Appendix 2

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Chief Constable's transactions for the 2015/16 financial year and its position at the year end of 31 March 2016. The Chief Constable is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 which require the statements to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16 and the Service Reporting Code of Authority Accounting 2015/16, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards.

The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is principally historical cost.

All accounting policies that are material to the production of the accounts are described in this section.

1.2 Prior period adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors

Prior period adjustments may arise as a result of a change in accounting policies or to correct a material error. Changes in accounting estimates are accounted for prospectively, ie in the current and future years affected by the change and do not give rise to a prior period adjustment.

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the Chief Constable's financial position or financial performance. Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively (unless stated otherwise) by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied.

Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

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1.3 Accruals of Income and Expenditure

Activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place, not simply when cash payments are made or received. In particular:

- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Chief Constable can measure reliably the percentage of completion of the transaction and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Chief Constable;
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet;
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made;

- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.

1.4 Non-Current Assets – Property, Plant and Equipment

The Chief Constable does not own any non-current assets. All capital equipment used in operational policing is procured and owned by the PCC, under the agreement that control, in particular usage and responsibility for maintenance, is delegated to the Chief Constable under the PCC Group's existing scheme of delegation. To reflect the use of the assets by the Chief Constable in the use of operational policing, a charge is recognised by the Chief Constable in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the cost of using the assets throughout the year. This charge is outlined in note 15 to the Financial Statements.

1.5 Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Chief Constable a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. For instance, the Chief Constable may be involved in a court case that could eventually result in the making of a settlement or the payment of compensation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the Chief Constable becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the Balance Sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the Balance Sheet. Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year – where it becomes less than probable that a transfer of economic benefits will now be required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made), the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service.

Where some or all of the payment required to settle a provision is expected to be recovered from another party (eg from an insurance claim), this is only recognised as income for the relevant service if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received if the Chief Constable settles the obligation.

1.6 Cost of Overheads and Support Services

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to those that benefit from the supply or service in accordance with the costing principles of the CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice 2015/16 (SeRCOP). The total absorption costing principle is used – the full cost of overheads and support services are shared between users in proportion to the benefits received, with the exception of:

- Corporate and Democratic Core – costs relating to the Chief Constable's status as a multifunctional organisation.
- Non Distributed Costs – the cost of discretionary benefits awarded to employees retiring early and impairment losses chargeable on Assets Held for Sale.

These two cost categories are defined in SeRCOP and accounted for as separate headings in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, as part of Net Expenditure on Continuing Services.

1.7 Value Added Tax (VAT)

The Chief Constable does not submit a VAT return. The PCC submits a single VAT return on behalf of the Group. Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement excludes any amounts relating to VAT as it is all remitted to / from HM Revenue and Customs.

1.8 Events after the Reporting Period

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

- those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events
- those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, but where a category of events would have a material effect, disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect.

Events taking place after the date of authorisation for issue are not reflected in the Statement of Accounts.

1.9 Recognition of Revenue (Income and Expenditure)

Revenue shall be measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Revenue is recognised only when it is probable that the economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Chief Constable.

1.10 Reserves

Usable Reserves

The Chief Constable does not maintain usable reserves. Its main source of income in the year is an intra-group transfer from the PCC, which is matched to its net resources expended, with all additional surplus or deficit held by the PCC.

Unusable Reserves

The Chief Constable keeps a pensions reserve to maintain the accounting processes for retirement benefits and the related provisions. These accounts do not represent usable resources for the Chief Constable.

1.11 Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable During Employment

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled wholly within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Chief Constable. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave, eg time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year-end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates

applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday entitlements are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Chief Constable to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits and are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service or, where applicable, to the Non Distributed Costs line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at the earlier of when the Chief Constable can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Chief Constable recognises costs for a restructuring.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Chief Constable to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

Post-employment Benefits

Employees of the Chief Constable are members of two separate pension schemes:

- The Police Officer Pension Scheme, for which the scheme manager is the Chief Constable;
- The Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by West Yorkshire Pension Fund in a shared-service agreement with Lincolnshire Pension Fund.

Both schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

The Local Government Scheme is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme:

- The liabilities of the Lincolnshire pension fund attributable to the Chief Constable are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – ie an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc, and projections of earnings for current employees;
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 3.2% (based on the indicative rate of return on high quality AA index corporate bonds;
- The assets of Lincolnshire pension fund attributable to the Chief Constable are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:
    - Quoted securities – current bid price;
    - Unquoted securities – professional estimate;
    - Unitised securities – current bid price;
    - Property – market value.

The Police Officer Pension Scheme

The police officer pension schemes (both the old and new schemes) are accounted for as a defined benefit scheme:

- The liabilities of the Lincolnshire pension fund attributable to the Chief Constable are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc, and projections of projected earnings for current employees;
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 3.2% (based on the indicative rate of return on high quality AA index corporate bonds.

Pension Scheme Policies

The change in the net pensions liability is analysed into the following components:

- Service cost comprising:
  - Current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked;
  - Past service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs;
  - Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), ie net interest expense for the Chief Constable – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.
- Remeasurements comprising:
  - The return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure;
  - Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure;
  - Contributions paid to the Lincolnshire pension fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Chief Constable to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are transfers to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement

benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than when benefits are earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

The Chief Constable also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

1.12 Police Officer Pensions – Home Office Memorandum Account

From 1 April 2006 the Home Office changed the methods of financing police pensions. Effectively the Chief Constable has continued to make payments but accounts for these outside of these accounts in a separate memorandum account, which is reported in a supplementary statement in these accounts.

1.13 Joint Operations

Joint operations are joint arrangements in which the PCC and other venturers have joint control of the arrangement. The parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the assets, and obligations for the liabilities, relating to the arrangement. The Chief Constable accounts for only its expenses that it incurs on its own behalf or jointly with others in respect of its interest in the joint operation and income that it earns from the venture.