

CIPFA Police and Fire Network and CIPFA Better Governance Forum

Introduction to Police Audit Committees

By webinar

18 & 19 June 2025 (mornings only)

Purpose

This event, being delivered by two half-day webinars, provides an essential introduction to the role of the audit committees that support police and crime commissioners and chief constables in England and Wales. The webinars are intended for members and staff who are new to audit committee working. They introduce the main areas of responsibility for an audit committee and help you to make a more effective contribution. In particular, they focus on enabling you to provide a useful check and challenge to staff reporting to you.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of these webinars you will understand:

- The purpose of a police joint audit committee and how it is held accountable
- The governance arrangements of local policing bodies and their relationships to the audit committee
- The key roles and responsibilities an audit committee fulfils
- How an audit committee can be chaired effectively and the importance of good support for its effective working
- How to work with your internal and external auditors, including understanding audit reports
- Approaches to questioning, challenging and supporting staff and auditors.

Who Will Benefit

The webinars are designed for recently appointed audit committee members for police and crime commissioners and chief constables. They will also benefit audit committee members who wish to challenge themselves to improve and identify new ideas. Officers who support audit committees will find them a useful opportunity to gain an unfettered view of what committee members really expect of them.

Programme

18 June 2025

10:00 – 10:05

Introductions and webinar overview

10:05 – 10:30

Audit committee purpose and accountability

- Why do audit committees exist?
 - To whom and how is an audit committee accountable?
-

10:30 – 11:00

Audit committees in policing

- The basis on which police joint audit committees were established
 - The governance arrangements of police bodies and their relationships with audit committees
-

11:00 – 11:15

Break

11:15 – 12:00

The key roles and responsibilities of those contributing to an audit committee

- Introducing the main areas of responsibility of an audit committee
 - How officers and staff work with the audit committee
 - What support does an audit committee need?
-

12.00 – 12.30

Developing the knowledge, skills and effectiveness of the audit committee

- The role of the chair
 - Knowledge and skills of the audit committee member
 - Self-assessment and effectiveness of the committee
-

12:30 – 12:40

Q&A

In addition to being able to ask questions during the sessions, there is an opportunity at the end of the webinar to ask questions and look ahead to part two.

12:40

End of webinar 1

19 June 2025

10:00 – 10:15

Introductions and recap of webinar 1

10:15 – 11:00

Understanding Good Governance

- The basics of good governance
- Introducing the key frameworks and guidance notes for police bodies
- Challenging the effectiveness of your governance
- The Annual Governance Statement

11:00 – 11:15

Break

11:15 – 12:00

Working with Internal and External Audit

- The role of internal audit and external audit and relationships with the committee
- An overview of the professional standards for internal audit (the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards), with a particular focus on the role required of the audit committee
- External audit plans and reporting responsibilities
- Making effective use of audit reports

12:00 – 12:20

Questioning, challenging and supporting officers and auditors

- Asking useful questions
- Getting to the bottom of matters
- Holding officers to account for their actions

12:20 – 12:40

Q&A

A further opportunity for delegates to ask questions or discuss issues raised during the two webinars.

Your facilitators will be Diana Melville, Governance Advisor, CIPFA, and Alison Dewhirst, Police associate advisor CIPFA.

We reserve the right to alter the timing or content of sessions where circumstances require.



CIPFA Sustainability Policy

CIPFA is delivering all of our training courses, workshops and seminars in accordance with our sustainability strategy. We do not provide hardcopy course materials to delegates and these are now distributed by email in advance of the event. We are striving to reduce our carbon footprint in every way that we can, and we hope that we can count on your support.