



# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

<b>MEETING</b>	Fire Authority
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	18 October 2017
<b>OFFICER</b>	David Sutherland, Director of Finance and Assets
<b>LEAD MEMBER</b>	Councillor Peter McDonald
<b>SUBJECT OF THE REPORT</b>	<b>The 2018-19 Local Government Finance Settlement: Technical Consultation Paper (the Consultation)</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p>The Consultation seeks views on two key elements of the local government finance settlement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Maintaining the certainty of the four-year settlement offer (Question 1)</li> <li>ii. Council tax referendum principles and additional flexibilities (Questions 9 and 10)</li> </ul> <p>The Consultation also seeks views on a number of other areas not directly relevant to the Authority, so a response of 'no comment' is proposed in relation to those questions.</p> <p>The proposed response to Question 1 is that the Authority is in favour of maintaining the certainty provided by the four-year offer. Our existing Medium Term Financial Plan is based on these known amounts and the certainty will aid with planning for the years up to and including 2019/20.</p> <p>The current proposal within the Consultation is that the council tax referendum limit for fire and rescue authorities will be less than 2%. The proposed response to this is that the Authority would recommend that fire and rescue authorities have the flexibility to increase council tax by [less than 2% or] up to and including £10, whichever is higher. The rationale and supporting evidence for this response is contained within the proposed response (see Appendix B, Questions 9 and 10).</p> <p>The deadline for responses to the consultation is 26 October 2017.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Decision.
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	That the proposed response to the consultation be approved.
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	No direct impact.

<p><b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b></p>	<p>In 2017/18 Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority (BMKFA) had the lowest precept of any non-metropolitan combined fire and rescue authority. The band D equivalent charge is £60.88. The total council tax receivable for 2017/18 (excluding prior years' surpluses) is £18.1m.</p> <p>The current medium term financial plan assumes that council tax will be increased by 1.99% every year. For 2018/19 this would result in total council tax receipts of £18.4m (ignoring the effects of any growth in the council tax base).</p> <p>If the band D equivalent was increased by £10 for 2018/19 the total council tax receipts (ignoring any increases in the council tax base) would be £21.0m.</p>
<p><b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b></p>	<p>None arising from the recommendation.</p>
<p><b>CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE</b></p>	<p>No direct impact.</p>
<p><b>HEALTH AND SAFETY</b></p>	<p>No direct impact.</p>
<p><b>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY</b></p>	<p>No direct impact.</p>
<p><b>USE OF RESOURCES</b></p>	<p>See Financial Implications.</p>
<p><b>PROVENANCE SECTION &amp; BACKGROUND PAPERS</b></p>	<p>2017-18 Local Government Finance Settlement: Technical Consultation, Fire Authority, 19 October 2016:</p> <p><a href="http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/8015/0649/9823/ITEM_8_2017-18_Local_Government_Finance_Settlement_Technical_Consultation_-_Final_Appendices.pdf">http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/8015/0649/9823/ITEM_8_2017-18_Local_Government_Finance_Settlement_Technical_Consultation_-_Final_Appendices.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>APPENDICES</b></p>	<p>Appendix A - The 2018-19 Local Government Finance Settlement: Technical Consultation Paper</p> <p>Appendix B – Proposed Response to the Consultation</p>
<p><b>TIME REQUIRED</b></p>	<p>15 minutes.</p>
<p><b>REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT</b></p>	<p>Mark Hemming  <a href="mailto:mhemming@bucksfire.gov.uk">mhemming@bucksfire.gov.uk</a>                  (01296) 744687</p>