



# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

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**Meeting and date:** Executive Committee, 9 February 2022

**Report title:** Response to the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2022 to 2023: Consultation

**Lead Member:** Councillor David Hopkins

**Report sponsor:** Mark Hemming, Director of Finance and Assets

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**Action:** Noting

**Recommendations:** That the response to the consultation be noted.

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## **Executive summary:**

The Consultation was published on 16 December 2021, with a deadline for responses of 13 January 2022. 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 Committee.

The Consultation sought views on a number of areas, including the distribution of Revenue Support Grant, council tax referendum principles and proposals for the new “Services Grant”. The most pertinent area of the Consultation for the Service is Question 2, regarding council tax referendum principles.

Sections 3.2 and 3.3 of the Consultation note that there is “a £5 referendum principle for the 8 lowest-charging fire and rescue authorities.” (para. 3.2.1, Appendix 1) and that this “is to assist them in addressing immediate pressures and to maintain a sustainable income baseline for future years.” (para. 3.3.1, Appendix 1). The response submitted to the Consultation noted that this was particularly welcome.

The Consultation also sought views other areas not directly relevant to the Service, so a response of ‘no comment’ was submitted in relation to those questions.

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**Financial implications:** The financial implications of the provisional settlement have been factored into the medium-term financial plan, which is also being presented to the Executive Committee on 9 February 2022.

**Risk management:** No direct impact

**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.

**Privacy and security implications:** No direct impact

**Duty to collaborate:** No direct impact

**Health and safety implications:** No direct impact

**Environmental implications:** No direct impact

**Equality, diversity, and inclusion implications:** No direct impact

**Consultation and communication:** No direct impact

**Background papers:** None

Appendix	Title	Protective Marking
1	The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2022-23: Consultation	
2	Response to the Consultation	