

Budget Working Group

21 November 2018

Present:

Councillors; Davies, Poole, and Warwick (Chair)

Elizabeth Hall (Treasurer to the Police and Crime Commissioners for Warwickshire and West Mercia)

Tom McColgan (Democratic Services Officer, Warwickshire County Council)

1 General

1.1 Councillor Chattaway sent his apologies for the meeting.

2 Budget Monitoring Report Q2 – Money Matters

2.1 The Treasurer introduced the Report and highlighted:

- That an underspend was forecast for Warwickshire Police and the Alliance overall in 2018/19. The amount expected to be drawn down from reserves had thus decreased and was now expected to be £1.9 million leaving Warwickshire Police's reserves at around £17 million going into the 2019/20 financial year.
- Warwickshire Police had achieved around 90% of the savings targets set for them in 2018/19 but may not be able to achieve the remaining 10% as costs around local policing and fleet maintenance had been higher than expected. The profits from the sale of vehicles over £10,000 had been credited to the capital fund rather than the general operating fund which had also affected the budget gap in 2018/19.

2.2 The Treasurer updated the Group on the budget setting process for 2019/20:

- The 2019/20 budget would be challenging to set as the cost of running Warwickshire Police outside of the alliance model was not known. The Treasurer sought to reassure the Group that despite the increased uncertainty both Warwickshire and West Mercia would be able to set viable budgets for 2019/20.

- Further challenge had been added to the 2019/20 by the delay in the Home Office's decision on the Police and Crime Commissioner Settlement and the recently announced changes to police pension funding. If the changes to police pension funding were enacted a £435million funding gap would be left nationally to be filled by Police budgets. Warwickshire Police would have to provide for a shortfall in pension funding of £2.7million in 2019/20.

3 Date of next meeting

To be confirmed.

The meeting concluded at 15:00