Agenda Item No.

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JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE
25 APRIL 2022

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 2022/23 is attached at Appendix A. This is marked as draft as it has not yet been formally signed off by the PCC.

3. Management oversight of value for money is one of the responsibilities of the Exec Board chaired by the Chief Constable. The Capability Board also has 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" however, this opinion has not yet been provided for 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21.

   - 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. The HMICFRS efficiency questions table is shown below.

Efficiency

Question	Score
How efficiently does the force operate and how sustainable are its services to the public?	**Requires improvement**
How well does the force use its resources to meet the demand it faces?	Good
How well does the force plan for the future?	Requires improvement

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.

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.