



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

MEETING	Executive Committee
DATE OF MEETING	7 February 2018
OFFICER	David Sutherland, Director of Finance and Assets
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Peter McDonald
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Provisional 2018-19 Local Government Finance Settlement (the Consultation)
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>The Consultation seeks views on the Provisional 2018-19 Local Government Finance Settlement, which was published on 19 December 2017. The significant question for the Authority regards the council tax referendum principles for 2018-19.</p> <p>In its response to the 2018-19 Local Government Finance Settlement: Technical Consultation Paper (see Provenance Section & Background Papers) the Authority stated that fire and rescue authorities should be able to increase their band D equivalent council tax by up to £10 without the need for a referendum.</p> <p>The current proposal within the Consultation is that the council tax referendum limit for fire and rescue authorities will be less than 3%.</p> <p>The response to the Consultation draws on data published as part of the Provisional Settlement to reassert the Authority's view that fire and rescue authorities should be able to increase their band D equivalent council tax by up to £10 without the need for a referendum.</p> <p>Due to the timescale for responding to the Consultation (the deadline was 16 January) a response has already been submitted and is attached in Appendix B for Members to note.</p>
ACTION	Noting.
RECOMMENDATIONS	That the submitted response to the consultation be noted.
RISK MANAGEMENT	No direct impact.
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	In 2017/18 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>The current medium-term financial plan assumes that council tax will be increased by 2.99% in 2018/19 and 2019/20. It is forecast that in 2018/19 the total council tax receipts will be £18.8m.</p> <p>If the band D equivalent was increased by £10 for 2018/19 the total council tax receipts would be £21.3m.</p>
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	None arising from the recommendation.
CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE	No direct impact.
HEALTH AND SAFETY	No direct impact.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	No direct impact.
USE OF RESOURCES	See Financial Implications.
PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS	<p>The 2018-19 Local Government Finance Settlement: Technical Consultation Paper (the Consultation) :</p> <p>http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/5115/0719/9506/ITEM_10_Local_Government_Finance_Settlement_2018-19Appendices.pdf</p>
APPENDICES	<p>Appendix A - The provisional 2018-19 local government finance settlement - Consultation Paper</p> <p>Appendix B – Submitted Response to the Consultation</p>
TIME REQUIRED	10 minutes
REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	<p>Mark Hemming</p> <p>mhemming@bucksfire.gov.uk</p> <p>(01296) 744687</p>