



**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Executive

**Date:** 17 January 2017

## **FUTURE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

### **1. Purpose**

1.1 To update the Business Coordination Board (the “Board”) of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Commissioner’s”) plans for financial support for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (the “OPCC”) further to the resignation of the OPCC Chief Finance Officer.

### **2. Recommendation**

2.1 The Board is invited to note the proposed arrangements for financial support.

### **3. Background**

3.1 The OPCC Chief Finance Officer resigned in October 2016 and her last day of employment will be 31 January 2017.

3.2 Under paragraph 6 of Schedule 1 to the Act a Commissioner outside London is required to appoint a Chief Finance Officer.

3.3 The role of Director of Finance, which encompasses the roles and responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer, provides strategic advice to the Commissioner on all aspects of financial strategy, financial management and risk mitigation. The post holder plays an active role in setting and implementing strategy and in supporting the development and improvement of quality local and regional services. They are also the Deputy Chief Executive. The Director of Finance acts as the organisation’s professional expert on finance, and provides support to the Commissioner in respect of the effective, efficient and economic use of resources, delivering the required financial targets and duties, and on the best possible stewardship of over £130m of public money. They hold a fiduciary responsibility to local taxpayers. The post is politically restricted.

- 3.4 As a key member of the Commissioner's Senior Leadership Team the Director of Finance:
- Helps to develop and implement strategy and to resource and deliver strategic objectives sustainably and in the public interest;
  - Is actively involved in, and able to bring influence to bear on, all material business decisions (subject to the Commissioner's statutory responsibilities) to ensure immediate and longer term implications, opportunities and risks are fully considered, and aligned with the financial strategy;
  - Leads the promotion and delivery of good financial management so that public money is safeguarded at all times and used appropriately, economically, efficiently and effectively; and
  - Is the Commissioner's Section 151 officer under the Local Government Act 1972.
- 3.5 The Director of Finance works in close liaison with the Chief Constable's Director of Finance and Resources, the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, local authorities and other public sector bodies, ensuring that the finance function is resourced to be fit for purpose. To perform this role the post holder must be a professionally qualified accountant and be suitably experienced.

#### **4. Proposed arrangements**

- 4.1 With the Policing and Crime Bill due to receive Royal Assent shortly, it is proposed that the role of Chief Finance Officer is shared between the OPCC and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority.
- 4.2 The Deputy Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire Fire Authority will become the OPCC Acting Chief Finance Officer (and Acting Section 151 Officer) for an initial period to 31 December 2017. It is anticipated that the time commitment will be flexible and subject to the needs of the business.
- 4.3 To support the Acting Chief Finance Officer in his role, it is proposed that an Interim Head of Finance be appointed for three days per week.
- 4.4 These proposals will be cost-neutral to the OPCC.

#### **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 The Board is invited to note the proposed arrangements for financial support.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

<b>Source Documents</b>	Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011  Policing and Crime Bill: <a href="http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2016-2017/0055/17055.pdf">http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2016-2017/0055/17055.pdf</a>
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