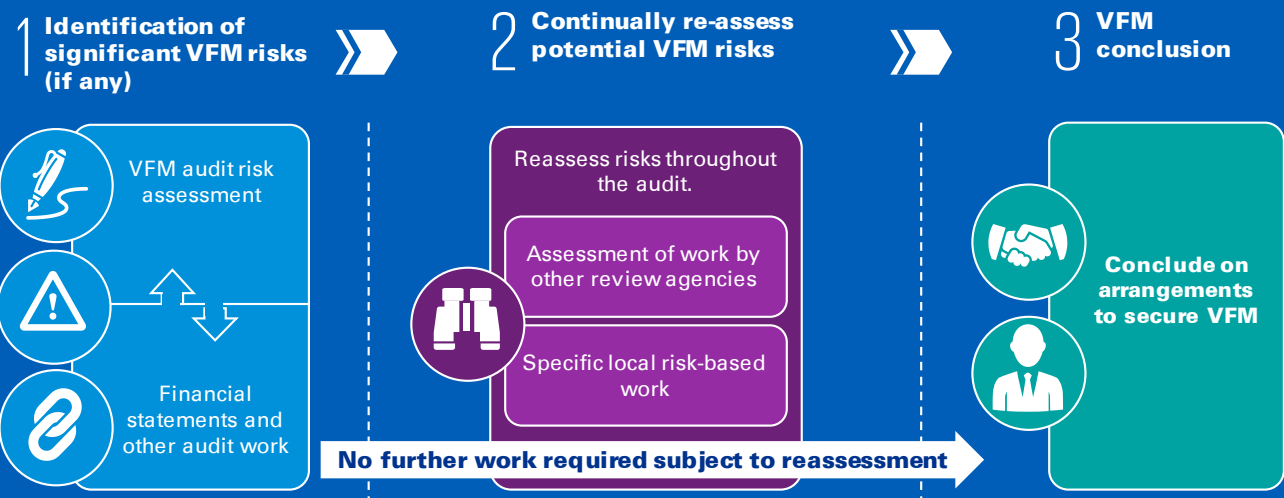
The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 requires auditors of local government bodies to be satisfied that an authority ‘has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources’.

This is supported by the Code of Audit Practice, published by the NAO in April 2015, which requires auditors to ‘take into account their knowledge of the relevant local sector as a whole, and the audited body specifically, to identify any risks that, in the auditor’s judgement, have the potential to cause the auditor to reach an inappropriate conclusion on the audited body’s arrangements.’

## Overall criterion

In all significant respects, the audited body had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions, deployed resources and worked with partners and third parties to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people.

The VFM approach is fundamentally unchanged from that adopted in 2016/17 and the process is shown in the diagram below. The diagram overleaf shows the details of the sub-criteria for our VFM work.





# Value for money arrangements work (cont.)

## Value for Money sub-criterion

### Informed decision making

Proper arrangements:

- Acting in the public interest, through demonstrating and applying the principles and values of sound governance.
- Understanding and using appropriate and reliable financial and performance information to support informed decision making and performance management.
- Reliable and timely financial reporting that supports the delivery of strategic priorities.
- Managing risks effectively and maintaining a sound system of internal control.

### Sustainable resource deployment

Proper arrangements:

- Planning finances effectively to support the sustainable delivery of strategic priorities and maintain statutory functions.
- Managing and utilising assets to support the delivery of strategic priorities.
- Planning, organising and developing the workforce effectively to deliver strategic priorities.

### Working with partners and third parties

Proper arrangements:

- Working with third parties effectively to deliver strategic priorities.
- Commissioning services effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities.
- Procuring supplies and services effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities.

# Value for money arrangements work (cont.)

## VFM audit stage



### VFM audit risk assessment

#### Audit approach

We consider the relevance and significance of the potential business risks faced by all local authority bodies, and other risks that apply specifically to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable. These are the significant operational and financial risks in achieving statutory functions and objectives, which are relevant to auditors' responsibilities under the *Code of Audit Practice*.

In doing so we consider:

- The Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable's own assessment of the risks it faces, and its arrangements to manage and address its risks;
- Information from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service VFM profile tool;
- Evidence gained from previous audit work, including the response to that work; and
- The work of other inspectorates and review agencies.



### Linkages with financial statements and other audit work

#### Audit approach

There is a degree of overlap between the work we do as part of the VFM audit and our financial statements audit. For example, our financial statements audit includes an assessment and testing of the organisational control environment, including the financial management and governance arrangements, many aspects of which are relevant to our VFM audit responsibilities.

We have always sought to avoid duplication of audit effort by integrating our financial statements and VFM work, and this will continue. We will therefore draw upon relevant aspects of our financial statements audit work to inform the VFM audit.



### Identification of significant risks

#### Audit approach

The Code identifies a matter as significant '*if, in the auditor's professional view, it is reasonable to conclude that the matter would be of interest to the audited body or the wider public. Significance has both qualitative and quantitative aspects.*'

If we identify significant VFM risks, then we will highlight the risk to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable and consider the most appropriate audit response in each case, including:

- Considering the results of work by the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable, inspectorates and other review agencies; and
- Carrying out local risk-based work to form a view on the adequacy of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

# Value for money arrangements work (cont.)

## VFM audit stage



### Assessment of work by other review agencies, and Delivery of local risk based work

#### Audit approach

Depending on the nature of the significant VFM risk identified, we may be able to draw on the work of other inspectorates, review agencies and other relevant bodies to provide us with the necessary evidence to reach our conclusion on the risk.

We will also consider the evidence obtained by way of our financial statements audit work and other work already undertaken.

If evidence from other inspectorates, agencies and bodies is not available and our other audit work is not sufficient, we will need to consider what additional work we will be required to undertake to satisfy ourselves that we have reasonable evidence to support the conclusion that we will draw. Such work may include:

- Additional meetings with senior managers;
- Review of specific related minutes and internal reports; and
- Examination of financial models for reasonableness, using our own experience and benchmarking data from within and without the sector.



### Concluding on VFM arrangements

#### Audit approach

At the conclusion of the VFM audit we will consider the results of the work undertaken and assess the assurance obtained against each of the VFM themes regarding the adequacy of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources.

If any issues are identified that may be significant to this assessment, and in particular if there are issues that indicate we may need to consider qualifying our VFM conclusion, we will discuss these with management as soon as possible. Such issues will also be considered more widely as part of KPMG's quality control processes, to help ensure the consistency of auditors' decisions.



### Reporting

#### Audit approach

On the following page, we report the results of our initial risk assessment.

We will report on the results of the VFM audit through our ISA 260 Report. This will summarise any specific matters arising, and the basis for our overall conclusion.

The key output from the work will be the VFM conclusion (i.e. our opinion on the arrangements for securing VFM), which forms part of our audit report.

# Value for money arrangements work (cont.)

## Significant VFM Risks

Those risks requiring specific audit attention and procedures to address the likelihood that proper arrangements are not in place to deliver value for money.

<b>Risk:</b>	<p><b>Medium Term Financial Planning</b></p> <p>The Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable identified the need to make efficiency savings of £1.3 million in 2017/18 in addition to ongoing pay savings of £4.2m. The current forecast shows that they will deliver an underspend of approximately £2.1 million for the financial year for the force and that the OPCC will deliver a balanced budget.</p> <p>The overall budget was approved by the Police and Crime Commissioner in February 2017 and recognised a need for £1.3million in savings. The approved budget includes individual proposals to support the delivery of the overall savings requirement. Further savings of £7 million will be required over the period 2018 to 2020 to principally address future reductions to funding levels alongside service cost and demand pressures. As a result, the need for savings will continue to have a significant impact on the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable’s financial resilience.</p> <p>There is no plan to use reserves to support the 2017-18 expenditure and the overall aim is to return £10.1m to reserves in the medium to long term.</p>
<b>Approach:</b>	<p>As part of our additional risk based work, we will review the controls the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable have in place to ensure financial resilience, specifically that the Medium Term Financial Plan has duly taken into consideration factors such as funding reductions, salary and general inflation, demand pressures, restructuring costs and sensitivity analysis given the degree of variability in the above factors.</p>
<b>VFM Sub-criterion:</b>	<p>This risk is related to the following Value For Money sub-criterion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Sustainable resource deployment.</li></ul>

# Value for money arrangements work (cont.)

## Significant VFM Risks

Those risks requiring specific audit attention and procedures to address the likelihood that proper arrangements are not in place to deliver value for money.

### Risk:

#### MFSS Governance and VFM

Multi Force Shared Services (MFSS) currently provides transactional back office services to Cheshire, Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire Police and the Civil Nuclear Authority. PCCs in particular have expressed concerns around the governance of MFSS around the role of the Joint Oversight Committee (JOC) and the supporting Section 22 agreement. PCCs consider that an alternative legal vehicle is required to better support and govern MFSS and the services provided to clients. Potential growth in the membership of MFSS through the on-boarding of Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service, British Transport Police, and Avon & Somerset Police (at a later date), means that the existing governance arrangements are becoming unwieldy. The Nottinghamshire PCC has agreed that the Force should continue to be a member of MFSS and migrate to Oracle Fusion. This decision was based upon the outcome of the Grant Thornton tri-force evaluation report, which amongst other things, tested whether MFSS was providing value for money.

Oracle Cloud Applications (FUSION) will offer expanded application functionality, real-time Business Intelligence and related modules all via Oracle Cloud Applications. By moving to a fully Oracle hosted service the annual savings for the MFSS are £2.667m over five years with additional MFSS savings taking the five year total savings to £3.54m (shared amongst the partner forces). Nottinghamshire expect savings of £200k a year.

Fusion was due to be implemented in April 2018 but the project has been pushed back by MFSS to November 2018 with the potential for further delay. The project costs have increased from £6.7m to a projected £10.4m, with Nottinghamshire Police allocated £600k of this increase (total costs £1.152m payable in 17-18 and £583k in 2018-19). With the change in partners and the share of costs being based on head count the total cost to Nottinghamshire Police of this project is not yet fully known. The current budget for Fusion is £650k for 2017-18 and £2.155m in 17-18.

### Approach:

As part of our additional risk based work, we will review the Grant Thornton tri-force evaluation report to ensure proper arrangements in MFSS Financial governance. We will review the costs of the project in 2017-18 and the anticipated costs in 2018-19 to establish how these differ from the budget.

### VFM Sub-criterion:

This risk is related to the following Value For Money sub-criterion:

— Working with partners and other third parties.

# Other matters

## Whole of government accounts (WGA)

We are required to issue an assurance statement to the National Audit Office confirming the income, expenditure, asset and liabilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable at a group level. Deadlines for completion of this for 2017/18 have not yet been confirmed.

## Elector challenge

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 gives electors certain rights. These are:

- The right to inspect the accounts;
- The right to ask the auditor questions about the accounts; and
- The right to object to the accounts.

As a result of these rights, in particular the right to object to the accounts, we may need to undertake additional work to form our decision on the elector's objection. The additional work could range from a small piece of work where we interview an officer and review evidence to form our decision, to a more detailed piece of work, where we have to interview a range of officers, review significant amounts of evidence and seek legal representations on the issues raised.

The costs incurred in responding to specific questions or objections raised by electors is not part of the fee. This work will be charged in accordance with the PSAA's fee scales.





# Other matters

## Reporting and communication

Reporting is a key part of the audit process, not only in communicating the audit findings for the year, but also in ensuring the audit team are accountable to you in addressing the issues identified as part of the audit strategy. Throughout the year we will communicate with you through meetings with the Finance team and the JASP. Our communication outputs are included in Appendix 1.

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## Independence and Objectivity

Auditors are also required to be independent and objective. Appendix 3 provides more details of our confirmation of independence and objectivity.

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## Audit fee

Our Audit Fee Letter 2017/18 presented to you in April 2017 first set out our fees for the 2017/18 audit. This letter also set out our assumptions. We have not considered it necessary to seek approval for any changes to the agreed fees at this stage.

Should there be a need to charge additional audit fees then these will be agreed with the respective s.151 Officers and PSAA. If such a variation is agreed, we will report that to you in due course.

The planned scale audit fees for 2017/18 are:

- Police and Crime Commissioner : £35,220, compared to 2016/17 of £35,220; and
- Chief Constable : £15,000, compared to 2016/2017 of £15,000.



Appendix 1:

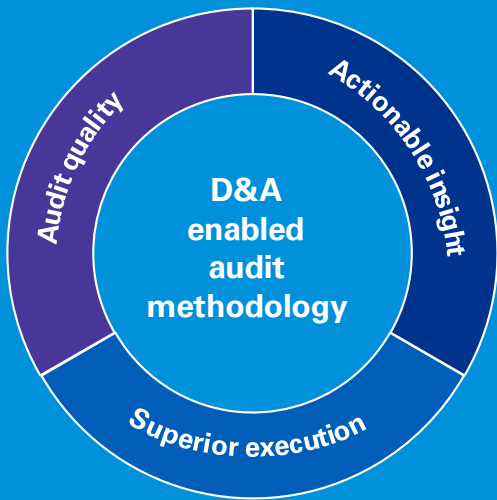
# Key elements of our financial statements audit approach

**Driving more value from the audit through data and analytics**

Technology is embedded throughout our audit approach to deliver a high quality audit opinion. Use of Data and Analytics (D&A) to analyse large populations of transactions in order to identify key areas for our audit focus is just one element. Data and Analytics allows us to:

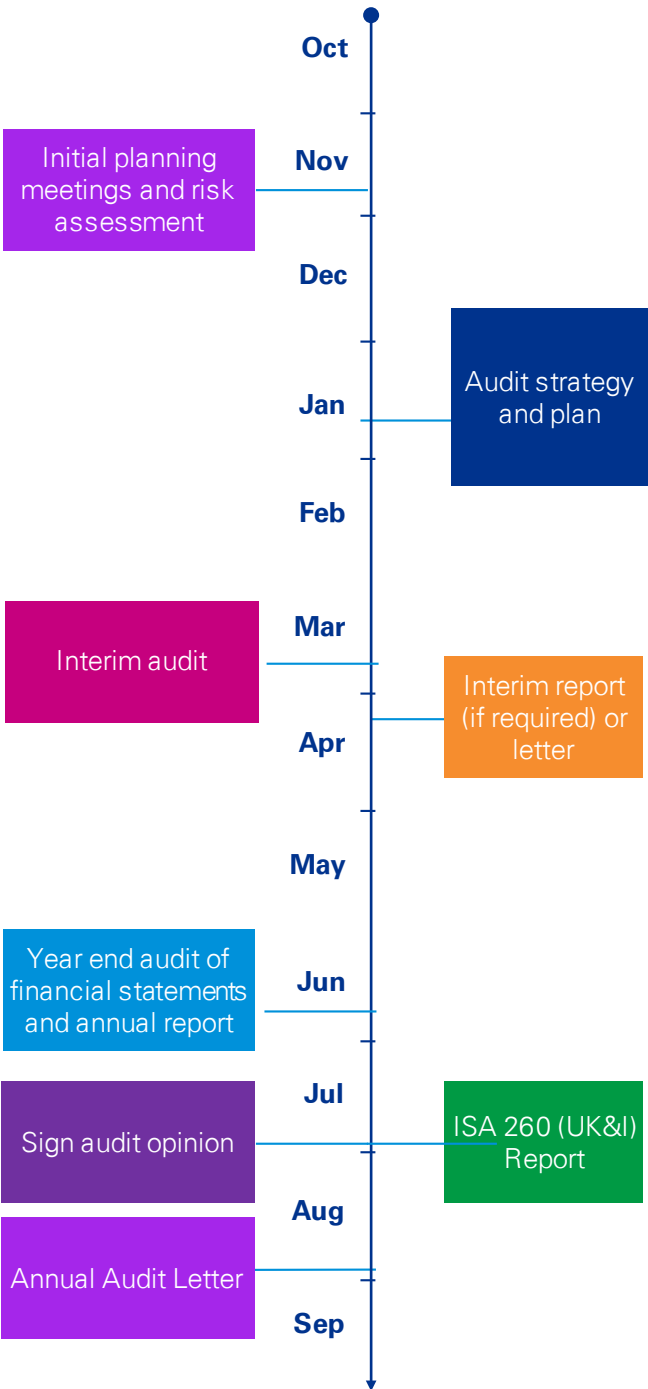
- Obtain greater understanding of your processes, to automatically extract control configurations and to obtain higher levels assurance.
- Focus manual procedures on key areas of risk and on transactional exceptions.
- Identify data patterns and the root cause of issues to increase forward-looking insight.

We anticipate using data and analytics in our work around journals.



**Communication**

Continuous communication involving regular meetings between the, audit team, senior management and the JASP.



## Appendix 1:

# Key elements of our financial statements audit approach

### Audit workflow

#### Planning

- Determining our materiality level;
- Risk assessment;
- Identification of significant risks;
- Consideration of potential fraud risks;
- Identification of key account balances in the financial statements and related assertions, estimates and disclosures;
- Consideration of managements use of experts; and
- Issuing this audit plan to communicate our audit strategy.

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#### Control evaluation

- Understand accounting and reporting activities;
- Evaluate design and implementation of selected controls;
- Test operating effectiveness of selected controls; and
- Assess control risk and risk of the accounts being misstated.

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#### Substantive testing

- Plan substantive procedures;
- Perform substantive procedures; and
- Consider if audit evidence is sufficient and appropriate

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#### Completion

- Perform completion procedures;
  - Perform overall evaluation;
  - Form an audit opinion; and
  - JASP reporting.
- 



## Appendix 2:

# Audit team

Your audit team has been drawn from our specialist public sector assurance department. Our audit team were all part of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable audits last year.



**Andrew Cardoza**

Director

T: 0121 232 3869

E: [andrew.cardoza@kpmg.co.uk](mailto:andrew.cardoza@kpmg.co.uk)

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'My role is to lead our team and ensure the delivery of a high quality, valued added external audit opinion. I will be the main point of contact for the JASP and Chief Finance Officers.'



**Anita Pipes**

Manager

T: 0115 945 4481

E: [anita.pipes@kpmg.co.uk](mailto:anita.pipes@kpmg.co.uk)

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'I provide quality assurance for the audit work and specifically any technical accounting and risk areas. I will be responsible for the on-site delivery of our work and will supervise the work of our audit assistants.'

## Appendix 3:

# Independence and objectivity requirements

### **ASSESSMENT OF OUR OBJECTIVITY AND INDEPENDENCE AS AUDITOR OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CHIEF CONSTABLE FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Professional ethical standards require us to provide to you at the planning stage of the audit a written disclosure of relationships (including the provision of non-audit services) that bear on KPMG LLP's objectivity and independence, the threats to KPMG LLP's independence that these create, any safeguards that have been put in place and why they address such threats, together with any other information necessary to enable KPMG LLP's objectivity and independence to be assessed.

In considering issues of independence and objectivity we consider relevant professional, regulatory and legal requirements and guidance, including the provisions of the Code of Audit Practice, the provisions of Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd's ('PSAA's') Terms of Appointment relating to independence and the requirements of the FRC Ethical Standard and General Guidance Supporting Local Audit (Auditor General Guidance 1 – AGN01) issued by the National Audit Office ('NAO').

This Appendix is intended to comply with this requirement and facilitate a subsequent discussion with you on audit independence and addresses:

- General procedures to safeguard independence and objectivity;
- Independence and objectivity considerations relating to the provision of non-audit services; and
- Independence and objectivity considerations relating to other matters.

#### **General procedures to safeguard independence and objectivity**

KPMG LLP is committed to being and being seen to be independent. As part of our ethics and independence policies, all KPMG LLP partners, Audit Directors and staff annually confirm their compliance with our ethics and independence policies and procedures. Our ethics and independence policies and procedures are fully consistent with the requirements of the FRC Ethical Standard. As a result we have underlying safeguards in place to maintain independence through:

- Instilling professional values
- Communications
- Internal accountability
- Risk management
- Independent reviews.

We are satisfied that our general procedures support our independence and objectivity.

#### **Independence and objectivity considerations relating to the provision of non-audit services**

##### *Summary of fees*

We have considered the fees charged by us to the Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable and its affiliates for professional services provided by us during the reporting period.

There are no fees in relation to the provision of non-audit services which need to be disclosed to the JASP.

## Appendix 3:

# Independence and objectivity requirements (cont.)

### Independence and objectivity considerations relating to other matters

There are no other matters that, in our professional judgement, bear on our independence which need to be disclosed to the JASP.

### Confirmation of audit independence

We confirm that as of the date of this report, in our professional judgement, KPMG LLP is independent within the meaning of regulatory and professional requirements and the objectivity of the Director and audit staff is not impaired.

This report is intended solely for the information of the JASP of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable and should not be used for any other purposes.

We would be very happy to discuss the matters identified above (or any other matters relating to our objectivity and independence) should you wish to do so.

KPMG LLP

**KPMG LLP**



**[kpmg.com/uk](http://kpmg.com/uk)**



This report is addressed to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable and has been prepared for the sole use of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable. We take no responsibility to any member of staff acting in their individual capacities, or to third parties. We draw your attention to the Statement of Responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies, which is available on Public Sector Audit Appointment's website ([www.psaa.co.uk](http://www.psaa.co.uk)).

External auditors do not act as a substitute for the audited body's own responsibility for putting in place proper arrangements to ensure that public business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

We are committed to providing you with a high quality service. If you have any concerns or are dissatisfied with any part of KPMG's work, in the first instance you should contact Andrew Cardoza, the engagement lead to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable, who will try to resolve your complaint. If you are dissatisfied with your response please contact the national lead partner for all of KPMG's work under our contract with Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited, Andrew Sayers, by email to [Andrew.Sayers@kpmg.co.uk](mailto:Andrew.Sayers@kpmg.co.uk). After this, if you are still dissatisfied with how your complaint has been handled you can access PSAA's complaints procedure by emailing [generalenquiries@psaa.co.uk](mailto:generalenquiries@psaa.co.uk) by telephoning 020 7072 7445 or by writing to Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited, 3rd Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ. © 2017 KPMG LLP, a UK limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. All rights reserved.

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