



## JOINT AUDIT PANEL

**Date:** 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020

**Time:** 10:30 – 12:00

**Venue:** Online Meeting

**Attendees**

Peter Morris (Chair)  
Foluke Fajumi (Panel)  
Hilary Pogson (Panel)  
Ian Cayton (Panel)  
John Starkey (Panel)

Chief Constable Ian Hopkins (GMP)  
Assistant Chief Officer Lynne Potts (GMP)  
Assistant Chief Constable Chris Sykes (GMP)  
Sara Ashworth (GMP - Planning and Policy Development Manager)  
Janet Moores (GMP - Head of Finance)  
Candice Simms (GMP - Minutes)

Sarah Horseman (GMCA - Head of Audit and Assurance)  
Cath Folan (GMCA - Audit Manager (Police and Crime))

Mark Dalton (Mazars - Partner (Public Services))

**Apologies** Steve Wilson (GMCA - Treasurer)

**M088/JAP Welcome & Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were noted from the Treasurer of the GMCA, Steve Wilson.

**M089/JAP Urgent Business (if any) at the discretion of the Chair**

None raised.

**M090/JAP Declarations of Interest**

None raised.

**M091/JAP Terms of Reference**

Members agreed the new terms of reference, incorporating feedback from April's papers, will be implemented going forward. The terms of reference need to be updated and issued.

The Chief Constable thanked the Panel for their work, which is recognised as an important part of governance within the Force. The Chair asked the CC what assurance he was he looking for from the Joint Audit Panel. The CC said that their work should comprise of assurance over the high risk areas; such as financial risk, operational risk, vulnerability and the people agenda.

He described the financial risk which the Force was experiencing due to COVID-19 and the uncertainty with respect to additional funding. He described the improvements the Force had made with respect to recruiting, developing and retaining colleagues from diverse backgrounds but that there is still much more to be done in this area.

He informed members of the COVID working safely secure measures which the Force has put in place to ensure all staff are protected as far as possible when in the workplace safe. The Force is working to maintain standards and comply with government guidance and there is a role for the Panel to scrutinise this work going forward.

Members were advised GMP will be inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) in early 2021, for the Integrated Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) Assessment. The framework for PEEL has changed significantly since the last inspection; therefore, it is recommended members receive training on this topic later on this year.

ACTION: Internal Audit to ensure the new Terms of Reference are updated with the feedback from April's papers.

**M092/JAP      Approval of June 2020 minutes and actions**

The Panel approved the previous minutes as a true and accurate record.

**M093/JAP      Chief Constables Unaudited Statement of Accounts 2019/20 Update**

The Chair requested all queries on the Annual Governance Statement be directed to him outside of the meeting.

GMP provided an overview of the reserves as illustrated in the GMP Insurance Fund Breakdown. Assurance was given to the Panel on the Force's claims history and associated work which has allowed the actuary to make his current assessment of the level of provision required.

GMP confirmed all actions in relation to the Unaudited Statements of Accounts have been resolved and incorporated into the Audited Statement of Accounts. A breakdown of the changes will be provided in the September 2020 meeting. Members were advised on how the volatility of the stock markets can affect the pension fund and is considered in GMPs accounts. The new pension ruling is viewed to have a significant effect on 2020/21 accounts; this will be addressed nationally.

**M094/JAP      Management Assessment of Going Concern**

This item has been deferred to the next meeting scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 to coincide with the final Chief Constable's Statement of Accounts and external audit opinion.

**M095/JAP      Internal Audit Plan Progress Report**

Internal Audit provided an update to members on the progress made since the June 2020 meeting; whereby five reports have been issued to GMP, seven audits previously paused due to COVID-19 have been agreed to be resumed, and three audits will also be included in the emergent plan. Details of these audits are noted in the report.

Members were advised that if there are to be any unallocated audit days remaining, Internal Audit will work with GMP's Deputy Chief Constable and ACO (Resources), and the Deputy Mayor's Executive meetings, to define the rest of the Internal Audit Plan.

Internal Audit have been liaising with their outsourced IT audit providers to ensure a suitable IT element is within the plan for 2020/21. A needs assessment will be conducted to refresh the understanding of the IT systems in place in GMP, and to identify the appropriate IT risks for the Force.

A backlog was recognised as one of the problematic areas in relation to the CARE Disclosure Report; whereby the team haven't been able to fulfil the timing requirements, and the forms used for obtaining the requests could be improved to understand what is needed. Training and quality review processes around disclosure were also identified as areas for improvement. GMP highlighted that the Force requested the CARE Disclosure Audit due to difficulties faced within the unit. The Panel noted the actions within this report may not have much effect in the short term, and more work needs to be done to resolve the areas in the long term. The Panel also noted an action timescale for completion, in relation to a checklist, could be brought forward. Members were advised the Chief Constable of GMP recently met with Her Honour Judge Sarah Singleton QC, who is a full time Circuit Judge sitting in the Family Court and the Court of Protection across Greater Manchester. GMP's CARE Disclosure findings were discussed at the meeting, where a commitment was made to the Judge that GMP will be compliant in this area by January 2021, when taking into account current demand. A representative from GMP will be present at the October Joint Audit Panel to bring updated projections and answer further questions on this report.

Internal Audit provided an overview of their findings in the 'Training – specialist posts and Initial Crime Investigators Development Programme' and the 'Provision of Training – 'acting up' and 'newly promoted' Sergeants and Inspectors' reports.

The Chair noted the rarity of having three reports out of five given a limited assurance level. GMP advised this is not a systemic issue and other factors should be taken into account. A new management team along with a transformational project has been established in the Organisational Learning and Workforce Development (OLWD) Branch since both training audits began in 2019, and the clearing of reports has taken a while due to ongoing discussions around the content.

Internal Audit provided an update on the work conducted so far in the Compliance with COVID-19 Workplace Guidance Audit, whereby 50 out of 60 GMP sites have been visited. Compliance so far has been generally good, any minor areas to be rectified have been done so very quickly.

Internal Audit informed members of positive outcomes following attendance at GMP's Executive Committee (Exec Co). Internal Audit will be attending Exec Co on a quarterly basis to provide an update on audit progress and performance. Members were advised there is new governance in place to allow for internal audit actions to be monitored through GMP's Operational Committee (Ops Co).

Members were advised the Internal Audit Action Tracker Report will come to the Joint Audit Panel again in 2020.

Internal Audit noted they are confident in completing the 2020/21 plan in the projected timescales.

#### **M096/JAP      Integrated Operational Policing System (iOPS) Update**

GMP provided an update to members on the progress the Force has made since iOPS was last discussed in October 2019, noting the success of implementing ControlWorks in the Operational Communications Branch (OCB) which has helped sustain business change, improve productivity and support other transformation projects within the OCB. Further enhancements will be made to PoliceWorks in autumn 2020 as part of the next iOPS upgrade, which is aimed at improving user experience.

Members were advised GMP's mobile technology is leading the way nationally and the Force has recently won UK Business Awards for innovation and the overall prize for mobile technology.

Six months of 2020 crime figures have recently been released to the Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester, along with a comparison to 2019. More work needs to be done to provide a complete set of Annual Data Returns (ADR) to the Home Office. In July 2020, GMP began submitting ADRs to the Home Office. Throughout the summer, the Force will continue to submit more ADRs, which will in turn improve the exposure of crime data to the general public.

Members were assured there is a good baseline for iOPS after one year of its implementation, and there are plans in place to deliver effective changes through a work stream titled 'iOPS Futures'.

**M097/JAP      GMPs Risk Register**

GMP advised the risks presented in the Risk Register are all of equal priority, and there are other organisational risks beneath those listed which have their own registers and are managed by individual branches and clusters. The Strategic Risk Register and Branch/Cluster Registers are recurring items open for scrutiny in GMP committee meetings. Operational risks cannot be shared with the Joint Audit Panel due to the sensitive content. A greater explanation on how the new risk management processes are working will be brought to future meetings.