Police and Crime Commissioner
CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH
Darryl Preston

Creating a safer Cambridgeshire

Joint Audit Committee

31 July 2026

Responsible Officer:	Impact on Business:		Risk Register Reference & RAG
Jon Lee, CFO and Director of Resources	High		
	Medium	X	
	Low		
Lead Manager:	**Report Type:**		
Kirsty Toone, Head of Finance	Governance	X	
	Strategic		
	Operational		
Previous papers to Committee:			

Report summary	This report provides the Joint Audit Committee with an update following publication of the draft 2025/26 Statement of Accounts, including the position on external audit activity, key risks and dependencies, and the next stages of the audit timetable			
Related Police and Crime Plan objective	Governance			
Action (tick one box only)	Information ☐	Assurance ☒	Approval ☐	Decision ☐
Recommendation	The Committee is asked to comment on and note the report			

JAC Annual Accounts Status Update

1. Purpose and Executive Summary

This report provides the Joint Audit Committee with an update following publication of the draft 2025/26 Statement of Accounts, including the current position on external audit activity, key dependencies and emerging issues.

The draft accounts have now been prepared and published on 23 June 2026 in line with the statutory timetable, with the public inspection period running from 24 June to 4 August 2026. External audit activity is underway, including build back assurance work as part of a structured audit programme aligned to the KPMG Audit Plan.

The draft financial statements are consistent with the financial position reported through the year and do not introduce any significant new issues beyond those already highlighted to the Committee.

At this stage, the position remains on track. Audit planning is complete and work has commenced, with the focus now on supporting audit delivery and managing key dependencies through the audit phase.

The current position is that:

- Audit activity is progressing as expected
- No issues have been identified that are expected to impact delivery of the audit timetable
- Key dependencies remain consistent with earlier reporting, particularly BCH inputs, third-party reports and timely response to audit requests

Members are asked to note:

- Publication of the draft accounts
- Progress of the audit
- Key risks and dependencies
- The next stages of the audit timetable

Members are also asked to provide any feedback or comments on the accounts either at the JAC meeting or in the separate briefing on the draft accounts (if required).

On track for statutory deadlines: Yes — draft accounts published; audit phase underway

Matters requiring JAC attention: No immediate actions required — Committee asked to note progress and offer any feedback on the draft accounts.

2. Statutory Timetable and Public Inspection

The statutory timetable remains unchanged. Publication of the unaudited accounts by 30 June 2026 has been achieved (published 23 June 2026), with the public inspection period running from 24 June to 4 August 2026, and no significant timetable risks are currently identified.

Milestone	Current position
Unaudited accounts	Deadline remains 30 June 2026, achieved
Audited accounts	Statutory deadline remains 31 January 2027.
Public inspection	Public inspection period runs from 24 June to 4 August 2026

3. External Audit – Planning and Work in Progress

Overall audit readiness
KPMG have presented their Audit Plan and early engagement with the finance team has commenced. Work to support both the 2025/26 audit and historic build back assurance is underway. This includes a structured programme of build back assurance work aligned to the KPMG Audit Plan.

Audit Plan – progress
Audit planning is complete and early audit activity is progressing to timetable. Audit activity is now moving into the main fieldwork phase following publication of the draft accounts. Current work is focused on responding to initial requests, supporting testing in key risk areas and maintaining momentum through continued engagement with KPMG.

Build Back Assurance
Build back assurance remains a key area of focus. KPMG are undertaking a formal rebuilding assurance risk assessment as part of the 2025/26 audit. Work is progressing through collation of historic evidence and targeted engagement with KPMG, but timely access to older records continues to be the main dependency.

Value for Money (VfM)
Value for Money work is progressing in line with the Audit Plan and NAO Code. Initial review activity has not identified any significant concerns at this stage, although the areas of focus remain aligned to wider sector pressures, noting that KPMG have identified a significant Value for Money risk relating to governance.

Section	Area	Work completed	Work in progress / current position	Key issues / dependencies
Audit Plan	Audit planning	Audit Plan completed and presented to JAC	Ongoing engagement with KPMG	Early engagement remains important to maintain timetable
Audit Plan	PBC requests	Initial requests issued	Submission of core items in line with timetable	Some dependencies on BCH and third parties
Audit Plan	Key risk areas	Early discussions held on employee costs, grant income, pensions and income recognition	Testing and evidence gathering in selected areas	Enhanced review and specialist input needed
Build Back	Historical evidence	Core documentation collated	Further provision of historic records	Availability of older data remains a constraint
Build Back	Audit engagement	Discussions held with KPMG	Ongoing review of evidence	Resource pressures need to be managed
Build Back	Prioritisation	High-risk areas identified	Ongoing monitoring and follow-up	Remains a key risk until assurance rebuilt
VfM	Scope and approach	Approach aligned to Audit Plan	Framework established	No issues identified
VfM	Work completed	Initial risk assessment completed	No concerns emerging at this stage	No weaknesses identified
VfM	Governance risk (Monks Wood)	Risk identified in Audit Plan	Audit work ongoing	Outcome dependent on VfM conclusions
VfM	Emerging themes	Early focus areas identified	Work ongoing	Next update via audit timetable

4. Accounts Preparation / Progress

Progress Summary
The draft accounts have now been prepared and published. Activity is focused on supporting audit activity and responding to audit queries, including finalisation of supporting evidence where required.

Area	Work completed	Work in progress	Key issues / dependencies
Milestones completed	Closedown completed; draft accounts published	Supporting audit requirements	Dependent on BCH inputs and third-party reports
Current activity	Draft accounts completed	Audit support and documentation	Timely data and responses required
Key delivery risks	Risks identified early	Ongoing monitoring	Main risk is delay in shared BCH elements or external inputs

5. Key Matters

A small number of matters reflected within the draft accounts remain under audit review, principally Monks Wood through KPMG’s VfM work, and a new contingent liability disclosure relating to motorway speed enforcement. No additional significant items have been identified at this stage.

Area	Current position	Work in progress	Key issues / next steps
Monks Wood	Identified as a significant VfM risk	Review ongoing	Outcome dependent on KPMG conclusions
Motorway Speed Enforcement	No liability expected	Scheme not fully implemented	Disclosed as contingent liability
Other items	No further issues identified	Under review	Update if required

These matters have been appropriately reflected in the draft financial statements, with final wording and assurance subject to completion of the audit process

6. Prior Year External Audit Recommendations

Work to address prior year audit recommendations is progressing, with controls being strengthened and evidenced ahead of audit completion.

Area	Current position	Work in progress	Key next step
Journal controls	Improved controls implemented	Embedding processes	Demonstrate consistent operation
Related parties	Revised processes introduced	Evidence gathering	Confirm effectiveness
BCH alignment	Partner alignment ongoing	Final consistency checks	Maintain audit assurance

7. Next Steps, Timing and Decision Points

The next phase of work is focused on supporting the published draft accounts through audit, maintaining momentum on audit support and timely provision of information to support audit delivery, including responding to any queries arising during the public inspection period (24 June to 4 August 2026).

Area	Current position	Next step	Timing / Committee point
Immediate next steps	Audit support ongoing	Continue responding to audit requests	June to July 2026
Planned communications	Provide further updates to the Committee in line with the audit timetable	Provide audit updates to JAC	As per timetable
Actions for JAC	No immediate action required	Committee is asked to note progress, risks and dependencies and also provide any feedback on the accounts	Current meeting and separate Draft Accounts Briefing (if required)
Forward look	Milestones unchanged	Complete audit and publish accounts	To January 2027