

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 041-22

Classification: Official

Title of report: 2023/24 Budget Setting Timetable

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

Report by: Annette Chan – Chief Accountant

Chief Officer: DCC Prophet

Date of report: 31 August 2022

Enquiries to: Annette Chan

1. Executive Summary

Provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require the force to set a balanced budget by no later than 11th March for the following year. A draft timetable for 2023/24 revenue and capital budget setting has been presented to the PFCC's Strategic Board. The timetable includes key stages for the proposed governance route within the Chief Constable's Office, and engagement with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and subsequently the Police, Fire and Crime Panel's Budget Working Group and concludes with the PFCC's proposed precept being presented to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel in February 2023.

2. Recommendations

- 1) To endorse and approve the 2023/24 budget setting timetable appended to this report based on:
 - a. the approach to budget setting included within the timetable;
 - b. the governance routes included within the timetable, and
 - c. agreement to the proposed engagement dates between the Chief Constable and the PFCC and the Police and Crime Panel Working Group dates.

- 2) To amend the forward plans for the PFCC's governance boards as required to be in line with the agreed timetable.

3. Background to the Proposal

Budget setting activities have commenced and will continue throughout the year through various governance stages within Essex Police and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's Office with a proposed budget and precept presented to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel in February 2023.

4. Proposal and Associated Benefits

The summarised budget setting timetable is split into five sections to reflect the various components of setting a revenue and capital budget. These sections are:

- Investments – (Including contractual and legal pressures, as well as service demand changes)
- Savings
- Capital Investment
- Pay
- Strategic - (including MTFs development and governance as the above components come together through Essex Police's Chief Officer Group (COG), PFCC engagement and through to Police, Fire and Crime Panel)

5. Options Analysis

Not applicable for this report.

6. Consultation and Engagement

Corporate Finance has engaged with the PFCC's Strategic Head of Performance and Resources since the March Strategic Board meeting to confirm the dates for the Chief Constable and PFCC engagement meetings and incorporate into the timetable dates and paper deadlines for the PFCC's engagement meetings with the Police, Fire and Crime Panel Budget Working Group.

7. Strategic Links

This paper concerns the setting of the 2023/24 budgets and therefore underwrites all the priorities and workstreams identified within the Police and Crime Plan.

8. Police operational implications

Operational policing requirements are considered throughout the budget setting process.

9. Financial implications

There are no specific financial considerations to this report.

10. Legal implications

Provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 set out what the force has to base its budget calculations upon and require the force to set a balanced budget by no later than 11th March for the following year.

11. Staffing implications

There are no staffing implications arising from this decision report.

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications

There are no equality or diversity implications of this decision report.

13. Risks and Mitigations

A key part of the budget setting process is the announcement of Home Office funding. This is estimated to be received mid-December but the exact date is not known and therefore there is a need to take a flexible approach towards the end of the budget setting process.

14. Governance Boards

Engagement through the various governance boards is a key part of the timetable presented to the Strategic Board.

15. Links to Future Plans

The budget setting timetable looks forward to the following financial year, in this case 2023/24. The longer-term strategic view of budgets is addressed through the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

16. Background Papers and Appendices

Strategic Board Paper - 2023/24 Draft Budget Setting Timetable, from 8th March 2022 updated with confirmed dates and the addition of engagement meetings between the PFCC and the Police, Fire and Crime Panel Budget Working Group.



23.24 Budget Setting
Timetable March 22 S

Report Approval

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


Chief Executive / M.O.

Sign: 

Print: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 2 September 2022

Chief Finance Officer

Sign: 

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 23 September 2022

Publication

Is the report for publication?

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	<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:

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/~~Deputy PFCC~~

Date signed: 28 September 2022

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: