

# **Report of the Chief Constable to the Chair and Members of the Audit Committee 26<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.