

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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Efficiency Plan 2023-24

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Policy and Resources Committee with an overview of the Efficiency Plan for 2023/24.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the plan and the compliance action, taken on behalf of the Authority, by the Service.

3. Risk Assessment

- 3.1 **Economic** – The Authority has a responsibility to secure best value and a mechanism for securing this is through the Service having robust and effective efficiency plans.
- 3.2 **Political** – The Authority needs to be able to demonstrate to the local electorate that it has control of its funds and is properly scrutinising its budgets so that it can justify council tax increases.

4. Service Efficiency Planning

- 4.1 The Service has worked extremely hard over the last two years preparing itself for potential financial challenges. The planning was done in the form of an extensive financial business continuity plan (FBCP) that looked at organisation wide scenarios to save money. The impact of implementing such scenarios was then assessed before savings were prioritised with those having the lowest impact on service delivery being prioritised for removal first.
- 4.2 Alongside the FBCP, the Service has also been analysing its operational risk to understand if operational resources can be utilised more effectively.

- 4.3 All of this work was undertaken prior to Government providing fire and rescue authorities the ability to increase its Band D council tax by £5. The increase for Cambridgeshire meant that, whilst some efficiencies identified as part of the FBCP were taken out of the 2022/23 budget, many more draconian cuts were avoided.
- 4.4 The increase in Band D council tax by £5 did come with a requirement from Government for all fire authorities to provide a detailed efficiency plan for 2023/24, by 31 March 2023. All the work undertaken over the last two years has made the completion of this requirement very straightforward. The detailed return is attached at Appendix 1 and was returned to the Home Office well in advance of the deadline.

Source Documents

Location:

Various Fire Authority Reports and Minutes 2022/23
Fire Service HQ
Hinchingsbrooke Cottage
Huntingdon

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