

To: Policy and Resources Committee

From: Deputy Chief Executive Officer (DCEO) - Matthew Warren

Presenting officer(s): Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Matthew Warren

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Date: 31 January 2023

Draft Fire Authority Budget 2023/24

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the final draft of the budget for 2023/24 to Members of the Policy and Resources Committee before it is presented to the Authority, for approval, on 10 February 2023.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to review the budget book, attached at Appendix 1 and endorse the recommendations detailed on Page 17 within it.

3. Risk Assessment

- 3.1 Economic – the significant risk to the Fire Authority budget is the current economic uncertainty and associated pay/inflationary pressures. The Authority must be cognisant of this risk when approving the budget and associated precept for financial year 2023/24.

4. Background

- 4.1 Members will recall that the Authority received its financial settlement before Christmas and that Government has only provided funding certainty for 2023/24. At the time of writing, information on Section 31 grants relating to business rates had not been received however it is still anticipated that this information will be known before the end of January 2023.
- 4.2 Members will also recall from their meeting in late December 2022 that Government announced changes to the amount Fire Authority council tax levels can be increased by before a referendum is required. The rate has been set at 2.99% or £5 for a Band D equivalent, whichever is higher, should funding be required. The proposed budget includes a council tax increase of £4.95.

- 4.3 As requested by the Policy and Resources Committee, the draft budget was shared with members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 19 January 2023; no changes were requested.
- 4.4 The budget book details proposed recommendations (Page 17), the revenue budget showing current year and the proposed 2023/24 budget (Pages 18 to 20), the medium term financial plan 2023/24 to 2026/27 (Pages 21 to 24) and the detailed medium term capital programme (Pages 25 to 27).

Source Documents:
Budget Preparation Papers 2022/23

Location:
Fire Service HQ, Hinchingsbrooke Cottage, Brampton Road, Huntingdon

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