



Grant Thornton

The Joint Audit Findings (ISA 260) Report for The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria and The Chief Constable of Cumbria Constabulary

Year ended 31 March 2026

23 September 2026



The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
for Cumbria and Chief Constable of
Cumbria Constabulary

Carleton Hall
Penrith
Cumbria
CA10 2AU

23 September 2026

Dear Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable

Joint Audit Findings for The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria and Chief Constable of Cumbria Constabulary for the 31 March 2026

This Joint Audit Findings Report presents the observations arising from the audit that are significant to yourselves as those charged with governance to oversee the financial reporting process and confirmation of auditor independence, as required by International Standard on Auditing (UK) 260. Its contents have been discussed with management.

As auditor we are responsible for performing the audit, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK), which is directed towards forming and expressing an opinion on the financial statements that have been prepared by management with the oversight of those charged with governance. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements.

The contents of this report relate only to those matters which came to our attention during the conduct of our normal audit procedures which are designed for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements. Our audit is not designed to test all internal controls or identify all areas of control weakness. However, where, as part of our testing, we identify control weaknesses, we will report these to you. In consequence, our work cannot be relied upon to disclose all defalcations or other irregularities, or to include all possible improvements in internal control that a more extensive special examination might identify. This report has been prepared solely for your benefit and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. We do not accept any responsibility for any loss occasioned to any third party acting, or refraining from acting on the basis of the content of this report, as this report was not prepared for, nor intended for, any other purpose.

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Grant Thornton UK LLP

Landmark
St Peter's Square
1 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 4PB

T +44 (0) 161 953 6900

www.grantthornton.co.uk

We encourage you to read our transparency report which sets out how the firm complies with the requirements of the Audit Firm Governance Code and the steps we have taken to manage risk, quality and internal control particularly through our Quality Management Approach. The report includes information on the firm's processes and practices for quality control, for ensuring independence and objectivity, for partner remuneration, our governance, our international network arrangements and our core values, amongst other things. This report is available at [transparency-report-2025-.pdf \(grantthornton.co.uk\)](https://www.grantthornton.co.uk/transparency-report-2025-.pdf).

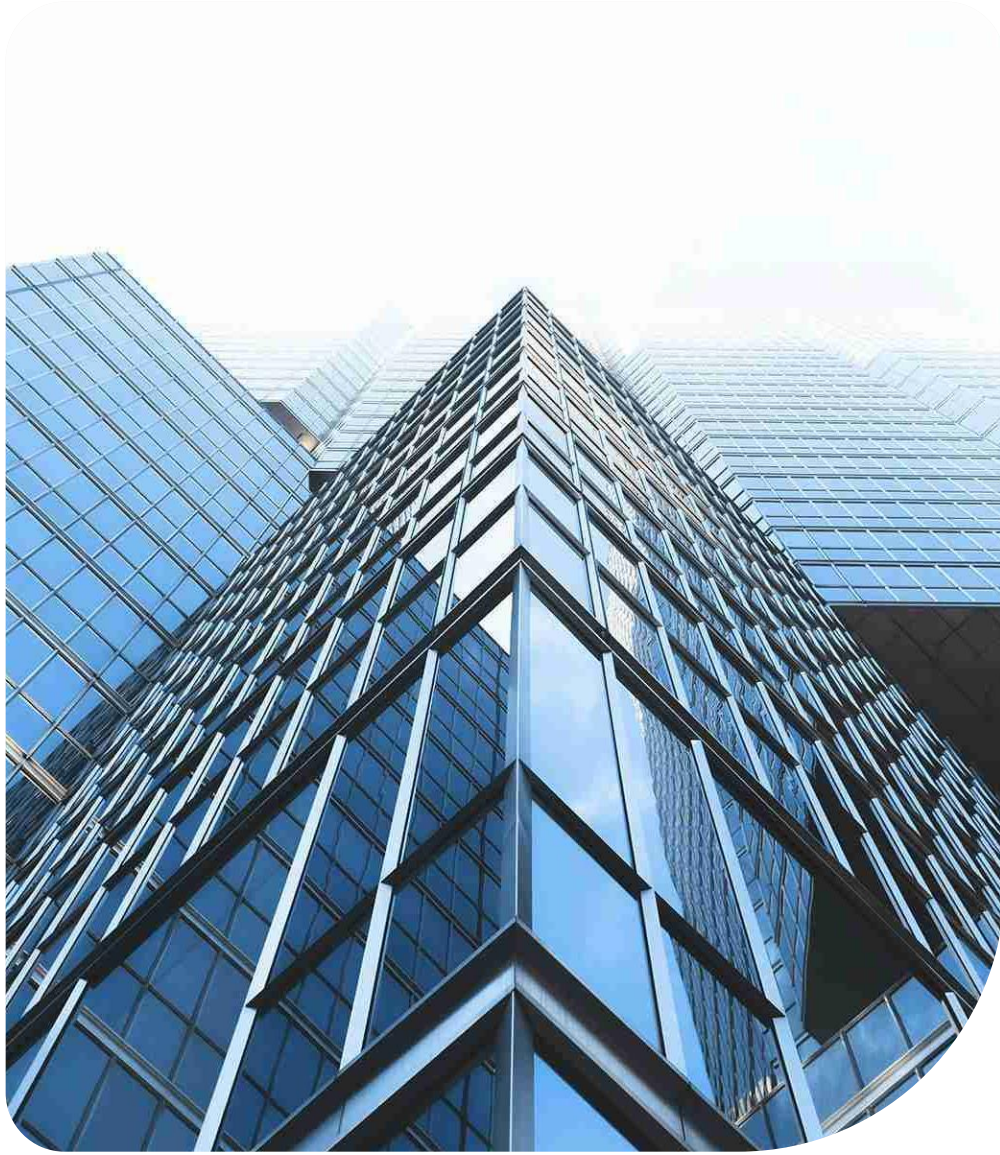
We would like to take this opportunity to record our appreciation for the kind assistance provided by the finance team and other staff during our audit.

Elizabeth Luddington

Elizabeth Luddington

Director
For Grant Thornton UK LLP

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Headlines

This table summarises the key findings and other matters arising from the statutory audits of The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria (the ‘PFCC’) and The Chief Constable of Cumbria Constabulary and the preparation of the PFCC’s and Chief Constable’s financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 for those charged with governance.

Financial statements

Under International Standards of Audit (UK) (ISAs) and the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'), we are required to report whether, in our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial positions of the PFCC, Group and Chief Constable’s income and expenditure for the year
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting and prepared in accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We are also required to report whether other information published together with each set of audited financial statements (including the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) and Narrative Report) is materially consistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise whether this information appears to be materially misstated.

Our audit work was completed remotely during July-September. Our findings are summarised on the following pages. We have not identified any adjusted or unadjusted misstatements in the PFCC or Chief Constable financial statements, which impact on the reported outturn. There has been an adjustment in respect of the pension asset following our review of the asset ceiling calculation. A small number of misclassification and disclosure changes were identified, which are detailed on pages 21-24.

We have also raised one recommendation for management set out on page 25 and reported our follow up of the prior year’s recommendation on page 26.

Our work is complete and our audit opinions for the PFCC’s financial statements (including the financial statements which consolidate the financial activities of the Chief Constable) and the Chief Constable’s financial statements are unmodified and were issued on 23 September 2026. We have concluded that the other information to be published with the financial statements, is consistent with our knowledge of your organisations and the financial statements we have audited.

Our work on the PFCC’s and Chief Constable’s value for money (VFM) arrangements is complete. The outcome of our VFM work is reported in our commentary on the PFCC’s and Chief Constable’s arrangements in our Auditor’s Annual Report (AAR).

Headlines (continued)

Value for money (VFM) arrangements

Under the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice (the 'Code'), we are required to consider whether the Authority has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Auditors are required to report in more detail on the Authority's overall arrangements, as well as key recommendations on any significant weaknesses in arrangements identified during the audit.

Auditors are required to report their commentary on the Authority's arrangements under the following specified criteria:

- Financial sustainability
- Governance
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

We have completed our VFM work, which is summarised on page 27, and our detailed commentary is set out in the separate Joint Auditor's Annual Report, which is presented alongside this report. We are satisfied that the PFCC and Chief Constable have made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in their use of resources.

Headlines (continued)

Statutory duties

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the ‘Act’) also requires us to:

- report to you if we have applied any of the additional powers and duties ascribed to us under the Act
- to certify the closure of the audit.

We have not applied any of the additional powers and duties ascribed to us under the Act.

We have completed the majority of work required under the Code. However, we cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate for the PFCC and CC for the year ended 31 March 2026 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have completed the work necessary in relation to the consolidation returns and we have received confirmation from the National Audit Office the audit of the Whole of Government Accounts is complete for the year ended 31 March 2026. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Significant matters

We did not encounter any significant difficulties or identify any significant matters arising during our audits.

There continues to be a high level of engagement from the finance team, which greatly assists with the delivery of an efficient and effective year end audit process, so thank you for the continued support.

Group audit

In accordance with ISA (UK) 600 Revised, as group auditor we are required to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the components and the consolidation process to express an opinion on whether the group financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

The table below summarises our final group scoping, as well as the status of work on each component.

Component	Risk of material misstatement to the group	Scope – planning	Scope – final	Status	Comments
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria	Yes	Full audit	Full audit	●G	Our work is complete and there are no matters of which we are aware that would require modification of our audit opinion for the PFCC’s financial statements.
Chief Constable of Cumbria Constabulary	Yes	Full audit	Full audit	●G	Our work is complete and there are no matters of which we are aware that would require modification of our audit opinion for the Chief Constable’s financial statements.

- R Planned procedures are incomplete and/or significant issues have been identified that require resolution.
- A Planned procedures are ongoing/subject to review with no known significant issues.
- G Planned procedures are substantially complete with no significant issues outstanding.

Our approach to materiality

As communicated in our Audit Plan dated 25 March 2026, we determined materiality at the planning stage as £5.320m based on 2.5% of prior year gross expenditure for the group. At year-end, we have reconsidered planning materiality based on the draft consolidated financial statements and concluded that we will not update materiality from the amounts determined at planning as the determined amount remains appropriate.

A recap of our approach to determining materiality is set out below.

Basis for our determination of materiality

- We have determined financial statement materiality based on a proportion of the gross expenditure of the group, the PFCC and the Chief Constable (CC) for the financial year. For our audit testing purposes, we apply the lowest of these materialities, which is £4.67m which equates to 2.5% of the CC's prior year gross expenditure.
- Materiality levels remain the same as reported in our audit plan on 25 March 2026.

Performance materiality

We have determined component performance materialities to be set at between £3.503m and £3.570m. For our audit testing we have applied the lowest of these, which is £3.503m, which equates to 75% of the Chief Constable's financial statements materiality.

Specific materiality

Materiality has been reduced to £0.064m for senior officer remuneration disclosures due to the sensitive nature and public interest. This is an increase from £0.051m at planning, which was based on prior year expenditure.

Reporting threshold

We have reported to you all misstatements identified in excess of £0.234m in addition to any matters considered to be qualitatively material.

Our approach to materiality

A summary of our approach to determining materiality is set out below.

	Group (£)	PFCC (£)	Chief Constable (£)	Qualitative factors considered
Materiality for the financial statements	£5.329m	£4.790m	£4.670m	Financial performance, focusing on the expenditure.
Performance materiality	£3.990m	£3.570m	£3.503m	Quality of working papers in prior year and client’s response to audit processes.
Specific materiality for senior officer remuneration	£0.064m	£0.064m	£0.064m	Materiality has been reduced for remuneration disclosures due to the sensitive nature and public interest.
Reporting threshold	£0.266m	£0.238m	£0.234m	The amount below which matters would be considered trivial to the reader of the accounts.

Overview of audit risks

The below table summarises the significant risks discussed in more detail on the subsequent pages.

Significant risks are defined by ISAs (UK) as an identified risk of material misstatement for which the assessment of inherent risk is close to the upper end of the spectrum due to the degree to which risk factors affect the combination of the likelihood of a misstatement occurring and the magnitude of the potential misstatement if that misstatement occurs.

Other risks are, in the auditor’s judgement, those where the risk of material misstatement is lower than that for a significant risk, but they are nonetheless an area of focus for our audit.

Risk title	Relates to	Risk level	Change in risk since Audit Plan	Fraud risk	Level of judgement or estimation uncertainty	Assessment from work
Management override of controls	Group	Significant	↔	✓	Low	●G
Valuation of land and buildings	PFCC	Significant	↔	✗	High	●G
Valuation of the pension fund net asset/liability	Group	Significant	↔	✗	High	●A
Risk of fraud in revenue recognition	Group	Rebutted	↔	✓	Low	●G
Risk of fraud in expenditure cycle	Group	Rebutted	↔	✓	Low	●G

- ↑ Assessed risk increase since Audit Plan
- ↔ Assessed risk consistent with Audit Plan
- ↓ Assessed risk decrease since Audit Plan

- G Not likely to result in material adjustment or change to disclosures within the financial statements
- A Potential to result in material adjustment or significant change to disclosures within the financial statements
- R Likely to result in material adjustment or significant change to disclosures within the financial statements

Significant risks

Risk identified	Relates to	Audit procedures performed	Key observations
Management override of controls Under ISA (UK) 240 there is a non-rebuttable presumed risk that the risk of management override of controls is present in all entities. We have therefore identified management override of controls, in particular journals, management estimates and transactions outside the course of business as a significant risk of material misstatement.	Group	We have: • reviewed accounting estimates, critical judgements and significant decisions made by management; • evaluated the design and implementation of journal controls; • reviewed accounting policies and any changes to those policies; • tested journals entries for appropriateness; and • reviewed unusual significant transactions.	In performing the procedures above, we identified a population of journals to test using data analytic software to analyse journal entries and to split large batch journals into smaller sets of transactions that support targeted testing based on specific risk criteria assessed by the audit team. These criteria included: • Post year-end journals • Year-end journals • Year-end expenditure accrual journals • Journals posted by senior management • Journals posted by users with administrative access to Oracle • Credits to expenditure codes above 50% of performance materiality • Off ledger adjustments Application of these routines and supplementary procedures identified a total sample of 33 journals to test. As part of our review of journal procedures we continue to note that only journal lines over £50k are approved by senior management, journal lines which are less than £50k, are not approved. Our sample testing of journals, including those where journal lines were less than £50k did not identify any matters for concern with all journal lines appropriate and reasonable. In addition, the, we did not raise a recommendation in respect of this. It was noted as part of our IT audit work that three users had administrative access to Oracle, with a role that is used to configure and set up the system during implementation. We reviewed all journals posted by these users and selected several for testing as per the criteria above. Please see page 25 for details of the recommendation linked to this issue. Our journals work is complete and did not identify any evidence of management over-ride of controls. We did not identify any changes in accounting policies or estimation processes and our review of key estimates has not identified any matters to bring to your attention.

Significant risks (continued)

Risk identified	Relates to	Audit procedures performed	Key observations
Valuation of land and buildings This valuation represents a significant estimate by management in the financial statements due to the size of the numbers involved, being £69.3m as at 31 March 2026 and the sensitivity of this estimate to changes in key assumptions. The valuation of land and buildings is a key accounting estimate which is derived, depending on the valuation methodology, from assumptions that reflect market observations and the condition of the asset at the time. However, the valuation methodology for land and buildings is specified in detail in the CIPFA Code and the sector is highly regulated by RICS, therefore we have focused our audit attention on assets that have large and unusual changes and/or approaches to the valuation of land and buildings, as a significant risk requiring special audit consideration.	PFCC and Group	We have: - evaluated management’s processes and assumptions for the calculation of the estimate, the instructions issued to valuation experts and the scope of their work; - evaluated the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the valuation expert; - written to the valuer to confirm the basis on which the valuation was carried out to ensure that the requirements of the code are met; - challenged the information and assumptions used by the valuer to assess the completeness and consistency with our understanding; - evaluated the valuer’s report to identify assets that have large and unusual changes and/ or approaches to the valuation – these assets have been substantively tested to ensure the valuations are reasonable; - tested a selection of asset revaluations performed during the year to see if they have been input correctly into the PFCC and Group asset register, revaluation reserve and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement; and - evaluated the assumptions made by management for the indexation of assets not subject to a formal revaluation.	Our work in this area is complete. Our work on the calculations performed by the valuer showed that the valuations had been based on realistic and sound assumptions supported by floor and site plans, building rate costs and rationale for various obsolescence factors applied. Our work on indexation applied by management showed that the application was appropriate and based on underlying assumptions that could be verified back to BCIS source data. Based on our audit work, we are satisfied that the value of Property, Plant and Equipment is not materially misstated within the financial statements.

Significant risks (continued)

Risk identified	Relates to	Audit procedures performed	Key observations
Valuation of net pension asset/liability for Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and Police Pension Fund (PPF) The PFCC and Chief Constable’s pension fund net liability, as reflected in its balance sheet as the net defined benefit liability, represents significant estimate in the financial statements. The pension fund net liability is considered a significant estimate due to the size of the numbers involved (PPF – £975m liability and LGPS £0m – after a £68.9m asset ceiling adjustment) at 31 March 2026) and the sensitivity of the estimate to changes in key assumptions. We therefore identified valuation of the Group’s pension fund net liability as a significant risk, which was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement	Group	We have: • updated our understanding of the processes and controls put in place by management to ensure that the PFCC and Chief Constable’s pension fund net liability is not materially misstated and evaluated the design of the associated controls; • evaluated the instructions issued by management to their management expert (an actuary) for this estimate and the scope of the actuary’s work; • assessed the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the actuary who carried out the Group’s pension fund valuation; • assessed the actuary’s approach taken and work undertaken to confirm reasonableness of approach; • used the work of PWC, as auditor’s expert, to assess the assumptions made by the actuary; • tested the consistency of the pension fund asset and liability and disclosures in the notes to the core financial statements with the actuarial report from the actuary; • undertaken procedures to confirm the reasonableness of the actuarial assumptions made by reviewing the report of the consulting actuary (as auditor’s expert) and performed the additional procedures suggested with the report, including confirmation of the scope of the actuary’s work and whether the application of IFRIC 14 has been considered; and • obtained assurances from the auditor of Cumbria Local Government Pension Scheme as to the controls surrounding the validity and accuracy of membership data, contributions data and benefits data sent to the actuary by the pension fund and the fund assets valuation in the pension fund financial statements.	We requested assurances from the auditor of Cumbria Pension Fund as to the controls surrounding the validity and accuracy of membership data; contributions data and benefits data sent to the actuary by the pension fund and the fund assets valuation in the pension fund financial statements. We have now received these assurances from the pension fund auditor. We note that there has been a change in the pension fund asset values but this has no impact on the balance sheet as pension assets are capped at zero following adjustment below, see pages 21 & 24 for further details. As part of our LGPS work we noted that the actuary had considered secondary contributions in perpetuity rather than over the funding horizon only, which is what we would expect. The actuary revised their asset ceiling calculations and produced revised statements, which have resulted in adjustment of £26.39m to pension asset for the PFCC and group, as detailed on page 23. The assumptions used in calculating the net pension liability/surplus of both schemes are considered to be in line with expectations and we have not identified any issues with the estimation process. Based on our audit work, we are satisfied that the balance is not materially misstated within the financial statements.

Significant risks (continued)

Risk identified	Relates to	Audit procedures performed	Key observations
Presumed risk of fraud in revenue recognition Under ISA (UK) 240, there is a rebuttable presumed risk of material misstatement due to the improper recognition of revenue. This presumption can be rebutted if the auditor concludes that there is no risk of material misstatement due to fraud related to revenue recognition. During our audit planning, we considered the risk factors set out in ISA (UK) 240 and the nature of the revenue streams of the PFCC and the Chief Constable, and determined that the risk of fraud arising from revenue recognition could be rebutted. The assessment detailed in our Audit Plan remains appropriate.	Group	As set out in our Audit Plan, we do not consider this to be a significant risk for the PFCC and Chief Constable. Having considered the risk factors set out in ISA (UK) 240 and the nature of the revenue streams of the PFCC and the Chief Constable, we have determined that the risk of fraud arising from revenue recognition can be rebutted, because: • there is little incentive to manipulate revenue recognition; • opportunities to manipulate revenue recognition are very limited; • the majority of revenue received by the PFCC derives from taxation and grant income which is difficult to manipulate; • all revenue received by the Chief Constable comes from the PFCC; and • the culture and ethical frameworks of public sector bodies, including the Chief Constable comes from the PFCC, mean that all forms of fraud are seen as unacceptable. Whilst revenue recognition was not identified as a significant risk, we have carried out procedures and detailed testing of material revenue streams to gain assurance over this area. We reviewed and tested, on a sample basis, revenue transactions, ensuring that it remained appropriate to rebut the presumed risk of revenue recognition, and designed and carried out appropriate audit procedures to ascertain the recognition of income is in the correct accounting period using cut-off testing.	We did not identify instances of fraudulent revenue recognition or any reason to change our assessment of the risk in this area. Our work on completeness did not identify any items recorded in the wrong period. We are satisfied that judgements made by management are appropriate and have been determined using consistent methodology. Having assessed management judgements and estimates individually and in aggregate we are satisfied that there is no material misstatement arising from management bias across the financial statements.

Significant risks (continued)

Risk identified	Relates to	Audit procedures performed	Key observations
The expenditure cycle includes fraudulent transactions Practice Note 10 (PN10) states that as most public bodies are net spending bodies, then the risk of material misstatements due to fraud related to expenditure may be greater than the risk of material misstatements due to fraud related to revenue recognition. As a result under PN10, there is a requirement to consider the risk that expenditure may be misstated due to the improper recognition of expenditure. During our audit planning, we identified and completed a risk assessment of all expenditure streams for the PFCC and Chief Constable. We rebutted the presumed risk that expenditure may be misstated due to the improper recognition of expenditure for all expenditure streams due to the low fraud risk in the nature of the underlying nature of the transactions. Employee costs account for 80% of expenditure and therefore we deemed the overall risk that expenditure may be misstated due to improper recognition of expenditure to be low. The assessment detailed in our Audit Plan remains appropriate.	Group	As the risk has been rebutted, we do not consider this to be a significant risk for the PFCC or Chief Constable and standard audit procedures have been carried out. We have: • reviewed and tested, on a sample basis, expenditure transactions, ensuring that it remains appropriate to rebut the presumed risk of expenditure recognition. • designed and carried out appropriate audit procedures to ascertain the recognition of expenditure is in the correct accounting period using cut-off testing.	We did not identify instances of fraudulent expenditure recognition or any reason to change our assessment of the risk in this area. Our work on completeness did not identify any items recorded in the wrong period. We are satisfied that judgements made by management are appropriate and have been determined using consistent methodology. Having assessed management judgements and estimates individually and in aggregate we are satisfied that there is no material misstatement arising from management bias across the financial statements.

Other findings – Information Technology

This section provides an overview of results from our assessment of the Information Technology (IT) environment and controls therein which included identifying risks from IT related business process controls relevant to the financial audit. This table below includes an overall IT General Control (ITGC) rating per IT application and details of the ratings assigned to individual control areas.

IT application	Level of assessment performed	Overall ITGC rating	ITGC control area rating			Related significant risks/other risks
			Security management	Technology acquisition, development and maintenance	Technology infrastructure	
Oracle Fusion	Design and Implementation Testing	● A	● A	● G	● G	N/A
Active Directory	Design and Implementation Testing	● G	● G	● B	● B	N/A

The report noted one recommendation, which is included on page 25.

- Assessment:
- R - Significant deficiencies identified in IT controls relevant to the audit of financial statements
 - A - Non-significant deficiencies identified in IT controls relevant to the audit of financial statements/significant deficiencies identified but with sufficient mitigation of relevant risk
 - G - IT controls relevant to the audit of financial statements judged to be effective at the level of testing in scope
 - B - Not in scope for assessment

Other communication requirements

Issue	Commentary
Matters in relation to fraud	• We have previously discussed the risk of fraud with the PFCC, Chief Constable and Joint Audit Committee. We have not been made aware of any incidents in the period and no other issues have been identified during the course of our audit procedures.
Matters in relation to related parties	• We are not aware of any related parties or related party transactions which have not been disclosed.
Matters in relation to laws and regulations	• You have not made us aware of any significant incidences of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations and we have not identified any incidences from our audit work.
Written representations	• Letters of representation have been requested from both the PFCC and the Chief Constable.
Confirmation requests from third parties	• We requested from management permission to send confirmation requests to the PFCC's banking and treasury partners. This permission was granted and the requests were sent and all received with positive confirmation.
Disclosures	• Our review found no material omissions in the financial statements.
Audit evidence and explanations	• All information and explanations requested from management was provided.
Significant difficulties	• There were no significant challenges during the audit.

Other responsibilities

Issue	Commentary
Going concern	In performing our work on going concern, we have had reference to Statement of Recommended Practice – Practice Note 10: Audit of financial statements of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom (Revised 2024). The Financial Reporting Authority recognises that for particular sectors, it may be necessary to clarify how auditing standards are applied to an entity in a manner that is relevant and provides useful information to the users of financial statements in that sector. Practice Note 10 provides that clarification for audits of public sector bodies. Practice Note 10 sets out the following key principles for the consideration of going concern for public sector entities: • The use of the going concern basis of accounting is not a matter of significant focus of the auditor’s time and resources because the applicable financial reporting frameworks envisage that the going concern basis for accounting will apply where the entity’s services will continue to be delivered by the public sector. In such cases, a material uncertainty related to going concern is unlikely to exist, and so a straightforward and standardised approach for the consideration of going concern will often be appropriate for public sector entities. • For many public sector entities, the financial sustainability of the reporting entity and the services it provides is more likely to be of significant public interest than the application of the going concern basis of accounting. Our consideration of the PFCC and Chief Constable’s financial sustainability is addressed by our value for money work, which is covered elsewhere in this report. Practice Note 10 states that if the financial reporting framework provides for the adoption of the going concern basis of accounting on the basis of the anticipated continuation of the provision of a service in the future, the auditor applies the continued provision of service approach set out in Practice Note 10. The financial reporting framework adopted by the PFCC and Chief Constable meets this criteria, and so we have applied the continued provision of service approach. In doing so, we have considered and evaluated: • the nature of the PFCC and Chief Constable and the environment in which they operates • the PFCC and Chief Constable’s financial reporting framework • the PFCC and Chief Constable’s system of internal control for identifying events or conditions relevant to going concern • management’s going concern assessment. On the basis of this work, we have obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence to enable us to conclude that: • a material uncertainty related to going concern has not been identified for either the PFCC or the Chief Constable • management’s use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Other responsibilities

Issue	Commentary
Other information	We are required to give an opinion on whether the other information published together with the audited financial statements (including the Narrative Reports and Annual Governance Statements), is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. No inconsistencies have been identified. We issued an unmodified opinions in this respect.
Matters on which we report by exception	We are required to report on a number of matters by exception in a number of areas: • if the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with disclosure requirements set out in CIPFA/SOLACE guidance or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit, • if we have applied any of our statutory powers or duties. • where we are not satisfied in respect of arrangements to secure value for money and have reported [a] significant weakness/es. We have nothing to report on these matters.
Specified procedures for Whole of Government Accounts	We are required to carry out specified procedures (on behalf of the NAO) on the whole of Government Accounts (WGA) consolidation pack under WGA group audit instructions. Our work has not yet commenced, as we await auditor instructions from the NAO.
Certification of the closure of the audit	We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate for the PFCC and CC for the year ended 31 March 2026 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have completed the work necessary in relation to the consolidation returns and we have received confirmation from the National Audit Office the audit of the Whole of Government Accounts is complete for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Audit adjustments – PFCC

We are required to report all non-trivial misstatements to those charged with governance, whether or not the accounts have been adjusted by management.

Impact of adjusted misstatements

No adjusted misstatements have been identified at the date of issuing our report.

Misclassification and disclosure changes

The table below provides details of misclassification and disclosure changes identified during the audit which have been made in the final set of financial statements.

Disclosure	Misclassification or change identified	Adjusted?
Throughout	A number of typographical errors have been identified throughout the financial statements.	✓
Narrative Report	We have identified a small number of inconsistencies in the narrative report which have been updated for consistency with other information and the financial statements.	✓
Note 1 – Accounting Policies	Intangible asset policy updated to reflect the 2025/26 CIPFA code.	✓
Note 4 – Assumptions made about the future and other Sources of Estimation Uncertainty	Valuations updated to note as quinquennial under the 2025/26 CIPFA code.	✓
Note 9a – Valuations Rolling Programme	Valuations updated to note as quinquennial under the 2025/26 CIPFA code.	✓
Annex B – Technical Annex – Pensions Disclosures	Revised pension gross asset figures were provided by the Pension Fund but there was no impact on balance sheet due to the asset ceiling, and the disclosures have not been adjusted on the grounds of materiality.	x
Annex B – Technical Annex – Pensions Disclosures	Narrative clarified to note that the pension fund is managed by the Local Pensions Partnership Administration (LPPA).	✓

Audit adjustments – PFCC

Impact of unadjusted misstatements.

No unadjusted misstatements have been identified at the date of issuing our report.

Impact of unadjusted misstatements in the prior year

The one unadjusted misstatement identified in the prior year (£370k relating to PPE valuations) was adjusted during the year and therefore does not need to be considered in our assessment on unadjusted items.

Audit adjustments – Chief Constable and Group

We are required to report all non-trivial misstatements to those charged with governance, whether or not the accounts have been adjusted by management.

Impact of adjusted misstatements

The table below provides details of adjustments identified during the audit which have not been made within the final set of financial statements. Those charged with governance are required to approve management's proposed treatment of all items recorded within the table below.

Detail	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000	Balance Sheet £'000	Impact on total net expenditure £'000	Impact on general fund £'000
As part of our LGPS work we noted that the actuary had considered secondary contributions in perpetuity rather than over the funding horizon only, which is what we would expect. The actuary revised their asset ceiling calculations and produced revised statements.	26,393	- 26,393	0	0
Overall impact	26,393	-26,393	0	0

Audit adjustments – Chief Constable

Misclassification and disclosure changes

The table below provides details of misclassification and disclosure changes identified during the audit which have been made in the final set of financial statements.

Disclosure	Misclassification or change identified	Adjusted?
Throughout	A number of typographical errors have been identified throughout the financial statements.	✓
Narrative Report	Wording updated in respect of the publication of the HMICFRS report on approach to Child Protection.	✓
Narrative Report	We have identified a small number of inconsistencies in the narrative report which will be updated for consistency with other information and the financial statements.	✓
Note 1 – Accounting Policies	Intangible asset policy updated to reflect the 2025/26 CIPFA code.	✓
Annex B – Technical Annex – Pensions Disclosures	Revised pension gross asset figures were provided by the Pension Fund but there was no impact on balance sheet due to the asset ceiling, and the disclosures have not been adjusted on the grounds of materiality.	×
Annex B – Technical Annex – Pensions Disclosures	Narrative clarified to note that the pension fund is managed by the Local Pensions Partnership Administration (LPPA).	✓

Impact of unadjusted misstatements

No unadjusted misstatements have been identified.

Action plan

We set out here our recommendation for the PFCC and Chief Constable which we have identified as a result of issues identified during our audit. The matters reported here are limited to those deficiencies that we have identified during the course of our audit and that we have concluded are of sufficient importance to merit being reported to you in accordance with auditing standards.

Assessment	Issue and risk	Recommendation
Medium	During the review of privileged user access within Oracle Fusion as part of our IT audit, we noted that one user who posts journals has access to elevated privileges which includes the role ‘Application Implementation Consultant’. The Application Implementation Consultant role in Oracle Cloud is a highly privileged role used for configuring and setting up the system during implementation. It provides broad access to define structures, manage setup tasks, and configure multiple application modules.	It is recommended that Management performs a review of all users and their access rights in Oracle Fusion and confirm if these align with their designated roles and responsibilities. Management response The users in Finance with privileged access are for the administration of the finance system, adding/removing codes which are all only created with the authorised documentation behind them and are signed off by another member of the Finance Senior Leadership Team prior to the code creation. The additional configuration changes are to enhance or maintain system functionality which result from Oracle releases or bugs found in the system.

Key

- High – Significant impact on control system and/or financial statements
- Medium – Limited impact on control system and/or financial statements
- Low – Best practice for control systems and financial statements

Follow up of prior year recommendation

We identified the following issues in the audit of the PFCC and CC’s 2024/25 financial statements, which resulted in 1 recommendation being reported in our 2024/25 Audit Findings Report. We are pleased to report that management have implemented our recommendation.

Assessment	Issue and risk previously communicated	Update on actions taken to address the issue
✓ Action completed	Users with elevated system privilege in Oracle Fusion During the review of privileged user access within Oracle Fusion, we noted that six users have access to elevated privileges which includes the role ‘Application Implementation Administrator’. This role is assigned when Oracle Fusion is first implemented, allowing the application to be configured as required. It permits a user to make changes to Oracle Fusion system configuration. Risk Elevated access could lead to inappropriate or unauthorized changes to data and functionality within Oracle Fusion. It also increases the risk that system-enforced internal control mechanisms could be bypassed resulting in users being able to: • Make unauthorised changes to system configuration parameters. • Create unauthorised accounts. • Make unauthorised updates to user account privileges	Management have verified via providing the Oracle User Access Report summary page that as of 18 September 2025, the six individuals as listed in our prior year AFR have had their responsibility as Application Implementation Administrator removed.

Assessment

- ✓ Action completed
- X Not yet addressed

Value for Money arrangements

Approach to Value for Money work for the year ended 31 March 2026

The National Audit Office issued its latest Value for Money guidance to auditors in March 2026. The Code requires auditors to consider whether a body has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Additionally, the Code requires auditors to share a draft Auditor's Annual Report (AAR) with those charged with governance by 30 November each year. Our draft AAR accompanies this audit findings report as a separate committee item.

In undertaking our work, we are required to have regard to three specified reporting criteria. These are as set out below.



Financial sustainability

How the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services.



Governance

How the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks.



Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness

How the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.

In undertaking this work we have not identified any significant weaknesses in arrangements. Our Joint Auditor's Annual Report accompanies this audit findings report.

Independence considerations

Ethical Standards and ISA (UK) 260 require us to give you timely disclosure of all significant matters that may bear upon the integrity, objectivity and independence of the firm or covered persons (including its partners, senior managers, managers and network firms). In this context, there are no independence matters that we would like to report to you.

We are required to report to you details of any breaches of the requirements of the FRC Ethical Standard, and of any safeguards applied and actions we have taken to address any threats to independence. No such breaches have been identified by team.

We confirm that we have implemented policies and procedures to meet the requirement of the Financial Reporting Authority's Ethical Standard. Further, we have complied with the requirements of the National Audit Office's Auditor Guidance Note 01 issued in February 2025 which sets out supplementary guidance on ethical requirements for auditors of local public bodies.

As part of our assessment of our independence we note the following matters:

Matter	Conclusions
Relationships with Grant Thornton	We are not aware of any relationships between Grant Thornton and the Chief Constable, PFCC and Group that may reasonably be thought to bear on our integrity, independence and objectivity.
Relationships and investments held by individuals	We have not identified any potential issues in respect of personal relationships with the Chief Constable, PFCC and Group.
Employment of Grant Thornton staff	We are not aware of any former Grant Thornton partners or staff being employed, or holding discussions in respect of employment, by the Group as a director or in a senior management role covering financial, accounting or control related areas.
Business relationships	We have not identified any business relationships between Grant Thornton and the Group.
Contingent fees in relation to non-audit services	No contingent fee arrangements are in place for non-audit services provided.
Gifts and hospitality	We have not identified any gifts or hospitality provided to, or received from, a member of the Group's board, senior management or staff (that would exceed the threshold set in the Ethical Standard).

We confirm that there are no significant facts or matters that impact on our independence as auditors that we are required or wish to draw to your attention and consider that an objective reasonable and informed third party would take the same view. The firm and each covered person and network firms have complied with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard and confirm that we are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements.

Fees and non-audit services

The following tables below sets out the total fees for audit and non-audit services that we have been engaged or charged from the beginning of the financial year to date, as well as the threats to our independence and safeguards that have been applied to mitigate these threats.

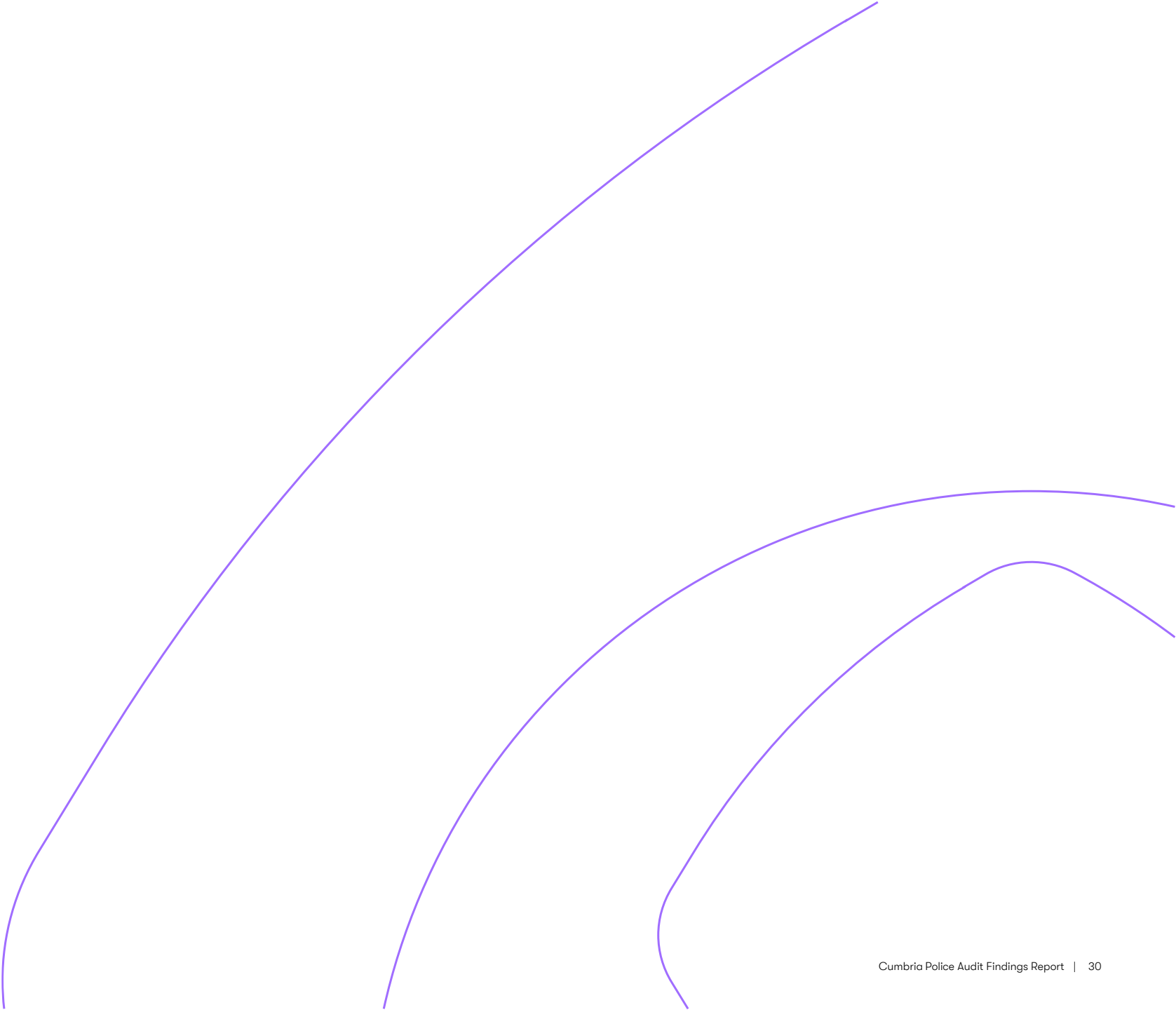
None of the below services were provided on a contingent fee basis.

For the purposes of our audit we have made enquiries of all Grant Thornton teams within the Grant Thornton International Limited network member firms providing services to the PFCC and Chief Constable. There are no non-audit services provided to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner or Chief Constable.

Audit fees	PFCC £	Chief Constable £	Group £
Scale fee	102,847	58,008	160,855
Additional IT related procedures	4,200	1,800	6,000
Total audit fees (excluding VAT)	107,047	59,808	166,855

- The above fees are exclusive of VAT.
- The fees agree to the financial statements.
- The fees reconcile to the financial statements as follows:
 - fees per financial statements £165k
 - Under-accrual £2k
 - Total fees per above £167k

Appendices

Three decorative purple arcs of varying radii are positioned on the right side of the page, starting from the bottom and curving upwards and to the right.

A. Communication of audit matters with those charged with governance

Our communication plan	Joint Audit Plan	Joint Audit Findings
Respective responsibilities of auditor and management/those charged with governance	●	
Overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit, form, timing and expected general content of communications including significant risks	●	
Confirmation of independence and objectivity	●	●
A statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence. Relationships and other matters which might be thought to bear on independence. Details of non-audit work performed by Grant Thornton UK LLP and network firms, together with fees charged. Details of safeguards applied to threats to independence	●	●
Significant matters in relation to going concern	●	●
Matters in relation to the group audit, including: Scope of work on components, limitations of scope on the group audit, fraud or suspected fraud	●	●
Views about the qualitative aspects of the Group’s accounting and financial reporting practices including accounting policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures		●
Significant findings from the audit		●
Significant matters and issue arising during the audit and written representations that have been sought		●
Significant difficulties encountered during the audit		●
Significant deficiencies in internal control identified during the audit		●
Significant matters arising in connection with related parties		●

B. Management letter of representation - PFCC

Grant Thornton UK LLP
11th Floor
Landmark St Peter's Square
1 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 4PB

[**Date as per date of signing financial statements**]

Dear Grant Thornton UK LLP

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026

This representation letter is provided in connection with the audit of the financial statements of The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria (the "PFCC") and its subsidiary undertaking[**s**] (the "group") as shown in Appendix I to this letter, for the year ended 31 March 2026 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the group and PFCC financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025/26 and applicable law.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

Financial Statements

- i. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited, for the preparation of the group and PFCC's financial statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025/26 ("the Code"); in particular the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance therewith.
- ii. We have complied with the requirements of all statutory directions affecting the group and PFCC and these matters have been appropriately reflected and disclosed in the financial statements.
- iii. The PFCC has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the group and PFCC financial statements in the event of non-compliance. There has been no non-compliance with requirements of any regulatory authorities that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.
- iv. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- v. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable. Such accounting estimates include [**add details**]. We are satisfied that the material judgements used in the preparation of the financial statements are soundly based, in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements. We understand our responsibilities includes identifying and considering alternative methods, assumptions or source data that would be equally valid under the financial reporting framework, and why these alternatives were rejected in favour of the estimate used. We are satisfied that the methods, the data and the significant assumptions used by us in making

accounting estimates and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements.

- vi. We confirm that we are satisfied that the actuarial assumptions underlying the valuation of pension scheme assets and liabilities for International Accounting Standard 19 Employee Benefits disclosures are consistent with our knowledge. We confirm that all settlements and curtailments have been identified and properly accounted for. We also confirm that all significant post-employment benefits have been identified and properly accounted for.
- vii. Except as disclosed in the group and PFCC financial statements:
 - a. there are no unrecorded liabilities, actual or contingent;
 - b. none of the assets of the group and PFCC has been assigned, pledged or mortgaged; and
 - c. there are no material prior year charges or credits, nor exceptional or non-recurring items requiring separate disclosure.
- viii. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code.
- ix. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
- x. The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- xi. Actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards.
- xii. We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.
- xiii. We have updated our going concern assessment. We continue to believe that the group and PFCC's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis and have not identified any material uncertainties related to going concern on the grounds that:
 - a. the nature of the group and PFCC means that, notwithstanding any intention to cease the group and PFCC operations in their current form, it will continue to be appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting because, in such an event, services it performs can be expected to continue to be delivered by related public authorities and preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis will still provide a faithful representation of the items in the financial statements
 - b. the financial reporting framework permits the PFCC to prepare its financial statements on the basis of the presumption set out under a) above; and
 - c. the group and PFCC's system of internal control has not identified any events or conditions relevant to going concern.We believe that no further disclosures relating to the group and PFCC's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements
- xiv. The group and PFCC has complied with all aspects of ring-fenced grants that could have a material effect on the group and PFCC's financial statements in the event of non-compliance.

B. Management letter of representation – PFCC continued

Information Provided

- xv. We have provided you with:

a. access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the group and PFCC's financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;

b. additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of your audit; and

c. unrestricted access to persons within the group and PFCC from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Name.....

Position.....

Date.....
- xvi. We have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which management is aware.
- xvii. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- xviii. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- xix. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the group and PFCC, and involves:

a. management;

b. employees who have significant roles in internal control; or

c. others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Date.....
- xx. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.
- xxi. We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
- xxii. We have disclosed to you the identity of the group and PFCC's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.
- xxiii. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

Signed on behalf of the PFCC

Annual Governance Statement

- xxiv. We are satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the PFCC's risk assurance and governance framework, and we confirm that we are not aware of any significant risks that are not disclosed within the AGS.

Narrative Report

- xxv. The disclosures within the Narrative Report fairly reflect our understanding of the group and PFCC's financial and operating performance over the period covered by the financial statements.

Approval

The approval of this letter of representation was minuted by the PFCC's Joint Audit Committee at its meeting on 23 September 2026.

C. Management letter of representation - Chief Constable

Grant Thornton UK LLP
11th Floor
Landmark St Peter's Square
1 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 4PB

[**Date as per date of signing financial statements**]

Dear Grant Thornton UK LLP

The Chief Constable of Cumbria Constabulary
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026

This representation letter is provided in connection with the audit of the financial statements of The Chief Constable of Cumbria Constabulary (the "Chief Constable") for the year ended 31 March 2026 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the Chief Constable's financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025/26 and applicable law.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

Financial Statements

- i. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited, for the preparation of the Chief Constable's financial statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025/26 ("the Code"); in particular the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance therewith.
- ii. We have complied with the requirements of all statutory directions affecting the Chief Constable and these matters have been appropriately reflected and disclosed in the financial statements.
- iii. The Chief Constable has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance. There has been no non-compliance with requirements of any regulatory authorities that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.
- iv. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- v. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable. Such accounting estimates include pension valuations. We are satisfied that the material judgements used in the preparation of the financial statements are soundly based, in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements. We understand our responsibilities includes identifying and considering alternative, methods, assumptions or source data that would be equally valid under the financial reporting framework, and why these alternatives were rejected in favour of the estimate used. We are satisfied that the methods, the data and the significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements.

- vi. We confirm that we are satisfied that the actuarial assumptions underlying the valuation of pension scheme assets and liabilities for International Accounting Standard 19 Employee Benefits disclosures are consistent with our knowledge. We confirm that all settlements and curtailments have been identified and properly accounted for. We also confirm that all significant post-employment benefits have been identified and properly accounted for.
- vii. Except as disclosed in the financial statements:
 - a. there are no unrecorded liabilities, actual or contingent;
 - b. none of the assets of the Chief Constable has been assigned, pledged or mortgaged; and
 - c. there are no material prior year charges or credits, nor exceptional or non-recurring items requiring separate disclosure.
- viii. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code.
- ix. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
- x. The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- xi. Actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards.
- xii. We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.
- xiii. We have updated our going concern assessment. We continue to believe that the Chief Constable's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis and have not identified any material uncertainties related to going concern on the grounds that:
 - a. the nature of the Chief Constable means that, notwithstanding any intention to cease its operations in their current form, it will continue to be appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting because, in such an event, services it performs can be expected to continue to be delivered by related public authorities and preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis will still provide a faithful representation of the items in the financial statements
 - b. the financial reporting framework permits the Chief Constable to prepare its financial statements on the basis of the presumption set out under a) above; and
 - c. the Chief Constable's system of internal control has not identified any events or conditions relevant to going concern.We believe that no further disclosures relating to the Chief Constable's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements.
- xiv. The Chief Constable has complied with all aspects of ring-fenced grants that could have a material effect on the Chief Constable's financial statements in the event of non-compliance.

C. Management letter of representation - Chief Constable continued

Information Provided

- xv. We have provided you with:

a. access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the Chief Constable's financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;

b. additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of your audit; and

c. unrestricted access to persons within the Chief Constable from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Name.....

Position.....

Date.....
- xvi. We have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which management is aware.
- xvii. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- Name.....
- xviii. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- Position.....
- xix. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the Chief Constable and involves:

a. management;

b. employees who have significant roles in internal control; or

c. others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Date.....

xx. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

Signed on behalf of the Chief Constable

xxi. We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.

xxii. We have disclosed to you the identity of the Chief Constable's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

xxiii. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
- Annual Governance Statement
- xxiv. We are satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the Chief Constable's risk assurance and governance framework and we confirm that we are not aware of any significant risks that are not disclosed within the AGS.
- Narrative Report
- xxv. The disclosures within the Narrative Report fairly reflect our understanding of the Chief Constable's financial and operating performance over the period covered by the Chief Constable's financial statements.
- Approval
- The approval of this letter of representation was minuted by the Chief Constable's Joint Audit Committee at its meeting on 23 September 2026.
- Yours faithfully
- © 2026 Grant Thornton UK LLP
- Cumbria Police Audit Findings Report | 35

D. Audit opinion - PFCC

Independent auditor's report to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria (the 'Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner') and its subsidiary the Chief Constable (the 'group') for the year 31 March 2026, which comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement in Reserves, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and include the Police Officer Pension Fund Account financial statements comprising the Police Officer Pension Fund Account, the Pension Fund Net Assets & Liabilities and notes to the Police Officer Pension Fund Account. 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 2025/26.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the group and of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner as at 31 March 2026 and of the group's expenditure and income and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025/26; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law, as required by the Code of Audit Practice (2024) ('the Code of Audit Practice') approved by the Comptroller and Auditor General. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report. We are independent of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and the group 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. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We are responsible for concluding on the appropriateness of the Chief Finance Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the auditor's opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and the group to cease to continue as a going concern.

In our evaluation of the Chief Finance Officer's conclusions, and in accordance with the expectation set out within the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025/26 that the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and group's financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis, we considered the inherent risks associated with the continuation of services provided by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and the group. In doing so we had regard to the guidance provided in Practice Note 10: Audit of financial statements and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom (Revised 2024) on the application of ISA (UK) 570 Going Concern to public sector entities. We assessed the reasonableness of the basis of preparation used by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and group and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and group's disclosures over the going concern period.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Chief Finance Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and the group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

Under the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office in November 2024 on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the Code of Audit Practice) we are required 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 2025/26 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.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters required by the Code of Audit Practice

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the financial statements, the other information published together with the financial statements in the Statement of Accounts 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 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner 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 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Finance Officer

As explained more fully in the Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner 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.

D. Audit opinion - PFCC

The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, 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 2025/26, 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 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's and the group'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 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and the group without the transfer of its services to another public sector entity.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

- Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and the group and determined that the most significant which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements are those related to the reporting frameworks the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025/26, the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024, the Local Government Act 2003, Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, Public Service Pensions Act 2013, Police Pension Fund Regulations 2006 and Police Pensions Regulations 2015.
- We enquired of management and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner concerning the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and group's policies and procedures relating to:
 - the identification, evaluation and compliance with laws and regulations;
 - the detection and response to the risks of fraud; and
 - the establishment of internal controls to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We enquired of management, internal audit and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or whether they had any knowledge of actual, suspected or alleged fraud.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and group's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, by evaluating management's incentives and opportunities for manipulation of the financial statements. We determined that the principal fraud risk was in relation to:
 - management override of controls, particularly in respect of senior management and self-approved journals, management bias in determining income and expenditure accrual amounts or accounting estimates and journals posted by privileged access users.
- Our audit procedures to address the principal fraud risk included:
 - reviewing accounting estimates, critical judgements and significant decisions made by management;
 - evaluating the design and implementation of journal controls;
 - reviewing accounting policies and any changes to those policies;
 - testing journals entries for appropriateness; and
 - reviewing unusual significant transactions.

- These audit procedures were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from fraud or error. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error and detecting irregularities that result from fraud is inherently more difficult than detecting those that result from error, as fraud may involve collusion, deliberate concealment, forgery or intentional misrepresentations. Also, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it or recognise non-compliance.
- We communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members. We remained alert to any indications of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, throughout the audit.
- The engagement partner's assessment of the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the group and Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner audit team members included consideration of their:
 - understanding of, and practical experience with audit engagements of a similar nature and complexity through appropriate training and participation
 - knowledge of the police sector
 - understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements specific to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and group including:
 - the provisions of the applicable legislation
 - guidance issued by CIPFA/LASAAC and SOLACE
 - the applicable statutory provisions.
- In assessing the potential risks of material misstatement, we obtained an understanding of:
 - the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and group's operations, including the nature of its income and expenditure and its services and of its objectives and strategies to understand the classes of transactions, account balances, expected financial statement disclosures and business risks that may result in risks of material misstatement.
 - the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and group's control environment, including the policies and procedures implemented by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and group to ensure compliance with the requirements of the financial reporting framework.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements – the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Matter on which we are required to report by exception – the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner'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 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2026.

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

Responsibilities of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

D. Audit opinion - PFCC

Auditor's responsibilities for the review of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner'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 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner 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 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner'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 relevant guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General. 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 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;
- Governance: how the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks; and
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner 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 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner 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 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria for the year ended 31 March 2026 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 the Whole of Government Accounts is complete for the year ended 31 March 2026. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, 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 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner those matters we are required to state to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner 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 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

[**Signature**]

Elizabeth Luddington, Key Audit Partner

for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor

Manchester

[**Date**]

E. Audit opinion - Chief Constable

Independent auditor's report to the Chief Constable of Cumbria

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Chief Constable for Cumbria (the 'Chief Constable') for the year 31 March 2026, which comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement in Reserves, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and include the Police Officer Pension Fund Account financial statements comprising the Police Officer Pension Fund Account, the Pension Fund Net Assets & Liabilities and notes to the Police Officer Pension Fund Account. 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 2025/26.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Chief Constable as at 31 March 2026 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025/26; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law, as required by the Code of Audit Practice (2024) ('the Code of Audit Practice') approved by the Comptroller and Auditor General. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report. 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. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We are responsible for concluding on the appropriateness of the Constabulary Chief Finance Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Chief Constable's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the auditor's opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Chief Constable to cease to continue as a going concern.

In our evaluation of the Constabulary Chief Finance Officer's conclusions, and in accordance with the expectation set out within the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025/26 that the Chief Constable's financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis, we considered the inherent risks associated with the continuation of services provided by the Chief Constable. In doing so we had regard to the guidance provided in Practice Note 10: Audit of financial statements and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom (Revised 2024) on the application of ISA (UK) 570 Going Concern to public sector entities. We assessed the reasonableness of the basis of preparation used by the Chief Constable and the Chief Constable's disclosures over the going concern period.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Constabulary Chief Finance Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Chief Constable's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Constabulary Chief Finance Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Constabulary Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

Under the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office in November 2024 on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the Code of Audit Practice) we are required 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 2025/26, 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.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters required by the Code of Audit Practice

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the financial statements, the other information published together with the financial statements in the Statement of Accounts 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 Constabulary Chief Finance Officer

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts, 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 Constabulary Chief Finance Officer. The Constabulary Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, 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 2025/26, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Constabulary 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 Constabulary 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

E. Audit opinion - Chief Constable

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 objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Chief Constable and determined that the most significant which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements are those related to the reporting frameworks the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2025/26, the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024, the Local Government Act 2003, Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, Public Service Pensions Act 2013, Police Pension Fund Regulations 2006 and Police Pensions Regulations 2015.
- We enquired of management and the Chief Constable concerning the Chief Constable's policies and procedures relating to:
 - the identification, evaluation and compliance with laws and regulations;
 - the detection and response to the risks of fraud; and
 - the establishment of internal controls to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We enquired of management, internal audit and the Chief Constable whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or whether they had any knowledge of actual, suspected or alleged fraud.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Chief Constable's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, by evaluating management's incentives and opportunities for manipulation of the financial statements. We determined that the principal fraud risk was in relation to:
 - management override of controls, particularly in respect of senior management and self-approved journals, management bias in determining income and expenditure accrual amounts or accounting estimates and journals posted by privileged access users.
- Our audit procedures to address the principal fraud risk included:
 - reviewing accounting estimates, critical judgements and significant decisions made by management;
 - evaluating the design and implementation of journal controls;
 - reviewing accounting policies and any changes to those policies;
 - testing journals entries for appropriateness; and
 - reviewing unusual significant transactions.
- These audit procedures were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from fraud or error. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error and detecting irregularities that result from fraud is inherently more difficult than detecting those that result from error, as fraud may involve collusion, deliberate concealment, forgery or intentional misrepresentations. Also, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it or recognise non-compliance.
- We communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members. We remained alert to any indications of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, throughout the audit.

- The engagement partner's assessment of the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the engagement team included consideration of the engagement team's:
 - understanding of, and practical experience with audit engagements of a similar nature and complexity through appropriate training and participation
 - knowledge of the police sector
 - understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements specific to the Chief Constable including:
 - the provisions of the applicable legislation
 - guidance issued by CIPFA/LASAAC and SOLACE
 - the applicable statutory provisions.
- In assessing the potential risks of material misstatement, we obtained an understanding of:
 - The Chief Constable's operations, including the nature of its income and expenditure and its services and of its objectives and strategies to understand the classes of transactions, account balances, expected financial statement disclosures and business risks that may result in risks of material misstatement.
 - The Chief Constable's control environment, including the policies and procedures implemented by the Chief Constable to ensure compliance with the requirements of the financial reporting framework.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's 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 for the year ended 31 March 2026.

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 relevant guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General. 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

E. Audit opinion – Chief Constable

- 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 of Cumbria Constabulary for Cumbria for the year ended 31 March 2026 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 the Whole of Government Accounts is complete for the year ended 31 March 2026. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

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 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.

[**Signature**]

Elizabeth Luddington, Key Audit Partner

for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor

Manchester

[**Date**]



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