



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

MEETING	Executive Committee
DATE OF MEETING	10 February 2021
OFFICER	Mark Hemming, Director of Finance and Assets
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor David Hopkins
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Response to The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2021-22: Consultation paper
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>The Consultation was published on 17 December 2020, with a deadline for responses of 16 January 2021. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation to Officers, the response was discussed with the Chairman and Lead Member before submission. This paper details the content of the submission for the attention of the Authority.</p> <p>The response solely focuses on question 2, which seeks views on the council tax referendum principles for 2021-22. Despite representations made by this Service and the National Fire Chiefs Council in the lead up to the provisional settlement, no additional precept flexibility has been made available to fire and rescue authorities.</p> <p>The response to the Consultation also makes reference to our HMICFRS inspection report that notes serious concerns as to whether the Service has the resources it needs to meet its foreseeable risk, despite being highly efficient and having an innovative deployment model which, if better funded, would be a cost-effective way of keeping people safe.</p> <p>The Consultation also sought views on a number of other areas not directly relevant to the Authority, so a response of 'no comment' was submitted in relation to those questions.</p>
ACTION	Noting
RECOMMENDATIONS	That the response to the consultation be noted.
RISK MANAGEMENT	No direct impact.
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	<p>In 2020/21 BMKFA had the second lowest precept of any non-metropolitan combined fire and rescue authority. The band D equivalent charge was £65.85. The total council tax receivable for 2020/21 (excluding prior years' surpluses) is £20.5m.</p> <p>The current draft medium-term financial plan</p>

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	<p>assumes that council tax will be increased by 1.99% every year. For 2021/22 this would result in total council tax receipts of £20.7m.</p> <p>If the band D equivalent was increased by £5 for 2021/22 the total council tax receipts would be £21.9m.</p>
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	The Chief Fire Officer may make a formal response on behalf of the Authority to a Government Consultation Paper provided that such a response is subsequently referred to the appropriate committee for their attention.
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	https://bucksfire.gov.uk/documents/2020/03/scheme-of-delegation.pdf/
APPENDICES	<p>Appendix A – The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2021-22: Consultation paper</p> <p>Appendix B – Response to the Consultation</p>
TIME REQUIRED	10 minutes
REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	<p>Mark Hemming</p> <p>mhemming@bucksfire.gov.uk</p>