

Report of the Chief Constable to the Chair and Members of the Audit Committee 26th September 2024

Executive & Presenting Officer: Mr Ian Wright, Director of Finance and Assets

Status: For Information

Value for Money Profiles – Analysis of Force Spend and Workforce Costs 2023/24

1. Purpose

- 1.1 Following request from the Audit Committee to the force Director of Finance and Assets and the Chief Finance Officer to the Police and Crime Commissioner Appendices 1 and 2 are intended to provide information and analysis based on budgeted costs for 2023/24.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Audit Committee note the information detailed in Appendices 1 and 2.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Audit Committee use the information provided to inform discussion around Value for Money and any requests for further analysis work in specific areas.

3. Background

- 3.1 Cleveland submit budgeted financial data to His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services at the start of each financial year.
- 3.2 The information is broken down over a series of objective and subjective headings under the Police Objective Analysis Categories.
- 3.3 His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services then collate the data across all Forces and publish them as a series of tables. In theory the expenditure is fully comparable between Forces however in practice each Force is likely to categorise some expenditure slightly differently making the tables a useful tool to inform further consideration rather than a completely accurate picture.
- 3.4 The tables in Appendices 1 and 2 were considered at the Force's Executive Management Board 17th April 2024 and budget managers and finance were encouraged to analyse the numbers to understand where Cleveland expenditure appeared high and consider areas for exploration of improved Value for Money.

- 3.5 Limitations to the analysis include:
- Expenditure per head can naturally lead to higher costs for smaller forces with less scope for economies of scale.
 - Demand is not factored into the calculations so no adjustment is made for the level of crime in the Cleveland area.
 - No allowance is made for specific cost pressures in a Force or Force area.
 - No adjustment is made for social or economic factors.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial

There are no direct financial implications from this analysis, but it should inform future continuous improvement within the Force.

4.2 Legal

There are no legal implications arising from the content of this report.

4.3 Diversity & Equal Opportunities

There are no diversity or equal opportunities implications arising from the content of this report.

4.4 Human Rights Act

There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from the content of this report.

4.5 Sustainability

There are no sustainability implications arising from the content of this report.

4.6 Risk

There are no risks implications arising from the content of this report.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The Joint Audit Committee are invited to consider this information and consider what further work on Value for Money would be useful for their work.