ITEM 5

JOINT AUDIT PANEL

Date: 12th December 2018
Time: 10:30 – 12:00
Venue: Room 434, Fourth Floor, Greater Manchester Police Headquarters, Northampton Road, Manchester, M40 5BP

Attendees
- Peter Morris (Chair)
- Ian Cayton (Panel)
- Jon Starkey (Panel)
- Cath Millington (Panel)
- Chief Constable Ian Hopkins (GMP)
- ACO Lynne Potts (GMP)
- Janet Moores (GMP – Delegate for Finance)
- Sara Ashworth (GMP - Planning & Policy Development Manager)
- Laura Fitzpatrick (GMP – Minutes)
- Richard Paver (GMCA - Treasurer)
- Tom Powell (GMCA – Head of Audit)
- Jayne Owen (GMCA - Director of Finance)
- Chris Whittingham (Mazars – Senior Manager)

Apologies
- Foluke Fajumi (Panel)

M001/JAP Welcome & Apologies for Absence

Apologies were noted from panel member Foluke Fajumi. The attendees from GMP, the GMCA, and the Panel introduced themselves and their backgrounds. Thanks were given by the Treasurer to the Panel for volunteering and the importance of the Joint Audit Panel was highlighted.

M002/JAP Urgent Business (if any) at the discretion of the Chair

None raised.

M003/JAP Declarations of Interest

None raised.
Audit Panel Workplan 2018-19

The Treasurer outlined the contents of the report and the plan that was put together for the year ahead at the time it was written. It was noted that the statutory deadlines for accounts reporting had changed, which is the reason for having the Panel meet five times per year. The June and July meetings will be in line with these deadlines and the July meeting will also look at the reporting on the Police Fund. The Treasurer outlined the timescales within the report and stated that Panel members are to oversee that appropriate arrangements exist for managing risk. The Panel queried how other audit panels operate and were advised that there are differing structures between panels but that the GMCA website has a number of documents that can be used to gain an understanding of how the old panel was structured.

Internal Audit Plan 2018-20 and Internal Audit Charter

The Head of Internal Audit took the Panel through this plan and the decision to cover an eighteen month period. The plan is produced in accordance with public sector audit standards, consultation with Greater Manchester Police, the risk register, and the Mayor’s Police and Crime Plan. The Head of Internal Audit summarised the planned work allocations and the focus on areas around information governance, workforce, training, finance, IT, and asset management. It was noted that liaison with Mazars (External Audit) will be necessary particularly for the auditing of finance systems.

The Panel raised questions about other areas where audit occurs such as inspection activity by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS), and also questioned the percentage of planned audit activity expected to be conducted by the Internal Audit team. This was estimated to be around seventy to eighty per cent.

The Panel accepted the workplan.

ACTION – GMP to map the areas in which HMICFRS have or plan to inspect the force on against the areas in Appendix B of this report. To be brought to the April 2019 meeting.

Internal Audit 2018/20 Progress Report

The Head of Internal Audit summarised the contents of the progress report and its appendices. It was noted that two reports (Risk Management and Procurement) have been subject to additional consultation and are not final. Internal Audit highlighted their need to be more focused and conduct more engagement to ensure reports are progressed quickly and efficiently. The Head of Internal Audit provided assurance that updates on outstanding recommendations from reports will be reported on before the end of the financial year (by April 2019 meeting). The Panel asked questions around the risk management for mobile devices and what happens if they are lost. The Chief Constable described the use of a secure ‘app’ that means no data is stored on the phone itself, which minimises these associated risks.

The Panel noted this report.

ACTION – Tom Powell to look into what audits are undertaken through outsourced specialists. For example, IT systems testing.

External Audit Progress Report

Mazars (external Auditors) gave a background on their firm and a summary of this report. The report summarises all planned work for the period and sets out prescriptive standards of key and common elements for undertaking audits. Panel members were advised that there are links to useful articles and further reports
that will be of interest to them going forward. The Panel were assured that more in depth training will be delivered by External Audit at the April 2019 meeting. External Audit gave some detail on the change from Grant Thornton to Mazars as the External Auditors and referred to the social value benefits to GM that will be delivered by Mazars as part of the audit engagement.

The Panel noted this report.

**M008/JAP  External Audit Annual Letter 2017/18**

The Treasurer gave a brief background to this final audit letter from the 2017/18 Auditor, Grant Thornton and its purpose for new panel members to understand GMP funding.

The Panel noted this report.

**M009/JAP  Any Other Business**

The Panel asked questions on the Value for Money conclusions, implementation of iOPS and the risk management actions being taken by GMP. ACO Lynne Potts provided assurance to Panel members and also outlined the governance structure in place in GMP. A further discussion centered on understanding the funding for a public sector service, including policing pensions. The Chief Constable summarised the effects of austerity and cuts to the police service. The Panel queried GMP’s risk register in order to understand funding pressures. Consideration will be given to the sharing of a suite of documents, possibly using SharePoint (GMP’s document center) to assist the panel and provide additional reports and documents to members.