

JOINT AUDIT PANEL

Date: Friday 29th September 2023

Time: 12:00 – 13:30

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

Attendees

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

Neil Evans (GMCA - Director, Police, Crime, Fire & Criminal Justice)

Chief Resources Officer (CRO) Lee Rawlinson (GMP)
Chief Finance Officer (CFO) Ian Cosh (GMP)
Chief Superintendent Paul Savill (GMP)
Superintendent Dean Purtill (GMP – item
Hannah Gamage (GMP - Minutes)

Rachel Rosewell (GMCA – Deputy Treasurer)
Sarah Horseman (GMCA & GMP - Head of Audit and Assurance)
Cath Folan (GMCA - Audit Manager (Police and Crime))

Dawn Watson (Mazars – Audit Manager, Public and Social Sector)
Karen Murray (Mazars - Partner (Public and Social Sector))

Apologies

Kate Green (Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester)
Janet Moores (GMP - Head of Finance)
Chief Constable Stephen Watson (GMP)
Laura Ansbro-Lee (GMP – Corporate Development Branch)
Steve Wilson (GMCA – Treasurer)

M303/JAP Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair welcomed all attendees and noted apologies.

M304/JAP Urgent Business (if any) at the discretion of the Chair

None raised.

The Chair explained he has asked for GMCA (Steve Wilson) to circulate information regarding the tenure of the Panel members. The Chair also asked for consideration to be given to the appropriateness of current processes for communicating with Panel members.

M305/JAP Declarations of Interest

None raised.

M306/JAP Approval of August 2023 minutes and actions

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

M307/JAP Current GMP issues

CFO Cosh and CRO Rawlinson highlighted the following to the Panel:

- The panel was advised that the risk associated with the delivery of the Police Uplift Programme (PUP) numbers was unlikely to materialise as GMP was forecasting exceeding its maintenance numbers at 30th September 2023.
- GMP's HMICFRS PEEL 2023 inspection is now complete with the finalised report expected to be published in November.
- The police staff pay award for 2023/24 has been agreed at 7% across all pay points.
- There has been a data breach at a supplier which has had implications for GMP. A Gold meeting structure is in place and staff are being informed of any updates. An Internal Audit is planned to take place regarding third party agreements, and the GMCA terms of reference for data protection and the retention and disposal of personal data by the supply chain.
- Operation Protector (the Conservative Party Conference) has now started following 12 months of planning.

M308/JAP Budget Update

Rachel Rosewell updated the Panel that the pay award has been agreed and funded in part. The medium-term finance plan is being updated to include the expenditure from the Plan on a Page (POAP) and the impact of this moving forward. A draft budget will be created in Autumn 2023, following which the public will be consulted. The plan for this will be brought to the Panel in January. There have also been challenges regarding overtime and vacancies.

CFO Cosh explained the business planning cycle for 2023/24 is currently underway, early indications are there are longer-term financial pressures and issues regarding capacity of key staff is likely to impact on the delivery of certain projects.

M309/JAP External Audit Progress Report

The report was an update on items which were highlighted in the previous meeting. The progress of the 2021/22 report was outlined to note the pensions work has been completed and the team are working through the recently reported national issue of defective concrete in public sector building (RAAC), to which CFO Cosh noted this does not affect GMP buildings. The audit letter will be issued at the next meeting. In regard to the 2022/23 report, there are plans and resources in place and it is ready to be signed off in January.

M310/JAP Internal Audit Plan Progress Report

The paper details the reports which have been issued since the previous meeting. These included:

- Road Safety – a partnership focused audit which found Limited Assurance. The Deputy Mayor is bringing partners together to address this, and the Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) and Deputy Chief Fire Officer are reinvigorating the partnership with a strategic and tactical group.
- Overtime – provided with Limited Assurance. GMP explained a governance and accountability process is now in place to address this, and the Force is in a better position as overtime is being more robustly managed.
- Planned/Reactive Maintenance – this audit was rated as being of Substantial Assurance. GMP has an Estates Strategy, to manage and monitor future estates.
- POAP Phase 3 – this audit is part of a programme of audits to monitor the progress of POAP. The results of the audit were mostly green, and a follow-up audit will take place in February 2024.

It was also noted that an Internal Audit will take place regarding the controls and processes regarding the use of money seized using Proceeds of Crime Act (OCA) money has been scheduled for 2023/24.

The Chair advised that panel members had put forward some matters for possible inclusion in the Audit Plan. These suggestions will get picked up as part of the planning process for next year.

M311/JAP HMICFRS Update

Superintendent (Supt) Purtill provided the Panel with an overview of the above report, noting a review of the Performance Management Framework (PMF) is being planned.

When asked by the Panel, Supt Purtill, along with CRO Rawlinson and CFO Cosh, explained GMP's approach to delivering wellbeing support for officers and staff.

The Deputy Mayor's Office stated that, following their recent attendance at the Victim and Communities Performance Framework Day (VCPF), there was a positive change in the management of recruitment and support for officers.

PART B - REDACTED