

RECORD OF DECISION

TITLE: West Mercia Reserves Strategy

Ref: PCC/D/2019/12

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 Ministerial requirement.

The first reserves strategy (for 2018/19) was approved in September 2018. This has been updated and amended to reflect current challenges. The 2019/20 reserves strategy was set out in the 2019/20 budget report and Medium Term Financial Plan. 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

To approve the Reserves Strategy and the deployment of reserves set out therein.

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

I hereby approve the above proposal.

Signed



PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL/EXEMPT FACTS AND FIGURES

SUPPORTING REPORT

The Reserves Strategy was originally set out in the 2019/20 Budget Report and Medium Term Financial Plan. The Police and Crime Commissioner considered this report when approving the 2019/20 precept on 11 February 2019. The Reserves Strategy makes provision for the significant risks facing the Police and Crime Commissioner and the West Mercia Police Force. These include:

- The development of new collaborative arrangements with Warwickshire
- The establishment of new governance arrangements with the Fire and Rescue Services in West Mercia
- The implementation of the Transformation Programme
- The modernisation of the ICT and Estate Infrastructure.

FINANCIAL COMMENTS

It is estimated that the Police and Crime Commissioner of West Mercia will hold reserves of £33.155m as at 1 April 2019. These will include a General Reserve of £10.587m, Earmarked Reserves of £22.435m 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 Commissioner 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 Police and Crime 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

Signature *A. J. Cross* Date *4th April 2019*