

Revenue Budget: 2023/24 Precept

Report of the Treasurer

For further information about this report please contact James Walton, Treasurer, on 01743 258915 or Joanne Coadey, Head of Finance, on 01743 260215.

1 Purpose of Report

This report seeks Fire Authority approval to:

- A budget for 2023/24;
- Council Tax levels for 2023/24; and
- Precepts on billing authorities and related matters.

The Authority is required to issue a precept before 1 March 2023 and all items in the “Recommendations” below must be taken together. For ease of reference the key elements of the budget are set out in appendices to this report.

2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to:

- a) Approve that a net budget requirement is set at £26,562,703 (calculated in accordance with the provisions of Section 42a of the Local Government Finance Act 1992);
- b) Approve a total precept of £19,277,587 to be levied on the billing authorities;
- c) Approve a Council Tax, resulting in a basic amount of Council Tax at Band D calculated in accordance with the provisions of the 1992 Act (Section 42b) of £111.16;

- d) Approve, under Section 47 of the 1992 Act:
- a. The amount of Council Tax calculated for each category of dwelling in each billing authority's area, as follows:

| Band | 2023/2024 Council Tax |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| | £ p |
| A | 74.11 |
| B | 86.46 |
| C | 98.81 |
| D | 111.16 |
| E | 135.86 |
| F | 160.56 |
| G | 185.27 |
| H | 222.32 |

- b. The amount calculated (in accordance with Section 48 of the 1992 Act) as payable by billing authorities for 2023/24, as follows:

| Council | Precept £ |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Shropshire Council | 13,128,672 |
| Borough of Telford & Wrekin Council | 6,148,915 |
| | <u>19,277,587</u> |

- e) Approve that the Treasurer:
- i Issue the necessary precepts and information to the billing authorities in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IV of Part 1 of the 1992 Act and be authorised to make any amendment to the above to reflect the final approved budget, after consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Fire Authority; and
- ii Is authorised to make payments required from, and to, reserves and provisions within the approved budget strategy and within the Authority's Financial Regulations, in conjunction with the Chair and Vice-Chair;
- f) Approve the revenue budget and pensions account, illustrated in Appendix A, for budgetary control in accordance with approved standing orders, and
- g) Approve the schedule of reserves and provisions at Appendix B

3 Budget Process

The Fire Authority's net spending (budget) for services in 2023/24 has been reported throughout November 2022 to January 2023. The budget is set out in Appendix A and is reported in the Fire Authority's service areas.

The funds receivable in the form of revenue support grant and s31 grants, business rates and top-up payments is £7,115,768. The Fire Authority's share of the council tax collection fund surpluses totals £166,119, and its share of surpluses of the business rates collection funds is £3,229. A council tax base equivalent to 173,421.98 Band D properties has been notified to the Fire Authority by the billing authorities.

4 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report other than those discussed within the report.

5 Legal Comment

There are no legal implications other than those outlined in the report.

6 Appendices

Appendix A

Revenue Programme Budget 2023/24 and Pensions Account

Appendix B

Budget for Reserves

7 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.

Revenue Budget 2023/24 and Pensions Account

| Revenue Budget 2023/24 Key Service Areas | Pay £000 | Other £000 | Total £000 |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Executive and Resources | | | |
| Executive and Resources Pay | 1,348 | | 1,348 |
| Executive | | 98 | 98 |
| Finance | | 1,942 | 1,942 |
| Technical Services | | 2,159 | 2,159 |
| Workshops | | 339 | 339 |
| Pay and Price Contingency | | 1,636 | 1,636 |
| <u>Total Executive</u> | 1,348 | 6,174 | 7,522 |
| Service Delivery | | | |
| Service Delivery Pay | 14,799 | | 14,799 |
| Fire Prevention | | 50 | 50 |
| Area Command | | 5 | 5 |
| Operational Response | | 20 | 20 |
| Training | | 164 | 164 |
| Health and Safety | | 4 | 4 |
| <u>Total Service Delivery</u> | 14,799 | 243 | 15,042 |
| Corporate Support | | | |
| Corporate Support Pay | 1,626 | | 1,626 |
| Information and Communications Technology | | 1,463 | 1,463 |
| Programme Office | | 10 | 10 |
| Corporate Support | | 437 | 437 |
| Human Resources | | 316 | 316 |
| Development | | 147 | 147 |
| <u>Total Corporate Support</u> | 1,626 | 2,373 | 3,999 |
| Total Revenue Budget | 17,773 | 8,790 | 26,563 |

For the purposes of Financial Standing Orders, revenue votes are described in **bold** print and underlined.

| | Estimate 2023/24 |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <u>PENSIONS ACCOUNT</u> | £000 |
| <u>Contributions</u> | |
| Employer contributions – 2015 scheme | 2,599 |
| Employee contributions – 2015 scheme | 1,148 |
| Ill-health charges | 120 |
| Inward transfers from other pension schemes | 0 |
| Total contributions | <hr/> 3,867 |
| <u>Costs</u> | |
| Pensions outgo | -6,409 |
| Total deficit to be funded by top-up grant | <hr/> -2,542 <hr/> |

Budget for Reserves

| | Balance 01/04/23 £000 | Spend £000 | Income £000 | Balance 31/03/24 £000 | Spend £000 | Income £000 | Balance 31/03/25 £000 |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| General | 577 | 0 | 0 | 577 | 0 | 0 | 577 |
| Earmarked Capital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Major Projects | 6,613 | -6,613 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Extreme Incidents | 219 | 0 | 0 | 219 | 0 | 0 | 219 |
| Pensions and Other Staff Matters | 687 | 0 | 0 | 687 | 0 | 0 | 687 |
| Information and Communications Technology (ICT) | 854 | -250 | 0 | 604 | -250 | 0 | 354 |
| Income Volatility | 687 | 0 | 0 | 687 | 0 | 0 | 687 |
| Service Transformation Programme Staff | 787 | -300 | 0 | 487 | -300 | 0 | 187 |
| Service Delivery | 105 | -20 | 0 | 85 | -20 | 0 | 65 |
| Building Maintenance | 262 | -50 | 0 | 212 | -50 | 0 | 162 |
| Operational Equipment | 163 | -50 | 0 | 113 | -50 | 0 | 63 |
| Training | 21 | -21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 10,975 | -7,304 | 0 | 3,671 | -670 | 0 | 3,001 |