

To: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority

From: Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Matthew Warren

Presenting officer(s): Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Matthew Warren  
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## Fire Authority Budget 2023-24 and Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2023-24

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Fire Authority budget and precept for 2023/24 and the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for the same period.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Fire Authority is asked to:

- approve the budget book attached at Appendix 1 including the recommendations detailed on Page 17,
- approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement at Appendix 2.

### 3. Risk Assessment

- 3.1 Economic – the major risk is focussed around pay inflation and the potential to have to make cuts to the Service to balance the budget if this significantly exceeds current assumptions.

### 4. Background

- 4.1 The Service received its financial settlement before Christmas and Members are aware that Government has only provided funding certainty for 2023/24. Members will recall from their meetings in December 2022 and January 2023 that the Government also 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 budget presented today includes a council tax increase of £4.95.
- 4.2 Following the Policy and Resources Committee meeting in December 2022, the draft budget was shared with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at

their meeting on 19 January 2023; no changes were requested. At its meeting on 31 January 2023 the Policy and Resources Committee endorsed the finalised budget for approval by the Authority at its meeting today.

## 5. Budget Considerations

- 5.1 The ongoing economic uncertainty continues to be a significant risk across the public sector. The Service has developed a Financial Business Continuity Plan the purpose of which is to ensure that it can respond to significant changes in the financial climate. The continuity plan provides options for making savings across the Service in a managed way where the impact of any such change is understood.
- 5.2 The pay award for Grey Book employees has yet to be agreed but the budget has been built assuming it will be at least 5% for 2022/23; the impact of these costs will need to be funded from in year savings and reserves. Other significant inflationary pressures include fuel and energy.
- 5.3 In addition to the recommendations on Page 17, the budget book details the revenue budget for 2022/23 and 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).

## 6. Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2023/24

- 6.1 The aim of the strategy is to ensure that all Authority Members fully understand the overall long-term policy objectives and resulting Capital Strategy requirements, governance procedures and risk appetite. The Statement at Appendix 2 gives details on our current position in terms of investments and borrowings, including treasury indicators.

## Source Documents

- Budget Preparation Papers 2022/23
- Policy and Resources Committee Meeting Minutes
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting Minutes

### Location:

Fire Service HQ, Hinchbrook Cottage, Brampton Road, Huntingdon

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