



# The Chief Constable for Cumbria Constabulary

Code of Corporate Governance 2015/2016

## Introduction

The statutory responsibilities of the Chief Constable ‘to maintain the Queen’s Peace’ are outlined in various Police Acts. The Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (PR&SRA), which introduced Police and Crime Commissioners, re-enforced the operational independence of the Chief Constable and clarified his role in supporting the delivery of the Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan.

The PR&SRA also established the Chief Constable for Cumbria Constabulary (the Constabulary) as a separate corporate sole. Accordingly, the Chief Constable is responsible for ensuring that business of the Constabulary is conducted in accordance with this statutory and regulatory framework and in accordance with proper standards. This includes ensuring that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively. In fulfilling this overall responsibility, the Chief Constable is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for governance, including risk management and the arrangements for ensuring the delivery of the functions and duties of his office.

In doing this, the Chief Constable approves and adopts annually this Code of Corporate Governance, ‘The Code’. The Code gives clarity to the way the Chief Constable governs and sets out the frameworks that are in place to support the overall arrangements for Cumbria Constabulary. The Code is based on the core principles of governance set out within the CIPFA/SOLACE good governance standard for public services which has ‘proper practices’ status.

On an annual basis the Chief Constable will produce an Annual Governance Statement (AGS). The AGS reviews the effectiveness of the arrangements for governance and sets out how this Code of Corporate Governance has been complied with.

## The Code of Corporate Governance

This code of corporate governance sets out how the Chief Constable will govern. It is based on the six good governance principles highlighted by the good governance standard for the public service. This code uses those principles as the structure for setting out the statutory framework and local arrangements that are in place to achieve them.

Those principles are:

1. Focusing on the purpose of the Constabulary and on outcomes for the community, creating and implementing a vision for the local area.
2. Leaders, officers and partners working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles.
3. Promoting values for the Chief Constable and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.
4. Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk.
5. Developing the capacity and capability of the Chief Constable and officers / staff of the Constabulary to be effective.
6. Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

## Core principle 1: Focusing on the purpose of the Chief Constable and on outcomes for the community, and creating and implementing a vision for the local area

The Chief Constable determines the strategic direction and objectives for the Constabulary. This supports the Police and Crime Commissioner in developing his Police and Crime Plan. The Commissioner approves policing objectives, which are incorporated into the plan, which is available on the Commissioners website at [www.cumbria.pcc.gov.uk](http://www.cumbria.pcc.gov.uk)

In developing the Constabulary's vision and strategic priorities the Chief Constable take into consideration his statutory responsibilities for maintaining the Queen's Peace, the Home Secretary's Strategic Policing Requirement, the Constabulary's Strategic Assessment, based on operational intelligence, and the views of a range of stakeholders including the community, staff and partners. Performance outcomes, operational intelligence, strategic risks and the results of audits and inspections are also taken into consideration when setting strategic priorities.

The Constabulary develops a work programme to deliver its priorities. The work programme is based on

- The Strategic Assessment (a document which sets out the Chief Constable's operational priorities based upon performance and intelligence)
- The Change Strategy, which sets out how the Constabulary will improve and deliver savings to balance its budget.
- The Business Strategy, which describes what and how the Constabulary will deliver

essential support functions including ICT, HR, training, fleet and estates.

- The Workforce Plan, which describes how the Constabulary will provide the officers and staff required to deliver operational and other policing services.

The work programme supports and informs the Police and Crime Plan and is underpinned by a Medium Term Financial Forecast, which ensures that funding is aligned to the resources required to deliver policing priorities over a sustainable period.

The Constabulary reviews its vision and strategic activities annually to ensure that they continue to support the Police and Crime Plan and the Constabulary's priorities. To support this process strategic and financial planning within the Constabulary are co-ordinated to ensure that the Commissioner's reporting requirements and decision making processes form part of the overall planning cycle of the Constabulary.

The Constabulary reviews its governance arrangements on a regular basis to reflect development in the Police and Crime Plan and to support delivery of its own vision and priorities, making adjustments as necessary.

Key performance indicators are set to support the objectives within the Police and Crime Plan and the Constabulary's own priorities. This is supported by a comprehensive performance

management framework, which is developed jointly with the Commissioner. The performance framework supports the Commissioner in holding the Chief Constable to account for the performance of the Constabulary and is also used to direct and manage activity within the Constabulary through the work programme.

Clear lines of accountability and processes are in place within the Constabulary to monitor and manage delivery of operational and business objectives including :-

- An established board structure with clear terms of reference / areas of responsibility.
- Chief Officer's holding managers to account for delivery of the work programme in Performance Development Conferences.
- Performance management figures which are published on a dashboard available to all Constabulary officers and staff and the Commissioner, which are updated daily. These figures are subject to statistical analysis to identify areas where significant change is occurring.
- Monthly meetings between chief officers and their senior management to discuss progress on the work programme.
- Bi-monthly performance reports which are presented to the Chief Officer Group and the Commissioner's Public Executive Board.
- Thematic performance reports which are presented to the Chief Officer Group and the Commissioner's Executive Board and published on the Commissioner's website.
- An individual Officer Performance Dashboard has been developed and implemented. This enables sergeants to quickly view their

officers' workload and form the basis of regular one to one performance meetings, improving supervision and productivity.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) also continuously monitors Constabulary performance against other forces and carries out inspections of the Constabulary for themes agreed with the Home Secretary.

User Satisfaction Performance measures are included in the Performance Management Framework. The Constabulary also pursues strategies to engage effectively with service users including crime surveys and community meetings, with the aim of better meeting the needs of users. A procedure for complaints enables the public to raise concerns about services.

The Constabulary has developed a Quality of Service Action Plan with the aim of improving service delivery and user satisfaction.

The Constabulary has developed and agreed a Continuous Improvement, Efficiency and Value for Money Strategy, which sets out the principles the Constabulary will follow and specific reviews, which aim to secure maximum value from the resources available to it. The strategy utilises HMIC Value for Money profiles and Police Objective Analysis data, to identify service areas where there is potential to achieve savings.

A funding arrangement is in place between the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Constabulary, which clearly defines the purpose of the funding and sets out information and monitoring requirements to ensure funding is

targeted on activities that support the priorities and outcomes within the Police and Crime Plan.

## Core Principle 2: Leaders, officers and partners working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles

The key functions and roles of the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner are set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (PRSA) and the Policing Protocol Order 2011 (PPO). The PRSA and the PPO also set out the function and roles of statutory officers. Both

the Commissioner and Chief Constable must appoint a CFO and further guidance on their roles and functions is provided by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in a statement on the Role of the Chief Finance Officer (the CIPFA statement).

### Key functions and role of the Commissioner

Sets strategic direction & objectives of the force, issues the Police and Crime Plan (the Plan) & an annual report

Holds the Chief Constable to account for the exercise of his/her functions and force performance; Monitors complaints.

Receives all funding, decides the budget & precept; allocates funding to maintain an efficient and effective police force

Provides the link between the police and communities; publishes information on Commissioner and force performance

Responsible for the delivery of community safety, crime reduction & the delivery of criminal justice

### Key functions and role of the Chief Constable

Maintaining the Queen's Peace and the exercise of police powers; politically and operationally independent

Leading the force, planning police functions; appointing officers and staff; managing complaints

Accountable to the Commissioner for efficient and effective policing, management of resources and expenditure

Being the operational voice of policing, publicly explaining the actions of officers/staff under their command

Supporting the Commissioner in the delivery of the Plan and in accessing information, officers and staff as required

The Constabulary's wider governance framework details specific responsibilities of key officers in relation to areas of governance. The scheme includes financial regulations, procurement regulations, anti-fraud and corruption policies, a scheme of delegation and codes of conduct. These documents ensure all officers and staff have a shared understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

The Chief Constable has developed a Scheme of Delegation which provides specific officers and staff employed by the Chief Constable with authority to carry out duties on behalf of the Chief Constable.

The funding agreement between the Commissioner and Constabulary sets out the consents and arrangements for governance between the Commissioner and the Chief Constable, including specific consents in respect of financial management of the Constabulary budget.

The Police and Crime Plan recognises the importance of partnership working between the Chief Constable and the Commissioner to develop the future direction of policing policy and strategy that takes account of public priorities. An Executive Board structure comprising the Commissioner, Chief Constable, Chief Executive and the Commissioner's Chief Finance Officer supports joint working and facilitates the arrangements for accountability and performance monitoring. The board provides a mechanism through which the Chief Constable provides briefings on matters or investigations over which the PCC may need to provide public assurance.

The Constabulary has also agreed a media protocol with the Commissioner, setting out who is responsible for communicating information and clearly identifying whether there is a single lead organisation, a joint responsibility or a supporting responsibility.

The Constabulary has a Chief Officer Group, which is its strategic decision making body and this is supported by a clearly defined board structure. There are established terms of reference and clear reporting lines to the Chief Officer Group.

Task and Finish Groups and Steering Groups are set up to ensure that specific priorities are delivered. Members of these groups include police staff and officers from all ranks and level, representing decision makers and practitioners. The groups report into the permanent governance framework to ensure effective and co-ordinated decision making.

The Constabulary has a well-defined organisational structure with clear reporting lines. All officers and staff within the Constabulary have job profiles, which define their roles and include the policing professional framework.

There are national pay scales for police officers and police staff. Terms and conditions of employment are approved nationally for Police Officers, via Police Regulations and locally for police staff, in conjunction with employee representatives. The Constabulary operates an approved job evaluation scheme.

The Chief Constable is statutorily required to appoint a Chief Finance Officer (CFO). The CFO's responsibilities and job profile are based on the Home Office Financial Management Code of Practice and the CIPFA 2014 Statement on the Role of the CFO. The CFO is the financial advisor to the Chief Constable and has statutory responsibility to ensure that the financial affairs of the Chief Constable are properly administered, having regard to their probity, legality and appropriate standards. The CFO provides all financial advice and ensures systems of internal financial control are effective.

The Chief Constable is supported by the Director of Legal Services, who is a qualified solicitor, member of the Law Society and member of the Solicitor's Regulatory Authority. The Director of Legal Services is a member of the Chief Officer Group and has responsibility for advising the Chief Constable on legal matters. As a member of the Chief Officer Group, the Director of Legal Services is able to scrutinise the legal implications of all strategic decisions.

The Police and Crime Plan sets out a Pan-Cumbrian vision. The vision recognises that, in preventing

crime, commitment is needed from a range of organisations involved in policing, community safety and criminal justice. The Constabulary works in partnership with a number of public, private and third sector partners to do this. The Chief Constable reports details of actual and planned collaborative ventures to the Commissioner on a regular basis.

The financial and procurement regulations, together with the Constabulary's financial rules provide for the regulation of partnership arrangements and to ensure that the purpose of such partnerships is evaluated and risks assessed, before the Constabulary agrees to participate. The Constabulary also undertakes a Value for Money assessment on its major strategic partnerships.

A Joint Audit and Standards Committee operates in line with Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Code of Practice and the Home Office Financial Management Code of Practice. In line with the Home Office Code, the Committee fulfils the functions of an Audit Committee for both the Commissioner and the Chief Constable.

### Core Principle 3: Promoting values for the Chief Constable and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour

Officers and staff employed by the Constabulary are expected to adhere to the highest standards of conduct and personal behaviour. The requirements of officers are set out in Schedule 2 of the Police (Conduct) Regulations 2012. The requirements of Police staff are set out in the Police Staff Council Standards of Professional Behaviour document. The Constabulary has adopted the Code of Ethics produced by the College of Policing and all officers and staff are expected to abide by its provisions.

The Constabulary has an Anti-fraud and Corruption Policy and Procedures, which set out clear definitions of fraud and corruption. The policy embodies the values of the Code of Ethics based on the 7 Nolan Principles for Public Life and make clear the duty of everyone with regard to their own actions and conduct and those of others to protect the organisation against fraudulent and corrupt acts. The procedure includes guidance for integrity in respect of gifts and hospitality, completion of a register of interests and declarations of related party transactions. These ensure that staff avoid being engaged in any activity where an actual or perceived conflict may exist and that there is transparency in respect of any personal or business relationships.

The Constabulary maintains arrangements for confidential reporting (whistleblowing) and guidance for managers with regard to how any reporting will be responded to. These are

contained in the Anti- Fraud and Corruption Policy and Procedures and the Professional Standards Confidential Reporting Policy and Procedure. The confidential reporting policies and procedures are supported by a regularly publicised confidential phone line and e-mail reporting system on which individuals can leave anonymous information. The Constabulary also subscribes to and publicises 'Public Concern at Work' (PCaW), an independent authority on public interest whistleblowing to allow employees the facility to report externally to the Constabulary if required.

The Home Office Financial Management Code of Practice requires the Chief Constable to ensure that governance principles are embedded within the way the organisation operates. This is achieved through the Chief Constable's arrangements for corporate governance, which embody the principles of openness, accountability and integrity in the conduct of the Constabulary's business

The Joint Financial Regulations set out the internal framework and procedures for financial regulation and administration. They set out the arrangements for the proper administration of financial affairs ensuring these are conducted properly and in compliance with all necessary requirements. They also seek to reinforce the standards of conduct in public life, particularly the need for openness, accountability and integrity. The Financial Regulations also re-enforce the anti-fraud and corruption policy, covering the

culture expected within the organisation, responsibilities and measures in place to prevent fraud and corruption and how it will be detected and investigated.

The Joint Procurement Regulations, re-enforce the integrity requirements within the anti-fraud and corruption policy in the context of procurement activity and interactions with commercial suppliers. They provide a guide to staff and suppliers in respect of the principles that will be followed in the conduct of business and the processes we expect staff to comply with when buying goods and services.

The Constabulary has a Professional Standards Department whose role is to promote proper standards of conduct and monitor compliance with codes. The department actively liaises with management teams and other groups with the aim of maintaining high standards of conduct and produces regular reports which set out details of non-compliance with standards and codes. The Department has its own intranet site to facilitate demonstration of best practice and produces a newsletter highlighting areas of concern and providing guidance. The Professional Standards Department also has an anti-corruption unit whose role is to investigate information and intelligence received concerning the conduct of officers and members of police staff.

The Professional Standards Department also oversees all complaints, local resolutions and non IPCC appeals from the public, ensuring compliance with Police Reform Act 2002 and the Police (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012. These complaints are reported to and audited

periodically by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Chief Constable also has a procedure in place to receive and investigate complaints made to it about the conduct of Association of Chief Police Officers (with the exception of the Chief Constable who is accountable to the Commissioner) under the relevant conduct regulations.

The Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable have established an Integrity and Ethics Panel to ensure that arrangements for integrity, standards, conduct and behaviour are subject to independent external scrutiny. As part of its role the Panel reviews performance across agreed indicators of integrity, including public complaints. The Panel report to the Executive Board to ensure good practice is recognised and encouraged while any potential areas requiring improvement can be identified and dealt with accordingly to enhance performance.

The Joint Audit and Standards Committee operates within Standing Orders for the regulation of its business. The orders include expectations in respect of the conduct of members and how any conflicts of interest should be managed. Members of the Committee are independent and will scrutinise and monitor the operation and effectiveness the arrangements for governance including arrangements for anti-fraud and corruption.

## Core Principle 4: Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk.

All decision making operates within the specific legislative and regulatory frameworks that confer on the Chief Constable duties, powers and responsibility. The significant elements of the statutory framework for decision making comprise:

- Various Police Acts, which outline the responsibilities of the Chief Constable and provide clarity on his operational independence.
- The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (PR&SRA) providing the legal framework for decision-making.
- The Policing Protocol Order 2011 setting out the framework within which the PCC & CC should work and requiring all parties to abide by the Nolan Principles.
- The Home Office Financial Management Code of Practice for the Police Service embedding the principles of good governance into the way the Chief Constable operates.

Challenge and scrutiny contribute to good governance by being part of accountable decision making, policy making and review. The implementation of a robust decision making process ensures that the right decisions are taken for the right reason at the right time. The Chief Constable adopts rigorous standards of probity, regularity and transparency in decision making and all decisions are taken solely in the public interest and to maintain the Queen's peace.

The Constabulary has a Chief Officer Group, which has responsibility for strategic decision making and is supported by an established structure of subsidiary boards with defined terms of reference. Formal Chief Officer Group meetings are minuted and decisions recorded. All significant strategic decisions are referred to the Chief Officer Group. A forward plan and standing items ensure that all significant areas of Constabulary business are considered on a regular and planned basis. Reports for decisions are prepared on a standard template, which ensures that the implications of all decisions are clearly understood. This includes a requirement to acquire relevant financial, legal, human resources, equality, procurement, ICT and risk management advice. The Director of Legal Services, in conjunction with the Chief Finance Officer has responsibility for the lawfulness of Chief Officer Group decisions.

Items of Constabulary business falling under the remit of the Police and Crime Commissioner are referred to the Commissioner from the Chief Officer Group. Decisions are taken by an Executive Board providing an opportunity for the Commissioner, Chief Constable, Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer to offer challenge and scrutiny to any reports and recommendations. Relevant officers of the Commissioner and the Chief Constable provide professional advice and expertise. All decision making reports must be submitted 7 days in advance of the meeting other than for urgent items that meet very specific

criteria. Decisions for financial investment are subject to a fully developed business case that provides a clear justification for the expenditure. The Commissioner's decision making policy sets out the decision making process and how decisions will be recorded and published to ensure transparency of all decisions taken. A Code of Conduct provides advice with regard to potential conflict and declarations of interest.

In the operational environment the Constabulary utilises the National Decision Model (developed by the ACPO Ethics Portfolio and National Risk Co-ordination Group). This is a risk assessment framework and decision making process which is used by all police forces across the country. It provides a logical, evidence based approach to making policing decisions and is used by all police officers in their daily work.

The National Intelligence Model (NIM) is a business model for law enforcement and it takes an intelligence-led approach to policing. The tasking and co-ordination process within NIM provides police managers with a decision making mechanism to manage their business both strategically (national, regional and constabulary level) and tactically (territorial policing area level). Pro-active leadership is an essential requirement of the tasking and co-ordinating process. Management decisions are based on a full understanding of the problems faced and enable managers to prioritise the deployment of resources at their disposal.

Arrangements for governance, internal control and risk management including arrangements for anti-fraud and corruption and whistleblowing are

subject to review by the Joint Audit and Standards Committee. The Joint Audit and Standards Committee acts in an advisory body prior to formal decision making. The Committee has clear terms of reference and membership that is consistent with the requirements of the Home Office Financial Management Code of practice, CIPFA guidance and the HM Treasury Audit Committee Handbook. Meetings of the Committee are public with published notifications. Agendas and papers are available to the public on the Commissioner's website.

The Constabulary's risk management policy sets out the overall arrangements for managing risk within the Constabulary and is based on good practice identified by the Institute of Risk Management. The policy incorporates a clear framework of objectives, designated roles and responsibilities for risk management and provides a mechanism for evaluating and scoring risks to support decision making in respect of mitigating action. Identified risks are logged on a risk register with clear ownership and reviewed regularly as a standing item at strategic and management meetings. Individual boards, departments and commands each maintain risk registers, which are updated on a quarterly basis. Individual risks can be escalated to a strategic risk register for consideration by the Chief Officer Group. Arrangements for risk management are subject to review by the Joint Audit and Standards Committee. The Constabulary's Strategic Risk Register is presented to the Committee at each quarterly meeting.

The Constabulary has joint arrangements for internal audit in place in conjunction with the Commissioner. This service is provided by the Cumbria Shared Internal Audit Service. Central to this function is an annual risk based audit plan, which complies with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standard. The Chief Internal Auditor reports

to the Joint Audit and Standards Committee on its findings, including recommendations for improvements. The Committee monitors the implementation of audit recommendations. Internal Audit makes an annual assessment and reports on the overall arrangements for risk management.

## Core Principle 5: Developing the capacity and capability of the Chief Constable and Officers and Staff of the Chief Constable.

The Constabulary is committed to ensuring that the capacity and capability of its officers and staff are developed to enable them to operate effectively.

The Constabulary's uniformed Statutory Officers are required to complete the Association of Chief Police Officers Strategic Command Course before they are permitted to undertake Chief Officer roles on a permanent basis. This course is designed to ensure that senior officers are equipped with the requisite leadership skills and competencies to undertake senior officer roles.

All Constabulary role profiles specify appropriate essential and desirable skills, experience and qualifications to ensure that employees are able to deliver their responsibilities effectively. Membership of relevant professional bodies ensure access to up to date Codes of Practice, guidance and professional standards in all areas of business.

The Chief Constable's Chief Finance Officer (CFO) is a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The CFO operates within the guidance set out in the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Finance Officer of the Constabulary.

Police Officer and Police Community Support Officer recruits are provided with rigorous initial training on operational policing and the values and standards of conduct expected of them.

The Constabulary has an approved training plan, which is updated on a regular basis and aims to address the development needs of officers and staff. The training programme also seeks to provide refresher courses, which ensure that specialist skills are maintained in accordance with relevant best practice.

The Constabulary fully utilises the College of Policing leadership programmes to develop its senior officers and staff. The Constabulary ensures that senior uniformed officers maintain their national accreditation to provide operational command for major and critical incidents.

Areas of corporate training and development need are addressed by a range of training solutions including e-learning, classroom and assessed qualifications, which can be accessed by all officers and staff.

The Constabulary's processes for officer and staff needs analysis enable training and development requirements to be identified and managed, which are aligned to the role or agreed objectives and actions.

Members of the Joint Audit & Standards Committee are recruited for the specific skills and experience requirements to fulfil the role of the Committee. The Committee has clear terms of reference and membership which are consistent with best practice. Members are supported in

their professional development through provision of seminars prior to Committee meetings and access to relevant CIPFA publications and external audit briefing papers.

## Core Principle 6: Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability

The Constabulary has a Community Engagement and Involvement Strategy, which is reported through the Operations Board. This includes a consultation action plan, which co-ordinates all on-going consultation activities and is reviewed and refreshed on an annual basis to continually improve consultation arrangements.

The Constabulary engages with local communities through the work of its Neighbourhood Policing Teams, operating Engagement Plans, which use a range of methods that are specific to urban and rural community needs. The plans ensure that community priorities, concerns and areas for improvement are identified and dealt with. This includes:

- Safer and Stronger Community Meetings.
- Development of Key Individual Networks.
- Street safe Campaigns
- Residents' forums.
- Neighbourhood and Farm Watch.
- Multicultural centre visits.
- Meet and greet at public places, for example 'Cop in a Shop.'
- Newsletters for each geographical area, providing information on priorities, what has happened and publicising the next community engagement meeting or event. This is also available on the Constabulary website.
- On line discussion forums with expert practitioners available for the public to question
- Police Desks

- Community Messaging

The Constabulary has a marketing and communications strategy aimed at establishing clear channels of communication with all sections of the community. This includes alternatives to traditional communication methods including the force website to warn and inform and undertake surveys. Social media and pro-active media coverage of events are used to provide accurate messages and re-assurance.

The Strategic Independent Advisory Group (IAG) meets regularly to discuss emerging issues of strategy and policy both nationally and locally.

The Constabulary meets its requirements under the Equality Act 2010 by setting equality objectives every four years and publishing equality information via its website every three months.

The Constabulary surveys victims of crime and anti-social behaviour to ensure that the Victims' Code of Practice is complied with and to use the feedback to improve the experience of victims and the services provided. Service recovery is part of this process.

Local crime data is published at community level via the Constabulary's website and nationally via police.uk to increase the transparency of crime and performance data. The Constabulary's Performance Reports are available to the public on the Commissioner's website.

The Constabulary is subject to the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 and prepares a set of single entity accounts in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting and are subject to audit. The Constabulary's accounts set out the resources that have been utilised in delivering the performance achieved. The statements include comprehensive income and expenditure statement and the Police Objective Analysis (POA), a methodology for reporting expenditure on policing to help readers better understand policing activities and their cost.

The Chief Constable complies with guidance provided by the Information Commissioner in respect of an information publication scheme. This ensures key information to ensure public accountability is available through the Constabulary's website.

Staff Associations are represented at the Constabulary's Chief Officer Group meetings, which ensures that they are consulted on all strategic decisions. The Constabulary and Commissioner have adopted joint personnel policies to provide a framework for all issues related to employee management and terms and conditions. This includes policies on how staff and staff associations will be engaged in any change process. Trade unions and staff associations are consulted during any reviews of personnel policies. There is a general principle of on-going consultation and engagement during any business change.