

FORCE STRATEGIC BOARD

21st July 2005

(FIO – no issues- open item)

FINANCE REPORT

STRATEGIC ISSUE FOR CONSIDERATION

Resource Management

SUMMARY OF PURPOSE AND MAIN ISSUES

- Budget Monitoring 2005-06
- Police Officer Recruitment Plan for 2005-06

Budget Monitoring 2005-06

Early forecasts suggest that expenditure is under control and within budget. Some additional costs have been incurred and these have been funded from within the CAF budget. This budget has now been committed in full.

The strategic issues / risks that I am aware of are highlighted below:-

- Major Operations – Annual Budget £1.7m

Expenditure to date just under £600,000. Funding applications total £1,013,533. Current trend in-line with the annual budget. Demand for the rest of the year unknown. There is a risk that this budget could overheat. Management arrangements regarding the approval process under review. Resource and cost review of ongoing operations is suggested.

- Force Programme

In overall terms, it would appear that the Force Programme is slipping. A number of projects are not yet at the point where deliverables have been quantified. It is likely that some of this year's expenditure requirement will be deferred to later years. Capacity to deliver the key projects is already fully committed. It is suggested that any revenue funding released this year should be retained as a contingency for 2005-06 and any balance carried forward to support next year's budget.

- Capital Programme (Appendix 1)

The capital programme will not be delivered as per the original budget. As with the Force Programme, the reason is because some deliverables have not yet been quantified. A review of the programme has been undertaken and the latest position is set out at Appendix 1. It is proposed that the revised programme be submitted to the Police Authority Resources Committee on 27th July. The programme is dynamic and may change due to market opportunities. There is sufficient funding flexibility to change the programme within the overall context of the Operational Estates Strategy should market opportunities arise. Capacity to deliver changes will need to be managed carefully.

Police Officer Recruitment Plan (Appendix 2)

The corporate recruitment plan has been revised to take account higher than anticipated wastage levels for the calendar year. The probationer recruitment has been increased to 220 for this financial year and this should allow the 3,500 police officer target by 31st March 2006 to be met. There are corporate issues / tensions with the recruitment profile and devolved FPP. Probationers are deployed to BCUs on an equal basis. This does not necessarily match wastage and growth decisions. As a result significant variations have appeared. These mismatches could impact on performance and potentially increase expenditure. Action is necessary to realign actual resources to policy decisions or policy decisions to actual resources if an increase in cost is to be avoided.

IMPLICATIONS (All template headings covered implicitly and the report fully supports the Engagement Circle values.)

CONSULTATION – Commanders via their representatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:-

- 1 The overall financial position be noted;
- 2 Management review the ongoing cost of existing major operations and adjust where appropriate;
- 3 The revised capital programme be approved;
- 4 Police officer deployment arrangements are reviewed so as to avoid any unplanned increase in corporate costs.

DECISIONS REQUIRED TO BE TAKEN

The Force Strategic Board note the implications of this paper and approve the recommendations.

Colin Papworth
Head of Finance