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Police and Crime Panel

23 June 2022

Report of the

Police and Crime Commissioner

Report Author	OPCC Warwickshire
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Disclosable under Freedom of Information Act?	Yes

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide the members of the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel with an update on my key activities as the county's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) since the Panel's last meeting on Thursday 7 April 2022.

This period excludes the meetings of the Panel on Monday 25 April 2022, convened solely to consider my appointment of Emma Daniell as my Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC). I thank the Panel for the scrutiny they applied and for their support in confirming this appointment. I also note and affirm the Panel's recommendation that the induction programme for the DPCC gives specific attention to finance and budget management, including governance processes and monitoring of outcomes; as well as measures to support the development of a detailed understanding of the geographic, social, and economic profile of Warwickshire.

2. Progress against police and crime plan objectives

2.1 Assurance / Performance Framework

The OPCC has introduced a Quarterly Assurance Meeting to assess progress against the objectives and the success measures of the Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025. This meeting is scheduled to be held in July 2022 and as such the outcome of the meeting cannot be reported upon at this time. I nonetheless hope that the following narratives are informative in summarising some of the activity that has taken place.

2.2 Violent Crime

A key priority of my Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025 is to '**fight crime and reduce reoffending**', one of the focus areas for which is to tackle Violent Crime, including county lines and knife crime.

My office has worked closely with Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and other partners to develop a new county Violence Reduction Strategy that delivers the requirements of the new Serious Violence Duty as set out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.

Through my annual grant awards, I have also provided funding to WCC and all local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to support initiatives and activities that divert young people away from such crime.

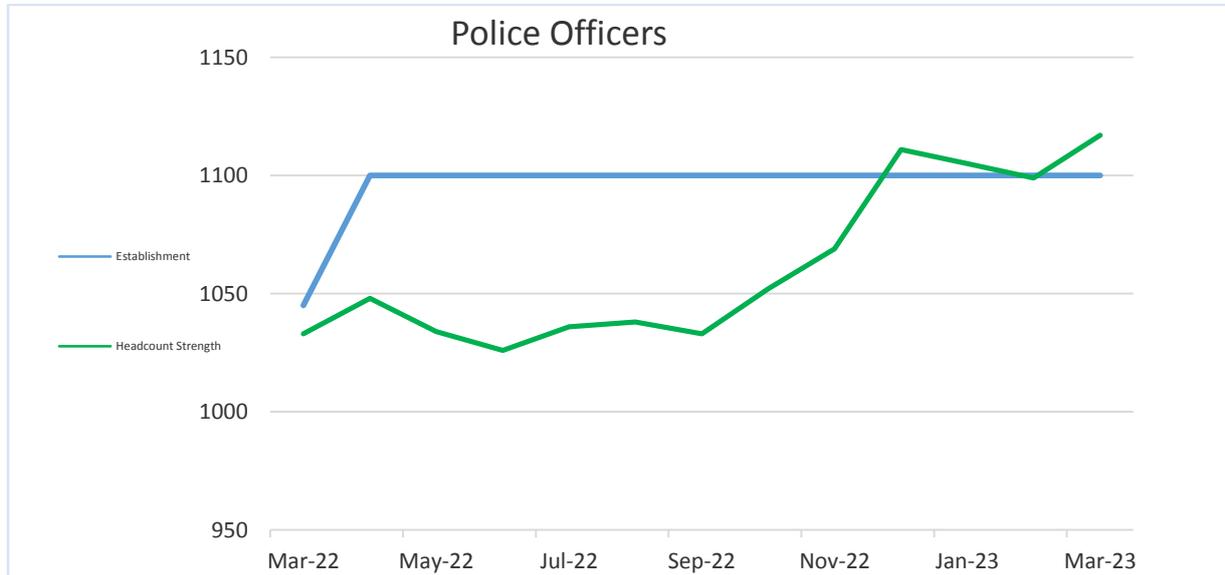
My office also continues to support the work of both the Serious Organised Crime Joint Action Group (SOCJAG) and the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Board.

2.3 Police Establishment

A key priority of my Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025 is to '**deliver visible and effective policing**', with a focus on having more police officers in Warwickshire.

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I am pleased to be able to report that this ambition continues to be progressed, where in May 2022 the number of police officers stands at a head count of 1,034. This number is projected to further increase through the Governments 'Uplift' programme of police officer recruitment to achieve a force establishment of 1,100 officers during 2022/23, as the following graph illustrates: -



Graph 1 - Police Officer Establishment

2.4 Road Safety

Another key priority of my Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025 is to '**keep people safe and reduce harm**', one of the focus areas for which is to reduce death and serious injury on our roads.

I am doing this in conjunction with the Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership, which I chair. The Partnership has adopted a formal road safety strategy, at the core of which is the aim of reducing by 50% the number of death and serious injury (KSI) incidents on our roads by the year 2030. My 2025 priority is in keeping with an incremental approach to the 2030 target.

Achieving the 2030 target will be underpinned by applying the principles of 'safe systems'. The partnership has now established working groups for safe speeds, safe vehicles, safe roads, and post collision response. Performance indicators are being developed to ensure each of these groups contributes to achieving the 2030 target. The challenge that lies ahead in achieving this target should not be underestimated.

As society emerges from the pandemic and road usage returns to pre-pandemic levels, casualty statistics project a clear warning. In Quarter 4 of 2020/21 there were 32 KSIs (1 fatal, 31 serious injury). In Quarter 4 of 2021/22 there were 53 KSIs (4 fatal, 49 serious injury). Whilst this is a short-term snapshot, positive initiatives and vigilance will continue to be applied under my strategic leadership.

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2.5 Crime Prevention and Partnership Working

Another key priority of my Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025 is to '**strengthen communities**', with focus areas that include supporting communities to deter criminal activity and working collaborative to improve community safety.

My office has recently reviewed and renewed its ongoing successful collaboration with Warwickshire County Council's Community Safety Team to ensure that the focus of activity conducted over the next few years supports shared priorities in my Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025, and in the County's Community Safety Agreement. This collaboration continues to see my office and Warwickshire County Council's working together to support local Community Safety Partnerships, including the securing of additional funding from central Government to support crime prevention and community safety initiatives.

2.6 Criminal Justice

Another key priority of my Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025 is to '**deliver better justice for all**', one of the focus areas for which is achieving better investigations and timelier results.

In addition, the Panel have requested as an agenda item an update on the current delays to the Court service, which I am able to provide in my position as the chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB).

The most recent meeting of the CJB occurred on 9th June and was the first in-person meeting since before the pandemic. The agenda, in addition to standard updates from agencies regarding present challenges and projects, included a special focus on women in the criminal justice system. There were also papers presented concerning operational issues with the Warwickshire Specialist Domestic Violence Court, and a proposal for future staffing arrangements for the LCJB.

With regards to the women in the criminal justice item, this paper was presented due to current attention focused on this issue nationally. There is an emphasis on the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy, a focus on women in prisons in a white paper on prisons, together with a recent report from the Young Women's Justice Programme. The Ministry of Justice has recently released a data toolkit which enables comparison between women and men in the criminal justice system, and the Ministry is also preparing a Young Women's Strategy.

Considering narratives and statistics from various sources, research papers and reports, the overarching message of the paper was this: Women, and particularly women from minority groups, are disproportionality represented in punitive criminal justice outcomes compared to men. Also, women often do not have tailored support services or intervention packages in place. Essentially, women face a double standard whereby it is far easier to be punished, and also harder to get help.

Work will now take place ahead of the next LCJB in September 2022 to look at this cumulative effect from a local perspective. My office will seek to facilitate a discussion at the regional Disproportionality Committee to consider a regional piece of work on gender disproportionality.

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An update was provided on the work of the three LCJB subgroups:

- **Ancillary and Civil Orders Working Panel.** The new panel had been established and had highlighted some issues around non-molestation orders. There is also general consensus that the range of orders currently being utilised, compared to those available, could be greatly improved. Work will be undertaken before the next LCJB to start to address these issues.
- **Victims & Witness Forum.** This group is well established and is currently working on compliance with Victims Code.
- **Restorative Justice.** The aim of the group is to reinvigorate provision for adult and youth restorative justice in Warwickshire and the group has now met twice. Excellent progress has been made, with a number of training sessions delivered by Victim Support to the Probation Service and police. My office is also considering how best to provide for restorative justice in the new commissioned services, to ensure the resource is available to service the anticipated higher referral rates as a result of the subgroup's efforts.

At the meeting, the representative from Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service (HMCTS) gave reassurances in respect of re-examining the return of Warwickshire magistrate cases to Warwickshire venues, stating that some rooms in Warwick Justice Centre may become available to do so imminently. My office will continue to monitor and update on progress.

With regards to in the Magistrates Courts, they are in a much better position than Crown Courts. This position has been helped by recent changes to sentencing powers, enabling Magistrates to deal with slightly more serious offences and keeping them out of Crown Court

In respect of backlogs in Crown Court, they are attempting to get back to normal with all restrictions around social distancing removed. They are now able to sit two courts every day in Coventry. Unfortunately, the latest issue which is having a significant impact is the Bar strike involving defence barristers. In essence, defence barristers who are held-up in trials that overrun are not passing on their cases for their next trial to colleagues, resulting in trials being cancelled with little notice due to lack of availability.

3. Communications and engagement activity

Since the beginning of this financial year 2022/23, I have participated in a diverse range of meeting with elected officers, partner agencies, third sector organisation and members of the public, including: -

April 2022

- 11/4/22 - Visit to the Citizens Advice Witness Service
- 14/4/22 - High Sheriff Inauguration
- 25/4/22 - Snitterfield Parish Council Meeting

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May 2022

- 08/5/22 – Rugby Street Pastors Commissioning Service
- 10/5/22 – Hartshill Parish Council Meeting
- 20/5/22 – Warwickshire Police Detectives Forum
- 24/5/22 – Police Volunteer Celebration Event
- 26/5/22 – Grant Recipients Event
- 27/5/22 – Kickstart Celebrations

June 2022

- 04/6/22 – Kenilworth Show
- 05/6/22 – Lord Lieutenant and Chairman of WCC Meeting
- 06/6/22 - Beaudesert & Henley in Arden Parish Council Meeting

I would also like to highlight in particular two face-to-face engagement events that my office organised in May 2022.

The first event, which was held jointly with the force, was a celebration of the many volunteers across policing. The event recognised the efforts that volunteers continued to make during the pandemic, where they continued to provide their time and energy despite the considerable pressures on everyday life that we all experienced. Volunteers from across the force area attended Leek Wootton and awards were presented to several individuals for their outstanding contribution. Among those recognised were members of the Independent Custody Visitors and the Appropriate Adults, both schemes are administered by my office.

Later that week we held our first Police and Crime Commissioner's Grant Recipients' event since 2019 due to the pandemic. The event was very well attended, and the attendees heard from previous grant recipients on the positive impact that my grants have made to their service users. The event also offered a networking opportunity for delegates to understand each other's work. It also allowed me to meet with representatives of many of the organisations receiving a grant through my scheme and to thank them for the excellent work they conduct across the county.



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Media communications during this period have primarily focused on the appointment of my Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner; new funding opportunities for domestic abuse and sexual violence support services; the announcements of the recipients of my grants scheme funding, and publicity for a national survey being run by the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners that aims to get public feedback on the 101 and 999 service.

4. Grants and Commissioning

The grants approval process has now been completed, some grants have been paid and some are nearing completion of the due diligence checks by my office. I have approved payments totalling £0.47m on grants, in addition to over £1.35m on commissioned and co-commissioned services. This funding is in addition to the partnership working funding that I have made available to fund key areas including business and cyber-crime, Prevent and the work of local community safety partnerships analysts.

A further £0.250m of funding to support a number of road safety initiatives has also been approved, and a number of projects have received some of this funding already. I will continue to visit and support all these organisations over the coming year, and my team will be monitoring the performance of key contracts and projects.

Work is also progressing by my office to recommission some services from April 2023. A detailed independent needs assessment report has been produced for general victim services, which has informed a new commissioning cycle to ensure that services are fit for purpose and meet the needs of victims. Work will continue to progress this through market engagement sessions and a full procurement exercise over the coming months. An executive summary of this report is published on the OPCS website at: [Warwickshire-VNA-Executive-Summary-redacted.pdf](https://www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/Warwickshire-VNA-Executive-Summary-redacted.pdf) ([warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk](https://www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk))

Following the success in 2021/22 of securing over £1m of additional funding into Warwickshire from the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office through the submission of various bids, my office has in 2022/23 submitted applications to the Home Office for additional funding under the Safer Streets 4 programme. Also, to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) for additional funding for domestic abuse and sexual violence services. Over £0.400m of additional funding has been confirmed already by the MOJ for such services in 2022/23, it is possible that this will increase when the outcome from all submissions is received over the next few weeks. This funding will help to secure improved services, including counselling delivered by partners to more victims and help to reduce wait times. The Home Office have also confirmed that the domestic abuse perpetrator funding allocation of £0.200m will continue in 2022/23 following our successful bid for funding last year and the continuing positive outcomes from the scheme.

5. Holding to account activity

5.1 Governance and Performance Board

To facilitate my statutory duty under the Police Reform and Responsibility Act 2011 to 'hold to account' the Chief Constable of Warwickshire Police for policing services, I hold a Governance and Performance Board (GPB) each month with CC Tedds and senior officers from the force. The GPB is an amalgamation of the previous Performance Accountability Meeting and Force Governance Board that served a similar purpose. At each GPB a topical subject of particular interest or concern is selected for additional scrutiny. Minutes of all these meetings are published on the OPCC website.

5.2 National Policing Measures

As part of the Government's strategic priority for there to be a relentless focus on cutting crime and to improve police performance, the National Policing Measures have been introduced. The measures therefore set out the Government's key national priorities on crime: -

1. Reduce murder and other homicides
2. Reduce serious violence
3. Disrupt drugs supply and county lines
4. Reduce neighbourhood crime
5. Tackle cyber-crime
6. Improve satisfaction among victims – with a particular focus on victims of domestic abuse

These National Policing Measures are monitored on a quarterly basis against a national baseline of June 2019, as selected by the Home Office.

In April 2022, this subject was discussed as the focus topic at the Governance and Performance Board. The format detailed the current position of the force in terms of its performance against the National Policing Measures in both graphical and table format, with a commentary box for the force to provide further information and context to the data. An additional commentary box was available for the addition of comments from my office. In accordance with the Specified Information Order 2011, this information has subsequently been published in on the on the OPCC website at: [National Policing and Crime Measures - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire \(warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/national-policing-and-crime-measures)

5.3 Roads Policing

In May 2022, this subject was discussed as the focus topic at the Governance and Performance Board. The presentation provided by the force explored its response to the recommendations arising out of the thematic review by HMICFRS in its July 2020 report 'Roads Policing: Not Optional'. It covered several issues including analytical

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capacity, strategic threat, ANPR coverage and the Community Speed Watch scheme.

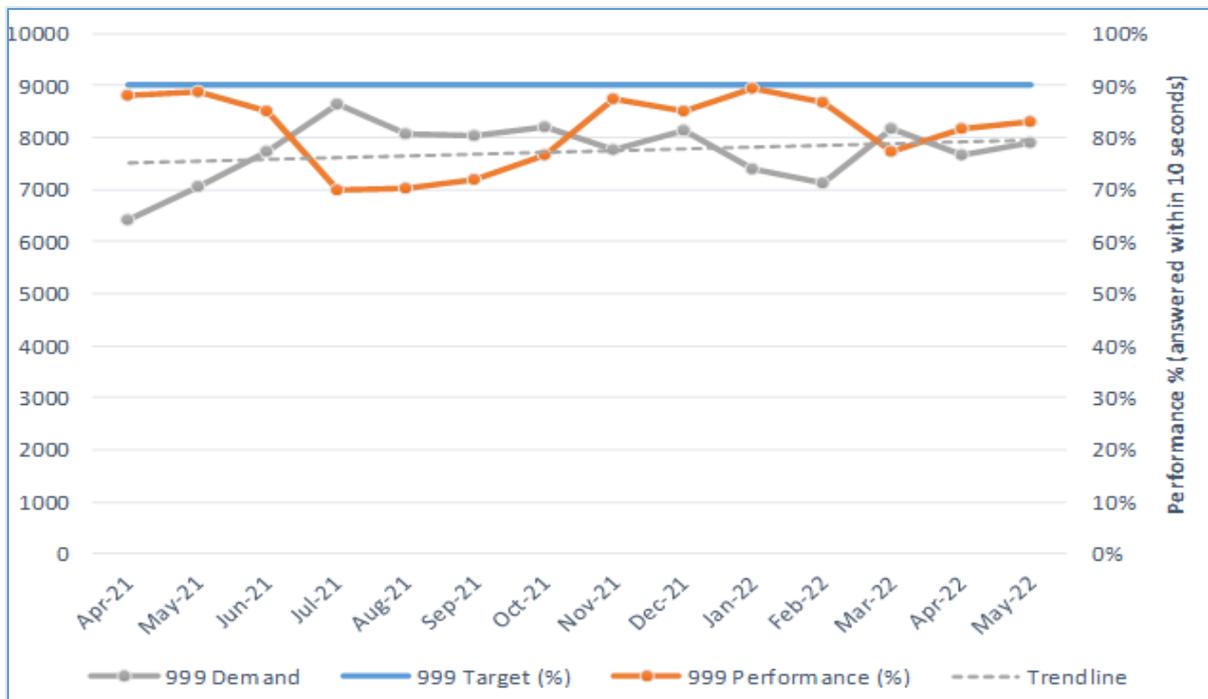
5.4 Health and Wellbeing

The subject of Health and Wellbeing is the topic area for the Governance and Performance Board to be held on the 28 June 2022.

5.5 Operations Communications Centre

The Panel have previously expressed an interest in the Warwickshire Police’s performance in respect of 999 emergency, and 101 non-emergency contact, which is managed by the Force’s Operations Communication Centre.

The following information is from May 2022, the latest monthly data available illustrating the timeframes by which calls are answered.



Graph 2 – Warwickshire 999 Emergency Contact

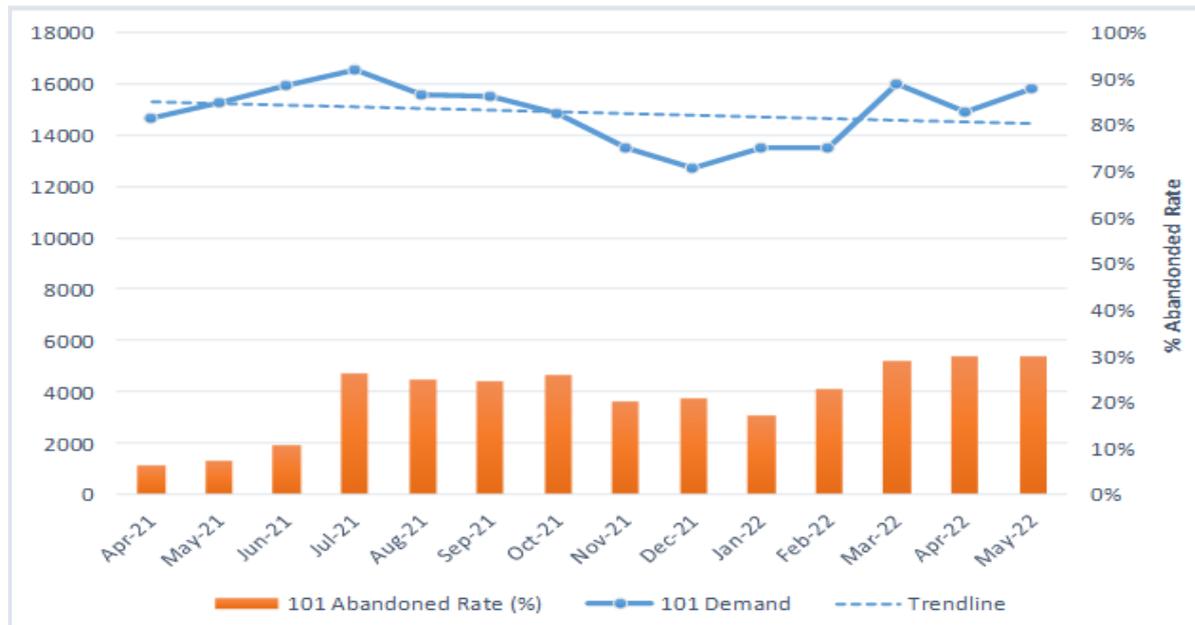
On the 31 May 2022, the Home Office launched the 999 performance league tables as part of the Government’s commitment, as set out in the Beating Crime Plan, for greater transparency on how long it takes police forces to answer 999 emergency calls.

The performance data, provided by BT, shows the total number of calls received monthly and the data is broken down into percentages of calls answered within the Home Office target of 10 seconds; the percentage of calls answered between 10 seconds to 60 seconds; and the percentage of calls answered over 60 seconds. The data is only focused on the call waiting time and does not look at anything outside of this e.g., response times, outcomes from the call, etc.

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The national data shows that forces across the UK received 5,218,350 calls between 1 November 2021 and 30 April 2022, averaging a call every three seconds. It took forces an average of 16.1 seconds to answer the calls, with 71% of calls being answered in under 10 seconds and 23% being answered in under 60 seconds. Warwickshire Police's performance is above the national average. This information can be found on the website [Police.uk](https://www.police.uk)

The Home Office intend to further evolve this reporting in due course to also include 101 non-emergency contact.



Graph 4 – Warwickshire 101 Non-Emergency Contact

In May 2022, the average time it took to answer a 101 call was 00:03:50.

The OPCC closely monitor both emergency and non-emergency performance on a weekly basis, with any concerns being raised with the Chief Constable and her senior officers as part of my 'holding to account' responsibilities.

5.6 Empower

I am waiting for further information from the Chief Constable as regards the recommendations arising out of the 'Empower' change programme, which is a review of the operating model of the force, and I will update the Panel in due course.

6. Finance

Since the last meeting I have received a report detailing the final outturn for 2021/22, which shows an increased contribution to reserves of some £2.424m, at year end, being £1.540m above the budgeted level, due primarily to increased income from commercial vetting. This has proved to be a successful source of income, through work to commercialise the contractor vetting service, which has received ISO accreditation and is undertaken for a number of forces across the country. The

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ongoing challenge will be to plan, forecast and manage this work to mitigate any risks and to support sound commercial and financial planning over the medium term.

There have been a number of other variations notably in police staff pay and transport which was considerably underspent, offset by increased officer pay and overtime, and increased direct revenue financing to fund capital costs. Income streams were healthy and included mutual aid income for support for the G7 and COP26 events, in addition to additional funding received for undertaking additional work on County Lines as part of the regional response. The outturn included an additional payment for contingency ICT services of £1.570m to ensure that the digital service transition could take place smoothly and reduced risk to a suitable level. By the end of March 2021, the ICT transition was completed from the former alliance infrastructure as planned, except for a small number of national applications that are due to be 'moved' before June 2022.

The Police and Crime Panel Budget Working Group have met periodically during the year and have previously discussed many of these variances in more detail. Contributions to the general reserve, budget and transformation reserve, infrastructure reserve and safer roads reserve have all been approved in the light of the improved outturn. Reserves levels are healthy and will be used to manage risk in an increasingly uncertain economic environment.

The 2022/23 position will be closely monitored, a number of emerging issues, including cost pressures arising from the ongoing operation to police protests at Kingsbury Oil Terminal, the increased cost of the staff pay award, in addition to ever increasing inflation and various supply chain issues, have created a challenging financial environment early in the financial year.

The medium-term financial plan (MTFP) was last refreshed and approved in February 2022 and has identified various cost pressures and saving requirements. Chief Officers will be reporting on the findings of the Empower review in the coming months to provide information which will assist with future decision making in the lead up to the next budget setting round for 2022/23.

7. Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Since the last meeting of the Panel, Claire Morris has joined the OPCC as Head of Business Services and Assurance.

8.National matters for consideration

8.1 Police Funding Formula

The Government are continuing with their work on reviewing the funding allocations to territorial police forces and have committed to completing this work by the end of Parliament. Whilst there are very few outputs from the review at this stage, I and members of my team have arranged to meet with colleagues from the Home Office in June to discuss progress and to use this as an opportunity to share views on any changes from a Warwickshire perspective.