

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR
WEST MERCIA**



RECORD OF DECISION

TITLE: West Mercia Reserves Strategy

Ref: PCC/D/2018/22

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Reserves Strategy provides information on the estimated levels of reserves currently held and explains how some of these will be applied over the next three years to help support the revenue budget and capital programme, fund the Transformation Programme, ensure the PCC and Chief Constable meet statutory responsibilities, manage critical risks and contribute towards key strategic initiatives.

In the written statement that accompanied the Provisional Police Grant report on 19th December 2017, the Minister stated "You may be aware that police reserves currently stand at around £1.6bn, which compares to £1.4bn in 2011. We will be changing guidance to PCCs to ensure that police officers and the public have access to more detailed information on how PCCs intend to use this public money". The Home Office published detailed guidance on 31st January 2018. This report complies with the new Ministerial requirement.

The reserves strategy was set out in the 2018/19 budget report and Medium Term Financial Plan. This has been updated to reflect the 2017/18 outturn position and decisions made by the PCC during 2018. The actual and forecast position on reserves is reported monthly to the PCC.

The reserves strategy is attached and will be published on the Police and Crime Commissioner's website.

PROPOSAL

The Police and Crime Commissioner approves the Reserves Strategy and the deployment of reserves set out.

**APPROVAL OF
West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner**

I hereby approve the above proposal.

Signed

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OR EXEMPTION FACTS AND ADVICE

BACKGROUND

The Reserves Strategy was originally set out in the 2018/19 Budget Report and Medium Term Financial Plan. The Police and Crime Commissioner considered this report when approving the 2018/19 precept on 12 February 2018. This reserves strategy has been updated to include the 2017/18 outturn position (as set out in the Statement of Accounts). Since April 2018 the Police and Crime Commissioner has approved the use of reserves to fund significant initiatives. These include the development of improved Victims Services from 1st April 2019 (with initial set up costs falling in 2018/19). Most recently the Police and Crime Commissioner has approved the recruitment of an additional 100 police officers to meet the increased demands placed on policing in West Mercia. The costs of these officers in 2018/19 will be met from the Infrastructure Reserve with recurring costs being included in the 2019/20 budget and Medium Term Financial Plan.

FINANCIAL COMMENTS

The Police and Crime Commissioner of West Mercia held reserves of £36.507m as at 1 April 2018. These included a General Reserve of £10.587m, Earmarked Reserves of £25.787m and Capital Reserves of £0.133m. The reserves strategy sets out the plans to deploy £24.046m of these reserves over the next three years.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

By virtue of schedule 11, paragraph 14 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Police and Crime Commissioners may do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of the functions of commissioner. That includes: entering into contracts and other agreements (whether legally binding or not) and acquiring and disposing of property (including land).

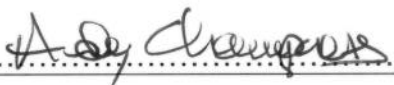
PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the West Mercia Commissioner's website. Any facts and advice that should not be made automatically available on request are not included in Part 1 but instead in a separate Part 2 report. There is no Part 2 report.

OFFICER APPROVAL

Chief Executive Officer

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial and legal advice have been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the West Mercia Commissioner.

Signature  Date 18th September 2018

