

JOINT AUDIT PANEL

Date: Friday 27th September 2024

Time: 14:30 – 16:00

Venue: Room 422, Fourth Floor, GMP Force Headquarters, Central Park, Northampton Road, Newton Heath, Manchester, M40 5BP

Attendees Peter Morris (Chair)

John Starkey (Panel member)

Ian Cayton (Panel member)

Chief Resources Officer (CRO) Lee Rawlinson (GMP)

Chief Finance Officer (CFO) Ian Cosh (GMP)

Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) Dougie Henderson (GMP – item 8, 9 and 12 only)

Jerry Faulkner (GMP - Assistant Director of Finance)

Lindsey Ashworth (GMP - Assistant Director of Finance)

Sara Ashworth (GMP – Corporate Development Branch)

Paul Savill (GMP - Digital Policing Programme item 8, 9 and 12 only)

Hannah Gamage (GMP - Minutes)

Claire Postlethwaite (GMCA – Director of Operational Finance)

Sarah Horseman (Deputy Director, Audit and Assurance)

Cath Folan (Head of Internal Audit – Police & Crime)

Karen Murray (Forvis Mazars - Director (Public and Social Sector))

Apologies Chief Constable Stephen Watson (GMP)

Kate Green (Deputy Mayor for Safer and Stronger Communities)

Dawn Watson (Forvis Mazars – Audit Manager, Public and Social Sector)

Steve Wilson (GMCA – Treasurer)

Foluke Fajumi (Panel member)

M369/JAP **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The Chair welcomed all attendees.

M370/JAP **Urgent Business (if any) at the discretion of the Chair**

None raised.

M371/JAP **Declarations of Interest**

None raised.

M372/JAP Approval of July 2024 minutes and actions

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

M373/JAP Current GMP issues

CRO Rawlinson and CFO Cosh provided an update to the Panel on the following items:

- Operations and enquiries currently ongoing in Force
- Officer pay increase of 4.75% with consequent funding to be provided by Home Office.
- Operation Rydal – a Force-wide Programme aimed at meeting the financial challenges over the short and medium term.
- The work being done to influence and lobby for a revised approach to Police Funding reflecting the requirements facing GMP.
- The Right Care, Right Person (RCRP) Protocol is due to go live on 30th September in Greater Manchester. This is anticipated to reduce demand on the Force. Discussion also took place on the scrutiny and governance around RCRP.
- There has been an improvement in the number of cases being accepted by the Crown Prosecution Service from the Force with 80% of cases accepted first time, as opposed to the previous 40%.
- Operation Safeguard / Early Dawn – regarding the early release of prisoners and how GMP has assisted with this.
- GMP's approach to the governance around stop search.
- GMP is the most improved Force for the second year running based on PEEL assessment criteria.
- Outcome of the Police pension remedy enabling those officers affected to opt to remain in the 2015 scheme or revert to 1987/2006 schemes for the remedy period covering 2015-2022. Work is ongoing with Pension Administrator XPS to ensure accurate, timely advice is provided to officers.
- Workforce planning forecasting is being developed as part of strategic workforce Planning.
- A new procurement act is being brought in, which will mean policies and guidance will need to be reviewed and training will need to be provided. There is already a strong governance process in place in GMP for procurement, however, the new processes this act will bring in will improve the governance further. Internal Audit commented when they have previously undertaken audits of GMP procurement in the past there have been no issues found.

M374/JAP External Audit – Progress Report 2022/23

An overview of the report was provided to the Panel. The pensions work has now been completed and a meeting has taken place with CFO Cosh regarding the value for money. A further meeting will take place regarding the receipt of the auditor's opinion and the certification of the accounts.

It is proposed that the deadline to complete the accounts will be achieved, however, the team are awaiting discussions regarding the confirmation of resources. Meeting the backstop date is a priority for the external auditors.

M375/JAP Audit letter 23-24– Delay in issuing the Auditor's Annual Report for 2023/24

The letter was presented to the Panel and the contents were noted.

The letter will be published on the Force's website .

M376/JAP Internal Audit Progress Report

An overview of the report was provided to the Panel, including an update on the reports which have been published since the last meeting:

- Vetting Process (Reasonable Assurance)
- PoaP Assurance - Follow Up (Portfolio Review)
- Major Incident Response – JESIP (Reasonable Assurance)
- Airwaves Radios – Management and Safeguarding of Radios (Limited Assurance) – ACO Henderson provided an update on the processes taking place in this area to strengthen controls.

It was also highlighted that other audits are underway or in planning.

The Panel noted the new Victims and Communities Performance Framework Organisational Meeting which has been created within in Force, and the invitation has been extended to Internal Audit, providing another source of assurance.

M377/JAP Panel Recruitment Update

Sarah Horseman presented this item on behalf of Steve Wilson. It was noted:

- 1) The Panel will move to a 3+3+1 approach to membership terms, allowing existing members to extend terms where appropriate for a further year to allow for better succession planning and minimize the discontinuity of multiple members leaving at the same time.
- 2) Steve Wilson will write to existing members whose terms are all due to end on 12th December 2024 to seek views on whether they wish to apply for terms to be extended by 12 months.
- 3) Recruitment for new members will start next week with a minimum requirement to appoint one new member, but with an aim to secure between two-three potential members to consider alongside the extension of existing members terms.
- 4) An update will be provided to the November meeting on the results of the recruitment processes.

PART B - REDACTED