

TO: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

FROM: Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Matthew Warren

PRESENTING OFFICER: Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Matthew Warren
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DRAFT FIRE AUTHORITY BUDGET 2023/24

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with sight of the draft budget for 2023/24 before it is presented to the authority, for approval, in February 2023.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to scrutinise the budget book, attached at Appendix 1 and make comment(s) as appropriate.
- 2.2 Any comments will be shared with the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee. The summarised draft authority budget was presented to that committee in late December 2022.

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 The authority received its financial settlement before Christmas; Government has only provided funding certainty for 2023/24. Information on Section 31 grants relating to business rates will not be received until late January 2023.
- 4.2 With regard to council tax, on 12 December 2022, 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 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).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Documents	Location	Contact Officer
Budget Preparation Papers 2022/23	HQ Hinchingsbrooke Cottage Brampton Road Huntingdon	Matthew Warren 01480 444619 matthew.warren@cambsfire.gov.uk