



Resources Committee

7 February 2023

Minutes of the Resources Committee held on 15 December 2022 via MS Teams

Board Members present:	Grant Macrae (Chair) Tom Halpin Alasdair Hay Catriona Stewart Caroline Stuart
Board Member apologies:	Nil
In attendance:	SPA Chris Brown, Deputy Chief Executive John McNellis, Head of Finance, Audit and Risk Deborah Christie, Governance Support Officer Police Scotland Lynn Brown, Head of Corporate Finance James Gray, Chief Financial Officer Yvonne Johnston, Estates Transformation & Portfolio Lead Brian Kyle, Strategic Procurement Manager Superintendent Iain MacLelland Chris Perry, Chief Technology Officer Detective Superintendent Paul Rollo HMICS Steven Tidy

1.1 Welcome

Grant Macrae welcomed everyone to the MS Teams meeting.

1.2 Apologies

There were no Authority Member apologies.

1.3 Declarations of Interest or connections

There were no declarations of interest or connections.

1.4 Decisions on taking business in private (Items 4 – 7)

In accordance with paragraph 20 of the SPA Standing Orders, the Committee AGREED to consider items 4 – 7 on the agenda in private.

2.1 Resources Committee Minute from meeting held on 10 November 2022 for approval

Members AGREED the Minute from the Resources Committee held on held on 10 November 2022 was an accurate record of the meeting.

2.2 Rolling Action Log and Matters Arising

Members noted the actions and updates and agreed to close the actions that were proposed for closure.

2.3 Decisions since last meeting

There was no committee business considered between meetings.

3.1 Financial Monitoring Report P7 2022/23 – James Gray/Lynn Brown

The Committee considered the paper which had been submitted to provide Members with an update on the financial position of the SPA and Police Scotland for Period 7 of the financial year 2022/23. During discussion and in addition to the written report the following points were raised and discussed;

- There P7 forecast was broadly in line with the Q2 reporting and a break even position is still forecast however significant challenges were being managed to maintain this position.
- Following discussions with Scottish Government, the plans to identify £5m of one off savings or underspends were noted by Members as was the increased delivery risk which was now reflected in the reporting. Assurance was sought and provided that these identified savings were one off in nature e.g. additional Covid

funding that is not required.

- The capital spend would continue to be closely monitored and managed.
- Noting the reported risk, a question was asked seeking clarity on the timescale for recovery of all Operation Unicorn costs. Members heard work continued with HM Treasury colleagues to ensure this was resolved as swiftly as possible and progress was noted.
- In response to a question seeking assurance that there had been appropriate planning to ensure sustainable and affordable levels of officer overtime going forward (both with a focus on budget and wellbeing) DCO Page explained work was underway to balance the projected future levels of overtime with the funding that will be available. It was also highlighted that robust management of officer deployment by the Force Resources Deployment Unit allowed any wellbeing concerns to be identified. He reported that no current issues linked to overtime levels had been identified. Members sought and received an assurance from the Chief Financial Officer that he was satisfied appropriate controls were in place to effectively manage overtime costs.
- Concern was expressed by Members that the current financial climate/impacts of inflation would mean Hard Facilities Management costs are expected to continue to increase despite the mitigating actions in place. The Chief Financial Officer explained this was an area of real concern for the Force and it had been discussed a lot during the budget setting process, especially as the challenges were increasing year on year. It was noted the intention will be to continue to address only priority 1 and 2 H&S reactive works and the budget would be planned with that in mind.
- In response to a question seeking assurance there would be no operational impact for the Force as a result of the funding that will be returned to Scottish Government, the Chief Financial Officer confirmed that, assuming no unforeseen challenges, there would be no operational impact and the funding had been agreed to be returned based on the best available info available at the time.
- Members discussed the importance of Police Scotland to be in a position to invest in estates projects and infrastructure so as to ensure a sound basis for the organisation to operate effectively, grow and keep pace with modern options. Attendees agreed the need to continue pursue collaborative opportunities would be important going forward.
- The Committee asked what delays had been experience as a result of the Scottish Government's AO template process. It was explained that a number of delays had been experienced as a result of this additional approval requirement. Examples of such delays were provided noted which included, a 'feasibility studies for estates projects' and the 'Your Leadership Matters' project which although

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now both approved, the additional stage of approval and caused delays in project implementation.

Members noted the report.

*The following items were taken in private.
End.*

