

## PFCC Decision Report

**Report reference number:** 063-22

**Classification:** Not protectively marked

**Title of report:** 2021/22 financial monitoring – Month 12 revenue appropriations

**Area of county / stakeholders affected:** Countywide

**Report by:** David Stovell – Finance Business Partner

**Chief Officer:** Deputy Chief Constable Andrew Prophet

**Date of report:** 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022

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### 1. Executive Summary

This decision report seeks the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's approval to make appropriations to reserve in relation to Safer Streets rounds 2 and 3, Estate Services consultancy work, the Chief Constable's operational carry-forward and surplus Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) income.

### 2. Recommendations

That the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) endorses and approves appropriations to reserves of £2.232m as set out below, including the associated virements and journals between the revenue account and balance sheet.

- £1.755m to the Safer Streets reserve.
- £200,000 to the Transformation reserve.
- £185,000 to the Chief Constable's operational carry-forward reserve.
- £92,000 to the POCA reserve.

### **3. Background to the Proposal**

The December 2021 Strategic Board approved Safer Streets rounds 2 and 3 funding; projects to the value of £1.755m, which at the time was expected to run over the year end and into 2022/23. To secure this funding for utilisation in 2022/23 it is requested that £1.755m is placed in a newly created Safer Streets earmarked reserve.

The December 2021 Strategic Board also approved an allocation of £200,000 to Estate Services, to meet forecast costs of consultancy for a joint fleet workshop and building accessibility audits. These projects have not yet progressed to date and in order to secure the funding for utilisation in 2022/23, it is requested that £200,000 be added to the Transformation Reserve.

Section G.2.2 of the PFCC's Financial and Procurement Regulations 2021, allows the Chief Constable to add up to £0.5m to his Operational carry-forward reserve in any one financial year, on the condition that the total reserve does not exceed £0.75m. The request is to add £185,000 to the reserve, such that it is returned in total to the value of £0.75m.

The Proceeds of Crime Act allows the seizure of assets to deny criminals their use, to recover the proceeds of crime and to disrupt and deter criminality. Police forces then receive a proportion of the cash value of assets seized which is then used to invest in equipment and initiatives to continue to fight crime and protect the public. In the final quarter of 2021/22 Essex Police has identified additional POCA income of £92,000 and it is requested that this amount be added to the POCA reserve, to secure the funding to support projects contained within the five-year plan commencing in 2022/23.

### **4. Proposal and Associated Benefits**

It is proposed to appropriate to reserves a total of £2.232m, which will then be utilised in support of a variety of projects and activities, as summarised in Section 3 of this report.

The approval to appropriate the funding will provide financial support to Essex Police to offset the cost of policing and critical support activities in 2022/23 and subsequent financial years. This will further allow Essex Police to dedicate remaining resources to prevent, investigate and tackle crime, whilst supporting and protecting the public of Essex. It also facilitates the PFCC being able to fund existing Safer Streets business cases

### **5. Options Analysis**

The recommended option is for the PFCC to approve the proposal to appropriate funding to the various revenue reserves, so as to support all of the priorities and workstreams identified in the Police and Crime Plan for Essex.

The Commissioner could choose not to support this recommendation. However, that decision might either reduce the service provided to the public of Essex or result in operational policing activity and associated support services being undertaken without

a direct funding source having been identified, i.e. the proposed projects and initiatives would need to be funded from existing budget allocations.

## **6. Consultation and Engagement**

Consultation has been undertaken with members of Essex Police's Chief Officer Group to determine the most appropriate financial management of the £2.232m that has been proposed to appropriate to reserve. In addition, the proposed appropriations have been separately considered and reviewed with the PFCC's Chief Financial Officer and Strategic Head of Performance and Resources.

The 2021/22 Month 12 Financial Monitoring Report, which contains details of the proposed appropriations, was also presented to the Performance and Resources Scrutiny Board on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

## **7. Strategic Links**

This paper concerns the management of the PFCC's revenue resources and therefore underwrites all of the priorities and workstreams identified within the Police and Crime Plan.

The recommendations within this decision report are underpinned by the Financial and Procurement Regulations. The proposed future utilisation of the funding will assist operational policing and support department activities which complement Police and Crime Plan priorities to prevent, investigate and tackle crime and to protect and support the people of Essex. The proposal in respect of the Safer Streets reserve will assist in delivering the commitment set out in the Police and Crime Plan to build on the success of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) by encouraging increased targeting of hotspots to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB). Meanwhile the proposals relating to the Transformation reserve will help to deliver the PFCC's commitments to utilise the substantial estate of policing to help deliver a better, more accessible service to the public and to see a joint fleet workshop to bring together skills and experience and ensure that our people have fit for purpose facilities.

## **8. Police operational implications**

The key operational policing implications are as noted in Section 7 of this decision report. The proposed appropriations would provide resources for Essex Police to undertake future activity, allowing the PFCC and Essex Police to continue to invest in the fight against crime.

## **9. Financial implications**

Approval of the appropriations to earmarked reserves of the £2.232m unutilised in 2021/22 will ensure the funding can be applied as required to offset future financial pressures and promote proactive policing and support department activities. If the appropriations are not approved, activities in 2022/23 will either need to be funded from alternative revenue budgets or initiatives will be reduced in accordance with available funding.

The Commissioner's revenue resources endorse all operational plans. The Chief Constable is following Financial and Procurement Regulations (Section B.5.2) in ensuring total spending for operational policing remains within the overall allocation of resources and in proposing to carry forward underspends in the operational budget, subject to the limit referred to in Section 3 of this paper.

#### **10. Legal implications**

There are no legal implications arising directly from this decision report.

#### **11. Staffing implications**

There are no direct staffing implications associated with the recommendations within this decision report.

#### **12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications**

There are no direct additional Equality, Diversity or Inclusion implications, other than that the proposed appropriation of £200,000 to the Transformation reserve will assist in meeting the forecast costs of building accessibility audits.

#### **13. Risks and Mitigations**

There are no adverse risks identified that would arise as a result of approval of the recommendations contained within this decision report.

#### **14. Governance Boards**

Detail of the proposed appropriations to reserve were specifically referenced in the Month 12 2021/22 Financial Monitoring Report presented to the Performance and Resources Scrutiny Board on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

#### **15. Links to Future Plans**

This decision report and the recommendations contained therein are intrinsically linked to plans for operational policing and support department activities in 2022/23.

#### **16. Background Papers and Appendices**

Corporate Finance Month 12 2021/22 Financial Monitoring Report



Corporate Finance  
21-22 Monitor - Mth

**Report Approval**

The report will be signed off by the PFCC’s Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.

Chief Executive / M.O. Sign: 

Print: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 19 May 2022

Chief Financial Officer Sign: 

Print: JANET PERRY.....

Date: 20 May2022 .....

**Publication**

Is the report for publication? YES  NO

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

None

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

**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:

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

Date redaction carried out: .....

**Chief Finance Officer / Chief Executive Sign Off – for Redactions only**

If redaction is required, the Treasurer or Chief Executive is to sign off that redaction has been completed.

Sign: .....

Print: .....

**Chief Executive / Chief Finance Officer**

**Decision and Final Sign Off**

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Roger Hirst

**PFCC**

**Date signed:** 20 June 2022

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

.....  
.....  
.....

Sign:

Print:

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:**