



Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable for Gwent Police

Joint Audit Committee 21 December 2017 - Update Paper

2017-18 financial statements

Audit Plan 2018

Over the next two months we will undertake our audit planning work, with the aim of presenting our agreed Audit Plan 2018 to the March 2018 JAC meeting.

Interim Audit Work

In July 2017, Gwent Police moved to a new financial ledger system – FIRMS. As requested by the Head of Finance, we undertook early audit testing in November on the 2017-18 transactions held on the legacy ledger and payroll systems, before access to these systems became restricted. Our testing included samples of expenditure, income, payroll, capital and pension payments and covered the first three and a half months of the financial year. All testing was completed as planned and there are no matters which to report.

We will undertake detailed planning work and interim audit testing on the transactions recorded on the new system in January and March 2018. We will also review the work undertaken by Internal Audit on the new system and design our audit approach having regard to the work Internal Audit have completed.

Other matters for consideration

Audit Fees

Following the consultation process regarding our discussion paper – Simplifying a Complex Fee Regime, we have now submitted our proposals to the National Assembly's Finance Committee for their consideration. Due to time constraints, the Committee agreed to return to the fee regime at a future date to allow full consideration of the issues. Our Fee Scheme and Estimate 2018-19, which was submitted to the National Assembly's Finance Committee in October 2018, has now been approved.

Faster closing

Following on from our 'Early closure of local government accounts' seminar, which was attended by representatives from Gwent Police, we met with the Head of Finance to

reflect back on the preparation and audit of the Gwent's 2016-17 financial statements and to discuss what we can do together, to ensure a smoother closedown and audit of the 2017-18 financial statements.

On 4 December we also met with the Heads of Finance and audit colleagues from three of the four Welsh Forces to discuss this year's accounts and how faster closing maybe achieved. Gwent and the other two Forces plan to produce draft financial statements by 31 May 2018 and we plan to start our final accounts audit a week later.

We will continue to work with Finance over the coming months to help ensure a smooth year-end closedown and final accounts audit so that we have agreed final versions of the financial statements by the end of July, for approval by the JAC.

Tracy Veale - Financial Audit Manager

21 December 2017