

Issue	Panel Update	Actions/Recommendations
Monthly Financial Monitoring	<p>The Panel met in May 2022 and received summary financial and capital expenditure performance reports for period 12 covering the 2021/22 financial year.</p> <p>The total revenue outturn for the year closed in a good position at £41.2m and is £0.7m favourable to budget.</p> <p>The year-end position is after funding the capital financing requirement for the year (£0.4m) with the balance added to reserves to support the 2022/23 capital programme.</p> <p>The position shows some improvement on the forecast position and includes the</p> <p>efficiencies achieved by budget holders through the Budget Challenge sessions of £0.3m and also the saving of £0.45m delivered through the business rates appeals process that has now finally concluded with Valuations Office Agency.</p> <p>Pay costs closed slightly favourable to budget at £27.2 with savings from support staff vacancies and On-call compensating for additional whole-time costs being incurred. Whole time pay is cumulatively £0.1m over budget with casual contracts and crewing deficiency costs resulting in this additional budget pressure.</p> <p>The Pay costs included the 1.5% pay award for Operational Staff and also the 1.75% pay award agreed for support staff incurring additional pressure into the medium term due to the budgeted pay pause.</p> <p>Overall income and finance costs have closed in line with budget by year-end, with grant reconciliations being completed as part of the year end process.</p> <p>The Capital Programme outturn for 2021/22 is disappointing with a number of areas of spend being carried forward into 2022/23. Part of the issues relate to the availability of goods in the market.</p> <p>The cash position at closed at £15.5m and is cumulatively £6.9m better than budget, this is largely driven by the low capital spend in year and additional grant income.</p> <p>The panel members appreciated that the timely reporting of both the monthly and draft final accounts and wished to pass on their thanks to all involved.</p>	<p>The Panel will continue to closely monitor the underlying financial performance and impact to service delivery as a result of delays in implementing the capital programme.</p>
External audit	<p>The Panel were advised that external audit was planned to commence in early June.</p> <p>The Panel were also advised that the SCO had written to the PSAA seeking assurances that a single auditor reviewed both Fire and Policing accounts.</p>	<p>The Panel will continue to monitor the external audit performance on the audit of the 2021/22 final accounts.</p>

White Paper Launch	<p>The White Paper “Reforming Our Fire and Rescue Service” had been launched on the day of the Finance Panel meeting. It was too early to comment on the new document but a brief discussion on the major intentions was held.</p> <p>It was suggested that all of ETAP is advised of implications along with the proposed meeting on the new Governance arrangements within the Fire and rescue Service.</p>	The Panel will continue to monitor impact of the White Paper. The Panel Members also supported the intention to hold a briefing session on both issues
Other Topics Discussed	The meeting was advised of the Finance Workshops to be held over the summer and an invitation was extended to all ETAP members to attend	Members thanked the officers for the invite and planned to attend when dates and venues had been confirmed.
	<p>Environmental, Social and Governance Reports (ESG)</p> <p>It was suggested that joint working across a number of public sector organisation would result in a better and consistent approach to this topic</p>	Members supported the idea of joint working and will monitor progress at future meetings

**Bob Simpson, ETAP Chair**