
EFFICIENCY PLAN 2003/2004 - SIX MONTHS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2003

Joint Report of the Chief Constable, Clerk and Treasurer

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update members as to the progress made as at 30 September 2003 towards the achievement of the 2003/2004 Efficiency Plan.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 All police authorities in England and Wales are required to include a statement of planned efficiency gains within their Local Policing Plans. This statement must identify gains to the value of 2% net revenue expenditure.
- 2.2 The target efficiency gain for Northumbria Police is £4.825m for 2003/2004.
- 2.3 At the Police Authority meeting of 19 February 2003, members agreed the content of the 2003/2004 Efficiency Plan and its incorporation within the Local Policing Plan, (minute 229 -2002/2003 refers).
- 2.4 The achievement of the Efficiency Plan is dependent upon being able to evidence improvements in performance as a result of the efficiency measures taken. Performance is assessed against six parcels of indicators.

3. CURRENT POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2003

- 3.1 The original planned savings for 2003/2004 were £6.069m which was £1.244m above the target. The plan has now been revised and the projected outturn for 2003/2004 is £5.711m.

A summary of the current position is set out below:

	Planned 2003/2004 £000	Improvement to Date £000	Projected Outturn £000
CASHABLE SAVINGS			
General Running Costs	616	561	690
Devolved Financial Management	76	37	72
Employee Related Expenditure	53	536	536
	<u>745</u>	<u>1,134</u>	<u>1,298</u>
NON CASHABLE SAVINGS			
Savings in Employee Time	4,454	2,580	4,394
General use of resources	16	19	19
Review of Staff Deployment	854	0	0
	<u>5,324</u>	<u>2,599</u>	<u>4,413</u>
TOTAL	<u>6,069</u>	<u>3,733</u>	<u>5,711</u>

- 3.3 The original planned savings for 2003/2004 totalled £6.069m. This was £1.244m above the target level, providing a contingency in case of slippage in the achievement of schemes. Latest projections now show that estimated savings totalling £5.711m are anticipated.
- 3.4 The category Review of Staff Deployment shows a projected outturn of nil. This is due to a number of items being reclassified as Cashable Savings - Employee Related Expenditure, following advice from HMIC; and other schemes being withdrawn following a review of the civilianisation programme.
- 3.5 Whilst slippage has occurred in some areas, additional savings have been identified in all categories which help maintain the overall target achievement.
- 3.6 Major sources of additional schemes include local initiatives to increase front line policing, including staff reviews and the creation of specialist crime units, and reviews in staffing structures.
- 3.7 Of the savings identified £2,617,000 have links to the National Bureaucracy Task Force recommendations.

4. PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT

- 4.1 The achievement of the Efficiency Plan is dependent upon being able to evidence improvements in performance as a result of the efficiency measures taken. HMIC assesses performance against six parcels of indicators, which have been amended to reflect the new domains under the Policing Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF). These are: Citizen Focus, Reducing Crime, Investigating Crime, Promoting Safety and Security, Resource Usage and Local Priorities. Under each of these headings are detailed performance measures, consisting of Police Best Value Indicators and Local Performance Indicators.

4.2 Members should note that performance against these indicators is monitored constantly and satisfactory improvements have been achieved to date.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The cashable savings have been incorporated within the 2003/2004 revenue budget.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 Efficiency savings for 2003/2004 are projected to be £5.711m, which is £0.886m (18%) above target. This provides a satisfactory level of contingency within the Plan which will help cover any slippage, if it occurs, before 31 March 2004.

8.2 A formal assessment will not be received from HMIC regarding the performance element of the plan until mid-November, however, satisfactory improvements have been achieved in a number of areas and the level of performance for many indicators is either better than target or an improvement on the previous year.

9. RECOMMENDATION

9.1 Members are requested to note the progress to date towards the achievement of the 2003/2004 Efficiency Plan.