

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 170-21

Classification: Not Protectively Marked

Title of report: 2021/22 financial monitoring – Month 7 revenue appropriations

Area of county / stakeholders affected: County-wide

Report by: David Stovell, Finance Business Partner

Date of report: 2nd December 2021

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1. Purpose of the report

To seek the Commissioner's approval to appropriate to earmarked reserve a combination of unutilised budget for the Policing Education Qualifications Framework (PEQF), together with unbudgeted surplus Forfeiture Monies income.

2. Recommendations

That the Commissioner endorses and approves appropriations to reserves and virements to Appropriations to Reserves budget, as follows:

- £0.035m to PEQF Reserve
- £0.025m to Forfeiture Monies Reserve

3. Benefits of the proposal

Approval of the appropriation to reserves secures the PEQF funding and Forfeiture Monies for subsequent application for the purposes for which the funding was allocated.

The PEQF is a specialised training programme for police officers, delivering a standardised curriculum across all forces. The launch of the programme for Essex has been subject to a deferred start which has resulted in a proportion of the revenue budget allocated to the programme being unutilised in 2021/22. The appropriation to reserve will help to ensure that the programme continues to be delivered to officers in the most

efficient and effect manner. Furthermore, on the basis that 2021/22 financial demands would result in an underspend that could be appropriated to reserve, a decision was taken not to submit a bid for additional revenue funding to support the programme in 2022/23. If this request is approved, this will ensure that the PEQF programme does not create additional financial pressures in 2022/23.

Appropriation of the Forfeiture Monies provides a ringfenced allocation of funding in 2022/23 for future policing activities that would otherwise not be available. The appropriation will support future proactive drugs-related crime prevention initiatives and activities, the specifics of which will be determined through an appropriate bidding process.

4. Background and proposal

The PEQF has been designed to professionalise policing and recognises the complex role that officers carry out on a daily basis. The PEQF curriculum will help to equip officers with the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to meet the policing priorities for Essex.

The proposal to appropriate £0.035m to the PEQF Reserve will ensure that the funding remains available for the purpose for which it was set aside and will support PEQF activities; the reserve will be fully utilised in future years as all student officers will undertake the PEQF programme from March 2022.

Cash and other property seized under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 will initially be held in a trust fund awaiting court decisions as to future title to said property. At the point at which the Home Office provides Essex Police with a forfeiture order allowing the force to retain a specified amount of the seized monies, the monies are then recognised as income within the force accounts and appropriated to reserves; this has been a long-standing process within the force to ensure the funds are appropriately ringfenced.

It is anticipated that each year there will be appropriations to and from the Forfeiture Monies Reserve, but the likely value is continually re-assessed as a single significant seizure can materially impact upon amounts received. Based on an assessment of forfeitures income received to date and an onward forecast for the remainder of the year, it is now expected that circa £0.125m will be received in 2021/22, and a further £0.025m is therefore proposed to be enacted in addition to the appropriation and virement already processed earlier in the financial year.

The proposal to appropriate £0.025m to the Forfeiture Monies Reserve will ensure that the seized monies are available to support future policing activities, specifically in respect of drugs crime prevention and related initiatives. This will be achieved through a bidding process, whereby proposals are assessed against set criteria that ensures future use of the seized monies is for activities that support the principles and priorities contained within the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan and the current Force Plan.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

The PEQF programme will commence in earnest in early 2022. Current assumptions for funding of the programme in 2022/23 include an expectation that the £0.035m proposed appropriation will be utilised to meet the costs of the programme; no submission was made for additional funding in 2022/23 (to the value of £0.035m) on the basis that the

appropriation would be approved. If the PEQF underspend is not appropriated, £0.035m of costs of the programme in 2022/23 will need to be met from other, as yet unidentified, revenue budgets, thereby adversely impacting upon the forces ability to deliver the Police and Crime Plan in 2022/23.

There are no further plans to seek to utilise the forecast £0.025m of Forfeiture Monies in 2021/22. Thus, if the £0.025m proposed appropriation of Forfeiture Monies is not approved the £0.025m will instead be an additional underspend within the revenue budget, used to underpin the Police and Crime Plan in 2021/22, but will not be available to support future drugs-related crime prevention activities.

6. Police and Crime Plan

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.

7. Police operational implications

As noted in section 6 of this Decision Report, the PFCC's revenue resources endorse all operational plans contained within the Police and Crime Plan .

8. Financial implications

Approval of the appropriation to earmarked reserves of the unutilised £0.035m from the PEQF budget, together with the unbudgeted £0.025m Forfeiture Monies will ensure the funding can be utilised as required to offset future financial pressures and support proactive policing within drugs-related crime prevention workstreams. If the appropriations are not approved PEQF activities in 2022/23 will need to be funded from alternative revenue budgets (as noted in Section 3 of this Decision Report), whilst future proactive crime prevention initiatives will be reduced in accordance with available funding.

9. Legal implications

There are no legal implications.

10. Staffing implications

There are no direct staffing implications associated with the decision sought.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

There are no equality or diversity implications contained within this decision report.

12. Risks

There are no specific risks associated with this proposal.

13. Governance Boards

Detail included within the Month 7 2021/22 monthly monitoring report presented to Chief Officer Group on 17th November 2021 and Performance and Resources Board on 29th November 2021.

14. Background papers

Corporate Finance Month 7 monitoring report 2021/22

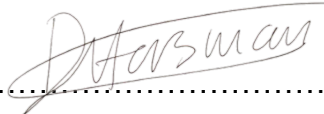


Corporate Finance
21-22 Monitor - Mth

Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the OPFCC Chief Executive and Treasurer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.

Chief Executive / M.O.

Sign: 

Print: Darren Horsman - Deputy MO

Date: 31 January 2021

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign: 

Print: Julia Berry

Date: 7 January 2021

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)

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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	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Of Appendix?	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

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Date redaction carried out:

Treasurer / 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/Treasurer

Date signed:

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Roger Hirst

PFCC

Date signed: 4 February 2022

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: