

SCOTTISH POLICE
AUTHORITY

Meeting	SPA Board meeting
Date	29 March 2018
Location	John McIntyre Conference Centre, Edinburgh
Title of Paper	SPA Report: Draft Revenue and Capital Budget 2018/19
Item Number	6.2(a)
Reference Number	REP-B.02.20180329
Presented By	Kenneth Hogg, Interim Chief Officer, SPA
Recommendation to Members	For Noting
Appendix Attached	No

PURPOSE

To provide contextual information about the SPA's role in setting the revenue and capital budget for 2018/19.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The SPA has a statutory duty to set each annual budget for policing, under the provisions of the Police and Fire Reform Scotland Act 2012. The SPA, in pursuance of its function to maintain the Police Service (section (2) (1) a)), must: **“before the beginning of each financial year, provide to the chief constable details of how it intends to allocate the financial resources it expects to have available to it in respect of that financial year”** (section 3, (1) c)).
- 1.2 In addition, the designated Accountable officer for the SPA is responsible for the propriety and regularity of public finances under their control and for the economical, efficient and effective use of resources available to SPA. It is the duty of the SPA to secure best value in carrying out its functions, and, similarly the duty of the Chief Constable to secure best value in carrying out the functions of the Police Service. The use of resources must be in accordance with the agreed annual police plan, the Governance and Accountability Framework, and Ministerial expectations set out in annual Budget Allocation and monitoring letters.

2. FURTHER DETAIL ON THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2018/19

- 2.1 This will be the sixth annual budget since the establishment of the Scottish Police Authority and the single police service in 2013. Importantly it commits to a further a year-on-year reduction of the underlying operating deficit, in line with the trajectory agreed with the Scottish Government to eliminate the deficit by 2020/21, and underpinned by specific actions to achieve that. Significantly, it does so whilst also setting aside sufficient funding for a pay award for Police Officers and Staff in line with the Government’s recently updated Public Sector Pay Policy. The budget includes funding for SPA Corporate and SPA Forensics, and it is therefore important that the budget setting process considers policing priorities holistically.
- 2.2. In line with agreed planning assumptions the draft budget includes an efficiency saving of £2.7m resulting from a reduction of 100 officers. HMICS has initiated an assurance process to validate Police Scotland’s commitment to release to the front line 100 officers from corporate support duties. However they can only provide limited assurance at this stage on the information presented by Police Scotland.

HMICS will therefore undertake further assurance activity in order to provide more detail and develop a process with SPA and Police Scotland to form a robust methodology to supply evidence and assurance around post categorisation, delivery of productivity benefits and increased operational capacity and improvements in performance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to note the information contained within this report.