Agenda Item No.

7

JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE
6 March 2023

SUBJECT	**INTERNAL AUDIT: OPERATIONAL PLAN 2024/25 AND STRATEGY UPDATE, AND CHARTER**
REPORT BY	**CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER** **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES**
CONTACT OFFICER	**JULIE FLINT, CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER OPCC** **Tel: 01522 212351** **SHARON CLARK, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES** **Tel: 01522 947468**
SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF REPORT To consider the annual proposed Internal Audit Plan for 2024/25 and Charter.	
RECOMMENDATION	**That the draft Internal Audit Plan and Charter at Appendix 'A' be considered.**

A. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. The Financial Management Code of Practice for the Police Service of England & Wales (July 2018), issued by the Home Office, states that the "Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Chief Constable (CC) are required to maintain effective internal audit of their affairs by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014. In fulfilling this requirement the PCC and CC should have regard to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) issued by CIPFA as the relevant internal audit standards setter for local government and police. In addition, the Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit in Public Service Organisations issued by CIPFA sets out best practice and should be used to assess arrangements to drive up audit quality and governance arrangements".

2. A copy of the Mazars draft 2024/25 Internal Audit Plan and Charter is attached at Appendix A. Sarah Knowles from Mazars will present the report.

B. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The 2024/25 contract with Mazars is based on 132 days per annum at a cost of £63,900 per annum from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2026.

C. LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The provision of internal audit services is one of the means by which the Police and Crime Commissioner discharges his responsibilities to secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force under section 1 (6)(b) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, and the Chief Finance Officer meets her responsibilities under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, section 73 of the Local Government Act 1985 and section 112 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 for ensuring the proper administration of the Commissioner's financial affairs.

The PCC, in liaison with the CC, is required, under part 2 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, to undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance.

D. PERSONNEL, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

(including any impact or issues relating to Children and Young People)

There are no specific issues arising from this report.

E. REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS

The committee will be kept informed of Internal Audit work throughout the year.

F. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risks are detailed as appropriate within appendices to this report.

G. PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Information in this report along with any supporting material is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation.