

Status of Report: Public

Meeting: Combined Fire Authority

Date: 9th February 2022

Subject: Budget Strategy 2022/23 to 2023/24 – 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 2022/23 and issue precepts to billing authorities before 1st March, under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Recommendation

2. The Authority is recommended (subject to 2.14 below) to:
 - 2.1 Approve the budget for 2022/23, 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 gap of £439,000 following the notification of reduced rates figures for 2022/23 from billing authorities. It has been proposed that this gap will be funded from the budget strategy reserve in 2022/23.
 - 2.3 Approve the capital programme described at paragraph 9, and authorise the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer to commit expenditure on schemes;
 - 2.4 Approve the changes to the earmarked reserves described at paragraph 11;
 - 2.5 Note that no comments have been received from stakeholders on the draft budget.
 - 2.6 Note that the aggregate of the taxbases communicated by billing authorities for 2022/23 is 334,806.48. [Item T in the formula in Section 42B of the Act].
 - 2.7 Agree the following amounts be calculated for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Section 42A and Section 42B of the Act:

- (a) £44,259,781 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Authority estimates for the items set out in Section 42A(2) of the Act.
- (b) £19,387,008 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Authority estimates for the items set out in Section 42A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £24,872,773 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) £74.2900 being the amount at (c) above (Item R) divided by the amount at 2.6 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.

2.8 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.

2.9 Note the view of the Treasurer that reserves are adequate during 2022/23, and that estimates used to prepare the budget are robust;

2.10 Approve the treasury strategy and prudential indicators described in paragraph 14 of the report, and Appendices 3 and 4;

2.11 Approve the proposed capital strategy described in paragraph 15 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 16;

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

2.14 Determine under Section 52ZB of the Act, that the relevant basic amount of council tax for 2022/23 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) and that in the event that the local government finance settlement has not been approved by 9th February, delegate the making of this determination to the Chief Fire Officer.

2.15 Note that should the Chief Fire Officer not be able to make the determination referred in 2.14 above, that resolutions 2.1 to 2.13 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 2022/23 Appendix to Formal Resolution.

Officers to Contact

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Combined Fire Authority - Taxes and Precepts 2022/23
Appendix to Formal
Resolution

<u>1. Tax per Band:-</u>	Ratio	2021/22 Tax £	2022/23 Tax £
A	6	46.1933	49.5267
B	7	53.8922	57.7811
C	8	61.5911	66.0356
D	9	69.2900	74.2900
E	11	84.6878	90.7989
F	13	100.0856	107.3078
G	15	115.4833	123.8167
H	18	138.5800	148.5800

2. Council Tax Bases 2021/22 & 2022/23

Authority	2021/22 Tax Base	2022/23 Tax Base	Increase/ (Decrease)
Blaby	33,977.11	34,246.23	269.12
Charnwood	58,286.90	58,819.00	532.10
Harborough	36,356.10	37,389.35	1,033.25
Hinckley & Bosworth	38,719.60	39,010.50	290.90
Leicester City	74,806.00	77,001.00	2,195.00
Melton	19,088.38	19,358.38	270.00
North West Leicestershire	34,841.00	35,581.00	740.00
Oadby & Wigston	17,558.70	17,602.15	43.45
Rutland	15,652.57	15,798.87	146.30
Total	329,286.36	334,806.48	5,520.12

3. Precept Levels 2021/22 & 2022/23

Authority	2021/22 Precept £	2022/23 Precept £	Increase £
Blaby	2,354,274	2,544,152	189,878
Charnwood	4,038,699	4,369,664	330,965
Harborough	2,519,114	2,777,655	258,541
Hinckley & Bosworth	2,682,881	2,898,090	215,209
Leicester City	5,183,308	5,720,404	537,096
Melton	1,322,634	1,438,134	115,500
North West Leicestershire	2,414,133	2,643,312	229,179
Oadby & Wigston	1,216,642	1,307,664	91,022
Rutland	1,084,567	1,173,698	89,131
Total	22,816,252	24,872,773	2,056,521

4. Council Tax Surpluses 2020/21 & 2021/22

Authority	2020/21 Surplus/ (Deficit) £	2021/22 Surplus/ (Deficit) £
Blaby	(18,083)	(10,706)
Charnwood	641	37,860
Harborough	4,978	75,366
Hinckley & Bosworth	(19,389)	10,978
Leicester City	(68,575)	(37,686)
Melton	(11,753)	7,564
North West Leicestershire	(28,343)	43,776
Oadby & Wigston	(7,672)	9,046
Rutland	(2,813)	7,418
Total	(151,009)	143,616