

ORIGINATOR: CHIEF CONSTABLE

PAPER NO:

AP19/02

SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

SUBJECT: REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING AS AT 31 JANUARY 2019

SUMMARY:

1. This report covers the financial overview of the PCC Budget, Constabulary Revenue Budget, Capital Budget and Investments and Reserves as at 31 January 2019.
2. The forecast revenue position provides a forecast year-end underspend of £0.583m, comprising of underspends within the Constabulary of £0.542m and within OPCC of £0.041m.
3. The forecast capital position provides a forecast year end under-spend of £2.637m.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. It is recommended that the Accountability and Performance Panel consider the content of this report.

1. OVERVIEW

1.1 Based on the position as at 31 January 2019, the Suffolk Group Revenue Budget is forecast to underspend by £0.583m at year end (Appendix A).

1.2 The split across the Group is as follows:

	Budget 2018/19 £000	Full Year Outturn £000	(Over)/Under spend £000
Officer of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk	928	887	41
PCC Commissioning	815	815	0
Chief Constable Operational Spending	118,230	117,688	542
Capital Financing	1,045	1,045	0
PFI Grant	-2,734	-2,734	0
Transfer to / (from) Reserves	-1,654	-1,654	0
Total	116,630	116,046	583

1.3 At month 9 a forecast year end underspend of £0.564m was forecast. This has changed at month 10 to a forecast underspend of £0.583m.

Constabulary Financial Context

1.4 The Minister for Policing and the Fire Service, the Rt Hon. Nick Hurd outlined in the Police Grant report that the "Government intends to maintain the protection of a broadly flat police grant in 2019-20 and repeat the same flexibility of the precept, i.e. allowing PCCs to increase their Band D precept by a further up to £12 per annum in 2019-20".

1.5 This approach to 2019-20 is dependent on the police delivering "clear and substantial progress against the agreed milestones on productivity and efficiency in 2018".

1.6 In common with other forces across the country, the Constabulary continues to face significant service pressures due to the changing nature of crime. Whilst Suffolk remains a safe county, the Constabulary is dealing with continuing increases in reports of domestic abuse, rape and serious sexual offences, adult and child abuse and allegations of cyber enabled fraud. These are some of the most complex and demanding investigations the service has to undertake and they require a highly skilled workforce. As a result, Suffolk Constabulary continues to face significant cost pressures arising from the abovementioned service pressures.

1.7 Other legislative changes and procedural changes, such as the changes to managing bail and the impact from the introduction of Virtual Courts have directly increased costs to the Constabulary.

1.8 The Constabulary continues to deal with the impact of the shortage in resources of other public sector partners, in particular mental health and ambulance services, resulting in the Constabulary having to absorb additional demand from these areas as the emergency service of the last resort.

- 1.9 The funding context for the future continues to be challenging. In the MTFP, inflation is forecast at 2% for pay and 2.5% - 3% for non-pay, equating to over £2.5m of funding pressure each year, and this is before other pressures such as those outlined above are included.
- 1.10 Importantly, to remain as operationally efficient as possible, the Constabulary must continue to invest in and refresh technology that keeps the policing model fit-for-purpose and able to meet increasing demand and the changing nature of crime. This investment, including body worn video, is significant and has a direct impact on the budget.
- 1.11 As a result of these and other pressures, despite the government grant being maintained at 2017-19 levels and the PCC's decision to increase the precept by just under £12 per annum for a Band D property in 2018-19, the Constabulary has had to put plans in place to deliver recurring savings of £4.424m over the period of the MTFP, with further savings to be identified of £0.5m in 2020-21, rising to £3.2m in 2021-22 in order to deliver a balanced budget in the four years 2018-19 to 2021-22.

2. PCC REVENUE BUDGET

- 2.1 The Office of the PCC Budget for 2018-19 is £0.928m (Appendix A (i)). The forecast year-end position is forecast to be £0.041m underspent.
- 2.2 The PCC's Commissioning budget is £1.714m which includes a grant of £0.866m from the Ministry of Justice, and the Home Office Early Intervention Youth Fund Grant of £12.6k (Appendix A (ii)). The Ministry of Justice grant has been fully allocated to victim services including Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care, the Independent Domestic Violence Advice (IDVA) service and grants to support victims of sexual violence.
- 2.3 Grants totalling £1.666m have been awarded during 2018/19, including £320k to the PCC's Fund. The PCC is expecting to use £50k from the Crime and Disorder Reduction reserve to support commissioning this year. The Accountability and Performance Panel will review the operational and financial performance of large grants approved by the PCC, at its meetings scheduled in 2018/19.

3. CONSTABULARY REVENUE BUDGET

3.1 The total Constabulary Revenue Budget (Appendix A(iii)) forecasts a year-end underspend of £0.542m as at month 10. The main variances producing the current forecast underspend are explained below.

	Budget 2018/19 £000	Full Year Forecast £000	In-year (Over)/Under spend £000
Pay Related Costs	97,342	96,822	520
Property Related Costs	8,739	8,609	130
Transport	2,152	2,126	27
Supplies and Services	9,842	9,780	62
Third Party Payments	1,713	1,644	69
Corporate including contingency and inflation	2,227	2,827	-600
Income	-3,785	-4,121	335
Total	118,230	117,688	542

3.2 Pay Related Costs

The forecast underspend of £0.520m includes the following variances:

- Underspend in employer pension costs (£0.274m) due to contributions forecast to be lower than budgeted.
- Underspend in PCSO pay (£0.505m) due to vacancies.
- Underspend in staff pay (£0.268m) due to vacancies.
- Overspend in police overtime (£0.474m) due to additional expenditure within CPC (Response), Local Investigation and Protective Services.
- Overspend in other employee costs (£0.053m) due to training and recruitment costs.

3.3 Property Costs

The forecast underspend of £0.130m primarily relates to building (planned) maintenance, where forecast costs have reduced following scrutiny of orders and subsequent removal of commitments.

3.4 Transport Costs

The forecast underspend of £0.027m primarily relates to car allowances where costs are anticipated to be lower than budgeted.

3.5 Supplies and Services Costs

The forecast underspend of £0.062m includes underspends in office equipment & stationery and operational equipment and expenses, offset by overspend in legal fees.

3.6 Corporate

Within corporate budgets, it is proposed that the year-end underspend will be utilised to fund short life capital assets, in order to reduce the requirement to use reserves. As at 31st December, the available funding is £0.412m, which primarily relates to unallocated inflation. In addition, £0.600m of the overall underspend is an assumed revenue contribution to capital, in order to mitigate the risk of delayed capital receipts, as per para 5.3.

3.7 Income

The forecast overachievement of income (£0.335m) includes mutual aid assistance, court income and recovery of costs.

4. SAVINGS

- 4.1 The total planned savings requirement for 2018/19 is £2.349m, which is as per the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) (February 2018), with budgets having been reduced in line with the agreed savings profiles set out in the MTFP. The delivery of these savings currently remains on target.

5. CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 5.1 The Capital budget for 2018/19 is £7.385m, comprising the current programme (approved schemes) of £5.585m plus slippage from 2017/18 of £1.800m.
- 5.2 A summary of capital schemes is provided at Appendix B(i) and B(ii). The forecast under-spend at year-end is £2.637m, due to delays in Estates schemes (£1.657m) and underspend forecasts of £0.468m in vehicle replacements and £0.338m in joint schemes. £2.256m of the £2.637m will be required as slippage. Additional underspends have been identified in a number of ICT schemes which offset the previously reported overspend in the Telematics project.
- 5.3 Some significant planned capital receipts are at risk of slipping into next financial year. These are supporting capital expenditure in 2018/19. Mitigations are available to avoid additional call on revenue budget or reserves. This position will be monitored on a monthly basis.

6. INVESTMENTS

- 6.1 At the end of January, investments totalled £6.886m, the breakdown of which is provided in Appendix C.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 As per the report.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

- 8.1 There are no other implications and risks. No changes are required to the PCC Risk Register.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	Yes
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	N/A
Have human resource implications been considered?	N/A
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	N/A
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	N/A
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	N/A
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	N/A