



Joint Audit and Risk Committee – Report Pro Forma

Report Title:	DRAFT Chief Constable – Annual Governance Statement 2024/25
Report Author:	Deb Wilne
Meeting Date:	24 th September 2025
Contact Email:	Deborah.wilne@staffordshire.police.uk



Executive Summary:

The AGS reflects an overall position including both internal and external assessments of effectiveness in a number of key areas. As such, the Chief Constable can offer a further improved and good level of assurance when compared to the previous year. There is still work to do to meet the collective ambition of returning to being an outstanding police service, however it is evident that the governance arrangements that have been implemented and enhanced during 2024/25 have demonstrated a significantly and validated improved position. This has been underpinned by enhanced insight capability, oversight and grip in the appropriate stewardship of the use of resources by Staffordshire Police in order to serve the public interest and to adhere to legislation and policy, and ethical values and respect of the law.

The force is also able to offer a strong level of assurance around the financial management of public money.

The following 3 actions set in the 2023/324 AGS have been considered as complete:

Actions and updates from the 2023/24 AGS

Action 1: To fully develop a Corporate Development Function building on the work to date set out in the approved corporate blue print. This will ensure maximum linkage across strategic planning cycle, delivery of change, and development of comprehensive performance and benefits monitoring to ensure force wide continuous improvement

Update: The force launched its enhanced Corporate Development function in February 2025. This has seen a revised model for delivering change along with further investment in people, technology and data driven analysis. The corporate centre is crucial in driving continuous improvement across the organisation and tracking that this delivers.

Status: COMPLETE

Action 2: To review the governance arrangements to ensure robust oversight and grip of external recommendations and continuous improvement activity following such time that the time limited HMICFRS Gold board concludes.

Update: Following the force returning to normal monitoring arrangements from HMICFRS, the time limited Gold Group was dissolved. The governance requirements around inspection and wider internal and external scrutiny were reviewed to ensure oversight and grip through a newly formed Inspection and Audit Governance Board chaired at DCC level. This board continues to provide direction and challenge in this space and will remain a key part of the force governance arrangements into 2025/26.

Status: COMPLETE

Action 3: To continue to seek and harness good and best practice from peers and key stakeholders whilst recognising the force's own areas of effective practice in supporting others across the service.

Update: This is now an embedded part of the force's service improvement culture that ensures that peer reviews, networking, and the sharing of good and promising practice are built into business as usual. The force has numerous examples of not only seeking support in this respect but also supporting others.

Status: COMPLETE



Two new actions have been set in line with the detail from the 2024/25 AGS as follows:

Actions set from the 2024/25 AGS

Action 1: To review the forces governance structures in line with the launch of the revised 2025 to 2027 policing plan. This review should look to create capacity within governance processes while ensuring robust accountability and effective decision making.

Action 2: To deliver increased productivity and efficiency through process improvements and increased use of innovative technology to ensure value for money and affordability.

The draft AGS was published on the force’s external website 30 June with the force’s draft accounts in line with statutory requirements.

Risk Impact: reference Strategic Risks this paper mitigates

The statement has a specific section on “Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management” – see section 6 pages 16 to 20.

Financial Implications: Did this require approval? Meeting and date if approved

NA

Report Progress: Governance Process - Boards/Meetings (titles and dates):

The AGS has been written and aligned to other governance processes including the force’s annual management statement (FMS). The draft report has been reviewed by the chief officer team and relevant subject matter experts and approved by the Chief Constable as the draft document as presented.

Actions and Recommendations:

Consideration of whether the draft 2024/35 AGS properly reflects the governance, risk and control environment for the force.

Committee actions required : Acknowledge