

Introduction

I am pleased to introduce the Summary Statement of Accounts for the 2023/24 financial year. This summary statement sets out both the single entity statements of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria and the consolidated group position, incorporating the statements of the Chief Constable of Cumbria Constabulary. The financial information set out in the summary statement of accounts is taken from the full financial statements which are published in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

This summary statement of accounts is taken from the PFCC Chief Finance Officers narrative report to the full statement of accounts. The purpose of the report is to offer readers a guide to the most significant matters reported in our statement of accounts. It sets out our overall financial position and a series of mini statements summarising and explaining the primary financial statements. It includes information on our performance and value for money. A commentary is also provided to set out the major influences impacting our income and expenditure in the current and future financial years.

By providing this information we aim to support our readers with an understandable and informative narrative on those matters most significant to our financial position and our financial and non-financial performance. This narrative report is provided as part of the overall publication of the financial statements and also as a standalone report. It can be accessed through the Commissioner's website: www.cumbria-PFCC.gov.uk together with the single entity statements of the Chief Constable.

Statutory Framework

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner was established as a statutory entity under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (PRSRA 2011). The PRSRA 2011 provides that there will be a Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for each police area with responsibility for ensuring the maintenance of the police force for the area, securing that the police force is efficient and effective and holding the Chief Constable to account. The Commissioner has wider responsibilities than those solely relating to the police force. These include responsibility for the delivery of community safety and crime reduction, the enhancement of the delivery of criminal justice in their area and providing support to victims.

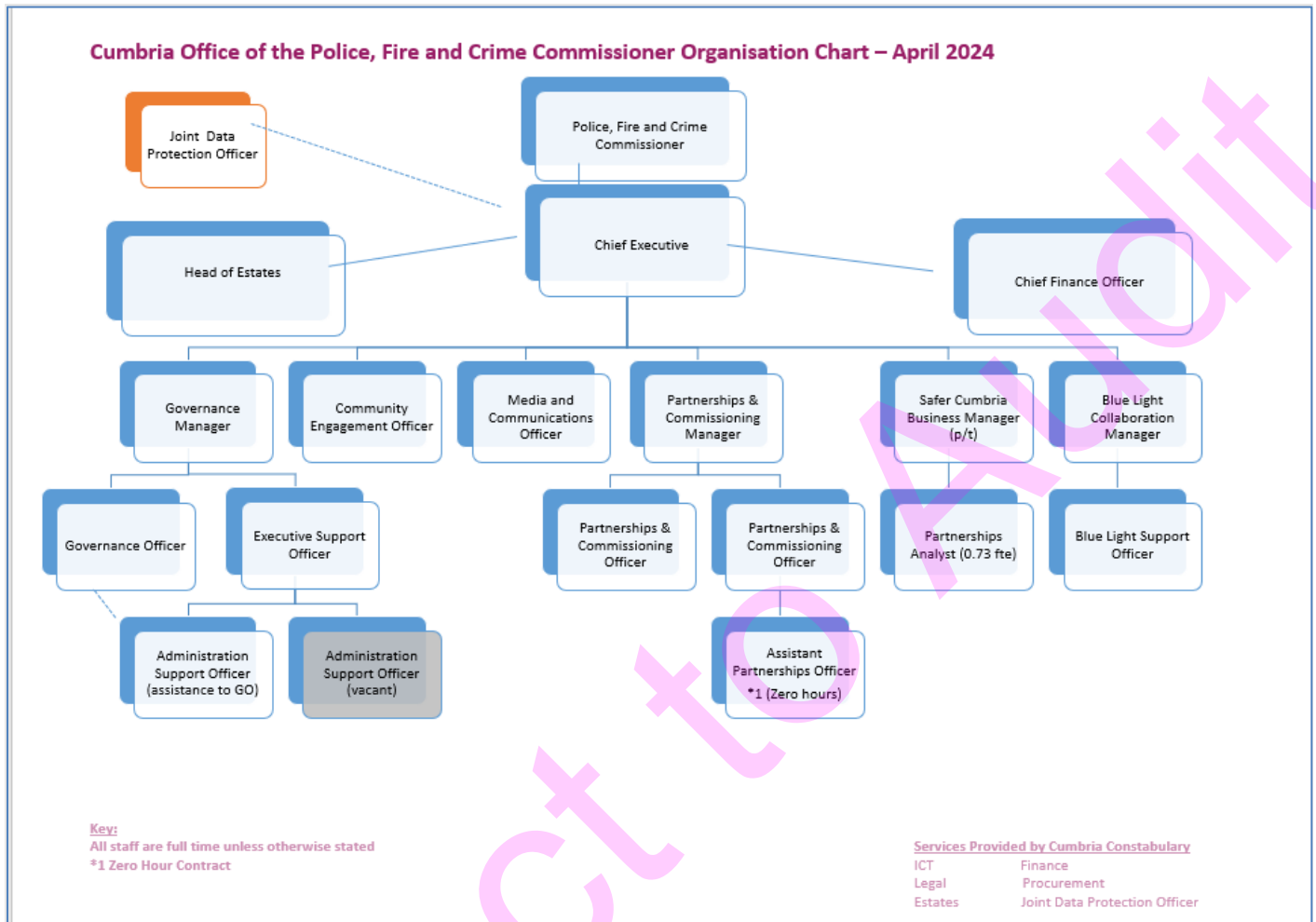
The PRSRA 2011 also established the Chief Constable as a separate statutory entity, distinct from the Commissioner and with operational independence. The Chief Constable is responsible for maintaining the King's peace and the exercise of police powers. The Chief Constable is accountable to the Commissioner for leadership of the force, the delivery of efficient and effective policing and the management of resources and expenditure.

The PRSRA 2011 sets out the statutory financial framework for the Commissioner and Chief Constable. The legislation provides for the Secretary of State to issue a financial code of practice in relation to the proper administration of financial affairs. The Home Office under the legislation issues a Financial Management Code of Practice for the Police Forces of England and Wales.

The Code supports the statutory framework further setting out the financial relationships and requirements for the Commissioner and Chief Constable.

This financial framework provides that the Commissioner receives all funding, including government grants, council tax income and other sources of income related to policing and crime reduction. The Commissioner decides the budget, allocating assets and funds to the Chief Constable. This, in addition to the powers of the Commissioner to set the strategic direction for policing, appoint, and dismiss the Chief Constable, creates a subsidiary relationship between the Commissioner and the Chief Constable. As such, the Commissioner must publish a set of group accounts in addition to single entity accounts. The Chief Constable must publish single entity accounts and provide information to the Commissioner to support the publication of the group accounts.

Our Organisation



The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is supported by an office of 16.3 FTE staff, this includes two statutory officers.

The Chief Constable is accountable to the Commissioner and has responsibilities to support the Commissioner in the delivery of the strategy and objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan. Both entities have appointed a Joint Audit Committee and a Joint Ethics and Integrity Panel. The Committee and Panel comprise independent members to oversee arrangements for governance, including financial reporting and the arrangements for integrity and ethical behaviour. Four Custody Visiting Panels fulfil the statutory requirement for independent review of custody. Membership of the panels at the end of 2023/24 were: Barrow 11, Kendal 9, North Cumbria 10 and West Cumbria 12.

Our Goals

The Commissioner sets the strategic direction for policing and wider interventions within the Police and Crime Plan. The vision for our plan is that Cumbria remains a safe place to live, work and visit, where the public has a say in policing and organisations and community groups work together to address the causes of crime, as well as the consequences. Key priorities include a focus on victims, reducing anti-social driving, preventing rural crime, reducing drug use and drug-related crimes, reducing reoffending and preventing cyber-crime.

We work to achieve this by holding the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of effective policing and by commissioning a range of activity and interventions with the Constabulary and our wider partners. The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner launched the Police and Crime Plan ‘Keeping Cumbria Safe’ in November 2021 setting out our future strategy and goals.

Our People

Our people are the most important resource we have in achieving our goals. Our values commit to having an empowered staff who are high performing, professional and have high levels of satisfaction in their roles. The Commissioner’s Office and Constabulary perform well in relation to the gender diversity of the workforce. At Chief Officer Level, excluding the elected Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, 64% of the single entity Chief Officers are male as are 100% of senior managers. A breakdown by gender of the number of men and women across the organisation at the end of the financial year and the number of men and women who were managers is set out below.

Actual Employees as at 31 March 2024	PFCC		Total FTE
	Male FTE	Female FTE	
PFCC Single Entity			
Chief Officers	1.8	1.0	2.8
Senior Management	1.0	0.0	1.0
All Other Employees	1.0	11.5	12.5
Total PFCC Employees	3.8	12.5	16.3
Group			
Chief Officers	11.8	3.0	14.8
Senior Management	8.0	6.0	14.0
All Other Employees	998.4	1,032.8	2,031.2
Total Group Employees	1,018.2	1,041.8	2,060.0

Chief Executive Report

The Commissioner has nearly finished his eighth and final year in Office.

At the start of 2023/24, the Commissioner became the Cumbria Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority following the transfer of Fire governance due to Local Government Reorganisation. The Fire and Rescue Authority produce their own set of accounts and are not part of the OPFCC/Constabulary group.

During the year the Commissioner has been able to further embed the Police and Crime Plan with the support of the Constabulary and partners. This has helped establish effective relationships with key local government, criminal justice, health and third sector partners to develop initiatives and commission activities to reduce crime, support victims and enhance community safety and criminal justice.

The Police and Crime Plan contains the police and crime objectives, which all contribute toward achieving the Commissioner's overall aim 'to keep Cumbria safe'. Objectives are monitored through Public Accountability Conferences; a public meeting where the Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account. This structure has been in place for several years and works well.

The Commissioner has continued to provide a range of services for victims and specific services for victims of sexual violence, domestic violence and perpetrator programmes. During 2023/24, the Commissioner has also managed additional funding to help local charities supporting victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence to deal with increased demand for services.

The Commissioner has well established financial and governance frameworks necessary to fulfil statutory, regulatory and best practice requirements, supported by the relevant professional bodies for local government and policing. This benefits from continuous development to ensure the office continues to meet the highest standards.

Public consultation and engagement are paramount to the Commissioner as he is the 'voice' for the people of Cumbria for policing. A wide range of diverse opportunities are available for the public to speak directly to the Commissioner, when the Commissioner is out in the community or by speaking to groups directly. This is further supported by the public contacting the Commissioner by email and letter, with 682 people contacting the Commissioner in this way during 2023/24. The main themes raised in this year were in relation to, police service dissatisfaction, anti-social behaviour, anti-social driving and firearms licencing.

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The Commissioner undertook a successful public consultation for the increase in the council tax precept for 2023/24, with 411 respondents and 50% supporting the proposal. As a result of the public consultation, the views of the Chief Constable and the unanimous support of the Police and Crime Panel, the Commissioner took the decision to increase council tax precept by £9.96 for a Band A property and £14.94 for a Band D property.

The Commissioner has continued to hold the Chief Constable to account at regular Public Accountability Conferences and weekly 1-2-1s with the Chief Constable focusing on performance in terms of crime and anti-social behaviour.

This is further supported by the independent inspectorate; His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), external and internal auditors to assist in the scrutiny of governance, finance, risks and internal control. In conjunction with the Constabulary the Commissioner also operates a Joint Audit Committee and an Ethics and Integrity Panel.

The Commissioner's staff embrace the fast-moving pace of the Office and this is evident from the work that is on-going with the Commissioner launching several key strategic campaigns in support of the Police and Crime Plan and commissioning developments. The Office is well placed to deal with the new challenges that we are expecting in 2024/25 and in the future as the role of the Commissioner continues to develop with additional responsibilities. Elections will take place in May 2024 and will see a newly elected Commissioner take office.

Particular attention is being directed to the continuing successful integration of Cumbria Fire and Rescue into the Commissioners portfolio following local government reform in Cumbria from April 2023. The integration work will see opportunities for collaboration between blue light services developed with a view to increasing efficiencies for both policing and fire services.

Finance Review

2023/24 Grant Settlement and Budget

The Commissioner set a combined net revenue budget of £124.957m for 2023/24 on 16 February 2023. Funding of this amount came from the Police Grant settlement (£72.875m) and income from Council Tax (£52.082m). Core Government grant income increased by 0.37% from 2022/23 with an additional £2.3m grant ringfenced for the Government's Uplift Programme to recruit 20,000 additional officers nationally by 2023/24. The budget represented an increase of the Council Tax precept by 5.3%, taking the Commissioner's proportion of the band D equivalent tax to £297.09 per annum. The effect of the increase is to support the medium term financial forecast and maintaining existing policing services through a period of higher inflationary pressures. The budget provided funding for the Chief Constable of £144.057m comprising a £149.312m expenditure budget to support policing and an income budget of (£5.255m). The Commissioner's budget provided £3.245m for Commissioned Services, to provide funding for

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partnership working across the Commissioner's wider community safety, crime reduction and victim support responsibilities and £0.896m for the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

The capital budget was set at £9.080m including schemes approved in the year and the effect of the 2022/23 capital outturn position. Capital expenditure is made up broadly of expenditure on assets that have a useful life of beyond one year. Approximately 65% of the programme related to investment in ICT, with the remainder being made up estates works, the cyclical replacement of fleet vehicles and operational equipment. The budget was funded from a combination of capital grants (£1.709m), reserves (£1.99m) and a borrowing requirement (£3.020m).

The table below shows the summary revenue budget for 2023/24 as set on 16 February 2023, the revised budget (taking into account budget changes made during the year) and the outturn position. The presentation below is as the figures are reported throughout the year in the management accounts. At the year-end a number of technical accounting adjustments (required by proper accounting practice) are made. For this reason, the outturn in the table below will not reconcile directly to the Summary Comprehensive Income and Expenditure statement on page 10.

Summary Budget and Outturn

Summary Budget & Outturn	Base	Revised		(Under)/
	Budget	Budget	Outturn	Overspend
	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Constabulary Budget	144,057	145,127	145,618	491
Office of the PFCC	910	1,190	1,226	36
Other PFCC Budgets	14,958	13,355	13,411	56
Grants/Contributions	(29,228)	(33,367)	(33,858)	(491)
Net Expenditure before reserves movements	130,697	126,305	126,397	92
To/(From) Reserves	(5,740)	(1,367)	(1,459)	(92)
Net Expenditure	124,957	124,938	124,938	0
Government Grants	(72,875)	(72,856)	(72,856)	0
Council Tax	(52,082)	(52,082)	(52,082)	0
Total External Funding	(124,957)	(124,938)	(124,938)	0

The Constabulary gross expenditure budget is made up of funding for employee costs, amounting in total to £131.550m, which is broken down into Police Officers £97.668m, PCSOs £2.257m, Police Staff £28.480m and other

employee costs of £3.145m. The remainder of the budget relates to non-staff costs including, transport costs of £2.555m and supplies/other costs of £15.207m. Income of (£5.255m), which is generated through policing activities, is also shown within the Chief Constable's budget.

The Commissioner's budgets comprise the costs of running his office £1.190m and the net position on a range of other costs. These include estates costs £6.045m for premises used by the Constabulary and Commissioner, Commissioned Services and Sexual Assault support £3.215m to deliver the Police and Crime Plan and budgets to finance capital expenditure and the costs of technical accounting adjustments. PFCC other budgets also include the costs of insurance and past pension costs.

In-Year Financial Performance

Revenue Expenditure: The out-turn position for 2023/24 is an overspend of £0.092m. The overall overspend is made up of an underspend of (£0.399m) on the budgets managed by the Commissioner and overspend of £0.491m on those held by the Constabulary. The core overspend equates to 0.07% of the revised net budget of £124.938m, which is within the target for the revenue expenditure to be within 1% of the budget at out-turn.

In overall terms budgets managed by the Commissioner were (£0.399m) under budget. This was largely attributable to a combination of, increases in investment income (£0.286m) and grants and contributions (£0.296m) offset by increases in premises costs £0.052m, council tax support for care leavers £0.022m, increased contributions to provisions for insurance and legal claims £0.163m.

In 2023/24 the Constabulary was £0.491m over budget. The officer pay budget was overspent by £1.119m because pressure on overtime budgets offset by changes to the workforce plan and a conscious decision to recruit additional uplift officer targets asap to secure additional specific grant from the home office. The transport budget was overspent (£0.350m) largely as a result of the increase in inflation vehicle fuel and repairs and maintenance.

However, this was offset by savings on police staff (£0.401m), PCSO (£0.394m) and additional income (£0.421m).

It is intended that of the group overspend of £0.092m) is funded from the budget support reserve. Detailed outturn reports which explain the full range of variances can be found on the budget and finance section of the Commissioner's website.

The Commissioner maintains the Police Property Act Fund. The fund has been accumulated over a period of time as a result of the disposal of property coming into the possession of the police under the Police Property Act 1987 and the Powers of the Criminal Courts Act 1973. Community groups and individuals can submit applications for funding

on a quarterly basis. During 2023/24 awards totaling £0.154m were made to 73 groups. As at 31 March 2024 the Police Property Act fund balance stood at £0.002m.

The 2023/24 Capital Expenditure Outturn amounted to £4.061m against a revised budget of £9.176m. Whilst the variance of 50% against planned expenditure was significantly above the target of 8%, there were continuing extenuating circumstances in 2023/24, as the knock-on effects of the pandemic has continued to impact on global supply chains particularly for vehicles. There have also been delays in delivering projects some of which are attributable to strategic options appraisal. Nevertheless, progress was made in capital investment during 2023/24 including up-grading the digital infrastructure and provision of mobile devices, digitisation of firearms licensing, development of a records management system, upgrade of county wide CCTV, alterations to the learning and development centre and cyclical replacement of the vehicle.

The Financial Statements

This section of the narrative report provides an explanation of the various parts of the financial statements alongside a high-level summary and narrative on the financial position. The aim of the statements are to demonstrate to the reader the overall financial position of the Commissioner at the end of the financial year, together with the cost of the services provided during the year and the financing of that expenditure. The reporting format is specifically designed to meet the requirements of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. A series of notes are provided to assist readers in their understanding of the statement, whilst the presentational format is designed to make for easier reading by those who access the document through the Commissioner's website. The key financial statements are:

- The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)
- The Movement in Reserves Statement (MIRS)
- The Balance Sheet (BS)
- The Cash Flow Statement (CFS)
- The Police Officer Pension Fund Accounts

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Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) shows the cost of policing and other services provided in the year and the income from government grants and council tax that fund those services. The CIES is shown on page 38 of the full statement of accounts. An expenditure and income analysis that sets out what those costs are (e.g. staffing, transport etc.) is provided in note 6 on page 57.

The table below sets out a summary CIES statement.

Summary CI&ES	Gross Expenditure 2023/24 £000s	Gross Income 2023/24 £000s	Net Expenditure 2023/24 £000s
Cost of Police Services	134,215	(24,500)	109,715
Cost of Services	134,215	(24,500)	109,715
Other Operating Expenditure	16,545	(16,516)	29
Financing Costs and Investment Income	57,576	(10,242)	47,334
Council Tax and Grant Income	0	(130,398)	(130,398)
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services	208,336	(181,656)	26,680
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(6,180)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			20,500

The statement shows that the net cost of providing services in the year amounted to £109.715m, which is predominantly the costs of policing.

In addition to showing the cost of services, the CIES also sets out net financing costs of £47.334m. The most significant element of financing costs comprise pension charges £47.863m. These charges are calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and do not all need to be funded in the 2023/24 financial year. Financing costs also include the costs of borrowing (capital financing). These costs are extremely low other than those that fund the Workington PFI building.

This is because the capital programme is funded internally using cash reserves to reduce investment risk and reflect the relatively low interest rates available on investing such balances, although it is recognised that this may change given the recent increases to interest rates. At the end of the financial year £20.799m (inclusive of PFI contract) of the capital programme is funded by the use of cash backed internal reserves rather than borrowing from the open market.

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At some point in the future, due to a planned reduction in reserves, the Commissioner will need to consider external borrowing.

Showing expenditure and income within this statement in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices results in expenditure exceeding income (a deficit on the provision of services) by £26.680m. A further accounting adjustment of (£6.180m) income through the 'other comprehensive income and expenditure' line results in an overall position on the statement of a deficit of (£20.500m). This is an accounting deficit that is taken to Unusable Reserves. Page 7 of this summary sets out the out-turn position based on the management accounts and excluding the technical accounting entries required for the CI&ES. The management accounts show an overspend of £0.092m against the 2023/24 budget.

Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the different reserves held by the Commissioner. These are analysed into 'Usable Reserves' and 'Unusable Reserves'. Usable reserves can be used to fund expenditure. They may help to pay for future costs or reduce the amount we need to raise in council tax to meet our expenses. Unusable Reserves are principally technical accounting adjustments. The Movement in Reserves Statement shows the opening balance on all reserves at the start of the year, movements in year and the closing balance. The Movement in Reserves statement is shown on page 40 in the full statement of accounts. The table below sets out a summary movement in reserves statement.

Summary Movement in Reserves	Balance	Movements	Balance
	31/03/2023	2023/24	31/03/2024
	£000s	£000s	£000s
Police Fund	4,000	0	4,000
Earmarked Revenue Reserves	19,681	(723)	18,958
Earmarked Capital Reserves	3,632	(1,619)	2,013
Capital Receipts	2,359	(128)	2,231
Capital Grants Unapplied	1,728	(1,728)	0
Total Usable Reserves	31,400	(4,198)	27,202
Unusable Reserves	(1,013,445)	(16,302)	(1,029,747)
Total Reserves	(982,045)	(20,500)	(1,002,545)

Movements in usable reserves for 2023/24 show a net balance of (£4.198m). This is the cumulative position recording the amounts we have drawn down from and contributed to specific (earmarked) reserves to help fund expenditure during the year. There are separate accounts to record our receipt and use of income from the sale of property and government grants for capital expenditure.

At the end of the year, the Police Fund at 31 March 2024 stands at £4.0m and provides for unplanned financial risks. Earmarked revenue reserves are £18.958m. These reserves provide for a number of specific operational contingencies, one off budget/project costs and funding to meet future liabilities in respect of insurances and the PFI contract. The balance of capital reserves as at 31 March 2024 was £2.013m, capital reserves are those set aside to fund the capital programme. Further detail on earmarked reserves is provided within note 8 to the statement of accounts on pages 62-63.

At the 31st March 2024 we have negative unusable reserves of (£1,030m). Unusable reserves provide a mechanism through which transactions are entered into the accounts in accordance with accounting standards. They also provide the means to manage differences in the timing and calculation of those transactions and the actual expenditure or income we need to charge to our accounts. For example, our properties are regularly re-valued. When this happens any increase in their value is shown in a revaluation reserve. The reserve 'records' the additional income we may receive when the property is sold, but it is 'unusable' until we decide to dispose of the property and achieve a sale. When we sell, the revaluation reserve will be reduced by any increase in value that was recorded before sale. The actual income we receive will be shown in our usable capital receipts reserve, where it can be used to fund new capital expenditure. The balance on our unusable reserves reflects the position following the required accounting transactions.

The cumulative position for unusable reserves includes reserves of:

- £54.730m in respect of the revaluation reserve and capital adjustment account, recording accounting transactions for our capital assets.
- (£1,079m) in respect of negative pensions reserves. The pensions reserves record accounting transactions for the Police and Local Government Pension Schemes. The change in the balance on these reserves in 2023/24 is positive and is as a result of changes in actuarial assumptions that have decreased scheme liabilities.

The Balance Sheet

The balance sheet shows the value as at the balance sheet date (31 March 2024) of the Commissioner's assets and liabilities. The balance sheet is shown on page 42 in the full statement of accounts. The table below sets out a summary balance sheet.

Summary Balance Sheet	Balance	Balance
	31/03/2023	31/03/2024
	£000s	£000s
Property, Plant & Equipment	76,567	74,402
Long Term Assets	1,857	1,127
Current Assets	29,503	26,834
Current Liabilities	(18,884)	(14,911)
Long Term Liabilities	(1,071,088)	(1,089,997)
Net Liabilities	(982,045)	(1,002,545)
Usable Reserves	31,400	27,202
Unusable Reserves	(1,013,445)	(1,029,747)
Total Reserves	(982,045)	(1,002,545)

The balance sheet shows property, plant and equipment assets, which include the Commissioner's estate, fleet of vehicles and ICT/communications equipment, with a value of £74.402m. Of this, land and buildings comprise £63.775m. Long terms assets are comprised of intangible assets (predominantly computer software) £1.107m. Current assets are principally made up of debtors £21.144m, inventories £0.554m and cash/cash equivalents £5.136m and have a total value of £26.834m. Investments are made in accordance with the Commissioner's treasury management strategy and support the management of reserves and cash flows.

Debtors' balances are primarily made up of institutional debtors, for example central government, and prepayments. This means that the risk of not receiving the debt remains low. The Commissioner has a good collection record in respect of debtor invoices raised for services provided. During 2023/24 one debtor invoice totaling £1,315 was authorised to be written off as not collectable. The provision for impaired or doubtful debts stands at £11,178 against the future risk that not all outstanding invoices will prove to be 100% collectable, this figure is decreased from the previous year of £13,430. The Commissioner's debtors include a share of the debtors recorded by the two Unitary Council's in respect of council tax. This debt amounts to £3.872m and is reduced by the Commissioner's share of their respective bad debt provisions of £1.779m. See note 14 to the statement of accounts (Page 77).

Balance sheet liabilities are amounts owed by the Commissioner. They include creditors, PFI debt, pensions and finance lease liabilities. They are split between short term (current) and long term liabilities, the current liabilities being those amounts due to be paid within 1 year. The most significant element of current liabilities are short term creditors which total (£14.612m).

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The combined short and long term liability on the PFI scheme amount to (£3.701m) at 31st March 2024. Long term liabilities are the most significant figure on the balance sheet, showing a balance of (£1,090m) ((£1,071m) in 2022/23). The main element of this amount is a pension's deficit of (£1,079m) ((£1,066m) in 2022/23) for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and the Police Pension Scheme. However, this deficit will be funded over a number of years, with financial support from Central Government, meaning that the financial position of the Commissioner remains healthy.

The Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash held in bank accounts and changes in Money Market funds. Money Market funds are an alternative way of depositing cash to earn interest. The cash can be withdrawn from the fund without having to give notice and they are therefore referred to as cash equivalents.

The statement shows how the Commissioner generates and uses cash and cash equivalents. Cash flows are classified within the cash flow statement as arising from operating activity, investing activity and financing activity. The statement is shown on pages 43-44 of the full statement of accounts. The table below sets out a summary cash flow statement.

Summary Cash Flow Statement	Cash flows 2022/23 £000s	Cash flows 2023/24 £000s
Cash & Cash Equivalents 1 April	(5,370)	(13,097)
Net Cash Flow from:		
Operating Activity	(9,020)	3,225
Investing Activity	(4,940)	4,472
Financing Activity	6,233	264
Cash & Cash Equivalents 31 March, made up of:	(13,097)	(5,136)
Bank Accounts	(636)	(1,846)
Money Market Funds	(12,461)	(3,290)

The table shows a cash outflow of £3.225m from operating activity. This is the net of our cash income including government grants, council tax and charges for services, less how much cash has been paid out, for example for salaries and goods that have been purchased. Cash flows from investing activity show an outflow of £4.472m and primarily represents the net balance of investment deposits less the amount of cash received when the investment comes to the end of its term. Investment activity provides a way to manage resources that will be used to fund future

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expenditure, earning interest on any balances. Investment activity also includes cash flows from the purchase and sale of capital assets (e.g. property). Cash flows arising from financing activities show a net cash outflow of (£0.264m), this being amount of cash repaid in relation to financing and borrowing. The Commissioner has no borrowing other than that which relates to finance leases and the PFI agreement. An amount of £264k was paid to reduce those debts during the year.

The Commissioner's cash flow statement shows an overall balance of (£5.136m), compared to (£13.097m) in 2022/23, reflecting a decrease in cash and cash equivalents of £7.961m over the year. At the end of the year (£3.290m) of the Commissioner's cash deposits was held in money market funds and (£1.846m) in banks.

Police Officer Pension Fund Account

This statement sets out the transactions on the police officer pension fund account for the year. The statement records all the contributions that have been made during the year to the pension fund. These are primarily contributions from employees and the Constabulary as employer. Contribution rates are set nationally by the Home Office. There are also small amounts of other contributions. These are either transferred contributions, where members join the Constabulary and pension scheme during the year, through transfer from another police force, and transfer in their existing pension benefits. Other contributions also include additional payments made by the employer to cover the cost of ill-health retirements. The fund records the pensions (benefits) that are paid out of the fund to its members. Any difference between the contributions received into the fund and the amount being paid out is met by government grant. This means the police pension fund always balances to nil.

Summary Police Pension Fund	Pension Fund A/C 2022/23 £000s	Pension Fund A/C 2023/24 £000s
Contributions - Employer	(14,714)	(16,588)
Contributions - Officers	(6,348)	(7,193)
Contributions - Other	(376)	(268)
Benefits Payable	40,622	40,539
Other Payments	163	55
Net Amount Payable	19,347	16,545
Contribution from Home Office	(19,347)	(16,545)
Net Amount Payable	0	0

The statement identifies contributions into the fund of (£16.588m) from the Constabulary (employer) and (£7.193m) from police officers. Employer contribution rates in 2023/24 were at 31%. In total £40.539m of pensions have been

paid out of the fund. The balance between contributions and those pensions' benefits of £16.545m has been funded by Home Office. The full police officer pension fund account is shown on pages 102 to 103 of the financial statements accompanied with a page of explanatory notes.

Supporting Information to the Financial Statements

The key financial statements are supplemented by an explanation of the accounting policies used in preparing the statements. They also contain a comprehensive set of notes that explain in more detail a number of entries in the primary financial statements. A glossary of terms provides an explanation of the various technical accounting terms and abbreviations. The statements are published alongside the Annual Governance Statement for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable in accordance with the 2015 Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations.

Business Review

During 2023/24, the Commissioner has continued with several programmes and initiatives working with the Constabulary and wider partners to deliver the key priorities within the Police & Crime Plan.

Alongside the core emotional, practical and advocacy support services commissioned for victims of crime and abuse, the Commissioner has worked with Victim Support to introduce new Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advisor posts, through Ministry of Justice funding managed by the Commissioner's office. One is based within Carlisle Infirmary and has been developed in partnership with North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust, to provide support to survivors of abuse who are accessing health services, particularly those who might not otherwise come into contact with support services. Another post is enhancing the support available to male victims of crime, particularly domestic and sexual abuse, through the introduction of a Male Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advisor based with Victim Support, which has enabled male victims to choose the gender of the person providing support. This post, has also supported a review of the information available for male victims and has focused on increased promotion of services to men through engaging with places which men they tend to go, including gyms and barbers' shops.

A service for children and young people who have witnessed domestic abuse has been embedded during 2023/24. 206 children and young people have been supported through this service during 2023/24. 100% of young people who completed their support between October and December 2023/24 reported that they had seen an improvement in their coping strategies and understanding of what makes a healthy relationship at the end of their support through this service.

The Commissioner has continued to fund Remedi to deliver restorative justice services across Cumbria for victims of crime and provide a programme of meditation for victims of antisocial behaviour. Restorative Justice is a process

which brings those harmed by a crime (a victim or victims) and those responsible for the harm (an offender or perpetrator), into some form of communication, enabling everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward.

Another key group of services which the Commissioner has helped to fund and manage is the Bridgeway Sexual Assault Support Services. There were a total of 340 referrals in the year for therapeutic services, and 77 people (2022/23 – 63 people) sought telephone advice through the Bridgeway Sexual Assault Support Services during the year ending March 2024.

For the therapeutic service, 81% (2022/23 - 82%) of service users with a planned closure to their support reported an improvement in health and well-being, 81% (2022/23 – 83%) felt better able to cope with everyday life (data for the 12 months to March 2024).

During 2023/24 together with the Constabulary has helped to reduce reoffending via the Cumbria Adult Out of Courts Disposal Framework. The integrated Offender Management programme known as 'Pathways', is delivered by commissioned service provider Remedi. In the first year of delivery, Pathways has received 1,214 referrals with equal spread of referrals across the county and 400 onward referrals for specialist support.

The Commissioner continued to fund Keep Safe to deliver consistent crime prevention advice with a target hardening service (improving security measures) available for all victims of crime. This service aims to reduce the likelihood of recidivism and helps victims to cope and recover from crime and/or anti-social behaviour by increasing the feeling of safety within their own homes. The number of victims supported by Keep Safe rises each year with 583 cases recorded from 1st April 2023 to 24th March 2024.

The Commissioner continued to provide a contribution towards the Crimestoppers regional manager contract to deliver campaigns and appeals at a local, regional and national level. These campaigns encourage people to report anonymously, taking away the fear of reprisals but still bringing criminals to the attention of the police and helping to safeguard victims of crime.

The Commissioner continued to provide a contribution towards Brake National Road Victim Service to support those who have suffered a bereavement or serious life changing injury due to a road collision. The service includes specific materials and support for children to help them to understand and to cope with a sudden bereavement.

In July 2022 the Commissioner secured £354,639 for Carlisle and £405,470 for Barrow from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund Round 4 to help reduce anti-social behaviour and the impact anti-social behaviour has on communities.

These projects will continue until September 2024. With the funding, the Commissioner has paid for the upgrading of lighting in streets, backstreets and areas identified as ASB hotspot or areas of concern in Carlisle and Barrow, this will make identification of offenders easier therefore deter unwanted behaviours. Lighting was also installed in Keenan Park, and in the skate park at Bitts Park, both in Carlisle to encourage legitimate and safe use of community assets.

In October 2023, the Commissioner was also successful in securing £820k for Safer Streets Fund Round 5. The funding will be spent in Carlisle (Hammonds Pond) to improve public realm lighting and improve CCTV in the area; Workington (the Line) to improve the safety and feeling for users of the footpath; and Penrith, working collaboratively with Cumbria Fire and Rescue to drive an innovative educational resource around safer driving with the use of Virtual Reality Headsets.

Three ANPR cameras have been installed on known routes to help police intercept travelling criminals bringing drugs into the areas. The chaotic and high-risk lifestyle linked to drug misuse is detrimental for the individuals concerned and has a profoundly negative impact on the safety and feelings of safety in the communities.

Carlisle City Council and Barrow Borough Council both had teams who were tasked with tackling anti-social behaviour as well as enviro-crimes and parking issues. The funding paid for conflict resolution training for 16 council officers, body armor to help protect them from physical harm, radios so they can contact the police more easily to share information, and the Barrow officers have also received bodyworn video cameras enabling them to capture evidence when necessary.

The funding has paid for the delivery of the multi-agency workshops “Your Life, You Choose” to school years 7 and years 8 raising awareness around crime, violence and ASB. By the end of the project in September 2023, 18 schools will have received this input to encourage young people to make healthy, positive life choices.

The funding has paid for delivery of the multi-agency symposium “Be Safe Stay Safe” to colleges which includes marketplace stalls provided by partner agencies to share relevant information to students. Topics have been selected by the college with input from the Child Centred Policing Teams and include anti-social behaviour, bullying, women’s safety and drugs. By the end of the project in September 2023, 4 colleges will have benefitted from this delivery.

EDGE NE have provided three teams of youth outreach workers (two funded by Safer Streets, one funded by the Commissioner) to engage with and divert young people away from ASB and their vulnerability towards criminality. The teams take a targeted approach directed by the Constabulary’s Neighborhood Policing Teams and Local Focus Hubs which include the Child Centred Policing Teams. As anti-social behaviour is fluid and frequently moving, the teams’ approach is equally flexible to meet need & demand targeting time, place and/or individual(s).

The funding has paid for two restorative caseworkers employed by Remedi to work with those affected by youth-related anti-social behaviour. The work they do with victims is designed to help victims put strategies in place so they can cope and recover from ASB, and so they know how to handle any ongoing issues. The work they do with offenders is designed to help them recognise the impact their behaviour is having, and how to modify their behaviour. Remedi can also offer mediation between the parties if appropriate.

The funding has paid for crime prevention training for PCSOs and officers to enable the constabulary to provide a professional approach to crime prevention and give out consistent information and guidance to victims of crime on what they can do to help keep themselves and their property safe from criminal or anti-social behaviours.

The Commissioner, in partnership with North West Probation Service funded & developed Women's Outreach Services for female victims and offenders residing in the Kendal & surrounding areas & Carlisle and surrounding areas. The outreach services provide practical and emotional support to women experiencing crisis which include victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence and ex-offenders at risk of reoffending due to vulnerability.

The key deliverables of the outreach projects are to support women to address the risk of harm, reduce the risk of reoffending, provide early intervention aimed at reducing demand on the police, criminal justice and partner services. They provide support to women leaving prison with the aim of reintegration into the community.

Younger women are supported against the risk of child sexual exploitation. The outreach can provide an alternative to custody with the option of attendance as a bail condition, conditional discharge or voluntary option.

Women are provided with information, advocacy and signposting to specialist support services based on risk and need. The support & guidance is in relation to housing, finance, employment, relationships, criminal justice and physical/mental health, the list is not exhaustive.

The outreach workers are non-judgmental, non-directive in their approach to empower survivors along with the ability to understand the individual needs of a woman. They support victim / survivors of domestic abuse &/or sexual violence to cope and recover & provide women with access to support services by removing the barriers to access.

The Commissioner introduced a new Victims' Quality Champion role during 2023/24. This role is enabling the Commissioner to further develop the focus on victims in his assurance work with the Constabulary and commissioned services. As well as conducting assurance visits to service providers, the Victims' Quality Champion has supported the new independent Violence Against Women and Girls Scrutiny Panel, whose role is to review a dip sample of police cases from the perspective of the victim. This has given the Commissioner assurance about how police officers are

communicating with victims and providing their rights under the Victims' Code of Practice. Where learning has been identified, this has been fed back within the Constabulary to ensure a continual improvement in how victims are dealt with.

The Commissioner continues to lead on the implementation of the Quality Assessment Framework, to review how criminal justice agencies comply with the national Victims' Code of Practice and to drive improvements in specific areas through this process. The Commissioner's Victim's Quality Champion conducted review of compliance of a dip sample of cases against the Code and the team has also shared its good practice with other counties.

The Commissioner has continued to fund the county-wide Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme "Turning the Spotlight", which received 339 referrals between April 2023 and March 2024. "They Matter", the High Harm High Risk programme received 50 referrals. The risk addressed within the programme is physical violence, threat of violence & coercive control. Outcomes include a reduction in risk towards a partner & shift in perpetrator attitude and thinking. In addition, the Commissioner has provided funding to the "Step Up: Restore Families" programme for families experiencing child-on-parent or child-on-carer violence, working with Cumbria County Council. 43 families have completed the programme during the period July 2023 to March 2024 and 94% of participants reported an improvement in behaviour and family relationships.

The Commissioner, working with partners, continually raises awareness around anti-social driving in response to what residents said is one of their main local concerns. The engagement focuses on raising awareness of the Fatal Four (no seatbelts; speeding; distracted driving and drug/drink driving) as well as any other trends that arise throughout the year e.g. pedestrian safety, motorbike/cyclist safety. The Commissioner has delivered a rural crime campaign, which has been influenced by current issues raised by the Constabulary and National Farmers Union (NFU), with all partners working together to promote rural safety and prevent rural crime. Working with Get Safe Online, the Commissioner has continued to raise public knowledge of how to protect themselves against fraud and other crimes committed via the internet.

Funding has been provided to continue a pilot programme working with young people who have taken or shared nude or semi-nude images of themselves This has been working with 68 young people and 33 parents/ carers over the course of the pilot.

Performance

The Commissioner has an open and transparent Accountability Framework to assess how well the objectives in the Police & Crime Plan are being achieved.

The Constabulary is inspected and graded as part of a regime known as PEEL (Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy) by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS). In March 2024, the evidence gathering phase of an extensive period of inspection came to an end and I anticipate that the finalised report will be published in July 2024.

During 2023/24, the Police, Fire and Crime Panel has continued to facilitate effective scrutiny of delivery of the plan's objectives through quarterly meetings. Thematic reports are presented to the Panel and follow terms of reference agreed in advance with the Panel Chair.

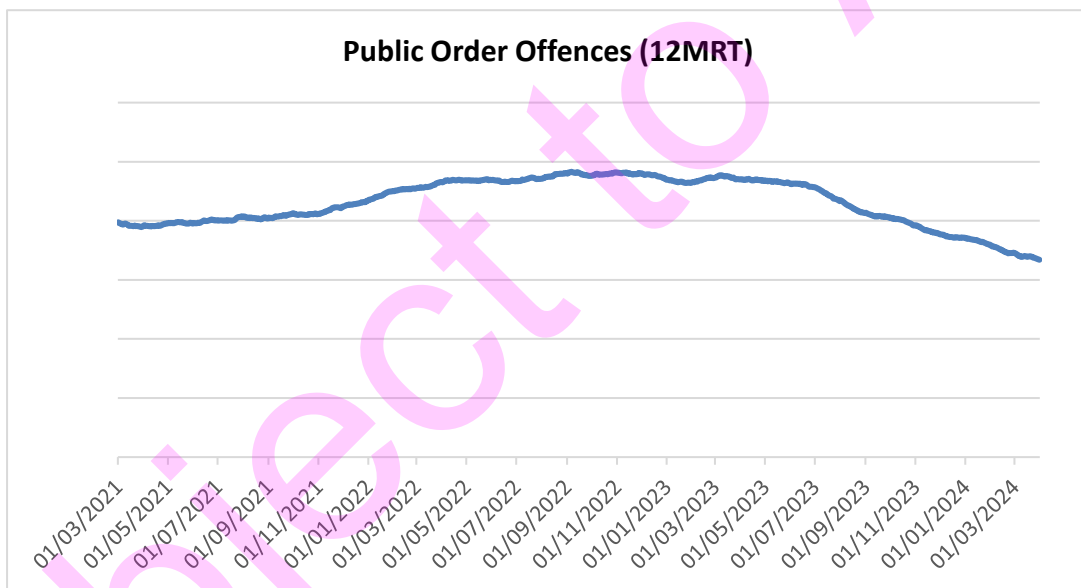
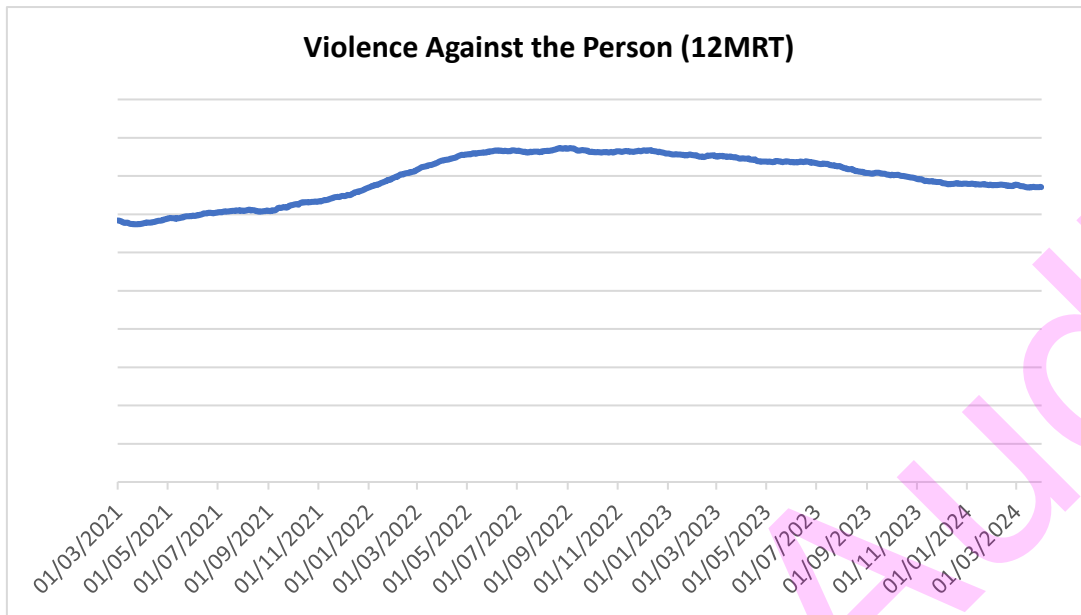
Within the Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (OPFCC) Strength Based Conversation Performance Reviews have been replaced by Personal Development Reviews and continue to be carried out with all staff. To support this, the OPFCC Training Plan sets out the overall training plan for the office and cascades into individual responsibilities. In 2023/24, specific training has been provided for staff in the areas of OPFCC Business Continuity, Victim Awareness, Youth Mentoring Scheme, Contract Management, Social Media procedures, Risk Management, Data Protection and staff wellbeing. Individual staff have attended conferences, workshops and specific training events to help them develop within their roles.

Performance Report

We measure our performance across a number of key themes reflecting the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan. These are Effective Policing, Community Safety, Criminal Justice, Customer/Victim Satisfaction and Finance & Value for Money.

The following data has been recorded by Cumbria Constabulary:

- For 2023/24 overall crime decreased by 8.5%, which equates to an decrease of 3,263 crimes over the 12-month period to 31st March 2024, compared with the previous 12 months.
- 7 crime types in 2023/24 displayed decreases in offences compared to the previous 12 months:
 - Violence Against the Person (-1,528)
 - Public Order Offences (-1,361)
 - Arson and Criminal Damage (-652)
 - Burglary (-267)
 - Sexual Offences (-129)
 - Theft Offences (-8)
 - Vehicle Offences (-3)



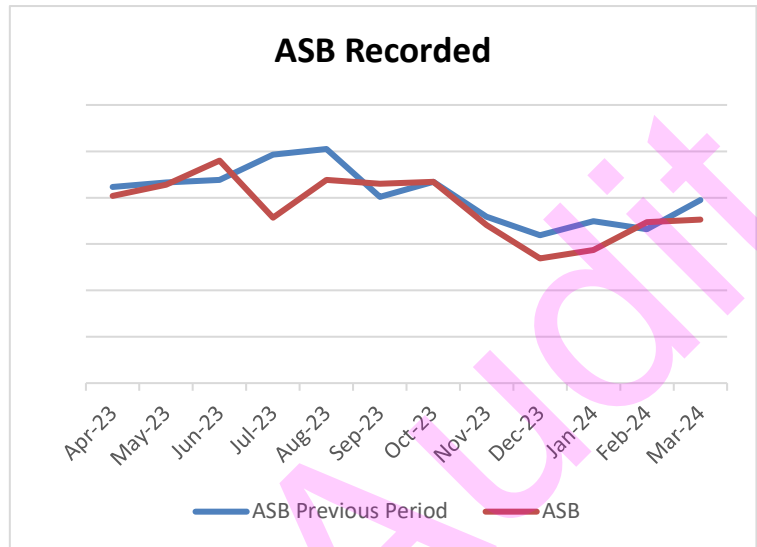
- 4 crime types in 2023/24 displayed increases in offences compared to the previous 12 months:
 - Drug Offences (+510)
 - Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society (+76) (Changes in the way in which weapons possession offences are recorded are believed to have contributed to this increase).
 - Possession of Weapons offences (+74)
 - Robbery (+25)

Community Safety

- Antisocial behaviour (ASB) decreased during 2023/24. There were 4568 incidents in 2023/24, with a total decrease of 314 cases (-6%).

Antisocial Behaviour Recorded in 2023/24 Compared with Previous Period 2022/23

- Hate crimes and incidents continue to be closely monitored. During 2023/24, the number of crimes with a hate marker decreased from 917 to 667 which equated to a decrease of 27.3%. The Constabulary and partners continue to work to encourage reporting hate crime.
- Domestic Abuse incidents have seen an increase during 2023/24. There were 7,771 incidents recorded in 2023/24, a



total increase of 378 compared to the previous 12 months (+5%). We work to encourage reporting of incidents of domestic abuse therefore an increase in incidents overall is positive as victims are coming forward to report. Whereas an increase in repeat DA can be seen as negative if the perpetrator has engaged in a perpetrator programme, then re-offended (Turning the Spotlight).

Criminal Justice

- All recorded offences are assigned an outcome based on a national framework for crime. Crime outcomes are classed as positive where the offender is either charged or summonsed, receives an out of court disposal or where the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) or police determine it is not in the public interest to prosecute. In all cases the crime outcome represents positive police activity in detecting the crime. Positive crime outcome rate for 2023/24 was 19.7% (2022/23: 15%).

Customer and Victim Satisfaction

- Performance in customer and victim satisfaction is measured through regular independent surveys following police contact. This is supplemented by the process for police complaints that includes independent sampling of complaint files and scrutiny of local to national comparatives against complaints upheld.
- 82.9% of victims interviewed reported that they were satisfied with their whole experience with Cumbria Constabulary for interviews during 2023/24.
- When allegations are made against the police, cases that are resolved locally compare well against national comparative indices.

Finance & Value for Money

- We measure our performance against targets for achieving financial outturn within a percentage of the net budget. For 2023/24 this was set at 1% for the revenue budget and 8% for the capital budget.
- Actual performance for the Group revenue was 0.6%, which was within the target.
- The capital outturn was 50% below budget, falling outside the target. Whilst this was a disappointing result, the slippage was to a large degree attributable to a combination of delays in vehicle deliveries, which were beyond our control, and of taking additional time to ensure that investment in fast moving digital technologies is spent wisely to provide long term benefits. Stretch targets will continue to be set for capital expenditure going forward as a recognised area for performance improvement.
- Historically the budget for the Commissioner and Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner was benchmarked against HMICFRS Value for Money profiles. Following the inclusion of fire and rescue services under the remit of HMICFRS, costs for Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners are no longer included in the VFM comparators. It has therefore not been possible to undertake a Value for Money analysis for the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for 2023/24.
- His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) latest PEEL inspection in 2021 assessed the Constabulary adequate in respect of use of resources.
- Outcomes against wider performance measures that indicate the effectiveness of activity and interventions are strong against the priority areas of keeping crime at low levels, reducing anti-social behaviour, bringing criminals to justice and increasing reporting of hate crime and domestic and sexual abuse.
- External audit of arrangements for Value for Money in their annual report.
- Collectively, these indicators provide assurance of Value for Money in respect of the 2023/24 financial year.

The Future Outlook

Following his re-election in 2021, Peter McCall the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria launched his Police and Crime Plan covering the period to 2025. The Plan's key theme is 'Keeping Cumbria Safe' and sets the strategic direction for policing and wider aims for enhancing community safety, criminal justice and supporting victims.

The overall balance sheet at the 31st March 2024 remains healthy, which is reflected in the Medium Term Financial Forecast, which sets out the revenue budget position until 2028/29 and a capital programme, which is fully funded until 2033/34, which will support delivery of the Police and Crime Plan. The current financial position has primarily arisen as a result of positive action on behalf of the Constabulary to reduce costs in the context of real terms reductions in funding since 2010. This has enabled reserves to be maintained at a level that balances financial resilience and supports continued investment.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy and 2024/25 budget was approved in the context of the Government continuing to provide additional funding for Operation Uplift and affording Commissioners' flexibility to raise council tax above inflation. However, this is accompanied by increasing cost pressures particularly in light of the emergence of continued inflationary pressures throughout 2024/25.

Against this background the 2024/25 budget provides £158.014m funding for the Chief Constable to deliver policing for Cumbria. Resources include maintaining an establishment of 1,359 Police Officers. The longer term 10 year capital programme envisages a total investment of £56m principally across the estate, fleet and ICT.

Whilst the position is financially resilient in the short term, there are uncertainties which have the potential to impact negatively on the budget in the medium term. Based on the MTFF assumptions, savings will need to be delivered from 2025/26 to balance the budget. The cumulative budget gap by 2028/29 is forecast as £16.1m. The uncertain impact of inflation on future budget prospects compounds existing financial risks in relation to the adequacy and sustainability of funding beyond Operation Uplift, the cost of national policing programmes, particularly the Emergency Services Network, pensions issues and the review of the police funding formula. The required savings are considered to be challenging, and will need diligence to ensure they are achievable and manageable.

Financial scenario modelling continues to take place on a frequent on-going basis, together with development of a savings and efficiency plan involving both the OPFCC and Constabulary.

Acknowledgements

The financial statements were originally authorised for issue by me as PFCC Chief Finance Officer on 07 June 2024. In closing, it is appropriate to acknowledge the dedication and professionalism of Michelle Bellis the Constabulary Chief Finance Officer, Lorraine Holme and the wider finance team in again achieving the closure of accounts and the publication of these Statements against tight deadlines and complex financial reporting standards.

Steven Tickner

PFCC Chief Finance Officer

The accounts present a true and fair view of the position of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria Single Entity and Group Accounts as at 31 March 2024 and its income and expenditure for the year there ended.

Signatures removed for the purpose of publication on the website

Steven Tickner CPFA

PFCC Chief Finance Officer

Date: 07 June 2024