

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 022-23

Classification (e.g. Not protectively marked/restricted): **Official**

Title of report: Month 8 – Appropriations to Earmarked Reserves

Area of county / stakeholders affected: IT Transformation Projects

Report by: Tamsin Malone, Finance Business Partner

Chief Officer: Mark Gilmartin, Director of Support Services

Date of report: 17 January 2023 / Submitted 6 February 2022

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1. Executive Summary

This decision report seeks the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's approval to make appropriations to the Transformation Reserve in relation of the ESMCP-ICCS Project, ESMCP-ESN Project and the Data Centre Migration Project for activity scheduled for delivery in 2023/24, as presented within the financial monitoring report for Month 8.

2. Recommendations

That the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) approves appropriations to reserves as set out below. This includes the associated virements and journals between the revenue account and balance sheet:

- £0.920m to the Transformation Reserve.

3. Background to the Proposal

ESMCP – ICCS Project

Through decision report 152-21 ('ICCS Supplier Replacement Business Case v13'), the PFCC approved ESMCP-ICCS funding for 2022/23 of £1.123m. However, changes in technical designs and technical development work have led to a re-baseline exercise resulting in significant changes to the overall delivery plan and timeframes.

It is proposed that £0.557m of the 2022/23 'Revenue Consequences of Capital' underspend is appropriated to cover the additional spend anticipated in 2023/24, as supported at the Performance and Resources Scrutiny Board on 29th December 2022.

ESMCP – ESN Project

Through decision report 118-21 ('Emergency Services Network Programme - Detailed Investment Business Case Stage 2') the PFCC approved ESMCP-ESN funding for 2022/23 of £0.515m.

The National ESMCP Programme has recently announced a delay while it considers the commercial structure of the programme. While it has recommended suspending most of the programme activity, there is a requirement for emergency services to continue with some coverage assurance. This work assesses the strength and quality and spread of the new ESN service across the relevant service areas.

The minimal coverage assurance team will be made up of two coverage posts and one project manager post who will be charged on a 50:50 basis between Essex and Kent and will provide coverage assurance until the end of 2023/24.

It is proposed that £0.113m of the 2022/23 'Revenue Consequences of Capital' underspend is appropriated to cover the additional spend anticipated in 2023/24, as supported at the Performance and Resources Scrutiny Board on 29th December 2022.

Data Centre Migration Project

Through decision report 115-21 ('Data Centre Migration'), the PFCC approved funding for the Data Centre Migration Project in 2022/23 of £1.269m. Several dependent IT transformation projects have slipped during 2022/23 which has impacted on the decommissioning plan for this project.

It is proposed that £0.250m of the 2022/23 'Revenue Consequences of Capital' underspend is appropriated to cover the additional spend anticipated in 2023/24, as supported at the Performance and Resources Scrutiny Board on 29th December 2022.

4. Proposal and Associated Benefits

It is proposed to appropriate to reserves a total of £0.920m, which will then be utilised in support of a variety of projects and activities, as summarised in Section 3 of this report.

5. Options Analysis

The recommended option is for the PFCC to approve the proposal to appropriate funding to the Transformation Reserve, 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 would 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, which are not sufficient to meet the associated costs.

6. Consultation and Engagement

Consultation has been undertaken with members of Essex Police Chief Officer Group to determine the most appropriate financial management of the £0.920m that has been proposed to appropriate to reserve.

The 2022/23 Month 8 Financial Monitoring Report, which contains details of the proposed appropriations, was also presented to the Performance and Resources Scrutiny Board on 29th December 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 departmental activities which complement Police and Crime Plan priorities to prevent, investigate and tackle crime and protect and support the people of Essex.

8. Police operational implications

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

9. Financial implications

Approval of the appropriations to earmarked reserves of the £0.920m not currently utilised in 2022/23 will ensure the funding can be applied as required to offset future financial pressures, promote proactive policing and support departmental activities. If the appropriations are not approved, activities in 2023/24 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 to propose to carry-forward underspends in the operational budget, subject to the limits referred to in Section 3 of this paper.

10. Legal implications

There are no legal implications.

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.

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.

As set out in section 5 above, should the recommendation not be supported, there is a risk that this would 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, which are not sufficient to meet the associated costs.

14. Governance Boards

Detail of the proposed appropriations to reserves were specifically referenced in the Month 8 2022/23 Financial Monitoring Report presented to Performance and Resources Scrutiny Board on 29th December 2022.

15. Links to Future Plans

This decision report and the recommendations contained therein are intrinsically linked to plans for operational policing and support departmental activities planned for 2023/24.

16. Background Papers and Appendices

Please see separate Appendix A - Corporate Finance Month 8 2022/23 Financial Monitoring Report.

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: 15 February 2023

Chief Finance Officer

Sign: 
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Print: Janet Perry

Date: 16 February 2023

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"/>
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

NO

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: 14th March 2023

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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.....
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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: