

Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel

23 September 2016

Report of the Budget Working Group

Recommendation

That the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel considers the minutes of the Budget Working Group meeting in respect of the Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring report 2016/17.

1.0 Recent Activity of the Working Group

- 1.1 The Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel has agreed to delegate quarterly monitoring in respect of the Police and Crime Commissioner's budget to the Budget Working Group.
- 1.2 A quarterly meeting of the Budget Working Group was held on 25th August 2016 to consider the following:
 - Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring 2016/17
 - Budget Working Group Action Plan 2016/17
- 1.3 The Working Group noted that Warwickshire had the fourth highest level of reserves in the country, proportionate to its net budget. The Working Group agreed that national comparative data on reserves should be presented at each future meeting. Members were informed that at the last Alliance Governance Group, it was agreed to move recurring spend previously shown against reserves into the base. This included; Athena, Microsoft agreements, grant schemes and Devonport. It was noted that this had been done because in some areas, such as ICT, reserves were being used to fund ongoing revenue costs.
- 1.4 Members requested that a more up to date outturn report be available to members, prior to their consideration of the precept proposals in February 2016. It was said that the outturn estimates provided last year were not the most up to date figures. It was suggested by members that a firearms range should not be commissioned, without taking into account local and national views of future firearms provision.
- 1.5 The Working Group noted that underspends of £1.5m were predicted as issues around turnover and recruitment had been more volatile than anticipated. Members had concerns over the proportionately high amount of senior staff, when compared to front line police officers. Member were

informed that a review into capital spending should be completed by autumn 2016. They also noted that progress on the procuring of a transformation partner should be made in the coming months.

- 1.6 Members indicated that the Police and Crime Panel would be asking the PCC about his strategic view on the level of reserves throughout the year, and how he will exercise control over them. They also wanted to ask him if he remained committed to the former Commissioner's decision to have two new Operational Command Centres, instead of one.
- 1.7 The Working Group agreed to consider the following issues in their own future programme of work:
- ICT Modernisation – Consideration of issues around the Operational Command Centre, Athena and supporting a modern workforce.
 - Staffing - Human resources, recruitment, vacancy and turnover issues.
 - Efficiency of investigations and positive outcomes – Considering custody management, Operation Devonport and Cybercrime.
 - The approach to capital spending
 - The Strategic Alliance Transformation Partner/Programme
 - The use of financial reserves
- 1.8 For further detail, the minutes of the Working Group meeting are attached at Appendix A.

2.0 Future Meetings

- 2.1 The future meetings of the Budget Working Group have been scheduled as follows:
- 14 November 2016
 - 17 January 2016

Appendices:

Appendix A – Budget Working Group minutes, 25th August 2016

Background Papers:

None.

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