

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2019/20

Forecast as at 30 September 2019 to Police & Crime Panel 11 February 2020

Constabulary Summary at September 2019

The current forecast of net expenditure amounts to £122.307m compared to a revised budget of £122.019m. The variance amounts to a forecast overspend of £288k (0.24%). The forecast overspend represents an increase of £303k compared with the underspend of £15k reported as at the end of June 2019.

Overall core expenditure remains broadly in line with the budget. The increase in forecast expenditure is principally in relation to additional police officer recruitment in response to the government's proposed increase in police officer number (Operation Uplift) and assumptions regarding accompanying central funding to meet these additional costs.

Description	Revised Budget 2019/20 £'000s	Forecast Expenditure / (Income) 2019/20 £'000s	Forecast (Under)/ Overspend 2019/20 £'000s	Forecast (Under)/ Overspend 2019/20 %	Forecast (Under)/ Overspend @ JUN-19 £'000s	Change from JUN-19 to SEP-19 £'000s
Constabulary Funding						
Police Officers	86,077	86,494	417	0.48%	24	393
Police Community Support Officers	2,738	2,581	(157)	-5.73%	64	(221)
Police Staff	22,564	22,515	(49)	-0.22%	(123)	74
Other Employee Budgets	1,704	1,806	102	5.99%	5	97
Transport Related Expenditure	2,294	2,314	20	0.87%	(12)	32
Supplies & Services	11,001	11,555	554	5.04%	115	439
Third Party Related Expenses	2,253	2,225	(28)	-1.24%	24	(52)
Total Constabulary Funding	128,631	129,490	859	0.67%	97	762
Income	(6,612)	(6,641)	(29)	0.44%	(112)	83
Total Constabulary Funding Net of Income	122,019	122,849	830	0.68%	(15)	845
Op Uplift Funding Assumptions	0	(542)	(542)	0.00%	0	(542)
Adjusted Constabulary Funding	122,019	122,307	288	0.24%	(15)	303

Current Forecast

Operation Uplift

In relation to the Government's pledge to recruit an additional 20,000 officers nationally, known as Operation Uplift, forces have been requested to commence the recruitment of officers as quickly as possible to ensure that the Government's target of recruiting the additional officers by the end of 2022/23 is achieved. This report includes £989k of expenditure currently expected to be incurred in 2019/20 to service Operation Uplift and includes the direct costs of the additional officers in relation to pay, uniform and equipment, recruitment costs and enabling police staff posts,

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such as trainers. The Home Office has given Cumbria a target of recruiting an additional 51 officers by March 2021, which is expected to be substantially achieved by March 2020.

Whilst funding for Operation Uplift has been promised and included in the Chancellor's spending round, details of the level and timing of funding at a force level has still to be announced. The report assumes that funding of £542k will be received. This is based on re-imburement of officer salary costs on a pro-rata basis in proportion to the Government's target number of officers and an assumption that all indirect costs, except accommodation, will be met in accordance with the Home Office funding model.

Appendix A provides a graphical presentation of planned intakes of police officers included in the above assumptions, which shows the expected increase in officer numbers.

Detailed Budget Lines

Explanations for significant variances highlighted in the table above are as follows:

Police Officer Pay - the police officer budget is forecast to overspend by £417k, this is largely attributable to Operation Uplift above, although there are other minor variances arising from a combination of increased overtime, a lower than anticipated pay award and more officers than expected electing not to be members of the police pension scheme.

PCSO Pay - the PCSO budget is forecast to underspend by £157k. This is due to an increase in the number of forecast leavers to become officers and the removal of the planned PCSO intake in March 2020, to allow the recruitment and training teams to focus on bringing additional police officers in response to Operation Uplift.

Police Staff pay - is forecast to underspend by £49k. The underspend on police staff has arisen as a result of the assumptions made with regard to when vacant posts are expected to be filled and a forecast increase in response to additional posts created as part of Operation Uplift to support the recruitment of police officers.

Other employee expenses budget - is forecasted to overspend by £102k. This is largely as a result of assumptions made with regards to recruitment and welfare costs associated with operation uplift and other additional recruitment and welfare costs.

Supplies and services – are showing an overall forecast overspend of £554k. This is principally as a result of increased expenditure on training accommodation (partly as a result of operation uplift and partly as a result in a forecast delay

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in when the new accommodation hostels at the Eden Deployment Centre will become available) and ICT, offset by efficiency savings and reduced expenditure on custody medical services and forensics.

Potential Risk Areas

At this time the funding position of Operation Uplift remains uncertain. There are risks both in relation to the quantum and the timing of the funding, including over whether it will be received in 2019/20 or 2020/21, which has the potential to impact on the final outturn position.

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Appendix A – Proposed WFP Model 2019-20 in Response to Operation Uplift

