Agenda Item No.

14

JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE
28 APRIL 2021

SUBJECT	**VALUE FOR MONEY & EFFICIENCY PLAN**
REPORT BY	**CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER OPCC AND FORCE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**
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SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF REPORT The report describes arrangements to secure and improve value for money.	
RECOMMENDATION	***That the Committee reviews arrangements to secure value for money and their effectiveness.***

A. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. One of the Committee's duties is to

   "consider the arrangements to secure value for money and review assurances and assessments on the effectiveness of these arrangements."

2. A joint value for money plan is approved annually which provides an overview of value for money arrangements. The draft Value for Money & Efficiency Plan 2021/22 is attached at Appendix A.

3. Management oversight of value for money is one of the responsibilities of the Exec Board chaired by the Chief Constable. The Capabilities Board will also have benefits realisation within its remit.

4. External assurance is provided by:

   - The external auditor who provides an annual conclusion on whether there are "proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources"

   - HMICFRS which assesses value for money as part of the annual PEEL inspections. HMICFRS uses four categories for making judgements – outstanding / good / requires improvement / inadequate.
     The latest assessment published in January 2020 concluded that Lincolnshire Police is judged to 'require improvement' in how efficiently the force operates and how sustainable its services to the public are. The Force operates efficiently given the level of funding it receives. The force is good at meeting current demands and using resources, but the Force needs to continue to improve how it plans for the future.

B. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no direct financial implications of the report.

C. LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

Police bodies, commissioners, chief constables and chief finance officers all have statutory responsibilities in relation to securing value for money. Current arrangement help ensure that these responsibilities are discharged effectively.

D. PERSONNEL, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

(including any impact or issues relating to Children and Young People)

None.

E. REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS

A value for money plan is approved annually and delivery of the plan is monitored through the Exec Board.

F. RISK MANAGEMENT

"Failure to achieve and demonstrate efficiencies, value for money and optimum workforce productivity" is recognised as a significant risk in the PCC Risk Register with a current risk score of 16. There is also risk ST131 on the Force Risk Register in the closed section of the agenda.

G. PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Information in this report along with any supporting material is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation.