

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Key Decision

Title and Reference:

Group Revenue Monitoring Q1
(PCC/687/2025)

Summary

The Group Revenue monitoring position for the period ending 30 June 2025, Quarter 1.

Recommendation/Findings:

- Approve the revised Group Revenue Budget of £400.780m
- Note the Group forecast outturn of £400.583m which is based on payments processed to date and current projections, against a 2025/26 budget of £400.780m which reflects an in-year underspend position of £0.197m.

GROUP REVENUE BUDGET 2025/26	Approved Budget £000	Revised Budget £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variance £000
Group Position				
Chief Constable	389,091	385,321	385,222	(98)
Police and Crime Commissioner	2,031	2,031	1,976	(55)
OPCC Supporting Services	1,463	1,540	1,497	(43)
Capital Financing	12,859	11,888	11,888	-
Group Position Total	405,444	400,780	400,583	(197)
Central Government Grant	316,673	316,673	316,673	-
Council Tax Precept	83,969	83,969	83,969	-
Total Financing	400,642	400,642	400,642	-
Appropriations (To)/From Reserves	4,802	138	(59)	(197)

Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner

I hereby approve the recommendation above.



Signature

Date 14/08/2025

Joint Business Meeting	14 August 2025
Group Revenue Monitoring Q1	
Report of: Gail Thompson, Joint Chief Finance Officer	
Author: Sarah Goodman, Head Of Finance	

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Group revenue monitoring position for the period ending 30 June 2025, Quarter one.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner is requested to:
- I. Approve the revised Group Revenue Budget of £400.780m.
 - II. Note the Group forecast outturn of £400.583m which is based on payments processed to date and current projections, against a 2025/26 budget of £400.780m which reflects an in-year underspend position of £0.197m.

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3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The overall Group revenue budget for 2025/26 was agreed at £405.444m, this has now been revised to £400.780m, an overall budget reduction of £4.664m.
- 3.2 Within the approved 2025/26 budget adjustments have been provided for:
- Budget reductions identified after the original budget was approved.
 - Additional budget pressures, approved investment, capital expenditure moved to revenue and additional income.
 - The impact of the Neighbourhood Guarantee delivery profile.

KEY OUTCOMES - GROUP QUARTER 1 REVENUE POSITION

Chief Constable Revenue

- 3.3 Based on the Quarter one spend the forecast outturn on all workforce budget headings is an in-year underspend of £0.095m. Within this position there are some budgetary pressures and underspends resulting in the net outturn position.
- 3.4 Workforce budgets continue to be a focus around the forecasting and profiling given they form the majority of the overall force budget. The position includes the impact of the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee (NPG) delivery profile. The overarching workforce budget position is projected to be £0.095m under the budgeted position.
- **Police Officers** - Police Officer pay forecasts an underspend of £0.146m against budget. The underspend represents a change in profiling in the latest workforce plan, reducing the September transferee profile down to eighteen from twenty-five. The profile delivers the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee and regular meetings are held between key stakeholders to ensure checkpoints are met.
 - **Police Staff** – Police Staff pay is forecast to underspend by £0.050m against budget. This includes delivery of approved investment growth.
- 3.5 The revised Overtime (including Elected Time Off and associated income headings) budget for 2025/26 is £4.743m. Overtime is currently projected to be over the revised budget by a combined total of £0.085m.
- 3.6 Core Police Officer overtime is forecast to overspend by £0.112m. £0.074m of the forecast overspend relates to Criminal Justice and Custody. Custody resourcing challenges continue and are now expected to be on going until at least September. Weekly SLT/FCC meetings are being conducted to help manage the gaps and establish cover utilising overtime if RPT Sergeants are unavailable to support.
- 3.7 Force Operations have spent to date £0.027m, without any budget provision. This includes the cost of Operation Hydros 2, Operation Hesperous and four protests. With further protest activity in July including that of Operation St Albans an application for funding from the Force Contingency should be submitted by FCC to offset expenditure incurred to date.
- 3.8 Police Staff overtime is forecast to underspend by £0.024m at this early stage in the year. This relates to an underspend against profiled bank holiday spend for the bank holidays to date.
- 3.9 Elected Time Off expenditure for the Force is 42% lower than at the same point, the end of quarter one in 2024/25. A significant amount of this relates to reductions in expenditure across the Area Commands. Whilst there will be a number of factors influencing this reduction in spend, improvement management of lieu balances will be a factor. The current year end forecast reflects a reduction in spend of £0.172m at year end based on the current trend.
- 3.10 Other issues of note are set out below:
- Digital Policing are forecasting an overspend position at year end of £0.201m against the approved budget. £0.103m of this overspend relates to NPICCS Replacement Product Support Fees and includes Compass Gazetteer cloud hosting, support, and maintenance. This item was originally removed from the 2025/26 budget as part of an approved PBB proposal as the plan was to move the hosting to an 'On-Prem' solution, however this is no longer an option, and we have extended our cloud hosting service with NEC for another year. The slippage of this saving was reported at SRB on 11 June as part of the

PBB update. Network Services - LAN is also forecasting an overspend of £0.054m. The forecast assumes our HTK messaging service, provided by Vodafone, will continue for the 2025/26 year. The expectation was that this service would be ceased and replaced with an in-house solution and budget was given up as part of the PBB process.

- Specialist legal fees early this year have been significantly higher than profile due to two cases. One case required the services of a KC and for the other it was necessary to employ an outside agency solicitor. This has been compounded with an increase in the costs to cover court hearings due to a lack of capacity in house. This should be reduced in future months following an increase in Departmental resources being recruited. This early pressure has been offset by an increase in budget of £0.070m as part of the budget realignment.
- Fleet are forecasting an underspend of £0.160m. This relates to an underspend on Roadside Assistance and additional income relating to the Sale of Vehicles. Fleet have recently hired another vehicle recovery driver; this takes them to the authorised establishment and therefore Roadside Assistance from external providers is expected be required only in exceptional circumstances reducing expenditure in this area. In addition, vehicle sales in quarter one have included a number of vehicles which have achieved above average sale values. A further one hundred vehicles are planned to be sold by the year end and estimated to fetch a further £100k based on average vehicle sale prices.

OPCC Revenue

- 3.11 The projected year-end budget position inclusive of core OPCC revenue and Supporting Services is currently forecast to be an in-year underspend of £0.098m.

Core Revenue

- 3.12 OPCC Revenue is forecasting an underspend of £0.055m. Staff Salaries are underspent to date by approx. £0.013m due to a vacant Policy Team Support post. The forecast underspend of £0.055m assumes this post will be recruited into by November. The recruitment of the Digital Engagement Officer is ongoing, but the post will be vacant for a number of months, contributing to the overall salary underspend.
- 3.13 There are no other forecast variances to report on at this stage.

Supporting Services

Commissioner's Discretionary Project Fund

The Commissioner's Discretionary Project Fund has an approved budget of £0.750m. A spend plan of £0.645m has been approved to date. As at the 30 June 2025, grant payments totalling £0.196m have been issued. The forecast remains breakeven at this stage as the spend plan is developed.

Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

- 3.14 The Commissioner is responsible for provision of the SARC and has an approved budget allocation of £0.578m in 2025/26. The budget is for the premises and other non-pay expenditure such as the provision of medical services, ISO accreditation costs, consumables and maintenance of equipment.

- 3.15 The forecast is an underspend of £0.043m against the Regional Contract. The contract value was received after the 25/26 budget had been approved and actual inflation is less than what had been estimated.

CONCLUSION

- 3.16 The overall group position is a forecast underspend of £0.197m; no actions are recommended at this time.

4. CONSIDERATION

Government Marking Scheme	Protective	Official - Not Protectively Marked
Freedom of Information		Non-exempt
Consultation		Yes - Information prepared by Finance, where variations have been found to the 2025/26 budget relevant responsible officers have been consulted with to understand the reasoning.
Resource		Yes - As outlined within the body of the report
Equality		No
Legal		No
Risk		Yes - As outlined within the body of the report
Communication		No
Evaluation		No