



Report to the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel - West Midlands Police and Crime Panel Expenditure 2023-24 and Budget 2024/25

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1 Purpose

- 1.1 The West Midlands Police and Crime Panel accepted a grant from the Home Office to meet the costs of the Panel for the year 2023-24. This paper reports on costs for 2023-24 and sets out the forecast budget for 2024-25.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 **The Panel is asked to note the expenditure for 2023-24 associated with the administration of the Panel and to make any comments in relation to the forecast for 2024-25.**

3 Background

- 3.1 In establishing Police and Crime Panels, the Home Office agreed that a limited grant would be provided to each Local Authority acting as the Host Authority (in providing the administrative support and management and maintaining the Police and Crime Panel). In the West Midlands, this is Birmingham City Council.
- 3.2 The Panel's Arrangements, agreed with the Home Office in July 2013, stated that:

The annual costs associated with the operation, organisation and administration of the Panel shall be offset by the Home Office grant to be managed by the Host Authority. All of the relevant costs incurred by the Host Authority in connection with the work of the Panel shall be met from the funding allocated by the Home Office unless the Authorities agree otherwise. The Host Authority shall monitor all expenditure incurred and make provision for an annual report.

4 Home Office Grant and Expenditure 2023-24

- 4.1 The maximum amount which can be claimed from the Home Office in the financial year 2023-24 is £66,153.73.
- 4.2 Appendix 1 outlines a total expenditure of £ 61,578.17 in the financial year, 2023-24, and provides a breakdown of this expenditure. Birmingham City Council will submit claim for this expenditure in line with the Grant Agreement for this Home Office funding stream.

5 Home Office Grant and Proposed Expenditure 2024-25

- 5.1 Notification of the Home Office grant for 2024-25 has not yet been received but is expected to be in line with previous years.
- 5.2 The proposed forecast expenditure for 2024-25 is outlined in Appendix 2.

6 Transparency

- 6.1 Under the Home Office grant agreement, Police and Crime Panel's must "publish, as a minimum on their website, details of all their expenditure (or, where that is not possible, on the Host Authority's website)." This was introduced in 2016, and [details are published on the Panel website](#)

7 Ongoing Home Office Funding

- 7.1 No commitment has been made for future years at this stage.

8 Finance Implications

- 8.1 The administration and activities the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel is funded solely through an annual Home Office Grant. This grant is renewed on an annual basis and therefore there is no commitment beyond 2024-25 at this stage.
- 8.2 The Home Office grant will be managed in accordance with Birmingham City Council's financial regulations, and in line with the grant agreement. Expenses relating to Members are managed in line with [Birmingham City Council's Member Expenses Scheme](#).

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 A Police and Crime Panel must be maintained to carry out scrutiny functions and responsibilities as set out in the [Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011](#).
- 9.2 A Grant Agreement between Birmingham City Council (Host Authority) and the Secretary of State for the Home Department sets out the legally binding terms and conditions which apply to providing the grant and its use to maintain a Police and Crime Panel.

10 Equalities Implications

10.1 The Panel has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

10.1.1 eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;

10.1.2 advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

10.1.3 foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

10.2 There are no specific equalities implications arising from this report

11 Appendices

11.1 Appendix 1 – Home Office Grant and Expenditure 2023-24

11.2 Appendix 2 – Police and Crime Panel Forecast Expenditure 2024-25

12 Background Information

- Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011
- Grant agreement between Secretary of State for the Home Department and Birmingham City Council for the Police and Crime Panel Grant for the 2023-24 financial year.

WMPCP Home Office Grant Claim and Expenditure 2023-24

Budget Category	Spend (£)
Panel administration (1)	61,578.17
Member Expenses (2)	38.00
Panel Meeting Expenses (3)	2,586.27
Allowances (4)	1,951.29
Total Home Office Claim	66,153.73

Notes on expenditure 2023/24:

- (1) Panel Administration - Costs for panel administration include officer time and website maintenance. Some Panels have appointed a full-time officer to support the Panel; within Birmingham a number of officers have some involvement in the Panel, but none work on it full time. Support costs associated with the WMPCP website (westmidlandspcp.org.uk) is also supported by the grant.
- (2) Member Expenses - Members of the Panel can claim expenses in line with [Birmingham City Council's member expenses scheme](#), for travel, subsistence and childcare.
- (3) Panel Meeting Expenses - The grant also covers the cost of meeting rooms, refreshments, printing, and postage.
- (4) Allowances - In January 2013 the Panel agreed that Members would not use the Home Office grant to draw allowances for members of the Panel. On 20 March 2023 the Panel agreed to change this arrangement and pay an annual discretionary allowance of £920 to the co-opted independent panel members.

WMPCP Forecast Spend 2024-25

Budget Category	Forecast spend (£)
Panel administration (1)	£50,000
Member Expenses (2)	£2,000
Panel Meeting Expenses (3)	£4,000
Allowances (4)	£2,160
Contingency (5)	£8,020
Total	£66,180

Notes on proposed expenditure 2024-25

- (1) Panel administration - Costs for panel administration include officer time and website maintenance. Some Panels have appointed a full-time officer to support the Panel; within Birmingham a number of officers have some involvement in the Panel, but none work on it full time. Support costs associated with the WMPCP website (westmidlandspcp.org.uk) is also supported by the grant.
- (2) Member Expenses - Members of the Panel can claim expenses in line with [Birmingham City Council's member expenses scheme](#), for travel, subsistence and childcare.
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- (4) Allowances - In January 2013 the Panel agreed that Members would not use the Home Office grant to draw allowances for members of the Panel. On 20 March 2023 the Panel agreed to change this arrangement and pay an annual discretionary allowance of £920 to the co-opted independent panel members.
- (5) Contingency - Contingency funding is available for other expenses, including conferences, training, and development.