

Joint Audit Committee

3 September 2026

Report Title	Mayoral Model Transition Update
Responsible Officer	Jack Hudson, CEO, OPCC
Report author	Cristina Turner, Director for Strategic Partnerships, OPCC (with updates sourced from the Combined Authority)
Risk register reference	SR9. Devolution / Transition.
Previous papers to Committee	31 July 2026
Report summary	This report updates the Committee on preparations for the planned transition of local police governance to the Mayoral model, currently expected in May 2028. While national policy and timescales continue to evolve, the OPCC and Combined Authority are working together on transition planning, including engagement with national and local partners, allocation of internal leadership resources, governance and risk management arrangements, and identification of key workstreams. The transition presents significant dependencies on wider reforms, including police reform, local government reorganisation and further devolution to the Combined Authority. Current assurance on transition preparedness is

	assessed as moderate , with further detailed planning to follow as national guidance becomes clearer.	
Public reporting status	Report can be published in full	Yes
	May be published with redactions	
	Should not be published	
Purpose of the report	Update/progress report	Yes
	Provide assurance	Yes
	Present audit findings	
	Risk escalation	
	Policy/strategy review	
	Statutory requirement	
	Other (<i>please specify</i>)	
Related Police and Crime Plan Pillar	N/A	
Source(s) of assurance	Internal Audit	
	External Audit	
	Internal management controls	Yes
	Independent review	
	Inspection findings	
	Other (<i>please specify</i>)	
Key issues, assurances and concerns	Key issues, assurance and concerns(s): The Committee can take assurance that appropriate governance, leadership, risk management and initial planning arrangements are in place to support the transition to the Mayoral model. While significant external dependencies and national policy uncertainties remain, the OPCC and Combined Authority are working together to identify and address key risks, allocate appropriate resources, engage relevant partners and establish the foundations necessary to support a smooth and effective transition.	

	The Combined Authority has project management resource in place for police and fire integration. The Combined Authority continues to provide updates through their Audit and Governance Committee. Police and fire transition has also been incorporated within the Combined Authority strategic risk register.	
Action required <i>What is the Committee being asked to do? (Tick one box only)</i>	Information – <i>to note the contents of the report</i>	
	Assurance – <i>to review the assurance provided on the adequacy and effectiveness of arrangements and identify any matters requiring further scrutiny or improvement</i>	Yes
	Recommendation – <i>endorse a recommendation to the PCC or CC</i>	
	Approval – <i>approve a document, plan or approach where authority is delegated to JAC</i>	
	Decision – <i>make a decision within the Committee's delegated authority</i>	
Recommendation	To note the contents of the report.	