

**The Office of the  
Chief Constable  
for Leicestershire (OCC)**

**Annual Financial Report**

**2024/25**

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# Narrative Report by the Chief Finance Officer

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These accounts set out the overall financial position of the Chief Constable (CC), who is responsible for the Leicestershire Police Service, for the year ended the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

The accounts for 2024/25 are presented in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the Code) which specifies the principles and practices of accounting required to give a 'true and fair' view of the financial position and transactions of a local authority. This Code of Practice is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and has been developed by the CIPFA/LASAAC Code Board under the oversight of the Financial Reporting Advisory Board.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced a new governance structure for way the police in England and Wales are governed and held accountable. The Act introduced the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and at the same time the CC was established as a separate body and made responsible for the Leicestershire Police Service.

The CC of Leicestershire is responsible for the delivery of the policing service to the communities of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and has direction and control over officers and staff operating with the Force. The CC holds office under the Crown and is appointed by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

The 2011 Act requires the PCC to hold the Chief Constable to account for the operational delivery of policing including the strategic policing requirement, thereby securing an efficient and effective police force for the electorate of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

For accounting purposes the OPCC and the Office of the Chief Constable together are known as the OPCC group. A separate set of statutory accounts has been published for the OPCC and the OPCC Group to recognise all the financial transactions incurred during 2024/25 on policing activities.

In order to gain a fuller picture of the financial performance of the public-facing police service for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, it is recommended that this statement of accounts is read in conjunction with the statement of accounts for the OPCC/Group.

The financial report comprises two elements:

- a. The statement of accounts
- b. Non audited supplementary documents

## **The Statement of Accounts**

The purpose of the Statement of Accounts is to provide clear information to readers on how the OCC has utilised available financial resources based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). This document provides details of the comprehensive income and expenditure for the financial year 2024/25.

All of the assets, liabilities and reserves were transferred to the OPCC and have remained under the OPCC's control during 2024/25. The OPCC receives all income and funding and makes all payments for the Group from the OPCC Police Fund.

From 1 April 2014, under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the contracts of employment for the majority of police staff transferred to the CC.

The OCC fulfils its statutory functions under the Act within an annual budget. This is set by the PCC in consultation with the CC. A Corporate Governance Framework is in place which sets out the respective responsibilities of the two bodies.

Other supporting statements are provided to help to explain the figures in the accounts. In addition, a glossary can be found at the back of this publication to help explain some of the technical terms.

The main accounts and statements that you will see in this document, their purpose and the relationship between them are outlined below.

## **The core financial statements:**

The presentation of the 2024/25 Financial Statements reflects the reporting formats introduced by the 'Code' in 2016/17. An 'Expenditure and Funding Analysis' is now included in the notes.

Proper accounting practices measure the resources that have been generated and consumed in the year including such things as the use of property (depreciation) and the value of pension benefits earned by employees. However, statutory provisions determine how much of the authority's expenditure needs to be met from council tax each year.

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis aims to demonstrate to council tax payers how the funding available to the CC (i.e. the budget received from the PCC) for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authority in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices.

The services that are shown on both the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and Expenditure and Funding Analysis are determined by the performance framework and internal financial monitoring arrangements of the CC.

### Movement in Reserves Statement

This summarises the movements to and from the reserves for the year 2024/25. This shows the unusable reserves held by the Chief Constable.

### Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. It recognises the financial resources belonging to the OPCC consumed at the request of the OCC for the whole of the financial year.

### Balance Sheet

The value at the end of the reporting period (31st March) of the assets, liabilities and reserves of the OCC are shown on the balance sheet. The net assets of the OCC (assets less liabilities) are matched by the unusable reserves held by the OCC. These reserves are a product of the application of the Code and IFRS, it should be noted that the OCC does not hold usable reserves – they are all held by the OPCC/Group.

### Cash Flow statement

This statement shows the movement in cash and cash equivalents of the OCC during the reporting period. Whilst the OCC does not hold cash or cash equivalents on its balance sheet, it does have transactions within its comprehensive income and expenditure statement that require disclosure within the Cash Flow statement and supporting notes. The OCC reports a nil movement in cash and cash equivalents as a result.

## **Notes to the core financial statements**

The notes provide support to the financial statements, inform the reader and give sufficient information to present a good understanding of the OCC's activities.

There are no Accounting Standards that have been issued but not yet adopted that will impact on the financial statements or any material items that have been incurred that require, separate disclosure.

## **The supplementary financial statements:**

### Pension fund account

The police pension schemes are unfunded and hold no assets. The purpose of this account is to demonstrate the cash-based transactions taking place over the year and to identify the arrangements needed to balance the account.

## **Non-audited supplementary documents**

### Narrative Report

The purpose of this Narrative Report is to offer interested parties a more understandable guide to the most significant matters reported in the accounts. It provides an explanation in overall terms of the OCC's financial position.

### Statement of responsibilities

The purpose of the Statement of Responsibilities is for the Chief Finance Officer to sign a statement that the accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position of the OCC at the accounting date and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

### Annual governance statement

Regulations require English authorities to conduct a review at least once a year of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and include a statement reporting on this review with any Statement of Accounts.

## **Overview of 2024/25**

The Police Grant Final Settlement was announced on 31st January 2024 and confirmed a £7.7m increase in revenue grant funding. A further grant of £6.5m was made available to maintain the uplift in offices from 2020 to 2023. This was an increase of £2.4m compared to the previous financial year. The precept referendum threshold was confirmed at £13 for a Band D property.

Financial year 2022/23 was the last year of the Government's uplift programme for police Officers. 2024/25 was again focussed on maintaining the uplift numbers of 298 officers. The receipt of the Police Uplift Grant was linked to the maintenance of police officer numbers, which was achieved.

The Commissioner was briefed on the current financial landscape, which has become a challenging one for policing. A nationally-set pay agreement for all Police officers and Police Staff and higher inflation on contractual services, have put significant pressure on the Force's budget in 2024/25 and beyond. This resulted in budgeted deficit of £5.4m for 2024/25. The Force has a Budget Sustainability plan to close the funding gap.

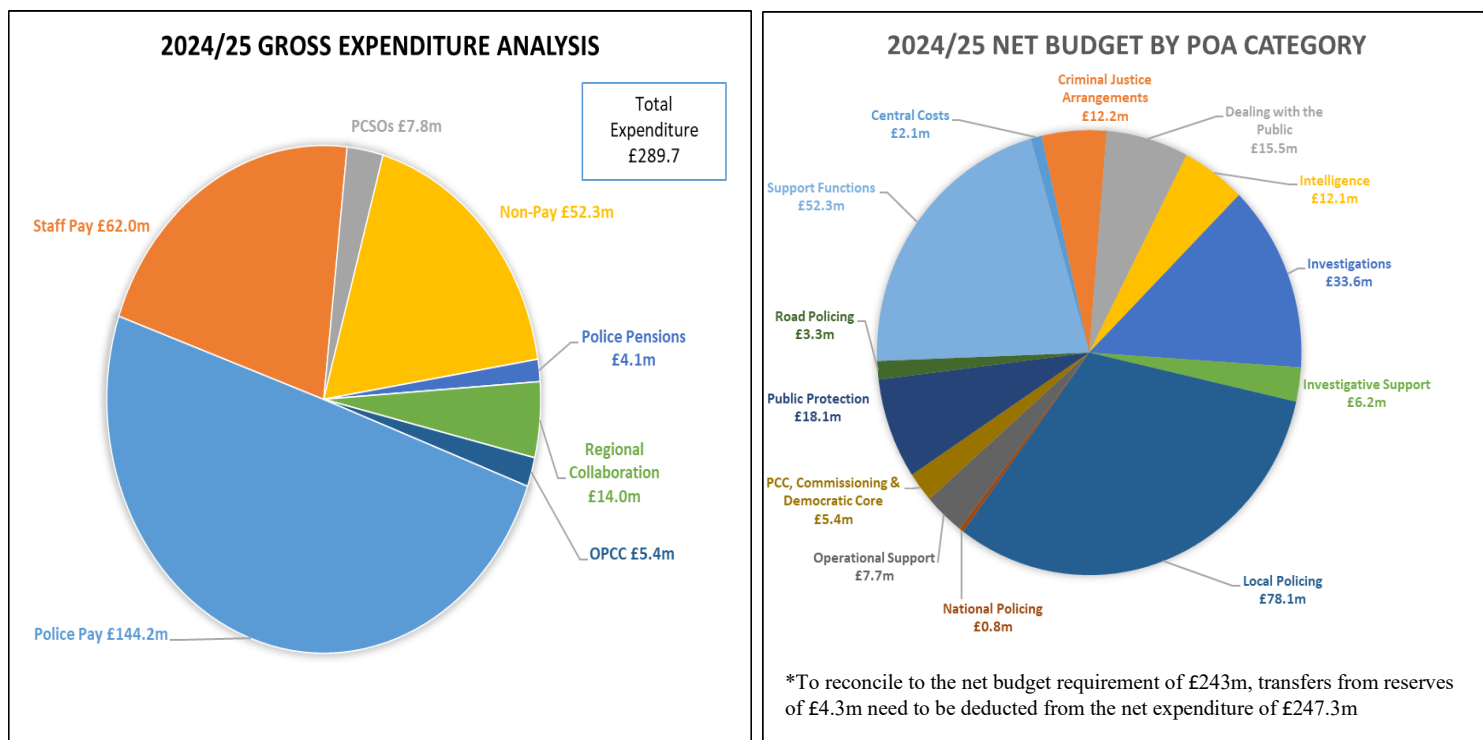
In preparing the budget for 2024/25 the Chief Constable set out the resources required to deliver an efficient and effective police force. It was identified that the Force cannot, in isolation, reduce its workforce further whilst delivering a good service and high standards without further transformation, investment and by retaining the right workforce mix. The Force has embarked on a transformation program that has strengthened local leadership, enhanced the investigative approach, and focused on delivering a good service with high standards, whilst being fully integrated with the efficiency program.

The PCC also provided funding to invest in other items totalling £1.6m (for 2024/25 only) these included additional resources for 12 months to meet demand in the Call Management Centre whilst the work on 'right care right person' is embedded, resources to meet additional training needs to ensure officers have the right skills for the role because of retirements and new legislation (accreditation) and the upgrade of the HR System. The Commissioner agreed to use £1.5m of the Budget Equalisation Reserve to fund these one-off items of expenditure.

A net annual revenue budget for 2024/25 of £243.1m was set for the service as a whole, an increase of 5.7% over 2023/24. £237.7m was managed by the CC with the remaining £5.4m (net of grants and transfers from reserves) relating to the costs of the OPCC (£2.0m) and commissioning activities (£3.4m).

The graphs below demonstrate how the budget was allocated to Police Operational Activities (POA) and by type of expenditure.

# Narrative Report by the Chief Finance Officer



## Performance against budget

The Office of the Chief Constable for Leicestershire underspent the 2024/25 budget by £0.317m, after the transfer of funds to earmarked reserves, including £5.9m to meet future commitments in 2025/26 and beyond. This includes a £2m to fund the additional resources in CMD for a further 2 years, £0.6m to fund one-off expenditure in 2025/26 and £3.4m of ongoing commitments including the Digital Transformation project. This was attributable to:

This was attributable to:

### The Office of the Chief Constable for Leicestershire – £0.317m underspend.

- An underspend on police pay and allowances of £5.4m. The Force successfully maintained the police officer uplift targets and ended the year with 2,215 FTE against an authorised establishment of 2,242 FTE. The budget was based on an average of 2,242 FTEs, the actual average profile was 2,207 FTEs across the year, or 35 FTEs lower than budgeted. The establishment was managed at a lower FTE to position the Force for the financial challenges in 2025/26. In addition:
- The Force was successful in securing a number of additional unbudgeted income streams during 2024/25 towards the cost of police officers, including Response / Hotspot funding of £504k, ARV grant and seconded officers. The police pension costs were also lower than budgeted.
- An overspend on corporate budgets of £0.303m due to increased legal expenditure on provisions for national legal cases and civil claims, increased costs of settling fleet insurance claims, the exit costs associated with the voluntary redundancy programme offset by savings on vehicle fuel, utilities, rates, police injury pensions and delays in the implementation of investment proposals and projects.
- An unbudgeted revenue contribution to capital of £3.9m to fund the capital programme in 2024/25. This has been made possible due to the savings that have been achieved during 2024/25 thereby reducing the borrowing requirement and debt charges in future years.
- Over achievement of the efficiency target by £0.754m. The 2024/25 budget setting process identified the requirement for a staff vacancy factor of 6% equating to £3.2m plus the efficiency target of £5.4m. The majority of the savings (£8.6m) were generated through a reduction in the police staff establishment of 120 FTEs, including 50 PCSOs by removing vacant posts, a voluntary

# Narrative Report by the Chief Finance Officer

redundancy programme and robust vacancy management. Non-pay savings included officer overtime, stationery, hotel accommodation, operational equipment, fuel, debt charges, and grant income equating to £0.9m. These savings were offset by pressures of £0.1m.

- The police officer and staff pay award was confirmed at 4.75% with effect from 1st September 2024. The Force budgeted for a 2.5% increase in line with Home Office guidance. The government committed £175m additional grant funding for 2024/25 to meet the unbudgeted costs of the award in excess of 2.5%. The amount Leicestershire received was £2.4m.
- During the year the Force implemented a Job evaluation scheme the costs of this were slightly higher than budgeted but the costs have been offset by the police staff savings achieved,
- An underspend of £0.121m on policing functions provided regionally.
- An underspend of £1.68m in the delegated budgets as a result of additional scrutiny of overtime expenditure, changes of policies as part of the efficiency plan and over recovery of income.
- Provision to fund the additional resources in CMD for a further 2 years of £2.0m, £0.6m to fund one-off expenditure in 2025/26 and £0.9m of investment proposals.

During the year, the Chief Constable received specific grant from the Home Office to tackle serious violence crime of £1.6m

As the resources are consumed by the OPCC at the request of the OCC the £5.9m to meet future commitments is held in the Carry Forward Reserve.

## Operational Performance

During the 2024/25 financial year, Leicestershire Police continued to experience sustained operational demand, reflecting the complex and evolving nature of policing both locally and nationally.

A total of 266,391 incidents were created, representing a slight decrease of 0.4% compared to the 267,531 incidents recorded in 2023/24. This follows a notable 7% increase from 2022/23 to 2023/24, indicating a stabilisation in overall demand after a period of sharp growth.

Of these incidents:

- 44,828 were classified as 'Emergency', a 5.7% decrease from the previous year's 47,538, suggesting improved triaging and demand management.
- 54,655 were classified as 'Priority', a 1.2% decrease from 55,337 in 2023/24, continuing the downward trend from 64,622 in 2022/23.

This reduction in high-priority classifications reflects the force's ongoing commitment to modernising public engagement, including the use of digital channels and effective signposting to appropriate services.

Notably, incidents tagged as domestic abuse-related rose to 22,941, a 14.2% increase from the previous year, highlighting the continued prevalence and reporting of domestic abuse. Similarly, mental health-related incidents surged to 27,120, a 41.3% increase, underscoring the growing intersection between policing and mental health support.

## HMICFRS PEEL Inspection

Leicestershire Police were inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) during 2024 with the findings being published in December 2024. The detailed report can be viewed on the HMICFRS website.

In 2014, HMICFRS introduced the police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL) inspections, which assess the performance of all 43 police forces in England and Wales. Since then, HMICFRS have been continuously adapting their approach.

# Narrative Report by the Chief Finance Officer

The HMICFRS has moved to a more intelligence-led, continual assessment approach, rather than the annual PEEL inspections used in previous years. Forces are assessed against the characteristics of good performance, set out in the PEEL Assessment Framework 2023-25.

Due to the change in approach the HMICFRS advise that it is not possible to make direct comparisons between the grades in this PEEL inspection and those from the previous cycle of PEEL inspections. This is because HMICFRS has increased their focus on making sure forces are achieving appropriate outcomes for the public, and in some areas have changed the aspects of policing inspected.

## His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary – Findings for PEEL 2023-24

The HMICFRS assessed how good Leicestershire Police is in nine areas of policing and they made graded judgements in eight of these as follows:

Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Requires improvement	Inadequate
	Police powers and public treatment	Protecting vulnerable people	Responding to the public	
	Preventing crime	Leadership and force management	Investigating crime	
	Managing offenders			
	Developing a positive workplace			

HMICFRS also inspected how effective a service the Force gives to victims of crime. HMICFRS don't make a graded judgement for this area.

Leicestershire did not receive any causes for concern but did receive 10 areas for improvement. Significant progress has been made in each of these areas and when HMICFRS visited during January 2025 the actions taken and improvement plan were presented.

## Reserves

The reserves of the Group are held by the OPCC and are available with agreement for the CC to utilise in the performance of his duties. The reserves and their purpose can be viewed in the OPCC Statement of Accounts.

## Capital spending

The CC is not responsible for the acquisition, disposal and maintenance of assets. However the CC does make use of the assets in providing the policing service.

A total of £6.3m was spent on improving the estate, investing in information technology and the vehicle fleet

All borrowing is held in the name of the Police and Crime Commissioner and hence appear within the OPCC/Group financial statements. No new long term PWLB loans were taken out during the year. Outstanding long term external debt at the year-end was £13.4m (excluding accruals for interest payable).

The 'Estates' projects undertaken include:

- Cooling upgrade to IT rooms at Euston Street.
- A refurbishment of the Contract Management Department at Force Headquarters.
- Installation of solar panels at FHQ, to generate electricity for the site.
- Work at the SARC to meet accreditation standards.

## Narrative Report by the Chief Finance Officer

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During the year the IT Department has continued to experience delays in the delivery of the programme due to the capacity of the internal IT resources. However, the following projects were progressed during the year:

- Investment in the data network and storage to ensure network performance and support new services.
- The continuation of investment in the personal computer estate to support agile working.
- Work on the Force's telephony system (openscape)
- A complete fleet replacement of vehicle airwave terminals to extend their use until the emergency services network is delivered.
- Continuation of the upgrade to the SmartStorm command and control software.
- Skype to Teams Migration
- Provision for the capital elements of the Digital Forensics technical solution.

During 2024/25, the Transport Unit purchased a total of 50 Vehicles including 3 electric cars.

No properties were disposed of during 2024/25.

### Retirement Benefits

The Force is a member of 2 pension schemes:

**The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)** for police staff is administered by Leicestershire County Council – this is a funded defined benefit scheme, meaning that the OPCC/Group and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets.

**The Police Pension Scheme** for police officers is an unfunded single employer defined benefit scheme. This means that there are no investment assets built up to meet the pensions liabilities and cash has to be generated to meet actual pensions payments as they fall due.

As the Police Pension Scheme is unfunded it results in a significant liability being carried on the balance sheet. The LGPS valuation has returned a net asset in respect of the funded obligations, this is primarily due to changes in the financial assumptions and an excess return on assets over and above the expected accounting return. The corporate bond yield (upon which the discount rate is derived) has risen over the period, which has led to a 0.95% increase in this assumption. This has reduced the Employer's obligations and has led to a gain of around £56.1m on the balance sheet.

In accordance, with proper accounting practice, an asset ceiling calculation and IFRIC 14 assessment has been undertaken which shows that the net asset cannot be realised. As a result the net pension asset in the LGPS scheme is reduced by £149m leaving a residual liability of £19m. This is explained further in Note 14 to the accounts.

Variations in the pension fund balance do occur between years due the changes in the financial and demographic assumptions and rates of return on investments used by the Fund actuaries, when valuing the scheme assets and liabilities.

Accounting for Retirement Benefits in the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts has therefore resulted in an overall pension liability of £1,515m a reduction of £0.2m. The Police Officer liability is £1,496m with the balance relating to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

The pension liability includes provision for the implementation of the Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Act 2022. This legislates for how schemes will remove the age discrimination identified by the courts in the way that the 2015 reforms were introduced for some members

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Group has to pay retirement benefits. However, the statutory arrangements for the funding of the deficit mean that the financial position of the OPCC/Group remains stable.

## Outlook for 2025/26

In November 2024, the Government announced that the local precept could be increased by £14 per annum for a Band D property, the expectation from Government being that the full increase would be implemented by Police and Crime Commissioners.

As part of the Autumn Budget the Chancellor confirmed an increase in Employers NIC to 15% and the Employers NI threshold reduced to £5,000. The increase in ER's NI and the decrease of the NI threshold resulted in an additional cost of circa £4.2m for 2025/26. The budget report stated that "Allowances have been made for the impact on public sector organisations", and grant funding of £3.9m was confirmed for Leicestershire for 2025/26.

The Autumn Budget 2024 indicated that there would be an increase for police forces in the settlement to support frontline policing. The increase settlement would "put the government on track to start to deliver the manifesto pledge to boost visible neighbourhood policing with 13,000 more neighbourhood officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)". The settlement confirmed additional funding of £1.5m for Neighbourhood Policing. This was subsequently increased to £3m. The Force has a plan to increase both Police Officer and PCSO numbers during 2024/25.

The December 2024 grant settlement announced additional revenue grant funding of £5.0m, uplift grant of £5.4m (a reduction of £1.1m compared to 2024/25) provided towards funding maintaining the increase in police officer numbers as part of the previous Government's national Police Uplift Programme and reimbursement of £3.9m for the employers NIC increase

The Commissioner has been briefed on the current financial landscape, which has become a challenging one for policing. A nationally-set pay agreement for all Police officers and Police Staff, higher inflation on contractual services and changes in legislation, have put significant pressure on the Force's budget in 2025/26 and beyond. This has resulted in a remaining budgeted deficit of £1.1m for 2025/26 after removing a further £9.3m of savings. The Force has a Budget Sustainability plan to close the funding gap.

Due to the financial position no investment items were included in the 2025/26 budget proposals. However, the PCC has been able to commit to funding the increase in establishment in the Call Management Centre for a further 2 years through the use of the carry forward reserve to help protect services. This has been made possible by the over achievement of the efficiency target in 2024/25.

In July 2022 it was agreed that 7m of the Budget Equalisation Reserve (BER) would be utilised for Business Transformation costs, it is anticipated that £1.7m will be spent in 2025/26. In addition, the PCC has invested £0.2m of the BER into Prevention activity aimed at reducing demand in the longer term.

Against this background, the PCC set 2025/26 net revenue and capital budgets of £254.7m and £5.6m respectively. A precept of £300.23 for a Band D property was set for the year, an increase of £14.00 (4.89%) over 2024/25.

Whilst the funding made available to the Police and Crime Commissioner increased during 2025/26 this was a single year settlement, therefore a degree of uncertainty regarding future levels of funding for the Force will continue until the details of the government spending review announced in Spring 2025 are fully understood.

In conclusion, the financial arrangements of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Office of the Chief Constable are in a sound position although it is recognised that future funding challenges remain.

Both organisations have a good reputation for managing expenditure within the resources available alongside a clear focus on a change programme to manage future challenges, supported by an adequate level of PCC reserves that will help the force through the change process. Discussions continue to ensure that there is an appropriate balance between the change programme and its implications, and the resources available in order to deliver the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan as identified to the Commissioner by the public and partners within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

## Organisational Risks

When the budget for 2025/26 was set a number of risks were highlighted in relation to the following that could impact upon the budget plans:

## Narrative Report by the Chief Finance Officer

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- Pay inflation
- The Emergency Services network
- Digital transformation and cloud migration.
- Neighbourhood Policing additional 13,000 personnel
- Forensic Service Provision

More details against each of these risks can be found at the following link to the budget and precept meeting report:

<https://leics.pcc.police.uk/Planning-and-Money/Finance/Budget-Information/Budget-2025-2026.aspx>

In addition to these the latest information reported to JARAP regarding the highest risks currently being faced include:

- Loss of power at FHQ
- Capacity within I.T. to support and enable digital transformation.
- Capacity within the custody suites
- Risk of cyber attack
- Lack of security testing in the Promaps system
- Year on year increase in complaints from members of the public
- Risk associated with the transition to an alternatively fuelled fleet
- Lack of PIP 2 detectives
- Anti-Fraud and Theft risk to the force
- Lack of technical Health and Safety risk assessments
- 

A report was also presented to JARAP regarding the OPCC's highest risks currently faced which include:

- The Financial Challenge - 2022/23 – 2025/26
- Risk of Cyber Attack



**Paul Dawkins**  
**Chief Finance Officer**  
**24<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

## ***The Chief Constable's responsibilities***

The CC is required to:

- make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this OCC, that officer is the Chief Finance Officer
- approve the statement of accounts

## ***Chief Constable's certification***

I certify that the Statement of Accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Office of the Chief Constable for Leicestershire at the reporting date and of its income and expenditure for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.



**David Sandall**  
**Temporary Chief Constable**  
**24<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

## ***The Chief Finance Officer's responsibilities***

The Chief Finance Officer (CFO) is responsible for the preparation of the Chief Constable's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom* (the Code).

In preparing this Statement of Accounts the CFO has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently and in harmony with the OPCC/Group
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent
- complied with the Local Authority Code.

The CFO has also:

- kept proper accounting records which were up to date
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## ***Chief Finance Officer's certification***

I certify that the Statement of Accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Office of the Chief Constable for Leicestershire at the reporting date and of its income and expenditure for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.



**Paul Dawkins**  
**Chief Finance Officer**  
**24<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

## Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of the resources consumed by the OCC in delivering the policing plan for Leicestershire. It is prepared using generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. The OPCC/Group raises taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The intra-group transfer shown below is cancelled out with the corresponding entry on the OPCC Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement when the Group accounts are consolidated.

2023/24				Note	2024/25		
Gross expenditure £000	Gross income £000	Net expenditure £000			Gross expenditure £000	Gross income £000	Net expenditure £000
256,117	(40,977)	215,140	Policing Services		260,129	(40,523)	219,606
171	-	171	Corporate & Democratic		176	-	176
17		17	Core				
			Non-Distributed Costs	14	244	-	244
<b>256,305</b>	<b>(40,977)</b>	<b>215,328</b>	<b>Cost of services</b>		<b>260,549</b>	<b>(40,523)</b>	<b>220,026</b>
82,237	(253,008)	(253,008)	Intra - Group Transfer	3	82,073	(266,433)	(266,433)
	-	82,237	Financing and investment income & expenditure			-	82,073
<b>338,542</b>	<b>(293,985)</b>	<b>44,557</b>	<b>(Surplus) or deficit on provision of services</b>		<b>342,622</b>	<b>(306,956)</b>	<b>35,666</b>
		(59,402)	Actuarial (gains) / losses on pension assets/liabilities	13			(251,110)
		<b>(59,402)</b>	<b>Other comprehensive income &amp; expenditure</b>				<b>(251,110)</b>
		<b>(14,845)</b>	<b>Total comprehensive income &amp; expenditure</b>				<b>(215,444)</b>

## Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value of the OCC's assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date. The net assets or liabilities (shown below) are matched by the OCC's reserves. Reserves are separated into *usable* (i.e. those amounts the OCC may use to provide police services – subject to statutory limitations) and *unusable* (i.e. those reserves where unrealised gains/(losses) reside or where adjustments are made to reconcile between accounting requirements and taxation requirements).

31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024 £000		Note	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 £000
3	<b>Non-current assets</b> Long term debtors		-
<b>3</b>	<b>Total long-term assets</b>		<b>-</b>
164	<b>Current assets</b> Short term debtors	9	198
4,359	Intra – Group debtor		4,435
<b>4,523</b>			<b>4,633</b>
(9,718)	<b>Current liabilities</b> Short term creditors	10	(9,898)
-	Intra - Group creditor		-
<b>(9,718)</b>			<b>(9,898)</b>
<b>(5,195)</b>	<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>(5,265)</b>
(1,730,712)	<b>Long term liabilities</b> Liability related to defined benefit pension schemes	14	(1,514,724)
<b>(1,730,712)</b>			<b>(1,514,724)</b>
<b>(1,735,904)</b>	<b>Net assets / (liabilities)</b>		<b>(1,519,989)</b>
1,735,904	Unusable reserves	12	1,519,989
<b>1,735,904</b>	<b>Total reserves</b>		<b>1,519,989</b>

### Re-certification

The unaudited financial statements on pages 1 to 62 were issued on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and the audited financial statements were authorised for issue on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026.



**Paul Dawkins**  
Chief Finance Officer  
24<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## Statement of Movement in Reserves

The OCC does not hold any usable reserves but does hold unusable reserves as a result of its application of both the Code and IFRS. Those transactions not balanced by the intra-group transfer with the OPCC/Group are represented below.

2023/24	General Fund Balance	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Balance at 31 March 2024</b>	-	-	1,735,433	1,735,433
<b>Movement in reserves during 2024/25</b>				
Surplus or deficit on the provision of services	35,666	35,666	-	35,666
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	(251,110)	(251,110)
<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>35,666</b>	<b>35,666</b>	<b>(251,110)</b>	<b>(215,444)</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(35,666)	(35,666)	35,666	-
<b>Net Increase or Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(215,444)</b>	<b>(215,444)</b>
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	-	-	-	-
<b>Increase or Decrease in 2024/25</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(215,444)</b>	<b>(215,444)</b>
<b>Balance at 31 March 2025</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,519,989</b>	<b>1,519,989</b>

2023/24	General Fund Balance	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Balance at 31 March 2023</b>	-	-	1,750,749	1,750,749
<b>Movement in reserves during 2023/24</b>				
Surplus or deficit on the provision of services	44,557	44,557	-	44,557
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	(59,402)	(59,402)
<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>44,557</b>	<b>44,557</b>	<b>(59,402)</b>	<b>(14,845)</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(44,557)	(44,557)	44,557	-
<b>Net Increase or Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(14,845)</b>	<b>(14,845)</b>
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	-	-	-	-
<b>Increase or Decrease in 2023/24</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(14,845)</b>	<b>(14,845)</b>
<b>Balance at 31 March 2024</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,735,904</b>	<b>1,735,904</b>

## Cash Flow Statement

All cash balances are held by the OPCC on behalf of the Group. All resources that are consumed by the OCC are paid for by the OPCC and recharged using the intra-group transfer seen on the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement. Certain transactions occur due to application of the Code and IFRS, they are reflected below.

2023/24 £000		Note	2024/25 £000
44,557	<b>Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services</b>		35,666
(44,557)	Adjustments to net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	16.1	(35,666)
-	Adjustments for items included in the net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities		-
-	<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>		-
-	Investing activities		-
-	Financing activities		-
-	<b>Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>		-
-	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		-

## Notes to the core financial statements

### 1. Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations

This note details the adjustments that are made to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure recognised by the OCC in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the OCC to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.

2024/25	General Fund Balance	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000	£000
<b>Adjustments to the Revenue Resources</b>		
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:		
Pension cost (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve)	(35,593)	35,593
Holiday pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences reserve)	(73)	73
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>(35,666)</b>	<b>35,666</b>

2023/24	General Fund Balance	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000	£000
<b>Adjustments to the Revenue Resources</b>		
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:		
Pension cost (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve)	(45,992)	45,992
Holiday pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences reserve)	1,435	(1,435)
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>(44,557)</b>	<b>44,557</b>

## Notes to the core financial statements

### 2. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The objective of the Expenditure and Funding Analysis is to demonstrate to council tax payers how the funding available to the authority (i.e. government grants, council tax) for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The Expenditure and Funding analysis also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the Group/OPCC's services.

2023/24			CC	2024/25		
Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
£000	£000	£000	Notes	£000	2.1 £000	£000
227,007	(11,867)	215,140	Policing Services	235,134	(15,528)	219,606
171	-	171	Corporate & Democratic Core	176	-	176
	-	-	Commissioning	-	-	-
	17	17	Non-Distributed Costs	-	244	244
<b>227,178</b>	<b>(11,850)</b>	<b>215,328</b>	<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>235,310</b>	<b>(15,284)</b>	<b>220,026</b>
(227,178)	56,407	(170,771)	Other Income and Expenditure	(235,310)	50,950	(184,360)
-	<b>44,557</b>	<b>44,557</b>	<b>Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services</b>	-	<b>35,666</b>	<b>35,666</b>
-			Opening Combined General Fund Balance	-		
-			Plus / less Surplus or Deficit on the General Fund for the Year (Statutory basis)	-		
-			<b>Closing Combined General Fund Balance</b>	-		

#### 2.1 Note to Expenditure and Funding Analysis

	2024/25				
	Net Capital Statutory Adjustments	Net Pensions Statutory Adjustments	Other Statutory Adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Policing Services	-	(15,601)	73	-	(15,528)
Corporate & Democratic Core	-	-	-	-	-
Commissioning	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Distributed Costs	-	244	-	-	244
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(15,357)</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(15,284)</b>
Other Income and Expenditure	-	50,950	-	-	50,950
<b>Difference between the Statutory Charge and the Surplus or Deficit in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>35,593</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>35,666</b>

## Notes to the core financial statements

	2023/24				
	Net Capital Statutory Adjustments £000	Net Pensions Statutory Adjustments £000	Other Statutory Adjustments £000	Other Differences £000	Total Adjustments £000
Policing Services	(224)	(6,673)	(4,970)	-	(11,867)
Corporate & Democratic Core	-	-	-	-	-
Commissioning	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Distributed Costs	-	17	-	-	17
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>(224)</b>	<b>(6,656)</b>	<b>(4,970)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(11,850)</b>
Other Income and Expenditure	224	52,648	3,535	-	56,407
<b>Difference between the Statutory Charge and the Surplus or Deficit in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>45,992</b>	<b>(1,435)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>44,557</b>

### 2.2 Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

This note provides an alternative breakdown of the OCC's *cost of services* using descriptions used in the OCC's internal management reporting. It is provided to allow the reader of these financial statements an opportunity to see what resources were consumed during the year in delivering the policing plan.

It should be noted that this analysis includes some items within *cost of services* that are not required to be charged against the general fund for council tax purposes – this analysis does not therefore constitute the budget of the OCC. These items include: pension actuarial adjustments, revenue expenditure financed from capital resources and depreciation/amortisation. These items are included to ensure that the cost of the resources consumed is fully captured in accounting terms.

2023/24 Outturn £000	Nature of Expenditure or Income	Note	2024/25 Outturn £000
136,043	Police officer pay and allowances		143,822
69,010	Police staff pay and allowances		72,542
3,792	Police pensions		4,037
(6,673)	IAS 19 Current Cost Adjustment (pensions)	14	(14,789)
1,890	Other employees expenses		1,978
7,649	Premises		6,270
4,242	Transport		4,363
25,219	Supplies and services		25,461
7,831	Agency and contracted services		7,610
129	Revenue expenditure financed from capital resources (REFCUS)		49
7,155	Depreciation & amortisation charges		8,199
(6,447)	(Surplus) / deficit on revaluation of non-current assets (not covered by accumulated revaluation gains)		763
17	Non-distributed costs regarding pensions	14	244
<b>249,857</b>	<b>Gross operating expenditure</b>		<b>260,549</b>
(19,624)	Income from government grants		(25,288)
(12,585)	Income from fees and charges		(13,320)
(2,320)	Contributions from other local authorities		(1,915)
<b>215,328</b>	<b>Cost of services</b>		<b>220,026</b>
82,237	Financing and investment income & expenditure	3	82,073
(253,008)	Intra - Group Transfer		(266,433)
<b>44,557</b>	<b>(Surplus) or deficit on provision of services</b>		<b>35,666</b>

## Notes to the core financial statements

2023/24 £000	Grant Income	2024/25 £000
	<b>Credited to services:</b>	
(8)	Op Energy	-
(4,500)	Dedicated Security Grant	(4,261)
(747)	Proceeds of Crime Act/Incentivisation	(983)
(1,093)	EMSOU (22.9% Share)	(1,678)
-	Special Operations	(201)
(662)	Serious Violent Crime Initiatives	(1,572)
(1,903)	Police Pensions Grant	(6,586)
(4,907)	Police Officer 2023 Pay Award Grant	(2,434)
(4,232)	Uplift PUP Grant	(6,464)
(1,572)	Others	(1,109)
<b>(19,624)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(25,288)</b>

The grant income identified above is received by the Police and Crime Commissioner but made available to the Chief Constable as part of the resources employed to deliver the Police & Crime Plan.

### 3. Financing and investment income & expenditure

This line on the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement includes the following items:

2023/24 Outturn £000		Note	2024/25 Outturn £000
82,237	Pensions net interest cost	14	82,073
<b>82,237</b>			<b>82,073</b>

**4. Officers' remuneration**

Senior officers and relevant police officers emoluments – (salary is between £50,000 and £150,000 per year)

2024/25	Notes	Salary	Benefits in kind	Other payments	Expense Allowances	Pension contributions	Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£
				Note 1	Note 2		
<b>The Office of the CC</b>							
Chief Constable – Mr R Nixon ( <i>retired 31/03/2025</i> )		193,565	-	3,376	8,500	-	205,441
Deputy Chief Constable		145,382	5,320	-	500	51,320	202,522
<b>Assistant Chief Constables</b>							
Senior Police Officer Q		133,191	1,300	-	500	47,016	182,007
Senior Police Officer R		122,878	1,082	-	500	43,376	167,836
Senior Police Officer S ( <i>ceased 02/06/2024</i> )	4	22,897	-	-	980	5,515	29,392
<b>Assistant Chief Officers</b>							
Finance & Resources		115,584	-	-	5,681	28,780	150,045
ACO Human Resources		100,314	-	-	5,527	24,978	130,819
		<b>833,811</b>	<b>7,702</b>	<b>3,376</b>	<b>22,188</b>	<b>200,985</b>	<b>1,068,062</b>

**Note 1** – Housing allowance for uniformed officers

**Note 2** - Expense allowances include car allowances for employees who provide their own vehicles and private health care.

**Note 3** – All chief officers have forgone their eligibility to be considered for an annual performance related bonus payment.

**Note 4** – Senior Police Officer S was undertaking a national role in Criminal Justice but was also part of the Leicestershire Chief Officer Team. The costs of this post were externally funded. The officer left the Force on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024.

2023/24	Notes	Salary	Benefits in kind	Other payments	Expense allowances	Pension contributions	Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£
				Note 1	Note 2		
<b>The Office of the CC</b>							
Chief Constable – Mr R Nixon		174,971	-	3,376	8,500	20,485	207,332
Deputy Chief Constable		136,523	5,514	-	500	42,322	184,859
<b>Assistant Chief Constables</b>							
Senior Police Officer P	4	61,964	-	1,331	2,541	19,209	85,045
Senior Police Officer Q		119,916	291	-	4,135	34,014	158,356
Senior Police Officer R	5	70,277	452	-	1,112	21,786	93,627
Senior Police Officer S	6	63,903	-	-	3,091	15,623	82,617
<b>Assistant Chief Officers</b>							
Finance & Resources		109,512	-	-	5,585	27,268	142,365
ACO Human Resources		94,937	-	-	5,527	23,639	124,103
		<b>832,003</b>	<b>6,257</b>	<b>4,707</b>	<b>30,991</b>	<b>204,346</b>	<b>1,078,304</b>

**Note 1** – Rent allowance is paid under Police Regulations 1987 as amended by the Police Regulations 1990 and 1994. Housing allowance is the alternative to rent allowance (dependant upon when the officer joined the Force).

**Note 2** - Expense allowances include car allowances for employees who provide their own vehicles and private health care.

**Note 3** – All chief officers have forgone their eligibility to be considered for an annual performance related bonus payment.

**Note 4** – The Deputy Chief Constable held the post until the 12/06/2022 on an annualised salary of £129,264. This officer then transferred to another Force

**Note 5** – Senior Police Officer O held the post of Leicestershire ACC until the 29/05/2022 on an annualised salary of £119,220. On the 19/03/2022 this officer was temporary promoted to Deputy Chief Constable on an annualised salary of £129,264 and was subsequently confirmed in post on the 20/01/2023.

**Note 6** – Senior Police Officer P was temporary promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief Constable on the 16/05/2022 on an annualised salary of £112,404. This is a second period of temporary promotion.

## Notes to the core financial statements

The number of employees whose remuneration, excluding employer's pension contributions, was £50,000 or more in bands of £5,000 were:

### Group & CC

2023/24	2023/24	Remuneration band £	2024/25	2024/25
CC number of employees	Group number of employees		CC number of employees	Group number of employees
45	46	50,000 to 54,999	68	68
25	26	55,000 to 59,999	41	42
6	6	60,000 to 64,999	15	15
9	9	65,000 to 69,999	9	9
4	5	70,000 to 74,999	4	5
5	6	75,000 to 79,999	7	7
1	1	80,000 to 84,999	1	1
2	2	85,000 to 89,999	3	4
3	3	90,000 to 94,999	-	-
1	1	95,000 to 99,999	1	1
1	1	100,000 to 104,999	2	2
-	-	105,000 to 109,999	-	-
-	-	110,000 to 114,999	1	1
-	-	115,000 to 119,999	1	1
102	106		153	156

- The bandings only include the remuneration of employees and relevant police officers who have not been disclosed individually; i.e. above the rank of Superintendent.
- Six of the above posts are National / seconded positions for which the Force receives external funding.
- Leicestershire OPCC is the lead employer for the following regional teams; East Midlands Special Operations Unit, Major Crime and East Midlands Collaborative Human Resources Service (EMCHRS) Learning & Development, 41 of the police staff employees included in the table above work in the regional teams. Leicestershire only meets its share of their costs with the remainder being funded by the other regional forces.

The numbers of exit packages with total cost per band and total cost of the compulsory and other redundancies for the CC are set out in the table below:

Exit package cost band (including special payments)	Number of compulsory redundancies		Number of other departures agreed		Total number of exit packages by cost band		Total cost of exit packages in each band £	
	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25
£0 - £20,000	3	3	1	10	4	13	25,057	89,020
£20,001 - £40,000	1	-	-	2	1	2	25,747	63,376
£40,001 - £60,000	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	87,392
£60,001 - £80,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£80,001 - £100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£100,001 - £150,000	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	109,577
<b>total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>50,804</b>	<b>349,365</b>

### 5. Jointly Controlled Operations

The OCC participates in collaborative arrangements with other East Midlands Forces. The police officers involved are seconded from the individual forces and all costs are borne in agreed proportions. Details of the member forces are set out in the table below (where reference is made to 'all 5 forces' this refers to Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire). With effect from 1 April 2023 the function of EM Occupational Health transferred back to forces and the units disbanded.

#### East Midlands (EM) Jointly Controlled Operations

Jointly Controlled Operation	Member Forces	Ownership %	Lead Force
EM Special Operations Unit <i>(inc Technical Support Unit)</i>	All 5 Forces	22.90 %	Leicestershire
EM Major Crime	All 5 Forces	22.90 %	Leicestershire
EM Forensics	All 5 Forces	22.90 %	Derbyshire
EM Legal Services	All 5 Forces	22.90 %	Derbyshire
EM Learning & Development	Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Derbyshire	26.36 %	Leicestershire
EM HR Shared Service Centre	Leicestershire & Derbyshire	50.00 %	Derbyshire
EM ESN Programme Team	All 5 Forces	22.60 %	Leicestershire
ASU (Hangar Only)	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire	33.33 %	Leicestershire

The following tables relate to Leicestershire's share only.

#### 5.1 Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement Jointly Controlled Operations

2023/24 £000		2024/25 £000
3,291	Police pay & allowances	3,632
6,073	Police Staff pay & allowances	7,098
209	Other employees expenses	153
192	Premises	127
229	Transport	217
1,055	Supplies & services	1,287
(1,093)	Income from Government Grants	(1,678)
(284)	Income from Fees & charges	(543)
(9,658)	Funding provided to the pooled budget	(10,607)
280	Depreciation & Amortisation	291
(267)	(Surplus / Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets (not covered by accumulated revaluation gains)	-
<b>27</b>	<b>Cost of Services</b>	<b>(23)</b>
(1)	Gains / Losses on disposal of non-current assets	2
(58)	Capital Grants & Contributions	-
-	Finance Lease Interest	3
<b>(32)</b>	<b>(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services</b>	<b>(18)</b>
99	(Surplus) / Deficit on revaluation on non-current assets (covered by accumulated revaluation gains)	(134)
<b>67</b>	<b>Total Comprehensive Income &amp; Expenditure</b>	<b>(152)</b>

5.2 Balance Sheet Jointly Controlled Operations

2023/24 £000		2024/25 £000
14	Intangible Fixed Assets	17
2,036	Land & Buildings	1,999
-	Right of Use Assets	183
617	Vehicles & equipment	555
11	Assets Under Construction	7
<b>2,678</b>	<b>Total Long Term Assets</b>	<b>2,761</b>
757	Short-term Debtors	717
846	Cash & Cash Equivalents	1,633
<b>1,603</b>	<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>2,350</b>
(959)	Short-term Creditors	(1,587)
<b>(959)</b>	<b>Current Liabilities</b>	<b>(1,587)</b>
<b>644</b>	<b>Net Current Liabilities</b>	<b>763</b>
-	Finance Lease – Long Term	(50)
-	<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>(50)</b>
<b>3,322</b>	<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>3,474</b>
(829)	Earmarked Reserves	(977)
<b>(829)</b>	<b>Usable Reserves</b>	<b>(977)</b>
(2,651)	Capital Adjustment Account	(2,545)
(25)	Revaluation Reserve	(160)
183	Accumulated Absences Account	208
<b>(2,493)</b>	<b>Unusable Reserves</b>	<b>(2,497)</b>
<b>(3,322)</b>	<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>(3,474)</b>

## 6. Related parties

The OCC is required to disclose material transactions with related parties – bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the OCC or to be controlled or influenced by the OCC. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the OCC might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with the OCC.

Central government has significant control over the general operations of the OPCC and OCC (and therefore the Group). It is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the OCC operates, and provides the majority of funding in the form of general or specific grants payable to the OPCC. The OPCC has effective control over the activities of the OCC in that the Police and Crime Commissioner sets the policing plan in consultation with the Chief Constable. The OPCC then provides resources to the OCC such that the requirements of that policing plan may be satisfied.

Senior officers of the OCC may be able to influence significantly the OCC's financial and operating policies although overall control is retained by the Police and Crime Commissioner and articulated within the Corporate Governance Framework. No material related party transactions have been identified following consultation with members and relevant officers.

The OCC participates in eight jointly controlled operations (JCO) with other neighbouring Forces. See Note 5 for further details.

In addition to the above, the OPCC also had transactions during the year with other local authorities and public bodies. The impact of many of these transactions is represented within the OCC's accounts via the intra-group transfer.

## 7. External audit costs

In 2023/24 the OCC incurred the following fees relating to external audit.

2023/24 £000	Costs	2024/25 £000
51	Scale Fee	54
-	Additional Fees	-
(7)	Redmond Grant	(7)
<b>44</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>

The OCC received a grant of £7k during 2024/25, under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 – Grant Determination. This was in response to the Redmond Review and relates to a Local Audit Fees Grant.

## 8. Leases

All leases (whether as lessee or lessor) are held in the name of the Police and Crime Commissioner and hence appear within the OPCC/Group financial statements for disclosure purposes.

Under the Corporate Governance Framework, the Police and Crime Commissioner grants the Chief Constable the use of the assets, equipment and resources (whether leased or otherwise) held by the OPCC in order that the requirements of the policing plan can be fulfilled. No financial consideration is made between both parties for the use of any assets, equipment or resources other than the intra-group recharge shown on the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Account.

The intra-group transfer made between the OPCC and the OCC includes the costs for the use and consumption of the resources of the OPCC. It therefore includes the costs of insuring, maintaining and repairing assets together with charges mirroring depreciation incurred by the OPCC due to the finite life of those assets.

9. Debtors

31st March 2024 £000		31st March 2025 £000
	<b>Short-term debtors</b>	
45	Central government bodies	60
25	Local authorities	23
94	Other Entities & Individuals	115
<b>164</b>		<b>198</b>

10. Creditors

31st March 2024 £000		31st March 2025 £000
	<b>Short-term creditors</b>	
(4,520)	Central government bodies	(4,626)
-	Local authorities	-
(5,198)	Other Entities & Individuals	(5,272)
<b>(9,718)</b>		<b>(9,898)</b>

The figure shown in Other Entities and Individuals relates to accumulated absences. Further details can be found in Note 15.

11. Financial Instruments

A financial instrument is any contract that results in a financial asset on the balance sheet of one entity (for example the OPCC) and a financial liability or equity instrument on the balance sheet of another entity. The term 'financial instrument' covers both financial assets and financial liabilities ranging from the most straightforward (i.e. cash investments, debtors and creditors) to the most complex (i.e. derivatives and embedded derivatives).

The financial assets as disclosed in the balance sheet have a carrying amount which is assumed to approximate the fair value due to the fact they are due to mature within 12 months of the balance sheet date (in the case of the short-term assets). The long-term debtors are also assumed to have a fair value equal to their carrying value. In the case of debtors and creditors, the fair value is taken to be the invoiced amount.

There are no financial instruments which relate to the OCC as all contracted debtors/creditors relate to the OPCC. For further information please refer to Group/OPCC Accounts.

### 12. Unusable reserves

The following reserves constitute *unusable reserves* as shown on the balance sheet. The balances on these reserves at the balance sheet date are set out below. Please refer to the relevant note as referenced below for a detailed analysis of any movements in these reserves.

31st March 2024 £000		Note	31st March 2025 £000
1,730,712	Pension reserve	13	1,514,724
5,192	Accumulated absences account	15	5,265
<b>1,735,904</b>	<b>Total unusable reserves</b>		<b>1,519,989</b>

The OCC's unusable reserves are in deficit due in the main to the pension reserve. The pension reserve reflects the deficit on the OCC's defined benefit pension schemes and in particular the police schemes which are not funded by assets but are instead supported by central funding from the Home Office.

### 13. Pensions reserve

The pensions reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions.

The OCC accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the OCC makes employer's contributions to the pension funds.

The debit balance on the pensions reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the OCC has set aside to meet them. The pension contributions payable by both employer and employee are adjusted regularly via actuarial valuations – the aim being to reduce the shortfall over the longer term.

2023/24 £000		Note	2024/25 £000
<b>1,744,122</b>	<b>Balance at 1st April</b>		<b>1,730,241</b>
(112,544)	Actuarial gains or losses on pensions assets and liabilities		(313,296)
53,142	Asset Ceiling Adjustment		62,186
89,838	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the <i>surplus/deficit on the provision of services</i> in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	14/1	85,142
(43,846)	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	1	(49,549)
<b>1,730,712</b>	<b>Balance at 31st March</b>		<b>1,514,724</b>

Note 14 – Defined benefit pension schemes provides further analysis of the figures shown above together with an explanation for their existence.

### 14. Defined benefit pension schemes

*This note reports the main pension funds of the Group. For 2023/24, all the transactions relating to the LGPS were shown under the Chief Constable (CC) as 97.76% of the employees in the LGPS work for the Chief Constable. From 2024/25 the transactions relating to the LGPS have been split between the OPCC and Chief Constable.*

#### *Participation in pension schemes*

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers and other employees, the OCC offers retirement benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the OCC has a commitment to make payments that need to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The OCC participates in the following pension schemes:

**The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)** for police staff is administered by Leicestershire County Council – this is a funded defined benefit scheme, meaning that the OPCC/Group and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets. The Actuary to the fund is Hymans Robertson LLP.

Following changes introduced in the Public Pension Services Act 2013, from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 scheme members now accrue pension entitlements based on their career-average rather than their final salary.

**The Police Pension Scheme** for police officers is an unfunded single employer defined benefit scheme. This means that there are no investment assets built up to meet the pensions' liabilities and cash has to be generated to meet actual pensions' payments as they fall due.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 The Police Pension Scheme 2015 (CARE) scheme was introduced (under the Public Pension Services Act 2013), and members who are not covered by protection or the transitional arrangements in the previous schemes now accrue pension entitlements based on their career-average rather than their final salary.

Three schemes were in operation during 2024/25 as well as injury awards:

the *1987 scheme* (Final Salary) which is based on a maximum pensionable service of 30 years (closed to new entrants on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006)

- the *2006 scheme* (Final Salary) which is based on a maximum pensionable service of 35 years (closed to new entrants on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015)
- the *2015 (CARE) scheme* which was available to new entrants from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and is a Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) scheme there is no maximum period of service.

The Government has introduced new amendments to the Pensions Schemes Bill which aim to fix problems highlighted by the recent *Virgin Media v NTL Pension Trustees* judgment. The judgment questioned whether some past changes to workplace pension schemes that were previously contracted-out were legally valid. To resolve this, the new amendments will provide for retrospective actuarial validation of past changes where certain conditions are met. No further information is available at this stage.

#### *Transactions relating to post-employment benefits*

The OCC recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge the OCC is required to make against council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out in the Statement of Movement in Reserves. The transactions within the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement and Statement of Movement in Reserves are as follows:

## Notes to the core financial statements

	Local Government Pension Scheme			Police Pension Schemes		Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Account	
	2023/24 Group	2024/25 Chief	2024/25 Group	2023/24 Group	2024/25 Group	2023/24 Group	2024/25 Group
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Cost of services:</b>							
Current service cost	11,426	10,417	10,656	25,748	24,343	37,174	34,999
Past service cost	17	244	250	-	-	17	250
(Gain) / loss from settlements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	11,443	10,661	10,906	25,748	24,343	37,191	35,249
<b>Other Operating Expenditure:</b>							
Funding from OPCC	-	-	-	(29,590)	(31,935)	(29,590)	(31,935)
<b>Financing &amp; investment income/expenditure:</b>							
Net Interest cost	(67)	(81)	(83)	82,304	82,154	82,237	82,071
<b>Net charge to surplus / deficit on provision of services</b>	<b>11,376</b>	<b>10,580</b>	<b>10,823</b>	<b>78,462</b>	<b>74,562</b>	<b>89,838</b>	<b>85,385</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income &amp; expenditure:</b>							
Return on Plan Assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	(15,731)	(1,871)	(1,914)	-	-	(15,731)	(1,914)
Actuarial (gains)/losses on changes in demographic assumptions	(1,720)	(504)	(515)	(34,712)	(2,837)	(36,432)	(3,352)
Effect of Asset Ceiling Adjustment	53,142	62,186	63,613	-	-	53,142	63,613
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(20,828)	(54,868)	(56,127)	(59,201)	(250,187)	(80,029)	(306,314)
Other (if applicable)	9,070	(2,614)	(2,674)	10,578	(415)	19,648	(3,089)
<b>Net charge to total comprehensive income &amp; expenditure</b>	<b>35,309</b>	<b>12,909</b>	<b>13,206</b>	<b>(4,873)</b>	<b>(178,877)</b>	<b>30,436</b>	<b>(165,671)</b>
<b>Statement of Movement in Reserves:</b>							
Reversal of net charges made to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	(11,376)	(10,580)	(10,823)	(78,462)	(74,562)	(89,838)	(85,385)
Employers' Contributions payable to the scheme	14,294	15,057	15,403	-	-	14,294	15,403
Retirement benefits paid to pensioners	-	-	-	29,552	34,492	29,552	34,492
<b>Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions</b>							
Employers' contributions payable to schemes	14,294	15,057	15,403	-	-	14,294	15,403
Retirement benefits paid to pensioners	-	-	-	26,620	31,095	26,620	31,095
Direct payments - Injury awards payable	-	-	-	2,932	3,397	2,932	3,397
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,294</b>	<b>15,057</b>	<b>15,403</b>	<b>29,552</b>	<b>34,492</b>	<b>43,846</b>	<b>49,895</b>

## Notes to the core financial statements

### Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

The amount included in the Balance Sheet arising from the authority's obligation in respect of its defined benefit plans is as follows

	Local Government Pension Scheme			Police Pension Schemes		Balance Sheet	
	2023/24 Group	2024/25 Chief	2024/25 Group	2023/24 Group	2024/25 Group	2023/24 Group	2024/25 Group
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(294,265)	(251,024)	(256,785)	(1,709,697)	(1,496,328)	(2,003,962)	(1,753,113)
Fair value of plan assets	355,891	378,544	387,232	-	-	355,891	387,232
Asset Ceiling Adjustment	(82,641)	(145,916)	(149,265)	-	-	(82,641)	(149,265)
<b>Sub total</b>	(21,015)	(18,396)	(18,818)	(1,709,697)	(1,496,328)	(1,730,712)	(1,515,146)
Other movements in the liability (asset) (if applicable)							
<b>Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation</b>	<b>(21,015)</b>	<b>(18,396)</b>	<b>(18,818)</b>	<b>(1,709,697)</b>	<b>(1,496,328)</b>	<b>(1,730,712)</b>	<b>(1,515,146)</b>

### Reconciliation of the Movements in the Fair Value of Scheme (Plan) Assets

	Local Government Pension Scheme			Police Pension Schemes	
	2023/24 Group	2024/25 Chief	2024/25 Group	2023/24 Group	2024/25 Group
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	314,553	347,907	355,891	-	-
Interest Income	15,186	17,140	17,533	-	-
<b>Remeasurement gain/(loss)</b>					
The return on plan assets; excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	15,731	1,871	1,914	-	-
Other (if applicable)	-	-	-	-	-
The effect of changes in foreign exchange rates	-	-	-	-	-
Contributions from employer	14,255	15,057	15,403	29,552	34,492
Employer Contributions (Top Up Grant)	-	-	-	29,590	31,935
Contributions from employees into the scheme	3,699	3,864	3,953	11,495	11,506
Benefits paid	(7,572)	(7,295)	(7,462)	(70,637)	(77,933)
Other (if applicable)	39	-	-	-	-
<b>Closing fair value of scheme assets</b>	<b>355,891</b>	<b>378,544</b>	<b>387,232</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## Notes to the core financial statements

### Reconciliation of Present Value of the Scheme Liabilities (Defined Benefit Obligation)

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Police Pension Schemes		
	2023/24 Group	2024/25 Chief	2024/25 Group	2023/24 Group	2024/25 Group
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Opening balance at 1 April</b>	<b>(286,392)</b>	<b>(287,663)</b>	<b>(294,265)</b>	<b>(1,744,122)</b>	<b>(1,709,697)</b>
Current Service Cost	(11,426)	(10,417)	(10,656)	(25,748)	(24,343)
Interest Cost	(13,781)	(14,117)	(14,439)	(82,304)	(82,154)
Contributions from scheme participants	(3,699)	(3,864)	(3,953)	(11,495)	(11,506)
Remeasurement (gains) and losses					
• Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	1,720	504	515	34,712	2,837
• Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	20,828	54,868	56,127	59,201	250,187
• Other (if applicable)	(9,070)	2,614	2,674	(10,578)	415
Past service cost	(17)	(244)	(250)	-	-
Losses/(gains) on curtailment (where relevant)	-	-	-	-	-
Liabilities assumed on entity combinations	-	-	-	-	-
Benefits paid	7,572	7,295	7,462	70,637	77,933
Liabilities extinguished on settlements (where relevant)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Closing balance at 31 March</b>	<b>(294,265)</b>	<b>(251,024)</b>	<b>(256,785)</b>	<b>(1,709,697)</b>	<b>(1,496,328)</b>

The police pension schemes are unfunded in nature and hence have no scheme assets.

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the OCC has in the long run to pay for retirement benefits. The total net liability of £1,515m has a substantial impact on the net worth of the OCC as recorded in the balance sheet, resulting in a negative overall balance of £1,417m. (OPCC £103m positive overall balance and CC £1,520m negative overall balance). However, the statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the OCC remains stable.

In 2024/25, the local government pension scheme has a net asset in respect of the funded obligations due to changes in the financial assumptions and an excess return on assets over and above the expected accounting return. The corporate bond yield (upon which the discount rate is derived) has risen over the period, which has led to a 0.95% increase in the assumption leading to a gain on the balance sheet of £56.1m (OPCC £1.3m and CC £54.8m). The total investment return achieved by the Fund over the accounting period was 5.4% compared to the expected return of 4.85% resulting in a gain on the balance sheet of £1.9m (OPCC £0.043m and CC £1.857m). In accordance with proper accounting practice, an asset ceiling calculation and IFRIC 14 assessment has been undertaken which shows that the net asset cannot be realised and results in a net liability of £18.8m OPCC (£0.4m and CC £18.4m).

Any future deficits will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees, as assessed by the scheme actuary. With effect from 1st April 2024 the employer's contribution rate was 24.9%, no change from the previous year and is due to remain the same for 2025/26.

The LGPS fund was valued during 2022/23 for the purposes of setting the employer's contribution rates for the next 3 years commencing in April 2023. The next valuation will be as at the 31st March 2025 and will take place during 2025/26.

The rate (%) at which employer contributions are made to the police pension fund is set by the Home Office. The results of the 2020 Police Pension actuarial valuation resulted in an increase in the employers' contribution rate from 31% to 35.3% from April 2024. The Home Office increased the specific grant received from £1.9m to £6.6m to assist the Force in funding the increased employer's contributions in 2024/25.

The Pension Liabilities have been valued on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method which assesses the future liabilities of the fund discounted to their present value as required by IAS 19. Both valuations take account of the implementation of the Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Act 2022. This legislates for how schemes will remove the age discrimination identified by the courts in the way that the

## Notes to the core financial statements

2015 reforms were introduced for some members The police schemes and the Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities have been valued by Mercer and Hymans Robertson respectively. Both are independent firms of actuaries.

### Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been.

	Local Gov't Scheme		Police Schemes	
	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25
	Years	Years	Years	Years
<b>Mortality assumptions:</b>				
<b>Longevity at 65 (60 for police schemes) for current pensioners:</b>				
• Men	21.1	21	26.1	26.1
• Women	24	24	28.5	28.6
<b>Longevity at 65 (60 for police schemes) for future pensioners:</b>				
• Men	21.9	21.8	28	28
• Women	25.6	25.5	30.3	30.3

### Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme (provided by the Actuary)

	Local Gov't Scheme		Police Schemes	
	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25
• rate of inflation	2.75%	2.75%	2.60%	2.60%
• rate of increase in salaries	3.25%	3.25%	4.10%	4.10%
• rate of increase in pensions	2.75%	2.75%	2.70%	2.70%
• rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.85%	5.80%	4.90%	5.90%
• actual return on plan assets	9.70%	5.40%	N/A	N/A

Assets in the pension fund administered by the county council are valued at fair value, principally market value for investments, and consist of:

## Notes to the core financial statements

### Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised

2023/24 £000	Fair Value of Scheme Assets	2024/25 £000
<b>28,409</b>	Cash and cash equivalents	<b>37,984</b>
	<i>Equity instruments: by industry type</i>	
109	Consumer	359
-	Manufacturing	339
228	Energy and utilities	347
256	Financial institutions	407
351	Health and care	510
-	Information technology	9
212	Other	551
<b>1,155</b>	<b>Sub total equity</b>	<b>2,522</b>
	<i>Bonds: by sector</i>	
15,680	UK Government	14,208
1,434	Other	1,991
<b>17,114</b>	<b>Sub total bonds</b>	<b>16,199</b>
	<i>Property: by type</i>	
23,078	UK Property	26,504
-	Overseas Property	-
<b>23,078</b>	<b>Sub total property</b>	<b>26,504</b>
	<i>Private equity</i>	
21,773	All	22,466
<b>21,773</b>	<b>Sub total private equity</b>	<b>22,466</b>
	<i>Other investment funds</i>	
151,986	Equities	164,738
-	Bonds	-
2	Hedge Funds	1
8,240	Commodities	7,791
30,557	Infrastructure	35,725
73,556	Other	75,235
<b>264,341</b>	<b>Sub total other investment funds</b>	<b>283,490</b>
	<i>Derivatives</i>	
21	Forward foreign exchange contracts	(1,933)
<b>355,891</b>	<b>Total assets</b>	<b>387,232</b>

### 15. Accumulated absences account

The accumulated absences account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the general fund balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year e.g. annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31<sup>st</sup> March. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the general fund balance is neutralised by transfers to or from the account.

During 2024/25 Police Officer Annual Leave (AL) increased from £975k to £2,056k. Rest days in lieu (RDIL) decreased from £1,424k to £150k and Time off in lieu decreased from £876k to £788k. Police Staff Annual leave increased from £919k to £1,160k and Time off in lieu increased from £445k to £524k. Officer RDIL decreased due to a new policy introduced at the end of 2023 calendar year, called Management of Time for Federated Ranks. This has meant that the organisation is much stricter on RDIL. All RDIL for Inspectors has been deleted. PCs and Sgts cannot be forced to take RDIL, but resource planning have worked hard to re-

## Notes to the core financial statements

allocate these. There are still a number of legacy RDILs and maternities. Officer AL increased due to sickness, maternities and the number of restricted officers increasing by about 25%, this means that AL cannot be taken. Changes to minimal cover levels has also meant that AL has not been taken. There are plans to ensure that these are all taken within the next few months of 2025-26. This ties in with the Police Regulations and Determinations – 2003.

The balance shown above is a negative figure due to it being a deficit reserve on the OPCC/Group's balance sheet.

2023/24 £000		2024/25 £000
(6,627)	<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>(5,192)</b>
6,627	Reversal of opening accrual made at the end of the preceding year	5,192
(5,192)	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	(5,265)
<b>1,435</b>	Amounts by which remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	<b>(73)</b>
<b>(5,192)</b>	<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>(5,265)</b>

### 16. Cash flow statement – operating activities

#### 16.1 Adjustments to net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements.

2023/24 OCC £000		Note	2024/25 OCC £000
-	Increase/(decrease) in impairment bad debts		-
(9)	Increase/(decrease) in creditors/RIA		(107)
9	(Increase)/decrease in debtors/PIA		107
-	Increase/(decrease) in inventories		-
(45,992)	Movement in pension liability		(35,593)
-	Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or derecognised		-
1,435	Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services		(73)
<b>(44,557)</b>			<b>(35,666)</b>

### 17. Events after the balance sheet date

Events after the balance sheet date have been considered for inclusion in the accounts up to the authorised for issue 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The Chief Finance Officer has not identified any events that are classified as either adjusting or non-adjusting happening between 31 March and the date the Statement of Accounts were authorised for issue.'

### 18. Contingent Assets and liabilities

In respect of the McCloud Pension case, claimants have lodged claims for compensation under two active sets of litigation, Aarons and Penningtons. Government Legal Department settled the injury to feelings claims for Aarons on behalf of Chief Officers without seeking any financial contributions. The settlement of the injury to feelings claims for Aarons sets a helpful precedent, therefore no liability in respect of compensation claims is recognised in these accounts. Pecuniary loss claims remain stayed under advice from Counsel, but it is expected that most of these claims will be settled under the current compensation mechanism that is provided

for under the Public Service Pensions & Judicial Offices Act (PSPJOA) 2022. As at 31 March 2025, it is not possible to reliably estimate the extent or likelihood of Penningtons claims being successful, and therefore no contingent liability in respect of compensation claims is recognised in these accounts.

### **19. Critical judgements in applying accounting policies**

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 23, the OPCC/Group has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events.

There is a high degree of uncertainty about the future levels of funding for the Police Service. However, it is considered that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities or reduce levels of service provision.

In order to apply the group accounting requirements the relationship between the PCC and Chief Constable has been assessed. The PCC remains in control of all assets and reserves however it is judged that the Chief Constable has sufficient operational control over staff and delegated budgets that this expenditure and associated income is shown on the comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the Chief Constable.

The PCC / CC for Leicestershire is involved in various joint arrangements with other Forces in the East Midlands which are detailed in Note 5. These arrangements are judged to be jointly controlled operations due to the joint management and decision making structure of the agreement. Leicestershire's OCC's share of transactions and balances are consolidated into the financial statements in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice.

The arrangements for the use of assets owned by the PCC and used by the CC have been considered and as there is no contractual arrangement between the two entities as such there are no enforceable rights and obligations between the two parties. Therefore, from the perspective of IFRS16 no lease arrangements exist.

### **20. Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty**

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the OCC/OPCC about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

Some of the key areas that could be affected are covered within the OPCC/Group statement of accounts (note 39) and the OCC could potentially be affected by those sensitivities or movements via either the intra-group transfer from the OPCC or those costs directly charged to the OCC.

### **21. Going Concern**

The concept of a going concern assumes that the functions of the Chief Constable and the Force will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The provisions in the Code (Code of Practice on Local Authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25) in respect of going concern reporting requirements reflect the economic and statutory environment in which police forces operate. These provisions confirm that, as police forces cannot be created or dissolved without statutory prescription, they must prepare their financial statements on a going concern basis of accounting.

Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables carry out functions essential to the local community and are themselves revenue-raising bodies (with limits on their revenue-raising powers arising only at the discretion of central government). If a police force were in financial difficulty, the prospects are thus that alternative arrangements might be made by central government either for the continuation of the functions it provides or for assistance with the recovery of a deficit over more than one financial year. As a result of this, it would not therefore be appropriate for the financial statements to be provided on anything other than a going concern basis. Accounts drawn up under the Code therefore assume that a police force will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

## 22. Nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments (OCC)

The OCC's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks which are interlinked with those of the OPCC/Group:

- *Credit risk* – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the OPCC/Group
- *Liquidity risk* – the possibility that the OPCC/Group might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments on behalf of the OCC
- *Market risk* – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the OPCC/Group as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates and stock market movements

### Credit risk

Credit risk for the OPCC/Group has two main sources. Firstly, the short-term (less than 12 months) lending of surplus cash funds to banks and other institutions and secondly the risk of customers failing to pay the OPCC/Group for goods/services provided.

The OPCC/Group follows a defined policy of only lending surplus cash resources to a limited list of banks / institutions (including Money Markets). This list is regularly reviewed by the Chief Finance Officer of the OPCC. The banks / institutions on the OPCC/Group's lending list are carefully selected using credit ratings whilst the OPCC/Group sets a prudent maximum investment limit with each bank. All the banks are based in the United Kingdom.

The OPCC/Group does not expect any losses connected with the short-term investments placed with banks or the other institutions.

Customer credit risk has a very low overall effect on the OPCC/Group by virtue of income from customers being equal to only 4.54% of total income (2023/24 – 4.63%). The risk is managed via the OPCC/Group's credit control policy. This policy sets out the framework within which financial relationships with the OPCC/Group's customers are managed beginning with raising an invoice through to invoking legal action should it be required. The Chief Finance Officer for the OCC may authorise the write-off of unrecoverable amounts up to £10k. Amounts above £10k require the authorisation of the Chief Finance Officer for the OPCC.

To further mitigate the risk of customer credit default, the OPCC/Group assesses whether a bad debt impairment is required each year. A bad debt provision of £1k has been allowed for in 2024/25 (2023/24 – £4k).

### Liquidity risk

The OPCC/Group's cash flow is managed on a daily basis to ensure that sufficient liquid cash resources are available to meet future payment obligations (for example payments to creditors and payments to and in respect of the OPCC/Group's employees).

If unexpected movements happen, the OPCC/Group has access to borrowings from both the money markets and the PWLB. There is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

Risk may arise should the OPCC/Group have to repay a significant proportion of its borrowing in any one financial year. This risk is limited by the fact that the OPCC/Group's PWLB debt portfolio has a spread of maturity dates across a number of financial years. For the maturity profile of the OPCC/Group's PWLB debt commitment, please see Note 20.1 – Long term borrowing of the Group Accounts.

All standard creditors are due to be paid within one year – further information can be found in Note 19 - Creditors.

### Market risk

#### *Interest rate risk*

The OPCC/Group is exposed to a limited degree of risk regarding interest rate fluctuations on both short-term investments and on new borrowings. Both short-term investments and new borrowings are entered into by the

OPCC/Group at a fixed interest rate for the term of each. The risk therefore arises from the uncertainty of what level interest rates will be at when the OPCC/Group either makes a short-term investment or enters into a new borrowing arrangement with PWLB. A movement in interest rates could have a complex impact on the OPCC/Group. For instance, a rise in interest rates would have the following effects:

- Future borrowings would be more costly and result in a higher interest expense charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement
- The fair value of existing borrowings would alter
- Future short-term investments would realise a greater return and result in a higher interest receipt credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement

Borrowings are not carried at fair value in the balance sheet, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement or Statement of Movement in Reserves. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate short-term investments will be reflected in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement, although as the investments are due to mature within 12 months, no such movement is expected.

The OPCC/Group will consider during periods of falling interest rates, and where economic circumstances allow, the viability of repaying loans early in order to limit the OPCC/Group's exposure to interest rate risk.

### *Price risk*

The OPCC/Group does not hold equity shares or other shareholdings and hence has no exposure to the gains or losses arising from a movement in the price of shares.

### *Foreign exchange risk*

The OPCC/Group has no financial assets or liabilities in foreign currencies and hence has no exposure to losses arising from movements in exchange rates.

## **23. Accounting policies used by the Office of the Chief Constable for Leicestershire**

### **A1 General principles**

The statement of accounts summarise the Office of the Chief Constable (OCC) transactions for the 2024/25 financial year and its position at the year end of 31 March 2025. The OCC is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 which require the statements to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practice. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments.

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

### **A2 Cost and intra-group income recognition**

All external income is received by the OPCC, which holds the Police Fund and all related financial reserves and cash balances. The OPCC provides an annual budget to the OCC. All resources consumed at the request of the Chief Constable are funded by the OPCC, including the wages of police officers and staff, and no actual cash transactions take place between the two entities.

From an accounting perspective costs are recognised in the OCC accounts to reflect the financial resources consumed and economic benefit derived in the direction and control of day to day policing at the request of the Chief Constable. For example, an economic benefit is recognised to reflect the utilisation of OPCC owned fixed assets which mirrors depreciation of property, plant and equipment amortisation of intangible assets, impairments and revaluations.

Income is recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement of the OCC accounts, to reflect the funding received from the OPCC.

In addition the OCC's accounts reflect the employment and post-employment liabilities in accordance with IAS19 which states that liabilities relating to these benefits should follow the cost of employment. The OCC's Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure reflects the movement in the OCC's unusable reserves as all other net expenditure is met by a transfer of resources from the OPCC and no usable reserves are held by the OCC.

### **A3 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:

- Intra-group income is recognised when it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the OCC.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the OCC.
- 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.

### **A4 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, i.e. 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 event and conditions on the OCC'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.

### **A5 Financial instruments**

#### **Financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the OPCC/Group becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and are carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

For most of the borrowings that the OPCC/ Group has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest); and interest charged to the CIES is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

#### **Financial Assets**

Financial assets are classified based on a classification and measurement approach that reflects the business model for holding the financial assets and their cashflow characteristics. There are three main classes of financial assets measured at:

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit or loss (FVPL), and
- fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)

The OPCC's / Group's business model is to hold investments to collect contractual cash flows. Financial assets are therefore classified as amortised cost.

### **Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost**

Financial assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the OPCC /Group becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the financial assets held by the authority, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the CIES is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

### **A6 Provisions & Contingent Liabilities**

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives a present (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.

If it is not clear whether an event has taken place on or before the Balance Sheet date, it is deemed to give rise to a present obligation if, taking account of the available evidence, it is more likely than not that a present obligation exists at the Balance Sheet date. The present obligation can be legal or constructive.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) in the year that the OCC 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.

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.

Under the Corporate Governance arrangements for the OPCC / OCC the revenue charge for provisions recognised on the OPCC balance sheet is recognised in the CIES of the OCC.

#### **Contingent Liabilities**

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the OCC a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the authority. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably. Contingent liabilities are disclosed in a note to the accounts, if appropriate.

### **A7 Revenue Recognition / Income**

Specific grants and contributions are included in the 'cost of services' of the CIES where the OPCC has provided additional resources to the OCC for specific operational activities. A similar approach is adopted for fees and charges.

### **A8 Employee benefits**

#### **Benefits payable during employment**

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year end. They include such benefits as salaries, paid annual leave, paid sick leave for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which the employees render service to the authority. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or and form leave, eg time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year-end that employees can carry forward in to the next financial year. The accrual is made at the salary rates applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement to the accumulated absences account 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 OCC 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 in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at the earlier of when the OCC can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the authority recognises costs for a restructuring.

### **Post-employment benefits**

Employees of the OPCC/Group are members of two separate pension schemes:

#### **a) Police officers**

The Police Pension Scheme (PPS) for police officers is an unfunded scheme, meaning that there are no investment assets built up to meet the pension liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pension payments as they eventually fall due. Under the Police Pension Fund Regulations 2007, if the amounts receivable by the pension fund for the year are less than amounts payable, the OPCC/Group must annually transfer an amount required to meet the deficit to the pension fund. If however the pension fund is in surplus for the year, the surplus if required to be transferred from the pension fund to the OPCC/Group, which then must be repaid to central government. Injury awards and the capital costs associated with ill health retirements are paid from the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

#### **b) Police staff**

The Local Government Pensions Scheme is administered by Leicestershire County Council. This is a funded scheme, meaning that the OCC and the employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions' liabilities with investment assets.

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

- The liabilities of the Leicestershire County Council pension fund attributable to the OCC 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 of mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc. and projections of future earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices.

The assets of Leicestershire County Council pension fund attributable to the OPCC/Group 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 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

- net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), ie net interest expense for the authority – 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 Leicestershire 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 OCC 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 appropriations 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 as benefits are earned by employees.

### **Discretionary benefits**

The OCC 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.

## **A9 Jointly controlled operations**

The OCC has interests in a number of jointly controlled operations. All of these collaborations are governed by formal Section 22 agreements. The activities undertaken by the OCC in conjunction with other joint operators involve the use of assets and resources of those joint operators. The OCC shares are fully incorporated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure statement, Balance Sheet Movement in Reserves and Cash Flow Statement. Further details are shown in Note 5

## **A10 Events after the reporting period**

Events after the reporting period are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the Balance Sheet date 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 except in circumstances where their effect is considered to have already taken place using the “substance over form convention”.

### ***A11 Overheads and Support Services***

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to service segments in accordance with the authority’s arrangements for accountability and financial performance.

### ***A12 Reserves***

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable reserves for the authority.

### ***A13 VAT***

VAT payable is included as an expense only to the extent that it is not recoverable from His Majesty’s Revenue and Customs. VAT receivable is excluded from income.

## Introduction

The police officer pension fund account was established under the Police Pension Fund Regulations 2007 (SI 2007 No. 1932). It is administered by the Chief Constable using the resources of the OPCC.

The fund receives income each year from:

- Employer's contributions from the OCC based on a percentage of pay
- Additional Funding from the OPCC (received from the Home Office)
- Contributions from serving police officers
- Other receipts

Pensions to retired police officers, lump sum payments and other benefits are paid from the fund.

The following table shows the movements on the pension fund account for the year:

2023/24 £000		2024/25 £000
	<b>Contributions receivable:</b>	
	<b>OPCC/Group</b>	
(26,522)	■ employer's contributions	(31,096)
(762)	■ early retirements	(472)
(11,494)	■ officers' contributions	(11,838)
-	■ employee contributions owed – Pension Remedy	(278)
-	■ Interest on employee contributions owed – Pension Remedy	(86)
(38,778)		(43,770)
(283)	<b>Transfers in from other pension schemes</b>	(67)
	<b>Benefits payable:</b>	
58,027	■ pensions	62,952
-	■ Interest on pensions paid to retired officers - Pension Remedy	6
9,086	■ commutations and lump sum retirement benefits	11,167
-	■ Interest on Commutations / lump sum benefits paid - Pension Remedy	28
1,272	■ ill-health commutations and lump sum retirement benefits	699
123	■ lump sum death benefits	96
-	■ Backdated lump sum and interest payments (see note 5)	-
68,508		74,948
	<b>Payments to and on account of leavers:</b>	
92	■ refund of contributions	194
51	■ transfers out to other Police Forces	-
143		194
<b>29,590</b>	<b>Sub-total - Net amount payable for the year</b>	<b>31,305</b>
<b>(29,590)</b>	<b>Additional contribution from the Police and Crime Commissioner to fund the deficit for the year</b>	<b>(31,305)</b>
<b>-</b>	<b>Net amount payable / receivable for the year</b>	<b>-</b>

## Notes

### Note 1

The Chief Constable is required by law to operate a pension fund and the amounts that must be paid into and out of the fund are specified by regulation. Due to the fact that the OCC does not hold assets or liabilities, no cash is transacted by the Chief Constable. All payments and receipts into and out of the fund are made by the OPCC such that the OCC can fulfil the administration of the fund. The fund will be balanced to nil at the end of each financial year either by paying over any surplus to the Home Office or by receiving cash in the form of pension top-up grant from the Home Office to make up any deficit. The OPCC acts as intermediary where grant payment/receipt takes place – the grant is therefore shown on the OPCC's Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement but is transferred to the pension fund account through the Intra-Group funding. The fund does not hold any investment assets and follows the accounting policies of the OPCC/Group.

### Note 2

Details regarding the accounting policies are detailed within note 23 A8, notes to the core financial statements.

### Note 3

The pension fund does not take account of the liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the end of the financial year.

Details of the OCC's long-term pension obligations can be found in the notes to the OCC's core financial statements at note 14.

### Note 4

The rate (%) at which employer contributions are made to the police pension fund is set by the Home Office. An actuarial valuation during 2018/19 resulted in an increase in the employers' contribution rate from 21.3% to 31% from April 2019. The results of 2020 Police Pension valuation have now been received and the employers contribution will increase to 35.3% from the 1st April 2024.

Employee contribution rates range between 12.44% and 13.78% dependant on the police officer's salary.

## 1) Scope of Responsibility

The Chief Constable (CC) of Leicestershire is responsible for the delivery of policing services to the communities of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and has direction and control over officers and staff operating with the Force. The CC holds office under the Crown and is appointed by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

The CC is accountable in law for the exercise of policing powers and to the PCC for the delivery of efficient and effective policing, management of resources and expenditure by the Force. In discharging his overall responsibilities, the CC is responsible for establishing and maintaining appropriate risk management processes, governance arrangements and ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of these functions.

The CC also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

The CC has adopted the Corporate Governance Framework approved by the PCC, which is consistent with the principals of the CIPFA / SOLACE Framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*. A copy of the Framework can be obtained from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), Leicestershire Police Headquarters, St Johns, Enderby, Leicester, LE19 2BX or on our website at [www.leics.pcc.police.uk](http://www.leics.pcc.police.uk).

This statement explains how the CC has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 in relation to the publication of an annual governance statement.

The Chief Constable as a standalone corporation sole is legally required to produce an Annual Governance Statement. The statement assists the PCC in holding the CC to account for efficient and effective policing. The statement sits alongside the statutory accounts for the CC and gives assurance to the PCC of the CC's governance arrangements. The PCC produces their own statement.

## 2) The Purpose of the Governance Framework

The Joint Corporate Governance Framework comprises the systems and processes, and culture and values, by which the CC is directed and controlled and its activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community. It enables the CC to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, value for money services.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the CC's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The Joint Corporate Governance Framework (CGF) was developed in 2013-14, was considered by the Joint Audit Risk and Assurance Panel (JARAP) and reviewed in March 2014 to incorporate the changes required under Stage 2 Transfer arrangements. The CGF has been reviewed and updated during 2023-24 following extensive consultation and ratified at Corporate Governance Board in March 2024. A further review was undertaken in quarter one of 2025-26.

## 3) The Governance Framework

Both the PCC and the CC continued to ensure that appropriate management and reporting arrangements were in place to enable it to satisfy itself that its approach to corporate governance was both adequate and effective in practice. These arrangements included:

- The Joint Corporate Governance Framework;
- A Risk Management Strategy;
- An Annual Governance Statement produced by the OPCC and the OCC;
- A Regional Governance Statement;
- Ensuring that there is an effective Internal Audit function.

During 2024-25, Forvis Mazars were the appointed Internal Auditors for the region. Regular review and planning meetings took place which helped identify, discuss and share best practice and identify potential common audit themes.

Forvis Mazars also attended Regional CFO and Finance Director meetings to update on the progress of 2024-254 Regional Collaboration audits and the Regional Collaboration Internal Audit Plan and the proposed workplan and timescales for 2025-26.

The effectiveness of audit committees should be carried out periodically. A self-assessment effectiveness review was undertaken by the OCC, OPCC and JARAP members during 2024-25 using CIPFA guidance. The findings were reported to the JARAP at its meeting on 14 May 2025. Overall, the review concluded that the JARAP is operated in an effective manner.

The 2024-25 Internal Audit Plan was considered and approved at the JARAP meeting held in April 2024. It was prepared following discussion and consideration of regional and three force audit themes, the risk register and other factors.

Forvis Mazars attended each JARAP meeting to routinely report to and provide assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of internal control.

The system of internal control is based on a framework of robust financial and contract procedure rules and processes, administrative procedures, management supervision and a system of delegation and accountability. Development and maintenance of the system is undertaken by managers within the OPCC and the Office of the Chief Constable (OCC) and is reviewed by internal and external audit. In particular the system includes:

- A Police and Crime Plan for 2024-29 which sets out the priorities for the Chief Constable to deliver against. A link to the document is contained here:

<https://www.leics.pcc.police.uk/Planning-and-Money/Police-and-Crime-Plan/Police-and-Crime-Plan.aspx>

- Performance management framework, performance plans, targets and performance monitoring focused on achieving the objectives set out in the Plan. These reports are reviewed and scrutinised by the PCC at the Corporate Governance Board;
- Comprehensive budgeting systems that seek to align resources with priorities;
- Robust financial reporting, which routinely projects end of year outturn positions to allow early corrective action or highlight reinvestment opportunities;
- Effective risk management strategies, registers, action plans and tactics;
- A Commissioning Framework to which detailed the approach to engagement with partners and to commissioning appropriate outcomes through third party providers;
- Engagement in value for money benchmarking such as is conducted by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMICFRS);
- A well-researched and coherent Joint Corporate Governance Framework that sets out the rules and procedures for effective working within and between the OPCC and OCC;
- Appropriate statutory officers within both the OPCC and OCC, who are key members of respective leadership teams with relevant influence on strategic and tactical matters;
- Codes of Conduct and standards of behaviour clearly set out in governance documents with the former being signed by the PCC;
- An independent Joint Audit, Risk and Assurance Panel (JARAP) that is charged with seeking assurance over risk, governance and internal control for both the OPCC and OCC;
- Internal Audit team where the plan and therefore resources are directed towards risk and emerging issues; and where the plan is shaped by both the OPCC and the OCC;

- External reviews and inspections carried out by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) which inform the PCC and the CC and highlight risks and learning points in addition to good practice.
- Regular reviews and updates on Regional Collaboration are discussed at the East Midlands PCC and CC Board who meet bi-monthly.

### Chief Finance Officer

The CC formally appointed a professionally qualified Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the Force with the effect from 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012. Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the OCC CFO has a personal fiduciary duty by virtue of their appointment as the person responsible for the financial administration of the OCC. This includes requirements and formal powers to safeguard lawfulness and propriety of expenditure (Section 114 of the Local Government Act 1988 as amended by paragraph 188 of Schedule 16 to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011).

The OCC complies with the CIPFA statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in the Public Sector, the key principles and requirements which are summarised below.

The Chief Financial Officer in a public service organisation:

- is a key member of the Leadership Team, helping it to develop and implement strategy and to resource and deliver the Force's strategic objectives sustainably and in the public interest;
- must be actively involved in, and able to bring influence to bear on, all material business decisions to ensure immediate and longer term implications, opportunities and risks are fully considered, and alignment with the Force's financial strategy; and
- must lead the promotion and delivery by the whole Force of good financial management so that public money is safeguarded at all times and used appropriately, economically, efficiently and effectively.

### 4) Compliance with the Seven Principles set out in the CIPFA/SoLACE Framework

#### Principle A: Behaving with Integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of Law:

Both the PCC and the CC support the Corporate Governance Framework which aligns to the Code of Corporate Governance and which provides guidance on expected behaviours to ensure integrity. The Corporate Governance Framework also includes an Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy in addition to a Whistleblowing Policy. The JARAP receive regular updates on Fraud and Corruption and Whistleblowing arrangements in line with their annual plan. Any whistleblowing activities are investigated by the Professional Standards Department and appropriate action is taken. The Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer have specific responsibility for ensuring legality, for investigating any suspected instances of failure to comply with legal requirements and for reporting any such instances to the PCC, CC, JARAP or Police and Crime Panel.

Detailed reviews of whistleblowing and complaints are considered by the Ethics, Integrity and Complaints Committee who also undertake dip sampling of complaints.

The Police and Crime Plan outlines the PCC's commitment to ethical values and the PCC and DPCC have completed the register of interests which is contained on the PCC website. Additionally, Related Parties Disclosures are undertaken for all key staff in the OPCC and OCC.

#### Principle B: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

All agendas, papers and meetings of the JARAP and Ethics and Transparency Panel and the Police and Crime Panel are contained on the respective websites. All of these meetings are open to the public.

Papers, reports and decisions made by the PCC are published on the PCC website, together with consultation, details of future public events and public surveys.

Detailed financial information is included on the police force's website which details every expenditure transaction over £500

The Police and Crime Plan sets out the importance placed by the PCC on stakeholder engagement, together with his plans and approach to developing these further. The CC must have due regard to this Plan and support its delivery.

## **Principle C: Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable, economic, social and environmental outcomes**

The PCC has produced a Police and Crime Plan which has been informed by the Strategic Policing Requirement and the result of significant consultation with the public and key stakeholders.

This plan is used to direct the resources of the PCC and the Chief Constable through the Revenue and Capital Budgets and the Commissioning Framework. It informs where resources are most needed and targets investment into priority areas.

The PCC has a Minimum Revenue Policy, a Reserves Strategy and a Treasury Management Strategy and these are all considered with the Capital Programme and Revenue budget when considering the level of precept to be set. There are regular reports to the Corporate Governance Board (CGB) to report on progress and compliance with these policies during the year.

The PCC in conjunction with CC, has produced a Sustainability and Environmental Policy Statement to establish a process to ensure the work undertaken by the Force and OPCC (including Commissioned Services) do all that is reasonable to minimise the impact on the environment.

## **Principle D: Determining the Interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of intended outcomes**

All new areas of business are considered through the Force arrangements via the Executive Group. Business cases support proposals both at a local, regional and sub-regional level before consideration and sign off where appropriate by the PCC or CC, dependent on the values contained within the Corporate Governance Framework.

Regionally, Business Cases are considered first by the DCC Board before consideration by the CCs and PCCs, together with advice from statutory officers.

Significant decisions are documented on a Decision Record and published on the PCC website.

## **Principle E: Developing Capacity and Capability**

The Force work closely with the College of Policing to ensure investment is maximised for officers and staff. Significant work has taken place across the region with the college in respect of the apprenticeship scheme for new recruits and further development of officers aspiring to senior ranks.

The PCC has continued to support the CC in recruiting officers and PCSO's to maintain establishment levels and ensure continued introduction of new ideas and ways of working. The PCC continues to support the CC to recruit a diverse workforce which is reflective of the communities they represent.

The Force's Team Leicestershire Academy, supported by the PCC, has ensured that the workforce have the right skills, are continuously developing, and have the right capabilities to deliver an efficient and effective police service.

## **Principle F: Managing Risks and Performance**

Performance forms a significant part of the regular Corporate Governance Board meetings and the PCC and a representative from the OPCC attend the Business Delivery Board to discuss Force Performance at a more operational level and identify any issues and challenges.

Whilst Leicestershire have mirrored the national trend where Crime levels have increased, the PCC highlights areas of Force Performance which are of concern. He has undertaken further scrutiny in this area on a regular basis and this is also an area reviewed regularly by the Police and Crime Panel.

Both the PCC and CC have a Risk Management Policy and manage and record risks in the same manner. These risks are reviewed regularly and considered at every JARAP meeting.

The Joint Corporate Governance Framework sets out the financial regulations, expected processes and internal controls.

There is a shared Internal Audit Service across the region and updates on local and regional audits are considered at every JARAP meeting.

Annual reports on HR and complaints and disciplinary processes are considered by the Corporate Governance Board and the Ethics, Integrity and Complaints Committee, together with actions and lessons learned.

## **Principle G: Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and accountability**

All significant decisions of the PCC are published on the website, together with appropriate supporting documentation.

The PCC meets weekly with the CC to discuss key issues and challenge and scrutinise where performance is slipping or other key aspects.

The PCC attends and reports to the Police and Crime Panel who scrutinise how the PCC is holding the CC to account, consider performance, the Police and Crime Plan and other priorities.

### **5) Review of Effectiveness**

The OPCC and OCC have responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of the governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness is informed by the work of the senior managers within the OPCC and OCC who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the Head of Internal Audit's annual report, and also by comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates.

The OPCC and OCC continued to invest in an Internal Audit programme in 2024-25 to provide assurance under the arrangements for the two corporation soles. These ensured specific local audits on:

- Core Financials
- Budgetary Control
- Business Continuity
- Workforce Planning
- Partnerships
- DV Partnerships Follow-up
- Seized Property
- Custody Governance
- GDPR
- Savings Plan
- Contract Management
- Data Quality
- Cyber Security/Digital Transformation

During 2024-25, the following collaborative audits or specific assignments were carried out:

- EMSOU – Data Governance and Security
- EMSOU – Wellbeing and EDI

In addition to a review of key controls working well and highlighting findings and recommendations, the Internal Audit reports also include an overview on sector comparisons, risk management and value for money observations.

The Mazars Internal Audit annual report covered the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 and will be reported to and considered by the JARAP in August 2025. The key messages in that report are included here within this Annual Governance Statement.

The Internal Audit opinions included within their annual report for both the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable for 2024-25 were as follows:

“On the basis of our audit work, our opinion on the framework of governance, risk management, and control is Moderate in its overall adequacy and effectiveness.

This opinion is provided on the basis that some improvements are required to enhance the adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and control.

Certain weaknesses and exceptions were highlighted by our internal audit work, in particular an unsatisfactory assurance opinion was provided in respect of GDPR, and limited assurance opinions for Business Continuity, Custody Governance, Cyber Security Key Controls and Data Quality.

These matters have been discussed with management, to whom we have made recommendations, several of which are categorised as 'High' and 'Medium'. All of these have been, or are in the process of being addressed, as detailed in our individual reports, and summarised in Section 04.

A 'Substantial' assurance opinion was provided for five internal audits; Savings Plan, Core Financials, Budgetary Control, Partnerships, and Workforce Planning..”

The basis of Mazars' opinion was as follows:

“In reaching this opinion the following factors were taken into consideration:

### Corporate Governance

The purpose of internal audit is to provide the Joint Audit, Risk & Assurance Panel (JARAP), with an independent and objective opinion on governance, risk management and internal control and their effectiveness in achieving the OPCC and Force's agreed objectives. It also has an independent and objective advisory role to help line managers improve governance, risk management and internal control.

### Risk Management

Our opinion was also informed by consideration of risk management aspects through our individual assignments, as well as observing reports and discussion around the Force's and OPCC's Risk Management including the risk register at each JARAP meeting with no significant issues arising.

During the course of delivering the 2024/25 audit programme, a key element of each audit scope was to evaluate the control environment and, in particular, how key risks were being managed. As summarised in the 'Internal Control' section below, we were able to place reliance on the systems of internal control and the manner in which risks were being managed by the Force and OPCC.

### Internal Control

Of the 12 audits undertaken, where a formal assurance level has been provided, five received a substantial level of assurance and two audits received a moderate level of assurance. A limited level of assurance has been awarded in four instances, and an unsatisfactory level of assurance for one.

We have made a total of 40 new recommendations during the year at the Force and OPCC, with 8 categorised as 'High', 20 as 'Medium' and 12 as 'Low'. The number and priority of recommendations raised across the audit plan supports the overall assessment that some improvements are required to enhance the adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and control.

### Comparison of Assurance Levels

2023/24

2024/25

- Substantial
- Moderate
- Limited
- Unsatisfactory
- Advisory

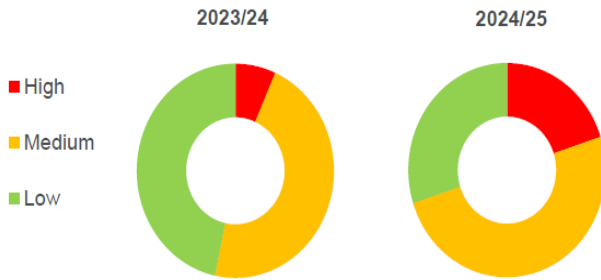


In 2023/24, there were 14 audits completed. Five received 'Substantial' assurance, five received 'Moderate' assurance and four received a 'Limited' opinion.

Of the 12 strategic audits conducted in 2024/25, five received 'Substantial' assurance, two received a 'Moderate' assurance, four received a 'Limited' opinion and one received an 'Unsatisfactory' assurance.

It should be noted though that the areas of review will not typically be the same given the risk-based nature of the Internal Audit Plan year on year and that caution should be exercised in comparing years.

## Comparison of Recommendation Gradings



The total number of recommendations raised in 2023/24 were 45.

The total number of recommendations made in 2024/25 was 40. There have been eight High priority recommendations raised this year.

As noted above, the areas of review each year will not typically be the same.

## Compliance with Professional Standards

We employed a risk-based approach to determining the audit needs of Leicestershire Police at the start of the year and use a risk-based methodology in planning and conducting our audit assignments.

In fulfilling our role, we abide by the three mandatory elements set out by the Institute of Internal Auditors. Namely, the Code of Ethics, the Definition of Internal Auditing and the Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.

## Performance Measures

We have completed our audit work in accordance with the agreed Plan and each of our final reports has been reported to the JARAP. We have received positive feedback on our work from the JARAP and staff involved in the audits. Regular planned discussions on progress against the Audit Plan have taken place with the JARAP.

## Conflicts of Interest

There have been no instances during the year which have impacted on our independence and/or lead us to declare any interest.

## Internal Audit Quality Assurance

In order to ensure the quality of the work we perform; we have a programme of quality measures which includes:

- Supervision of staff conducting audit work;
- Review of files of working papers and reports by Managers and Partners;
- Annual appraisal of audit staff and the development of personal development and training plans;
- Sector specific training for staff involved in the sector;
- Issuance of technical guidance to inform staff and provide instruction regarding technical issues; and
- The maintenance of the firm's Internal Audit Manual.

Due to delays across the audit sector the audit of the 2021-22 and 2022-23 statement of accounts were not completed by our external auditors, Ernst Young LLP, and the government backstop implemented. This resulted in disclaimer of opinion for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 statement of accounts. As a result of the imposed backstop date for the prior two years, the external auditors were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence over the CC's and Group opening balances reported in the financial statements for year ended 31 March 2024. Therefore, a disclaimer of opinion was given by the External Auditors, Grant Thornton, for the 2023-24 statement of accounts.

The JARAP meets four times during the year. The JARAP undertook a detailed work plan which included considering the work of internal and external audit, tracking of Internal Audit recommendations, risks and risk management, and specific themes. In addition, the JARAP approved an annual workplan, for 2024, reviewed their terms of reference and produced an annual report of their work.

During the year, the JARAP received or prepared a number of updates, presentations and reports on specific areas of risk or concern.

## 6) Significant Governance Issues and Actions

There were no formal reports issued by the S151 during the year, outcomes of Monitoring Officer Investigations, objections from local electors or ombudsman referrals.

In 2024-25 internal auditors, Mazars, carried out 13 audits. Four of the audits undertaken were given limited assurance which indicates some improvements are required and 1 audit was given an unsatisfactory assurance level which indicates serious weaknesses in the control framework.

The audits that received limited assurance were:

- Business Continuity
- Data Quality
- Custody Governance
- IT – Cyber Security/Digital transformation

## Business Continuity

There was one priority one (high) recommendation, two priority two (medium) recommendations and one priority three (low) recommendations.

The priority one recommendation centred on the business continuity policy and procedure. It recommended that the policy and procedure should be updated to define how often testing should take place and heads of departments/plan owners should develop a schedule of testing for their plans. It also recommended that the force develops business continuity management competencies through additional training.

This recommendation was agreed by management and is in the process of being implemented. Progress against the recommendations is routinely reported to the JARAP meeting.

## Data Quality

There was one priority one (high) recommendation, two priority two (medium) recommendations and one priority three (low) recommendations.

The priority one recommendation centred on a programme of work and delivery plans to support the Data Quality Strategy. It recommended that the Force perform an exercise to identify and agree key themes that improve data quality, create an overall programme of work or delivery plan, consider creating operation workstreams, and establish and implement robust governance, monitoring and reporting.

This recommendation was agreed by management and is in the process of being implemented. Progress against the recommendations is routinely reported to the JARAP meeting.

## Custody Governance

There was no priority one (high) recommendation, five priority two (medium) recommendations and two priority three (low) recommendations.

Although there wasn't any priority one recommendations, the number of priority two recommendations resulting in the limited assurance. The priority two recommendations centred around risk assessment procedures, internal protocols, KPIs, and additional training.

This recommendation is still being reviewed by management and is in the process of being implemented. Once finalised progress against the recommendations will be routinely reported to the JARAP meeting.

## IT – Cyber Security/Digital Transformation

There was one priority two (high) recommendations and four priority two (medium) recommendations.

The audit is currently still under review and not yet finalised. The recommendations will be assessed by management. Progress against the recommendations will be routinely reported to the JARAP meeting.

## Police and Crime Plan and Resources

The Budget Requirement and Precept report was presented and agreed at the Police and Crime Panel on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The report highlighted budget deficit of £1.1m for 2025/26 after identifying efficiency savings of £8.2m. The report also highlighted a financial deficit over the remaining three years of the MTFP of £2.9m for

# Annual governance statement

2026/27, £3.9m for 2027/28 and £1.6m for 2028/29. The Force has since identified further savings of £1.1m to close the deficit in 2025/26.

## His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services Findings for PEEL 2023-24

Leicestershire Police were inspected by His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) during 2024 with the findings being published in December 2024. The detailed report can be viewed on the HMICFRS website.

In 2014, HMICFRS introduced the police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL) inspections, which assess the performance of all 43 police forces in England and Wales. Since then, HMICFRS have been continuously adapting their approach.

The HMICFRS has moved to a more intelligence-led, continual assessment approach, rather than the annual PEEL inspections used in previous years. Forces are assessed against the characteristics of good performance, set out in the PEEL Assessment Framework 2023-25.

Due to the change in approach the HMICFRS advise that it is not possible to make direct comparisons between the grades in this PEEL inspection and those from the previous cycle of PEEL inspections. This is because HMICFRS has increased their focus on making sure forces are achieving appropriate outcomes for the public, and in some areas have changed the aspects of policing inspected.

The HMICFRS assessed how good Leicestershire Police is in nine areas of policing and they made graded judgements in eight of these as follows:

Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Requires improvement	Inadequate
	Police powers and public treatment	Protecting vulnerable people	Responding to the public	
	Preventing crime	Leadership and force management	Investigating crime	
	Managing offenders			
	Developing a positive workplace			

HMICFRS also inspected how effective a service the Force gives to victims of crime. HMICFRS don’t make a graded judgement for this area.

Leicestershire did not receive any causes for concern but did receive 10 areas for improvement. Significant progress has been made in each of these areas and when HMICFRS visited during January 2025 the actions taken and improvement plan were presented.

## High priority strategic risks

At the end of March 2025, the Strategic Risk Register highlighted 10 strategic risks relating to the OCC that were judged to be high priority. They were:

### OCC

- Loss of power at FHQ
- Capacity within I.T. to support and enable digital transformation.
- Capacity within the custody suites
- Risk of cyber attack
- Lack of security testing in the Promaps system
- Year on year increase in complaints from members of the public
- Risk associated with the transition to an alternatively fuelled fleet
- Lack of PIP 2 detectives
- Anti-Fraud and Theft risk to the force

- Lack of technical Health and Safety risk assessments
- Risk of Cyber Attack

All of these risks are being managed through the Organisational Risk Board (ORB), OPCC SMT Meetings and the JARAP.

### Conclusion

This document highlights the main areas of assurance that are in place for the OPCC as well as highlighting particular issues that have been raised through internal audit reports, external audit reports, the strategic risk registers and the external inspections that have been carried out by HMICFRS. It is intended to provide assurance that the overall arrangements in place are sound whilst highlighting some areas that do require further management action. These will be monitored closely over the next financial year.



**David Sandall**  
Temporary Chief Constable  
24<sup>th</sup> February 2026



**Paul Dawkins**  
Chief Finance Officer  
24<sup>th</sup> February 2026



## **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR REGIONAL COLLABORATION 2024/25**

I confirm that the relevant controls and procedures are in place to manage the following issues within the East Midlands Special Operations Unit, which includes the Regional Organised Crime Unit, Major Crime, Forensic Services, Counter Terrorism Policing East Midlands, and Legal Services.

### **1. The monitoring processes by which performance against operational, financial and other strategic plans are considered and key issues identified and tasked.**

ACC (East Midlands) monitors performance. Exceptions are reported to the East Midlands Police & Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables' (EMPCC/CC) Board on a quarterly basis, with full performance reports reported twice a year.

### **2. Ensuring compliance with relevant laws and regulations, internal policies and procedures, and that expenditure is lawful.**

Compliance is monitored by management review and supported by specialist professional advice where appropriate. Where areas for improvement are identified these are subject to action plans that are revisited to ensure that they have been attended to. Internal Thematic inspections and external audits form part of the monitoring controls to ensure compliance with appropriate policies and regulations and demonstrate the effective and efficient use of resources.

### **3. That the appropriate controls are in place for the management of all resources deployed within Regional collaboration**

A management structure is in place, with clear lines of accountability for both operational issues and use of resources. A budget is approved each year at the EMPCC/CC's Board which defines the expenditure targets for each area of policing within EMSOU. Each force actively supports the budget allocation and sets its own precept accordingly.

Management reports showing costs against budget are provided monthly. Unexpected variances are investigated and explained, ready for reporting to quarterly Management Boards and the EMPCC/CC's Board. Quarterly monitoring reports are shared across the region to provide each force with visibility over expenditure to date and projected outturn position.

#### 4. Incorporating good governance arrangements in respect of partnerships.

The EMPCC/CC's Board provides a forum for all members of collaboration to feedback their experiences of the partnership work. All forces can discuss governance, performance and financial issues at the quarterly meetings. The collaboration builds on best practice from across the country and the region to improve performance as well as saving money.



**SignedDate15/05/2025**

Diane Coulson  
**ACC (East Midlands)**

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE CHIEF CONSTABLE FOR LEICESTERSHIRE

### Report on the audit of the financial statements

#### Disclaimer of opinion

We were engaged to audit the financial statements of the Chief Constable for Leicestershire (the 'Chief Constable') for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Movement in Reserves, the Cash Flow Statement, notes to the core financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and include the police pension fund financial statements comprising the Pension Fund Account, and the notes to these financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024-25.

We do not express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements of the Chief Constable. Because of the significance of the matters described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on these financial statements.

#### Basis for disclaimer of opinion

The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024 ('the Regulations') require the Chief Constable to publish audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 by 27 February 2026 ('the backstop date'). The backstop date has been put in law with the purpose of clearing the backlog of historical financial statements.

On 28 February 2025, we issued a disclaimer of opinion on the Chief Constable's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. We were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence by 28 February 2025, the previous backstop date, over the Chief Constable's opening balances, in-year movements in the net pension liability, pay-related costs, the contributions paid in to and benefits paid out from the police pension fund, the closing balance of the net pension liability, and the closing reserves balance reported in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. We were therefore unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence over the associated corresponding figures for the year ended 31 March 2025 for the same reason.

As a result of the limitations imposed by the backstop date, we have been unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence over the Chief Constable's opening balance of the net pension liability and reserves reported in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. Consequently, we have been unable to satisfy ourselves over in-year movements in the net pension liability. This has resulted in uncertainty over the closing balance of the net pension liability of £1,515 million as at 31 March 2025. We have also been unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence by the backstop date to conclude that the benefits paid out from the police pension fund for the year ended 31 March 2025 were free from material misstatement. This has also resulted in uncertainty over the Chief Constable's closing reserves balance of £1,520 million as at 31 March 2025.

We have concluded that the possible effect of these matters on the financial statements could be both material and pervasive. We have therefore issued a disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements. This enables the Chief Constable to comply with the requirement of the Regulations to publish the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 by the backstop date.

#### Other information we are required to report on by exception under the Code of Audit Practice

Because of the significance of the matters described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we have been unable to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with the requirements of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024-25, or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit. We are not required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement addresses all risks and controls or that risks are satisfactorily addressed by internal controls.

#### Opinion on other matters required by the Code of Audit Practice

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Financial Report, other than the Chief Constable's financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Because of the significance of the matters described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we have been unable to form an opinion, whether based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the financial statements and our

knowledge of the Chief Constable gained through our work in relation to the Chief Constable's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, whether the other information published together with the financial statements in the Annual Financial Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

## **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make a written recommendation to the Chief Constable under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit.

We have nothing to report in respect of the above matters.

## **Responsibilities of the Chief Constable and the Chief Finance Officer**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Chief Constable is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. That officer is the Chief Finance Officer. The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Annual Financial Report, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024-25, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Chief Finance Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Chief Finance Officer is responsible for assessing the Chief Constable's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they have been informed by the relevant national body of the intention to dissolve the Chief Constable without the transfer of its services to another public sector entity.

## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our responsibility is to conduct an audit of the Chief Constable's financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and to issue an auditor's report. However, because of the matters described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on those financial statements.

We are independent of the Chief Constable in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

## **Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the ISAs (UK).

The audit was defective in its ability to detect irregularities, including fraud, on the basis that we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence due to the matters described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report.

## **Report on other legal and regulatory requirements – the Chief Constable’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources**

### **Matter on which we are required to report by exception – the Chief Constable’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources**

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, we have not been able to satisfy ourselves that the Chief Constable has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2025.

We have nothing to report in respect of the above matter.

### **Responsibilities of the Chief Constable**

The Chief Constable is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

### **Auditor’s responsibilities for the review of the Chief Constable’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources**

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to be satisfied that the Chief Constable has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Chief Constable’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2024. This guidance sets out the arrangements that fall within the scope of ‘proper arrangements’. When reporting on these arrangements, the Code of Audit Practice requires auditors to structure their commentary on arrangements under three specified reporting criteria:

- Financial sustainability: how the Chief Constable plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;
- Governance: how the Chief Constable ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks; and
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the Chief Constable uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.

We document our understanding of the arrangements the Chief Constable has in place for each of these three specified reporting criteria, gathering sufficient evidence to support our risk assessment and commentary in our Auditor’s Annual Report. In undertaking our work, we consider whether there is evidence to suggest that there are significant weaknesses in arrangements.

## **Report on other legal and regulatory requirements – Delay in certification of completion of the audit**

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate for the Chief Constable for Leicestershire for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have received confirmation from the National Audit Office that the audit of Whole of Government Accounts is complete for the year ended 31 March 2025. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

## Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Chief Constable, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 85 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Chief Constable those matters we are required to state to the Chief Constable in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Chief Constable as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

## ***Laurelin Griffiths***

Laurelin Griffiths, Key Audit Partner  
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor

Birmingham  
26 February 2026

### **Accounting policies**

These are a set of rules and codes of practice used in preparing the accounts.

### **Accrual**

A sum included in the accounts to cover income or expenditure attributable to an accounting period for goods supplied and received or works done but for which payment has not been received or made by the end of the period.

### **Actuarial gain/loss**

The change in pension liabilities that arises because either events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (experience gains or losses) or because the actuarial assumptions themselves have changed.

### **Actuarial Valuation**

A valuation of the assets of a pension scheme, an estimate of the present value of benefits to be paid and an estimate of the future required contributions into a pension scheme.

### **Amortisation**

The annual amount charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement in respect of the consumption of intangible non-current assets (i.e. software licenses).

### **Budget**

A statement of the OCC's plans in financial terms. A budget is prepared and approved by the Police & Crime Commissioner prior to the start of each financial year.

### **Capital expenditure**

Expenditure on the acquisition of a non-current asset or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of an existing non-current asset.

### **Capital financing requirement**

The capital financing requirement represents capital expenditure financed by external debt and not by capital receipts, revenue contributions, capital grants or third-party contributions at the time of spending. It measures the OPCC's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose.

### **Capital grant**

Grant received from central government that is used to finance specific schemes in the capital programme. Where capital grants are receivable, these are used as far as possible to finance relevant capital expenditure within the year they are received.

### **Capital receipts**

Proceeds from the sale of an asset, which may be used to finance new capital expenditure or to repay outstanding loan debt as laid down within rules set by central government.

### **CIPFA**

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. This is the main professional body for accountants working in the public services.

### **Commuted lump sums**

These are the amounts paid to officers when they retire, if they choose to have a lower pension.

### **Contingent liabilities**

A contingent liability is either:

- a possible obligation arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the OPCC's control, or
- a present obligation arising from past events where it is not probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

### **Corporate and democratic core**

These represent the costs of delivering public accountability and representation in policy making and meeting our legal responsibilities.

### **Creditors**

Amounts owed by the OPCC for work done, goods received or services rendered which have not been paid for by the end of the financial year.

### **Current service cost (Pensions)**

The increase in the present value of pension liabilities generated in the financial year by employees. It is an estimate of the true economic cost of employing people in the financial year, earning service that will eventually entitle them to the receipt of pension benefits on retirement.

### **Debtors**

Sums of money due to the OPCC for work done or services supplied but not received at the end of the period.

### **Deferred liabilities**

Liabilities which by arrangement are payable beyond the next year at some point in the future or paid off by an annual sum over a period of time.

### **Defined benefit scheme**

A pension or other retirement benefit scheme, with rules that usually define the benefits independently of the contributions payable and where the benefits are not directly related to the investments of the scheme. The scheme may be funded or unfunded.

### **Depreciation**

The measure of the cost or revalued amount of the benefits of the non-current asset that have been consumed during the period. Consumption includes the wearing out, using up or other reduction in the useful life of a non-current asset whether arising from use, passing of time or obsolescence through either changes in technology or the demand for the service produced by the asset.

### **Financial regulations**

A written code of procedures approved by the OPCC and intended to provide a framework for the proper financial management of the OPCC. The financial regulations are supported by detailed financial instructions.

### **Financial year**

The period of time commencing on the 1<sup>st</sup> April covered by the accounts.

### **Formula spending share**

The proportion of spending by local authorities which the government considers should be attributed to each OPCC and used as a basis for distributing grant.

### **Impairment**

A reduction in the value of a non-current asset below the amount shown on the balance sheet.

### **Investment property**

Those assets held primarily to realise increases in their value and/or income (i.e. where rented to a third-party).

### **LASAAC**

Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee

### **Leasing**

A method of financing capital expenditure where a rental charge is paid for a specified period of time. There are two main types of leasing arrangements:

- finance leases which transfer all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a non-current asset to the lessee. The lessee recognises both an asset (right-of-use asset) and a liability (lease obligation) on the balance sheet.

operating leases where the ownership of the asset remains with the leasing company. The lessee recognises the lease expense on the income and expenditure statement and may or may not recognise a right-of-use asset and lease liability, depending on the specific value and lease term.

### **Liquid resources**

Assets which can be realised within a very short period of time. For example cash held in an instant-access bank account is considered a liquid resource.

### **Minimum revenue provision**

The minimum amount that the OPCC is statutorily required to set aside from revenue each year as a provision to meet credit liabilities. For the OPCC this relates to a principal sum based on a prudent assessment of the useful life of the asset, which is used for the redemption of external debt.

### **Net book value**

The amount at which non-current assets are included in the balance sheet and being their historical cost or current value, less the cumulative amounts charged for depreciation, amortisation and any impairment losses.

### **Non-current assets**

Tangible and intangible assets that yield benefits to the OPCC for a period of more than one year.

### **Non distributed costs**

This is where overheads are not charged or apportioned to activities within the service expenditure analysis in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account.

### **Past service cost (pensions)**

Represents the increase in pension liabilities caused by decisions taken in the financial year concerning retirement benefits but whose financial effect is derived from pensionable service earned in earlier financial years.

### **Precept**

The levy by which the OPCC obtains the income it requires from council tax.

### **Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)**

A government agency that provides borrowing to local authorities at preferential interest rates.

### **Receipts and payments**

Amounts actually paid or received in a given accounting period irrespective of the period for which they are due.

### **Unusable reserves**

These are reserves resulting from the interaction of legislation and proper accounting practices. These reserves are not resource backed and cannot be used for any other purpose.

### **Usable reserves**

These are held at the discretion of the OPCC and are resource backed. Usable reserves may either be general (in the case of the general fund) or specific (in the case of the earmarked reserves).