

WYPCC – Decision

From: Sophie Abbott

Date: 30 June 2014

Circulation list:

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Timing:	Urgent – for publication in the draft statement of accounts
Purpose:	Approval of the Annual Governance Statement
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SUBJECT OF ADVICE Annual Governance Statement

Summary: The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 require the PCC to publish an annual governance statement prepared in accordance with proper practice describing the governance framework in place and the annual review of effectiveness of the framework including the system of internal control. Any significant areas of development must be outlined together with an action plan to address them.

Recommendation: That the PCC agrees the annual governance statement set out in the attached appendix.

Consideration: The draft statement for 2013/14 is attached at Appendix A. Evidence from the annual opinion from internal audit, relevant audit and inspection findings from the external auditor and Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, the work of the Joint Independent Audit Committee and issues arising within the last financial year have been reviewed in forming the view on the effectiveness of both internal and external governance arrangements including the planning framework, systems for performance, financial and risk management, and wider governance issues such as community engagement, accountability and partnership arrangements.

A definition of significant governance issues is provided, to assist the reader's understanding of the nature of issues which would be included in the statement. On the basis of this definition there is one issue to report for 2013/14, and action is already underway to address this.

The statement must be signed by the PCC and Chief Executive with independent assurances provided by the PCC's Chief Finance Officer on issues of financial propriety, and the Monitoring Officer on legality and standards of ethical conduct.

Affordability: Opportunity costs only incurred in preparation of the statement.

Handling: Issues identified in the statement leading to the review of conduct and complaints handling have been widely reported in the media.

Risks/Legal Opinion: There is a risk that non compliance with the regulations will draw adverse comment and criticism from the external auditor.

Supporting and Dissenting Views: The draft statement has been contributed to by managers within the OPCC with responsibility for various areas of activity. The statement itself was discussed at the Joint Independent Audit Committee on 12 June, and updated accordingly.

APPENDIX: Draft Annual Governance Statement