



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

Meeting and date: Executive Committee, 8 February 2023

Report title: Response to The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement
2023-24: Consultation

Lead Member: Councillor Matthew Walsh

Report sponsor: Mark Hemming, Director of Finance and Assets

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Action: Noting

Recommendations: That the response to the consultation be noted.

Executive summary:

The Consultation was published on 19 December 2022, with a deadline for responses of 16 January 2023. 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 Services Grant in 2023/24. The most pertinent area of the Consultation for the Service is Question 3, regarding council tax referendum principles. Section 3.2 of the Consultation notes that there is a “£5 referendum principle on Band D bills for all fire and rescue authorities” (in 2022/23 this principle was limited to the 8 lowest-charging fire and rescue authorities, which included this Authority). The response submitted to the Consultation noted that this was particularly welcome.

The Consultation also sought views on other areas not directly relevant to the Service, so a response of “not relevant” or “no further comments” was submitted in relation to those questions.

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 8 February 2023.

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	Provisional local government finance settlement 2023 to 2024_ consultation - GOV.UK	None
2	Response to the Consultation	None