



Cambridgeshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT – 2012/13

1. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1.1 The OPCC is responsible for ensuring that 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. The Commissioner also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The Commissioner also has a duty under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to secure the economy and efficiency of the police force.
- 1.2 In discharging this overall responsibility, the OPCC is also responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the exercise of its functions, which includes ensuring a sound system of internal control is maintained through the year and that arrangements are in place for the management of risk.
- 1.3 The Commissioner has approved and adopted a Code of Corporate Governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework: Delivering Good Governance in Local Government. This Annual Governance Statement explains how the Commissioner has complied with the Code. It also meets the requirements of Regulation 4(2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 in relation to conducting an annual review of the effectiveness of its internal control systems at least annually and Regulations 4(3) and 4(4) regarding the requirement to approve an Annual Governance Statement which has to be published alongside the Statement of Accounts.
- 1.4 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 changed the governance and scrutiny of policing by abolishing Police Authorities and replacing them (in November 2012) with elected Police and Crime Commissioners. The Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account and the Police and Crime Panel provide support and challenge to the Commissioner.
- 1.5 This Annual Statement relies upon the Interim Statement approved in November 2012.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, and culture and values by which the OPCC is directed and controlled and the activities through which it is accountable to and engages with the community. It enables the OPCC to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services, including achieving value for money.
- 2.2 The system of internal control is a significant part of the framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable and foreseeable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Commissioner's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them effectively, efficiently and economically.
- 2.3 This revised governance framework has been in place since the Commissioner took up office on 22 November 2012.

3. THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

- 3.1 The purpose of the framework is to give clarity to the way the two legal entities (each one a corporation sole), the Commissioner and the Chief Constable will govern, both jointly and separately, to do business in the right way, for the right reason at the right time.
- 3.2 The statutory framework within which the corporations sole will operate is:
- Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011,
 - Policing Protocol Order 2011,
 - Financial Management Code of Practice,
 - Strategic Policing Requirement,
 - The Police and Crime Commissioner Elections (Declaration of Acceptance of Office) Order 2012.
- 3.3 This framework creates a public sector relationship, based upon the commissioner/provider arrangement but with unique elements such as the single elected Commissioner and operational independence of the police service. It is therefore not appropriate to import corporate governance arrangements into this new environment and the framework builds upon existing good governance principles and experience.
- 3.4 The core principles to be adopted by both corporations sole are those highlighted by the good governance standard for public services:
- Focus on outcomes for local people,

- Clarity of roles and functions,
- Promotion of values and demonstrating these through behaviour,
- Informed, transparent decisions and managing risk,
- Developing capacity and capability,
- Engaging with local people to ensure robust accountability.

3.5 The Chief Constable is responsible for operational policing matters, the direction and control of police personnel, and for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of the Force. The Commissioner is required to hold him to account for the exercise of those functions and those of the persons under his direction and control. It therefore follows that the OPCC must satisfy itself that the Force has appropriate mechanisms in place for the maintenance of good governance, and that these operate in practice.

3.6 This Annual Governance Statement provides a summary of the extent to which the aspirations set out in the Code of Corporate Governance are currently being met. This statement is informed by assurances on the six principles of the Code and by on-going audit and inspection.

3.7 The reliability of financial reporting and internal financial controls are also reported as part of this statement. See (7) below.

(1) Focusing on the purpose of the Commissioner and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area.

3.8 The Commissioner has made his commitments and objectives for policing clear in his Police and Crime Plan which has been widely consulted upon. The Plan was approved by the Police and Crime Panel in March 2013. This Plan sets out the policing priorities to be delivered and further clarity on how they will be measured and evaluated will shortly be presented to the Joint Audit Committee and Panel.

3.9 The OPCC will shortly produce an Annual Report focussing on achievements against the 2012/13 Policing Plan. Clearly 2012/13 is a hybrid year with the outgoing Police Authority and the Commissioner partly responsible.

3.10 Since his election in November 2012, the Commissioner has engaged with the public in many ways including local surgeries for residents to raise issues, attendance at neighbourhood meetings and his personal attention to correspondence. The Commissioner also has a new website with contact details, information on current developments and also transparency data as required by legislation.

