

RESOURCES COMMITTEE
17 JUNE 2021

Minute of the Scottish Police Authority Resources Committee held
on MS Teams on Thursday 17th June 2021.

Participating Committee Members

Bob Black (Chair)
Katharina Kasper
Grant Macrae (joined from item 8.2)
Caroline Stuart

Other Participants

Scottish Police Authority

Chris Brown, Deputy Chief Executive
Lynn Brown, Chief Executive
John McNellis, Head of Finance, Audit and Risk

Deborah Christie, Governance Support Officer (Minute)

Police Scotland

Chief Superintendent Barry Blair, Criminal Justice Service Division
Lynn Brown, Strategic Financial Planning and Budgeting Lead
Kirsty Louise Campbell, Head of Strategy and Innovation
Phil Collard, Head of Estates
James Gray, Chief Financial Officer
Superintendent Jill Harper, Corporate Services
Andrew Hendry, Chief Digital & Information Officer
Brian Kyle, Interim Procurement Consultant
Colin Maciver, Programme Manager
Superintendent Iain MacLelland, Corporate Services
DCO David Page, Deputy Chief Officer
Michael Steele, Business Investment Lead
Superintendent Michael Whitford, Corporate Services

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

Bob Black welcomed everyone to the meeting which was being held using MS Teams due to the current COVID19 restrictions and would be live-cast to the SPA Website for the public items.

Charlie Fisher - HMICS, Ciaran O'Brian - Audit Scotland and Avril Davidson - SG were welcomed to the call as observers.

There were no apologies however Members noted Grant Macrae would join the meeting late.

1.2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

1.3 Resources Committee Minute from meeting held on 18 May 2021 - For Approval

Members **AGREED** the Minute from the Resources Committee held on 18 May 2021 was an accurate record of the meeting.

1.4 Resources Committee Action Log Review

Members noted the action log and the updates provided.

1.5 Decision on Taking Business in Private

In accordance with paragraph 20 of the SPA Standing Orders, the Committee **AGREED** to consider items 5 - 10 on the agenda in private.

1.6 Business conducted since last Committee meeting

There was no Committee business considered since the last committee.

2.1 Provisional Year End Outturn 2020/21 - James Gray

Members considered the report which provided an update on the provisional 2020/21 financial outturn. In addition to the written report and during discussion the following points were raised and discussed;

- Members consider the report and noted that the presented figures were still subject to external audit but that the figures were in line with in year reporting to Committee and Board. An overview of the capital, revenue and reform budget was provided.
- The Committee Chair commended the work done to manage the overall financial position given the difficult and unpredictable past year and sought additional understanding of the work done to manage the overall position given the spend over and above budget. The Chief Financial Officer explained that any threats and opportunities were identified as early as possible and close working relationships between budget holders and finance business partners was key to ensuring rigour around the financial planning. Members heard that the Capital Investment group closely tracked spend against profile and it is at this group budget holders are challenged on whether they will deliver projects to identify if any reallocation will

be necessary. Members welcomed the assurances in respect of robust slippage management across the organisation.

- The Committee also welcomed an overview of the controls in place and the steps taken to ensure that cash flow was very closely monitored.
- Clarity was sought on the reason for the overspend on VR/VER. It was explained that following the anticipated underspend in SPRM, a decision was taken that if possible to overspend in this area, to reduce headcount where possible. It was also confirmed that the average cost per VR/VER package was also greater than had been budgeted.
- Noting the underspend across a number of cyber projects, Members questioned why these projects had not delivered against the planned budget. The Chief Financial Officer agreed to carry out some additional analysis into this and provide an explanation to the Committee. It was explained that this was a complex area of budget planning and management across linked projects given the multiyear nature of some projects and the significant interdependencies across a number of linked business areas. It was advised that many of these projects were tracking in line with the projections outlined in the Full Business Cases.

Members noted the report and agreed the following action;

RES-20210617-001: Further information to be provided on the underlying reasons for over and underspends in reform budget.

3. Importation of Goods from the EU – James Gray

Members considered the report which provided an update to the Committee on activity undertaken to adapt procedures to accommodate importation of goods from the EU following the exit of the UK from the EU. In addition to the written report the following points were raised and discussed;

- Members were provided with an update on the impact of changes since the UK's exit from the European Union on the importing of goods from the European Union.
- It was confirmed that, at this stage, there was no evidence of increased prices, however, there may be a gradual impact over time.
- In response to a question regarding what additional costs had been incurred or were expected to be seen as a result of the additional processes now involved it was confirmed that a limited impact had been seen so far but it would continue to be monitored.

Members noted the report.

4. Resources Committee Work Plan

Members noted the work plan.

Approved