

**Status of Report: Public**

**Meeting: Combined Fire Authority**

**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Subject: Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2024/25 – Formal Resolutions**

**Report by: The Chief Fire and Rescue Officer and The Treasurer**

**Author: Manjora Bisla (Finance Manager)**

**For: Decision**

## **Purpose**

1. The Authority is required to set its Council Tax for 2023/24 and issue precepts to billing authorities before 1st March 2023, under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

## **Recommendation**

2. The Authority is recommended to:
  - 2.1 Approve the budget for 2023/24, and the budget strategy described in the report, subject to changes which reflect final rates figures notified by billing authorities, as now reported by the Treasurer (and which are reflected in this resolution).
  - 2.2 Note that the final position is now showing a budget surplus of £597,000 following the notification of increased rates estimates for 2023/24 and a council tax collection surplus from billing authorities, together with the slight increase in the services grant following the final settlement publication. It is proposed that this overall surplus be added to the Capital Fund in 2023/24.
  - 2.3 Approve the capital programme described at paragraphs 26-33, and authorise the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer to commit expenditure on schemes.
  - 2.4 Note that no comments have been received from stakeholders on the draft budget.
  - 2.5 Note that the aggregate of the taxbases communicated by billing authorities for 2023/24 is 340,270.50. [Item T in the formula in Section 42B of the Act].
  - 2.6 Agree the following amounts be calculated for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Section 42A and Section 42B of the Act:
    - (a) £47,899,038 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Authority estimates for the items set out in Section 42A(2) of the Act.
    - (b) £20,918,991 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Authority estimates for the items set out in Section 42A(3) of the Act.

- (c) £26,980,047 being the amount by which (a) above exceeds (b) above, calculated by the Authority in accordance with Section 42A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax Requirement for the year. [Item R in the formula in Section 42B of the Act].
- (d) £79.2900 being the amount at (c) above (Item R) divided by the amount at 2.5 above (Item T), calculated by the Authority in accordance with Section 42B of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

2.7 Agree that the Authority, in accordance with section 40 of the Act, issues precepts to each billing authority stating:-

- (a) the amounts shown in the appendix to this resolution as the tax payable for each band;
- (b) the amounts shown in the appendix as the precept payable by each authority.

2.8 Note the view of the Treasurer that reserves are adequate during 2023/24, and that estimates used to prepare the budget are robust.

2.9 Note the medium-term financial outlook and forecasts presented at Appendix Six, and the financial challenges ahead.

2.10 Approve the treasury strategy and prudential indicators described in paragraphs 63-65 of the report, and Appendices 3 and 4, including that the new upper threshold for locally held bank accounts shall take immediate effect.

2.11 Approve the proposed capital strategy described in paragraphs 66-68 of the report and Appendix 4, and confirm that the CFA would not wish to undertake commercial investment.

2.12 Note the equality implications arising from the budget, as described at paragraph 69-76.

2.13 Approve the scheme of virement described at Appendix 5 to the report.

2.14 Note that the vacant post of Area Manager for Tri-Service Control is to be deleted and removed from the revenue budget.

2.15 Note that the relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 is not excessive in accordance with principles issued under section 52ZC of the Act and expected to be approved by Parliament (being an increase of £5 at Band D); and that, since those principles will not be approved before the CFA meeting, to delegate the determination under section 52ZB of the Act to the Treasurer.

2.16 Note that should the Treasurer not be able to make the determination referred in 2.15 above, that resolutions 2.1 to 2.14 above shall be deemed not to be approved, and that an emergency meeting of the CFA shall be convened.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Combined Fire Authority – Taxes and Precepts 2023/24 Appendix to Formal Resolution.

### **Officers to Contact**

Callum Faint, Chief Fire and Rescue Officer

[Callum.faint@leics-fire.gov.uk](mailto:Callum.faint@leics-fire.gov.uk)

0116 210 5770

Amy Oliver, Treasurer

[Amy.Oliver@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Amy.Oliver@leicester.gov.uk)

0116 454 5667

Colin Sharpe, Deputy Treasurer

[Colin.sharpe@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Colin.sharpe@leicester.gov.uk)

0116 454 4081

Manjora Bisla, Finance Manager

[Manjora.bisla@leics-fire.gov.uk](mailto:Manjora.bisla@leics-fire.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0116 210 5503

**Combined Fire Authority - Taxes and Precepts 2023/24**  
**Appendix to Formal Resolution**

<b><u>1. Tax per Band:-</u></b>	<b>Ratio</b>	<b>2022/23 Tax £</b>	<b>2023/24 Tax £</b>
A	6	49.5267	52.8600
B	7	57.7811	61.6700
C	8	66.0356	70.4800
D	9	74.2900	79.2900
E	11	90.7989	96.9100
F	13	107.3078	114.5300
G	15	123.8167	132.1500
H	18	148.5800	158.5800

**2. Council Tax Bases 2022/23 & 2023/24**

<b>Authority</b>	<b>2022/23 Tax Base</b>	<b>2023/24 Tax Base</b>	<b>Increase/ (Decrease)</b>
Blaby	34,246.23	34,369.72	123.49
Charnwood	58,819.00	59,186.30	367.30
Harborough	37,389.35	38,251.46	862.11
Hinckley & Bosworth	39,010.50	39,421.30	410.80
Leicester City	77,001.00	79,046.00	2,045.00
Melton	19,358.38	19,698.38	340.00
North West Leicestershire	35,581.00	36,394.00	813.00
Oadby & Wigston	17,602.15	17,986.70	384.55
Rutland	15,798.87	15,916.64	117.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>334,806.48</b>	<b>340,270.50</b>	<b>5,464.02</b>

### **3. Precept Levels 2022/23 & 2023/24**

<b>Authority</b>	<b>2022/23 Precept £</b>	<b>2023/24 Precept £</b>	<b>Increase  £</b>
Blaby	2,544,152	2,725,175	181,023
Charnwood	4,369,664	4,692,882	323,218
Harborough	2,777,655	3,032,958	255,303
Hinckley & Bosworth	2,898,090	3,125,715	227,625
Leicester City	5,720,404	6,267,557	547,153
Melton	1,438,134	1,561,885	123,751
North West Leicestershire	2,643,312	2,885,680	242,368
Oadby & Wigston	1,307,664	1,426,165	118,501
Rutland	1,173,698	1,262,030	88,332
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,872,773</b>	<b>26,980,047</b>	<b>2,107,274</b>

### **4. Council Tax Surpluses 2021/22 & 2022/23**

<b>Authority</b>	<b>2021/22 Surplus/ (Deficit)  £</b>	<b>2022/23 Surplus/ (Deficit)  £</b>
Blaby	(10,706)	(16,059)
Charnwood	37,860	41
Harborough	75,366	73,278
Hinckley & Bosworth	10,978	12,443
Leicester City	(37,686)	(5,064)
Melton	7,564	3,717
North West Leicestershire	43,776	8,852
Oadby & Wigston	9,046	4,481
Rutland	7,418	1,268
<b>Total</b>	<b>143,616</b>	<b>82,957</b>