



Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority

Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 017-21
Government security classification Official
Title of report: Virement for Savings Identified for Essex Fire Medium Term Financial Plan
Area of county / stakeholders affected: ECFRS Finance Dept., ICT Dept and SLT Dept.
Report by: Neil Cross
Date of report: 19/02/2021
Enquiries to: Neil Cross

1. Purpose of the report

Approve the virement for budgeted costs which have been identified as continuous savings towards the targeted efficiency savings required within the 2020-24 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and therefore reduce this years and thereby future years annual budgets for the areas specified.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the PFCC approves the decision for the Virement to reduce the budgeted costs identified for the Financial Year 2020-21.

Benefits of the proposal

The benefits of this proposal are:-

- The reduction of budgeted costs identified for the Financial Year 2020-21 and future years of £294,000 per annum from identified underspend areas in previous years.
- Anticipated no or minimal material detriment to the ECFRS's priorities, goals or delivery/output.

3. Background and proposal

Within the Medium Term Financial Plan 2020-24, it was identified that £4.3m of efficiency savings were required.

The projected gap/shortfall between the funding we anticipate receiving and the projected total cost pressures for the service are set out below.

Arriving at the Efficiency Requirement Figure

All figures in £000's	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
Total cost pressures	1,509	1,450	1,397	1,320	5,677
(Increase)/decrease in funding	(1,389)	1,216	(561)	(587)	(1,321)
Savings required	120	2,666	836	733	4,355



Budget Holders and Directors have been tasked with reviewing their annual budgets and spend in order to identify efficiencies which will contribute towards the savings target of £4.3m.

Alongside the above review an exercise to identify specific budgets which could potentially provide savings was conducted and the following were identified as areas which could contribute towards the savings sought.

COST CENTRE	CATEGORY	£
SLT	Consultancy	30,000
FINANCE	Redundancy Costs	34,000
FINANCE	Mileage Costs	80,000
ICT	Support & Maintenance	100,000
ICT	Comms	50,000
TOTAL		294,000

Most of the above savings were identified from underspends in previous years and therefore budget reductions could be made with little or no changes to the current working priorities or work output for the department and service.

With Redundancy Costs, there has been no formal plan for redundancies and therefore there is no requirement for any Redundancy Costs to be budgeted.

4. Alternative options considered and rejected

As the budget savings above are a result of underspends against budgets, with no impact on the operational performance or planned activities of the Departments or Service, it has not been necessary to review other options.

5. Strategic priorities

This assists ECFRS to work towards reducing the financial costs and achieve a balanced budget within its Medium Term Financial Plan, providing the Protection, Prevention and Response Fire Service required for Essex as well as Value for Money to its tax payers.

6. Operational implications

There is no anticipated operational implications as the cost savings identified have been underspends in previous years.

7. Financial implications

There are no anticipated financial implications as the cost savings identified have been underspends in previous years. These saving will assist the Service towards achieving the funding shortfall identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

8. Legal implications

There are no anticipated legal implications as the cost savings identified have been underspends in previous years.

9. Staffing implications

There are no anticipated staffing implications as the cost savings identified have been underspends in previous years.
With Redundancy Costs savings identified, there are no formal plans for redundancies and therefore no requirement for any redundancy costs to be budgeted.

10. Equality and Diversity implications

There are no equality and diversity implications as the cost savings identified have been underspends in previous years.

11. Risks

As these costs have been identified as underspends there is no risk to the delivery operationally or support for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and the residents of Essex.
If the proposal is not approved then there is a risk that the Service will not achieve the £4.3m savings identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

12. Governance Boards

This proposal has been presented to and approved by the Service Leadership Team.

13. Background papers

Decision Paper presented and approved by SLT:-



Virement request to
SLT - part 1 of efficie

Decision Process (017-21)

Step 1A - Chief Fire Officer Comments

(The Chief Fire Officer is asked in their capacity as the Head of Paid Service to comment on the proposal.)

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Sign:



Date:.....25/2/21.....

Step 1B – Consultation with representative bodies

(The Chief Fire Officer is to set out the consultation that has been undertaken with the representative bodies)

.....N/A....

Step 2 - Statutory Officer Review

The report will be reviewed by the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority’s (“the Commissioner’s”) Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer prior to review and sign off by the Commissioner or their Deputy.

Deputy Monitoring Officer

Sign:



Print: Darren Horsman

Date: 3 March 2021

Chief Finance Officer

Sign: ...



...

Print:Neil Cross.....

Date: .. 25/2/21

Step 3 - Publication

Is the report for publication? YES

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (Where relevant, cite the security classification of the document(s). State 'none' if applicable)

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If the report is not for publication, the Monitoring Officer will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

Step 4 - Redaction

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

1 Of Decision Sheet YES/NO

2 Of Appendix YES/NO

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

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Date redaction carried out:

If redaction is required, the Chief Finance Officer or the Monitoring Officer are to sign off that redaction has been completed.

Sign: Print:

Date signed:

Step 5 - Decision by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner or Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

I agree the recommendations to this report:



Sign: ... (PFCC)

Print: ROGER HIRST..... Date signed: 4 May 2021

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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