

Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters Summergroves Way Kingston upon Hull HU4 7BB  
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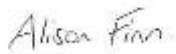
<b>To:</b> Members of the Fire Authority	<b>Enquiries to:</b> Alison Finn <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:committeemanager@humbersidefire.gov.uk">committeemanager@humbersidefire.gov.uk</a> <b>Tel. Direct:</b> (01482) 393204 <b>Date:</b> 2 February 2023
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Dear Member

I hereby give you notice that a meeting of **HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY** will be held on **FRIDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2023 at 10.30AM** at **HUMBERSIDE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, SUMMERGROVES WAY, KINGSTON UPON HULL, HU4 7BB.**

The business to be transacted is set out below.

Yours sincerely



**for Lisa Nicholson**  
**Monitoring Officer & Secretary to Fire Authority**

Enc.

## **A G E N D A**

<b>Business</b>	<b>Page Number</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Primary Action Requested</b>
1. Apologies for absence	-	Monitoring Officer & Secretary	To record
2. Declarations of Interest	-	Monitoring Officer & Secretary	To declare
3. Minutes of the Authority meeting held on 2 December 2022	(pages 1 - 9)	Chairperson	To approve
4. Minutes of the GAS meetings held on 1 December 2022 and 23 January 2023	(pages 10 - 16)	Chairperson	To receive
5. Questions by Members	-	Monitoring Officer & Secretary	To receive
6. Communications	-	Chairperson	To receive
7. External Audit - i. Follow Up Letter to Audit Completion Report from 2021/22 Audit ii. Auditors Annual Report	(pages 17- 49)	Mazars	To receive
8. Management Accounts - Period ending 31 December 2022	(pages 50 - 51)	Executive Director of Finance & S.151 Officer	To receive
9. Approval of Precept 2023/24 and Medium-Term Resource Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27	(pages 52 - 115)	Executive Director of Finance & S.151 Officer	To approve

Business	Page Number	Lead	Primary Action Requested
10. Fees and Charges 2023/24	(pages 116 - 120)	Executive Director of Finance & S.151 Officer	To approve
11. Members' Allowances 2023/24	(pages 121 - 124)	Monitoring Officer & Secretary	To approve
12. Chief Fire Officer Update	verbal	Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive	To receive

**PRESENT:**

**Members**

**Representing East Riding of Yorkshire Council:**

Councillors Abraham, Davison, Dennis, Green, Jefferson, Smith and West

**Representing Hull City Council:**

Councillors Belcher, Chambers, Dad, Neal and Nicola

**Representing North East Lincolnshire Council:**

Councillors Lindley, Patrick, Shepherd and Swinburn

**Representing North Lincolnshire Council:**

Councillors Briggs (*Chairperson*), Grant, Sherwood and Waltham MBE

**Officers of Humberside Fire & Rescue Service**

Phil Shillito - Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive, Niall McKiniry - Deputy Chief Fire Officer & Executive Director of Service Delivery, Matthew Sutcliffe - Assistant Chief Fire Officer & Executive Director of Corporate Services, Christine Cooper - Executive Director of People and Development, Kevin Wilson - Executive Director of Finance/Section 151 Officer, Steve Duffield - Area Manager Service Improvement, Jon Henderson - Area Manager Prevention and Protection, Andy Blades - HMICFRS Service Liaison Lead, Lisa Nicholson - Monitoring Officer/Secretary and Alison Finn - Committee Manager.

The meeting was held at Service Headquarters, Hessle.

**144/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - Apologies for absence were submitted from Jonathan Evison (Police and Crime Commissioner) and Councillors Fox and McMurry.

**145/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - Councillor Abraham declared a non-pecuniary interest insofar as she was a Member of the Police and Crime Panel.

**146/22 MINUTES - Resolved** - That the minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 4 November 2022 be received as a correct record.

**147/22 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS** - there were no questions.

**148/22 COMMUNICATIONS** - The following communications were reported:

- (i) Chris Blacksell, former Chief Fire Officer, had sent his thanks through for all his retirement gifts and the kind words from Members.
- (ii) The Service had received a formal letter from the Fire Brigade Union notifying their intention to ballot their Members for strike action, ballot commencing 5 December 2022.
- (iii) The Service acknowledged the Cultural Review Report into the London Fire Brigade (LFB) and were assessing the content, including a task and finish gap analysis of the recommendations made to LFB, against a HFRS self-assessment.
- (iv) Members discussed the need to ensure that there was good Member oversight of the response to the LFB Report and discussions would continue at future Member days.

**149/22 TREASURY MANAGEMENT HALF YEAR REPORT 2022/23** - The Executive Director of Finance/S151 Officer submitted a report that provided an update on the Authority's treasury management activities for the first half of the financial year 2022/23.

### Investment Activity

The Authority's temporary investments totalled £21.0m as at 30 September 2022.

Table 1 - Investment income earned April to September 2022

Interest Earned April to September 2022	Rate of return April to September 2022	Benchmark return at 30 September 2022*	Difference (Favourable) April to September 2022
£43k	0.54%	2.19%	1.65%

\* Benchmark set as 7 day compounded SONIA

The Authority's rate of return had not met the benchmark return provided by Link Asset Services.

The Authority had not taken any short-term borrowing in the first six months of the year. The Authority was unlikely to undertake short-term borrowing in the second half of the financial year.

The Authority's level of borrowing was £19.1m as at 30 September 2022, with an equated average rate of interest payable at 3.40%. An expected £608k of interest was projected to be payable on external debt for 2022/23.

The Authority had not undertaken any new long-term borrowing so far this financial year but that position would be reviewed in the second half of the financial year against the backdrop of interest rate changes and projections. During the period April to September 2022, the Authority operated wholly within the limits approved.

The S.151 Officer considered the current capital programme to be affordable and sustainable with the revenue effects of capital investment built into the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

The application of and regular monitoring thereafter of a prudent Treasury Management Policy and related Prudential Indicators ensured that the Authority effectively managed financial risks such as exposure to interest rate changes, liquidity and market risk whilst minimising borrowing costs and maximising investment income. As an integral part of the financial planning process, it ensured that the financial plans upon which the Authority's Strategic Plan was based were effective and robust.

**Resolved** - That the report be received.

**150/22 DRAFT MEDIUM TERM RESOURCE STRATEGY** - The Executive Director of Finance/S.151 Officer submitted a report that described the financial direction of the Service and outlined its financial pressures.

The Medium Term Resource Strategy provided options for delivering a sustainable budget and capital programme over the medium term. It also set out how the Authority could provide the resources to deliver the priorities in the Community Risk Management Plan within the challenging financial climate.

**Funding Formula** - The Fire and Rescue Service relative needs formula, used to distribute Grant between Fire and Rescue Services, was introduced in 2010/11 and much of the data used had not been updated. There had been recognition for many years that the formula no longer reflected needs, but previous attempts at reform of the relative needs formula in 2018 had not come to fruition due to various technical/political considerations. No change is anticipated to the formula until at least 2024/25 at the earliest and therefore, the Medium Term Resource Strategy made no assumptions in that regard.

**Local Government Finance Settlement and Council Tax Precept** – The Autumn Statement was announced on the 17 November 2022. Following the announcement, amendments to grant and council tax assumptions had been made.

The Medium Term Resource Strategy as presented included an increase in the precept of £2.69 (2.99 per cent) for a Band D property for 2023/24. An increase of 2.99 per cent had also been included for future years. Final decisions on the actual precept would be made each year by the Authority based on the financial circumstances at the time.

The Authority's budget for 2022/23 was £47.624m. The quarter two revenue monitoring report showed a projected budget overspend of £0.196m as at 30 September 2022.

The forecast closing position on reserves for 2022/23 was £14.077m.

When calculating the medium-term budget projections for Humberside consideration has been given to a number of budget pressures including:

- (i) Pay and price increases;
- (ii) Budget pressures;
- (iii) Revenue implications of the capital programme;
- (iv) Other – including the implications of Covid-19.

Having considered the savings proposals and the availability of reserves to support the MTRS an important consideration was the precept proposal for 2023/24. The Medium Term Resource Strategy included a precept increase of £2.69 (2.99 per cent) built into the funding for 2023/24 and each of the future years.

The overall financial position for Humberside Fire Authority was sustainable over the medium term. However, £0.750m of additional savings were required from 2025/26. Those savings were required in order to minimise the use of reserves to support the day to day costs of the revenue budget over the life of the plan at £3.8m and bring the budget back into balance from 2026/27 onwards. The Authority's overall financial position would be reviewed on an on-going basis.

**Resolved** - That the report be received.

**151/22 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 ONWARDS – VEHICLES, ESTATES AND ICT** - The Area Manager for Emergency Response and Area Manager for Service Improvement submitted a report for approval on the proposed capital programme for Vehicles, Estates, and ICT for 2023/24 onwards.

A new Estates Manager had been recruited to oversee the Authority's and Humberside Police joint estate's function and would join the team early in the new year. Both the Authority and Humberside Police had expressed concern over the timescales for delivery of some projects detailed in the current 2023/24 Capital Programme and the associated slippage.

Key areas of focus for the new Estates Manager and the Fire Fleet and Estates Manager would be to review the capacity to deliver the base programme (including slipped works) and review and catch up on condition surveys. Members were asked to consider that, subject to the review, there may be some reprofiling of the programme as part of the outturn report for 2022/23 to be presented to Members at the June meeting. As detailed and approved last year, the block allocation had been uplifted by £50k annually to reflect the increased costs of programme delivery in terms of materials and other supply chain inflation. Further work was underway to determine future years' priorities, including any further works identified by condition reporting.

The proposed Estates programme was therefore:

Scheme	2023/24 £ 3	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £
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<b>Dignity Works</b>				
Crowle	50k			
Withernsea	50k			
<b>Other schemes</b>				
Goole refurbishment	143k			
Bridlington Doors	150k			
Driffild refurbishment	55k			
Electric vehicle charging points	40k	40k	40k	40k
Fire station external works	100k			
<b>Block Allocation</b>		750k	750k	750k
<b>Total</b>	<b>588k</b>	<b>790k</b>	<b>790k</b>	<b>790k</b>

The core ICT Replacement Programme had been brought together with the agile/flexible working programme to ensure that replacement equipment was agile ready. That meant that the maximum use and value could be obtained from all ICT equipment. It should be noted that the move to hosted systems meant that greater pressure was placed on the revenue budget releasing pressure moving forward on the capital budget.

The proposed ICT programme was therefore:

	<b>2023/24 £</b>	<b>2024/25 £</b>	<b>2025/26 £</b>	<b>2026/27 £</b>
Core ICT Replacement Programme	200k	250k	250k	250k
Emergency Services Network (ESN)	100k	100k	100k	100k
Data Centre Hardware Upgrade	150k	150k	100k	100k
Information systems Upgrades and Development	150k	175k	175k	175k
<b>Total</b>	<b>600k</b>	<b>675k</b>	<b>625k</b>	<b>625k</b>

The Authority strove for efficiency and effectiveness by choosing and procuring wherever possible the best available vehicles, equipment, and services, including estates and ICT, ensuring value for money was a priority consideration. The Authority would continue to explore where possible joint procurement opportunities through regional collaborations.

The financial impact of the proposals was detailed in the report. Subject to approval of the recommendations contained within the report, the financial effect of the proposals would be incorporated into the Authority's revenue and capital plans for 2023/24 onwards, that would be presented for consideration and final approval at the Fire Authority in February 2023.

**Resolved** - (i) That the Fire Authority approves the Capital Programme as set out for Vehicles, Estates, and ICT for 2023/24 onwards, and

(ii) That the Capital Programme is incorporated into the Medium-Term Resource Plan 2023/24 to 2026/27 to be considered at the February 2023 meeting of the Fire Authority.

**152/22 ABSENCE MANAGEMENT** - The Executive Director of People and Development submitted a report that updated Members on absence management for the period 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022. In keeping with the Authority's sustained approach, absence remained a key area of focus for the Service.

Table 1 showed the performance during the period against the target, by staff group with 2 staff groups being below target and 2 areas above target.

Table 1

	Sum of Days Lost	Establishment	Average Duty Days Lost per person	2022/23 annual target per person	YTD (annual divided by 12 x current month number)
Control	228	28.22	8.07	8.70	4.35
Fire Staff	975.34	175.82	5.54	10.00	5
On Call	717.69	344	2.08	7.00	3.5
Full Time	1415.00	430.61	3.28	7.00	3.5
<b>total</b>	<b>3336.03</b>	<b>978.65</b>	<b>3.40</b>		

Table 2 showed that 94.4 per cent of employees during the period had had full attendance.

Table 2

	Quarter 2 2020/21	Quarter 2 2021/22	Quarter 2 2022/23	Target attendance
Full time	96.61%	97.37%	96.41%	95%
Control	94.84%	97.40%	91.17%	95%
Fire Staff	98.03%	95.86%	95.75%	97%

Table 3 showed the top four reasons for absence for all staff groups during the period and showed that, once again, mental health conditions were the top reason for absence.

Table 3

CLG Category	Total duty days lost
Mental Health Anxiety/Depression	878.92
Musculo Skeletal Shoulders	389.00
Musculo Skeletal Back	352.93
Gastro Intestinal	253.68

Table 4 showed that in total there were 412.22 more days absence compared to the same period in 2021/22. However, absence fell significantly during the pandemic period and was now returning to more regular patterns.

Table 4

	2022/23 Sum of Duty Days Lost	2021/22 Sum of Duty Days Lost	difference between contract groups 22/23 – 21/22
Control	<b>228</b>	64	<b>+164</b>
Support Staff	<b>975.34</b>	977.01	<b>-1.67</b>
On-Call	<b>717.69</b>	837.80	<b>-120.11</b>
Full-Time	<b>1415</b>	1045	<b>+370</b>
Grand Total	<b>3336.03</b>	2923.81	<b>+412.22</b>

The Fire Authority noted the content of the report and took assurance that absence was being managed fairly, consistently, and appropriately in the Service and necessary follow-up actions were taken to address short and long-term absence issues.

**Resolved** - That the report be received.

**153/22 WORKFORCE PLANNING** - The Executive Director of People and Development submitted a report that updated Members on the Service Workforce Plan. That Plan had been updated to reflect current staffing levels and the retirement profile. It also reflected how the Service met its obligations under the Community Risk Management Plan and optimised the use of the 24-hour shift system.

A Workforce Planning meeting was held every quarter attended by all Heads of Function to review local planned and unplanned attrition rates and local context and developments. The Tactical Leadership Team met on a monthly basis and, if necessary, was also able to consider workforce planning matters which were occurring dynamically and ensured timely response to addressing shortfalls and redistributing resources, should that be necessary. The Postings and Transfers meeting also met monthly to consider and implement movements around the Service in accordance with service delivery needs.

Progress between 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022 included:

- 14 temporary On-Call to Full Time Firefighting contracts issued whilst further permanent recruitment activity took place.
- A further recruitment drive for On-Call Firefighters and transferee Firefighters from other Fire services to join the Full Time establishment.
- 15 new Full Time Probationer Firefighters (externally recruited) included 4 female recruits posted to station in August 2022.
- Ongoing positive action initiatives to collect electronic expressions of interest enabling the Authority to target applications from all under-represented groups.
- Positive action 'roadshows' around Hull, East Riding, North Lincolnshire and North-East Lincolnshire Council areas ahead of the latest Full Time Firefighter recruitment drive.
- The launch of a Full Time Firefighter recruitment drive in September 2022, with trainees due to commence in Training School in April 2023 and October 2023.
- The implementation of positive action programmes (Rookie Reds) to equip female applicants to undertake the selection process with more confidence.
- Use of the expressions of interest data to target individuals regarding the option to apply to become an On-Call Firefighter in rural areas where it was more geographically challenging to recruit in accordance with the five-minute response time.

The lack of effective workforce planning could present significant corporate risks if the Authority did not have the right staff in the right place with the right skills at the right time. The development of the Plan presented mitigation to that risk. The Plan would be communicated and explained widely across the workforce and would be published on the Service's website.

Members were assured that the Service regularly reviewed and addressed workforce planning needs through both long-term planning and dynamic response as required.

**Resolved** - That the report be received.

**154/22 HFRS STAFF PAY AWARDS ANNUAL UPDATE** - The Executive Director of People and Development submitted a report that updated Members on the pay position of all the staff groups the Authority employed, including current arrangements and awards made over previous years for comparison. The report also updated on the negotiations around pay that took place annually and the mechanisms that exist for pay negotiations for each staff group.

#### Grey Book

Grey Book staff were those uniformed members of staff in the roles of Firefighter to Area Manager. They were represented at their National Employer NJC by the Fire Brigades Union and Fire Officers Association. For Grey Book staff, detailed discussions on pay had been held over several years and the



FBU, who represent most staff in the group, had pushed for a significant pay rise through the Employers' side of the NJC since June 2017. The National Employers decided to make a formal offer on 27 June 2022 of 2 per cent for all Grey Book staff effective from 1 July 2022. The FBU subsequently consulted their members and rejected that offer of a 2 per cent pay increase on 19 July 2022. An improved pay offer was tabled on 4 October 2022 of 5 per cent. The FBU recommended that staff reject the 5 per cent pay offer, and the outcome of a consultative ballot was that the FBU membership had voted to reject the 5 per cent pay offer and would now be balloting for strike action.

### Green Book

Green Book members of staff were those members of staff who were non-operational. They were represented at their National Employer NJC by UNISON, GMB and UNITE. The NJC consisted of 70 members, 12 from employers' representatives, 31 from UNISON, 16 from GMB and 11 from UNITE. Any pay increments agreed were due for payment in April annually. Following consultation events, on 25 July 2022 the National Employers made the one year offer of:

- i) An increase of £1925 on all pay points
- ii) With effect from 1 April 2022, an increase of 4.04 per cent on all allowances (as listed in the 2021 NJC pay agreement circular dated 28 February 2022)
- iii) With effect from 1 April 2023, an increase of one day to all employees' annual leave entitlement

An agreement was reached on 1 November 2022 on the pay offer of £1925 on all pay points. Payment was backdated to 1 April 2022 and payment made to employees in the November 2022 salary.

### Gold Book Staff

Gold Book members of staff were those members of staff in the most senior management positions occupying the roles of Brigade Manager or similar. They were represented at their national employer NJC by the Fire Leaders Association. The mechanism for pay negotiation for Gold Book staff involved an annual pay claim which was submitted in September/October annually followed by an offer in response by their NJC employers' side. Any pay increments agreed were due for payment in January annually. In 2022 similarly to in recent years, the decision around an increase had generally not been taken until after the decision had been taken around the Grey Book pay award and the FLA had not made a claim. That had enabled a level of consistency to be applied across the various staff groups for operational staff.

The table below summarised the pay awards for each staff group since 2016.

Staff Group/Pay Award	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Green Book	1%	1%	2%	2%	2.75%	1.75%	£1925
Grey Book	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1.5%	Not agreed
Gold Book	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1.5%	Not agreed

A 1 per cent pay increase across all staff groups equated to a cost to the Service of £366k, assumptions for pay awards were informing the current development of the Medium Term Resource Strategy.

**Resolved** - That the report be received and the Authority note:

- (i) That Grey book staff have not accepted a pay offer of 5% for 2022/23 from the National Employers (NJC);
- (ii) That Green book staff have accepted a pay offer of a flat rate of £1925 for 2022/23 across all pay spines, an increase of 4.04 per cent on all allowances plus an additional day's annual leave with effect from April 2023 from the National Employers (NJC) for Local Government;

- (iii) That Gold book staff have not received a pay offer, and this will likely be determined by the outcome of the Grey book pay offer.

**155/22 STRATEGIC PLAN AND COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (CRMP) 2021-24 REFRESH**

- The Area Manager for Service Improvement submitted a report that described the detailed risks that were prevalent in the community, alongside the methods and resources that could be applied to mitigate those risks.

The Community Risk Management Plan was produced in accordance with section 4.6 of the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England with the responsibility for each Fire and Rescue Authority to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan.

The Community Risk Management Plan described in detail the risks that were prevalent in the community, alongside the methods and resources applied to mitigate those risks, with the Strategic Plan providing the focus for effectively and efficiently delivering services.

Members received an annual update regarding any amendments made to the Strategic Plan and Community Risk Management Plan each December, throughout the life of the plans. The report informed Members of relevant updates made during the second year of the 2021-24 plans and any potentially significant factors, that might impact future delivery of the plans. Where significant changes had been made, or were being considered, it was also appropriate to consult with staff and the community

The annual process of reporting relevant changes provided an assurance to Members that compliance with the National Framework was regularly reviewed.

**Resolved -**

- (i) That Members take assurance from the process used to review and update the CRMP; and
- (ii) That the Authority approves a 12-week period of consultation, commencing in early 2023.

**156/22 HMICFRS UPDATE** – The Assistant Chief Fire Officer & Executive Director of Corporate Services gave a verbal update to the Authority.

Smaller tranches of Fire and Rescue Services would be formed in order to speed up the process for reports to be provided by the Inspectorate. There was a potential for the Service to be in tranche three as they were 27 on the list. The Service was striving to be assessed as Outstanding and would work hard to achieve that.

The Service had supported HMICFRS in their preparations for the next round of inspections by participating in pilot inspections of high rise building incidents and a productivity and efficiency exercise. Members were reminded that the CFO is the national NFCC lead for that workstream.

**Resolved** - That the update be received.

**157/22 CHIEF FIRE OFFICER UPDATE** - The Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive provided a verbal update.

- i. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer reported on a fire fatality that had occurred the previous week.
- ii. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer reported that a potential arson case was under investigation jointly between the Service and Humberside Police.
- iii. Positive comments had been received from the ongoing lobbying of M.Ps and the Chief Fire Officer had meetings arranged with Graham Stuart M.P and Martin Vickers M.P.
- iv. The Chief Fire Officer had sent a further letter to all local M.Ps to lobby for a potential £5 increase to the Council Tax precept.
- v. An FBU Red Plaque, commemorating the tragic death of firefighter Anthony Jackson during a training exercise in 1974, had been unveiled at Goole Fire Station.

- vi. The Service supported the launch of the White Ribbon Scouts Badge. A fire engine wrapped in the White Ribbon graphics attended at the White Ribbon Badge launch by Jacky Bowes, the High Sheriff of the East Riding of Yorkshire.
- vii. Planning for potential Industrial Action was underway.
- viii. The Chief Fire Officer thanked Members for their support and challenge during the year and wished them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Resolved** - That the update be noted.

**158/22 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS/PUBLIC - Resolved** - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 & 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

In making its decision the Authority confirmed that having regard to all the circumstances it was satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

**159/22 INDUSTRIAL ACTION PLANNING UPDATE** - The Deputy Chief Fire Officer & Executive Director of Service Delivery submitted a report updating Members on the Services Industrial Action planning arrangements identifying statutory responsibilities, approximate timelines, progress, costs, and an overview of the Contingency Fire / Control Crew Capability.

**Resolved –**

- (i) That the update be received and further detail be provided to the Authority in due course.
- (ii) That Members take assurance that plans are in place to ensure that the Authority continues to meet its Statutory functions and maintains an emergency response to the local community; and
- (iii) That Members acknowledge the response to the Home Office offer in respect of Military support.



## HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY

## GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1 DECEMBER 2022

**PRESENT:** Independent Co-opted Members James Doyle (Chair) Chris Brown, Kathryn Lavery, and Gerry Wareham.

Niall McKiniry – Deputy Chief Fire Officer & Executive Director of Service Delivery, Matthew Sutcliffe – Assistance Chief Fire Officer & Executive Director of Corporate Services, Christine Cooper – Executive Director of People and Development, Jon Henderson – Director of Prevention and Protection, Steve Duffield – Area Manager Service Improvement, Martyn Ransom – Joint Deputy Chief Finance Officer & Deputy S.151 Officer, Lisa Nicholson – Monitoring Officer/Secretary, and Rob Close – Committee Manager were also present. Andrew McCulloch – Director of Internal Audit (TiAA).

Councillor Briggs was also present.

The meeting was held at the Humberside Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Kingston upon Hull. The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m.

**PROCEDURAL**

**70/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Apologies for absence were received from Pam Jackson.

**71/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Kathryn Lavery declared that she was no longer Chair of Yorkshire Ambulance NHS Trust but had taken up the role of Chair of Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust.

**73/22 MINUTES** – *Resolved* – That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 September 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

**74/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES, OTHER THAN ON THE AGENDA** – There were no matters arising.

**GOVERNANCE**

**75/22 UPDATE: MATTERS ARISING/FEEDBACK FROM FIRE AUTHORITY** – The Monitoring Officer/Secretary provided feedback on items considered by the Fire Authority at its meetings on 4 November 2022.

*Resolved* - That the update be received.

**AUDIT**

**76/22 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS** – The Committee received a report of the internal auditors, TiAA. The Committee was advised that progress towards completion of the mid-year audit review highlighted that the outstanding recommendations were a consequence of technical complications arising from a IT security breach. All recommendations were on track for implementation against the agreed dates.

It was clarified to the Committee that Firewatch was a data management system used across the industry. Currently, Firewatch was used parallel to a legacy system. However, development towards full integration was progressed by an in-house project team, including both Human Resources (HR) and IT colleagues. The team intended to seek the advice of partner authorities, attend a professional conference in January before mapping out a gantt chart to full integration. The move to a one system approach was evaluated each stage at by senior officers.

**Resolved** - That the report be received

## **FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

**77/22 TREASURY MANAGEMENT HALF YEAR REPORT 2022/23** – The Joint Deputy Chief Finance Officer updated the Committee on the treasury management activities for the first half of the financial year 2022/23. the Authority operated within the Prudential limits approved by Humberside Fire Authority. Borrowing during the year had not exceeded the operational boundary at any point and was not expected to over the course of the next period.

As a result of market fluctuation, a notable level of capital programme slippage occurred during the last financial year, generally extending to premise refurbishments. While no acute issues were immediately present, the dignity at work of staff was an integral consideration and captured on the risk register. Moving forward, collaboration with Humberside Police sought to increase the viability and efficiency of refurbishment. Dedicated positions were created in both organisations and both organisations intended to work closely to maximise delivery.

It was clarified that the capital programme was financed through borrowing rather than capital grants which enabled greater flexibility to defer programme activities until preferred times. A full review of the capital programme revealed a significant increase in actual expenditure when compared to initial predictions. Ultimately, the capital programme was to be considered at HFA.

**Resolved** - That the report be received

**78/22 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS – PERIOD ENDING 30 SEPT 2022** – The Joint Deputy Chief Finance Officer submitted a report summarising management accounts for the period ending 30 September 2022. Currently, the outturn position indicated a nominal overspend. Additionally, Members were advised that, despite a further 20 per cent for utilities costs allocation, an additional £200,000 was earmarked for the remainder for 2022/23.

**Resolved** - That the updated be noted.

## **SCRUTINY PROGRAMME**

**79/22 SCRUTINY ITEM - PROCUREMENT** – The Joint Deputy Chief Finance Officer submitted a report summarising the Authority's procurement position. The procurement process for the Authority was informed by public procurement legislation, the Constitution of the Authority, and common financial procedures. This resulted in a procurement policy that sought to ensure compliance, ethics and value for money. To obtain best value through competitive processes, the Authority set out financial thresholds for the award of contracts laid out through a compliant and proportion process. It was expected that value for money exercises may have avoided up to £1.1million in additional costs. Published tenders valued in

excess of £50,000 were to be accompanied by bidders' declaration of interest extending to a wide range of criteria. The Authority contributed to the National Fraud Initiative which sought to increase the detection of fraud attempts.

Capital projects, managed mainly by the Joint Estates Function with Humberside Police, were given a 10 per cent weighting to social value within the evaluation criteria for awarding the contract. All tenders in excess of £50,000 included environmental considerations as part of the formal evaluation criteria. Regional and national partners were considered when procuring equipment and vehicles as to take advantage of any opportunities for economies of scale and ensure optimal use of resources.

Members raised the following points:

- Engagement with CIPS – The Committee endorsed the engagement with CIPS (Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply) as a professional body. They were advised that a number of members of staff were closely associated with CIPS with one member of staff studying level six.
- Bid Integrity – A range of sources were utilised to examine the integrity of tenders including credit reference agencies and Companies House. Generally, to effectively cross examine tenders, an accurate return on criteria was required from respondents. The Authority's Constitution and the Procurement Policy were considered robust enough to mitigate duplicitous tenders. Dishonesty regarding the arrangements in place for tender respondents would result in them falling out of compliance with their contract.
- Environmental Considerations – While environmental factors were a consideration for all tenders, those considerations only formed part of formal award evaluation criteria when the anticipated value exceeded £50,000.
- Social Value Criteria – The assessment of social value criteria was considered to be successful, that was not however reflected by a long-term assessment of its impact to the community. Generally, the impact of social value was not believed to be recorded throughout the public sector. The social value weighting of 10 per cent of the overall award criteria was the mandatory minimum for overall marks required. A range of questions were asked to statutory directors to satisfy the social demand requirements. Manufacturing arrangements were naturally more difficult to assess as this often occurred overseas

**Resolved -** That the Committee take assurance in the procurement process for Humberside Fire Authority.

**80/22 GAS COMMITTEE SCRUTINY PROGRAMME 2022/23** – The Committee Manager submitted a report summarising the Committee's Scrutiny Programme 2022/23.

**Resolved -** That the Programme be received.

**81/22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – The Deputy Chief Fire Officer & Executive Director of Service Delivery, and Area Manager Service Improvement advised of challenges facing the Authority in its immediate future including advice that the HMICFRS round three was to commence in January 2023 with a new grading between Good and Requires Improvement. The Authority sat in the third tranche and would likely be assessed towards the end of 2023.

**Resolved –** That the update be noted.





## HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY

## GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 JANUARY 2023

**PRESENT:** Independent Co-opted Members James Doyle (Chair) Chris Brown, Pam Jackson, and Gerry Wareham.

Officers Present: Matthew Sutcliffe – Assistance Chief Fire Officer & Executive Director of Corporate Services, Christine Cooper – Executive Director of People and Development, Steve Duffield – Area Manager Service Improvement, Jason Kirby – Area Manager of Emergency Response, Martyn Ransom – Joint Deputy Chief Finance Officer & Deputy S.151 Officer (in remote attendance), Sam O'Connor – Head of Organisational Development, Simon Rhodes - Head of Corporate Assurance, Lisa Nicholson – Monitoring Officer/Secretary, and Rob Close – Committee Manager.

Internal Audit (TiAA)

Andrew McCulloch – Director of Internal Audit and David Robinson – Audit Manager (TiAA)

External Audit (Mazars)

Ross Woodley – Audit Manager

Councillor Green was also in attendance.

The meeting was held at the Humberside Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Kingston upon Hull.

### **PROCEDURAL**

**01/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Apologies for absence were received from Kathryn Lavery.

**02/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – No declarations of interest were made with respect to any items on the agenda.

**03/23 MINUTES** – *Resolved* – That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

**04/23 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES, OTHER THAN ON THE AGENDA** – There were no matters arising.

### **GOVERNANCE**

**05/23 UPDATE: MATTERS ARISING/FEEDBACK FROM FIRE AUTHORITY** – The Monitoring Officer/Secretary provided feedback on items considered by the Fire Authority at its meetings on 2 December 2022.

*Resolved* - That the update be received.

### **AUDIT**

**06/23 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS** – The Committee received a report of the internal auditors, TIAA. The Committee was given an overview of the key findings from the audit reviews into collaboration activity, ICT GDPR, and secondary contracts. While both ICT GDPR and secondary contracts received reasonable assurance, collaboration activity was assessed at limited assurance with eight important action points identified.

It was clarified that the majority of the recommendations' deadlines for the ICT GDPR audit concluded in June 2023 therefore allowing time for the development of a new assurance framework to integrate effective evaluation.

Since the end of 2022 deadline for GDPR e-learning, the completion sat at 85 per cent of current staff. The outstanding e learning courses were constantly monitored and those who had not completed training, were implored to as soon as reasonably practicable.

In relation to recommendation two of the secondary contracts audit, the letter to be drafted to HFR Solutions was dependant on the completion of policy framework revision. It was further clarified that the conditions limiting secondary employment sought only to mitigate conflicts of interest or manage total hours. There were not many factors that would ultimately preclude secondary contracts. Additionally, there was a minimum service obligation within the contracts of operational fire fighters expecting them to be available for their primary roles as a priority.

**Resolved** – That the Internal Audit Report be received.

**07/23 EXTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT AND FOLLOW UP LETTER TO AUDIT COMPLETION REPORT FROM 2021/22 AUDIT** – The Committee received a report of the external auditors, Mazars. The Committee was advised that the follow up letter to the audit completion report was issued in November 2022. The delay in assurance resulted from asset valuations from the pension fund auditors producing a sample valuation error. That error, however, was immaterial.

**Resolved** – That the External Audit Annual Report and Follow Up Letter to Audit Completion Report From 2021/22 Audit be received.

**08/23 EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT**– The Committee received a report of the external auditors, Mazars. The Committee was advised that the audit opinion for the 2020/21 Whole of Government Accounts was issued but could not be certificated as there was still outstanding sample work. The assurance statement had however been issued to the National Audit Office on 19 December 2022. An unqualified opinion was issued on the 2021/22 accounts, including Humber Fire and Rescue Service within just 11 per cent of local authorities to receive their opinion within the deadline. The Value For Money review, conducted in December 2022, identified no weaknesses relevant to report. The only outstanding work for the 2021/22 Audit was the Whole of Government Accounts which were expected to be significantly delayed due to outstanding instruction from the National Audit Office.

It was acknowledged that the use of earmarked reserves to mitigate against inflationary pressures proved prudent over the 2022/23 financial year.

**Resolved** - That the Internal Audit Report be received.

## **FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

**09/23 REVIEW OF ANTI-FRAUD RELATED POLICIES** – The Committee received a verbal report of the Head of Corporate Assurance. The Committee received an overview of the anti-

bribery policy, anti-fraud and corruption policy, anti-money laundering policy and the whistleblowing policy.

It was clarified that standard induction process for new employees was to progress through e-learning packages which provided an overview of key policies relating to their roles.

**Resolved** – That the Review of Anti-Fraud related policies report be received;

### **SCRUTINY PROGRAMME**

**10/23 SCRUTINY ITEM – EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION – EQUALITY IMPACT ANALYSIS** – The Committee received a report of the Executive Director of People & Development.

The Committee was advised that, in 2020, the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) commissioned McKenzie's LLP to deliver Equality Impact Analysis (EIA) awareness training to services throughout the country. The NFCC subsequently launched a template, process and supporting toolkit to embed standardised EIA across the sector. The Service also adopted an EIA Policy in July 2021 following consultation with staff.

An internal audit was conducted in August 2022 – an assurance review of EIAs, and it was a key line of enquiry on the recent HMICFRS inspection. The learning and recommendations from both these inspections were included in the current Service Improvement Plan (SIP) and were being actioned and monitored accordingly.

The number of completed and published EIAs for 2021/22 now totalled 108 as at 31/12/2022. This was a substantial increase from previous years, although the Service acknowledged further improvements were required for consistency and deficits such as major projects and activities.

A Service wide EIA that was planned that would cover an analyses of the Service's four key responsibilities of Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. This would then help to identify activities/areas of work that required further EIAs to be produced

Members raised the following points:

- **Consultation** – Both staff and community groups were consulted to develop the EIA Policy and any EIAs used in respect of other policies and decisions. While direct networking was often preferred, on occasion, published data and reports from community groups were also used to inform EIAs. That regular use of EIAs created a continuously updating system that responded to changes in equality and diversity landscape.
- **Impact on Challenge** – The inclusion of EIAs within the Service created an additional level of assurance which could be relied upon if challenges to decisions were made. Often, the health and safety arising from policies and decisions was the ultimate factor.

**Resolved** - That the Committee endorses the Service's commitment to and continuing journey of improvement of Equality Impact Analyses under the Public Sector Equality Duty..

**11/23 GAS COMMITTEE SCRUTINY PROGRAMME 2022/23** – The Committee Manager submitted a report summarising the Committee's Scrutiny Programme 2022/23.

**Resolved** - *That the Programme be received.*

Humberside Fire Authority Members  
 Humberside Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters  
 Summergroves Way  
 Hull  
 HU4 7BB

29 November 2022

Dear Members

### **Humberside Fire Authority**

#### **Follow-Up Letter to our Audit Completion Report in relation to the 2021/22 Audit**

As required by International Standards on Auditing (UK), I am writing to communicate an update on those matters that were marked as outstanding within our Audit Completion Report dated 22 August 2022 and to draw your attention to additional issues that have arisen since we presented our report to the Authority on 23 September 2022.

#### **Additional issues arising since we reported in August**

Members will recall from our presentation at the Authority meeting on 23 September 2022, that your officers had produced the 2021/22 financial statements and we had audited them significantly in advance of the timetable set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations. The Authority approved the financial statements on 23 September 2022, but we explained that we were unable to complete our audit and issue our audit opinion on the financial statements until we received assurance from the pension fund auditor.

#### **Summary of issues arising**

We received the assurance from the pension fund auditor on 24 November 2022. The main reason for the delay was the auditor encountered difficulties getting confirmation of asset values from custodians for a sample of investments and when this information was received asset values were significantly higher than in the draft pension fund accounts. The pension fund auditor extrapolated the sample error and reported to us that the pension fund assets were understated by £39.1M. The Authority's share of this understatement is £317K, which is immaterial but above our reporting threshold.

The pension fund auditor also reported that the information provided to the actuary and reflected in the Authority's accounts showed assets £22M lower than shown in the Fund's accounts. The reason for the discrepancy has not yet been established but it is believed that the higher figure in the Fund's accounts is more likely to be accurate, being based on later information. The Authority's share of this potential further understatement of assets is £177K.

Accordingly, the aggregate extrapolated and potential understatement of local government pension fund assets in the Authority's accounts is £494K. As this is still immaterial and does not impact on the Authority's usable reserves, management have decided not to adjust the accounts, but we are obliged to report the error to you in this letter.

The audit of billing authorities is ongoing due to a national issue in respect of infrastructure, which does not impact on the Authority. However, the latest information available from these audits suggests that the Authority has understated collection fund debtors and creditors by £174,000 in its revised financial statements. Again this is immaterial but above the reporting threshold so we are obliged to report the error to you in this letter.

### Update on matters previously reported as outstanding

The following matters have now been resolved.

<b>Audit area previously reported as outstanding</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Updated position</b>
Pensions	COMPLETED	We have now completed our work on pensions, and in particular, we have received the assurance letter from the auditor of East Riding Pension Fund. The only matters to bring to Members' attention are the extrapolated and potential understatements of assets reported above.
Movement in Reserves and Supporting Notes	COMPLETED	We have now completed our work on the MIRS and supporting notes. There are no matters to bring to your attention.
Collection Fund Debtors and Creditors	COMPLETED	We have now completed our work on debtors and creditors following the receipt of updated information from billing authorities. The only matter to bring to Members' attention is the immaterial error reported above.
IT General Controls	COMPLETED	We have now completed our work on IT General Controls. There are no additional matters to bring to Members' attention.
WGA	OUTSTANDING	The group instructions have still not been received from the National Audit Office. Accordingly, we will withhold our certificate closing the audit using the wording reported to you in the final paragraph of the draft audit report contained at Appendix B of our Audit Completion Report.
Closing Procedures	COMPLETED	We have now completed our review and closure procedures, including updating our review of post balance sheet events and there is just one matter to bring to your attention. The audit adjustment to debtors and creditors referred to in the Audit Completion Report had not been made in Note 16, supporting the cash flow statement. Whilst immaterial, this has now been corrected to ensure consistency between the notes and primary statements.

For completeness, I attach a final summary of misstatements as Appendix A to this letter. All changes between the Audit Completion Report and the final position are highlighted in red. I also attach at Appendix B, the proposed audit report, which contains a minor change in wording from the draft in the Audit Completion Report, again highlighted in red.

If you wish to discuss these or any other points then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

*Garvin Barker*

Director  
For and on behalf of Mazars LLP

## Appendix A – Summary of misstatements

The issues arising between the issue of the Audit Completion Report on 22 August 2022 and the issue of this update letter are highlighted in red.

We set out on below the misstatements identified for adjustment during the course of the audit, above the level of trivial threshold of £43k.

The first section outlines the misstatements that were identified during the course of our audit which management has assessed as not being material, either individually or in aggregate, to the financial statements and does not currently plan to adjust.

The second section outlines the misstatements that have been adjusted by management during the course of the audit.

### Unadjusted misstatements 2021/22

	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		Balance Sheet	
	Dr (£'000)	Cr (£'000)	Dr (£'000)	Cr (£'000)
1. Dr: Property Plant and Equipment			502	
Cr: Revaluation Reserve				502
Valuer calculation errors regarding professional fees applied to two fire station valuations.				
2. Dr: Capital Adjustment Account			272	
Cr: Property, Plant and Equipment				239
Dr: Revaluation Reserve				33
An error in calculating and posting the prior period adjustment.				
3. Dr: Revaluation Reserve			466	
Cr: Capital Adjustment Account				466
An error in posting the revaluation adjustments to reserves.				
4. Dr: Other Long-Term Liabilities (pension liability)			494	
Cr: Unusable reserves (pension reserve)				494
Dr: Movement in Reserves Statement	494			
Cr Re-measurement of the net defined liability		494		
See summary of issues arising on pages 1-2.				
5. Dr: Short-Term Debtors			176	
Cr: Short-Term Creditors				176
See summary of issues arising on pages 1-2.				



## Adjusted misstatements 2021/22

		Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		Balance Sheet	
		Dr (£'000)	Cr (£'000)	Dr (£'000)	Cr (£'000)
1	Dr: Short Term Creditors			896	
	Cr: Short Term Debtors				896
	Incorrect reversal of 2020/21 collection fund debtors and creditors.				

**Note: None of the above adjustments impact on the Authority's usable reserves.**

## **Appendix B – Updated Audit Report Wording**

We have highlighted in red matters raised in this letter.

# **Independent auditor's report to the members of Humberside Fire Authority**

## **Report on the audit of the financial statements**

### **Opinion on the financial statements**

We have audited the financial statements of Humberside Fire Authority for the year ended 31 March 2022, which comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Firefighter's Pension Fund Account and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22.

### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities section of our report. We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Executive Director of Corporate Services' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Executive Director of Corporate Services with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### **Other information**

The Executive Director of Corporate Services is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial

statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Responsibilities of the Executive Director of Corporate Services for the financial statements**

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Executive Director of Corporate Service's Responsibilities, the Executive Director of Corporate Services is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Executive Director of Corporate Services' is also responsible for such internal control as the Executive Director of Corporate Services determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The Executive Director of Corporate Services is required to comply with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis on the assumption that the functions of the Authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Executive Director of Corporate Services is responsible for assessing each year whether or not it is appropriate for the Authority to prepare its accounts on the going concern basis and disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Based on our understanding of the Authority we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the Local Government Act 2003 (and associated regulations made under section 21), the Local Government Finance Acts of 1988, 1992 and 2012, and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements.

We evaluated the Executive Director of Corporate Service's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting estimates and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to those identified risks, including non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) and fraud that are material to the financial statements. Our audit procedures included but were not limited to:

- discussing with management and the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- communicating identified laws and regulations throughout our engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- considering the risk of acts by the Authority which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- making enquiries of management and the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management and the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal controls.

We are also required to conclude on whether the Executive Director of Corporate Service's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. We performed our work in accordance with Practice Note 10: Audit of financial statement and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom, and Supplementary Guidance Note 01, issued by the National Audit Office in September 2021.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### **Report on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources**

#### **Matter on which we are required to report by exception**

We are required to report to you if, in our opinion, we are not satisfied that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2022.

We have not completed our work on the Authority's arrangements. On the basis of our work to date, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in December 2021, we have not identified any significant weaknesses in arrangements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

We will report the outcome of our work on the Authority's arrangements in our commentary on those arrangements within the Auditor's Annual Report. Our audit completion certificate will set out any matters which we are required to report by exception.

## **Responsibilities of the Authority**

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the review of arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources**

We are required under section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

We have undertaken our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in December 2021.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception under the Code of Audit Practice**

We are required by the Code of Audit Practice to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make a recommendation under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under sections 28, 29 or 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

## **Use of the audit report**

This report is made solely to the members of Humberside Fire Authority as a body, in accordance with part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 44 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members of the Authority those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the members of the Authority, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

## **Delay in certification of completion of the audit**

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until we have completed:

- the work necessary to issue our assurance statement in respect of Humberside Fire Authority's Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack for the year ended 31 March 2021, and consequently conclude the audit and issue the certificate for that period;
- the work necessary to issue our assurance statement in respect of the Authority's Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack for the year ended 31 March 2022; and
- the work necessary to satisfy ourselves that Humberside Fire Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

[Signature]

Gavin Barker, Key Audit Partner  
For and on behalf of Mazars LLP

The Corner  
Bank Chambers  
26 Mosley Street  
Newcastle Upon Tyne  
NE1 1DF

29 November 2022

# Auditor's Annual Report

Humberside Fire Authority – year ended  
31 March 2022

January 2023

# Contents

- 01** Introduction
- 02** Audit of the financial statements
- 03** Commentary on VFM arrangements
- 04** Other reporting responsibilities

Our reports are prepared in the context of the 'Statement of responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies' issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd. Reports and letters prepared by appointed auditors and addressed to members or officers are prepared for the sole use of Humberside Fire Authority. No responsibility is accepted to any member or officer in their individual capacity or to any third party.

Mazars LLP is the UK firm of Mazars, an international advisory and accountancy group. Mazars LLP is registered by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales



# 01

## Section 01: **Introduction**

# 1. Introduction

## Purpose of the Auditor’s Annual Report

Our Auditor’s Annual Report (AAR) summarises the work we have undertaken as the auditor for Humberside Fire Authority (‘the Authority’) for the year ended 31 March 2022. Although this report is addressed to the Authority it is designed to be read by a wider audience including members of the public and other external stakeholders.

Our responsibilities are defined by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice (‘the Code’) issued by the National Audit Office (‘the NAO’). The remaining sections of the AAR outline how we have discharged these responsibilities and the findings from our work. These are summarised below.



### Opinion on the financial statements

We issued our audit report on 29 November 2022. Our opinion on the financial statements was unqualified.



### Value for Money arrangements

In our audit report issued we reported that we had not completed our work on the Authority’s arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources and had not issued recommendations in relation to identified significant weaknesses in those arrangements at the time of reporting. Section 3 confirms that we have now completed this work and provides our commentary on the Authority’s arrangements.

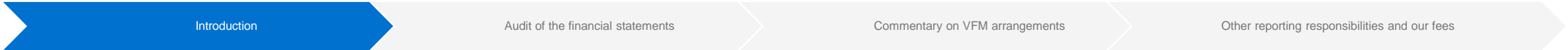
No significant weaknesses in arrangements were identified and there are no recommendations arising from our work.



### Wider reporting responsibilities

We have not yet received group instructions from the National Audit Office and we are unable to issue our audit certificate until this is formally confirmed.

The 2014 Act requires us to give an elector, or any representative of the elector, the opportunity to question us about the accounting records of the Authority and to consider any objection made to the accounts. We did not receive any questions or objections in respect of the Authority’s financial statements.



# 02

Section 02:

## **Audit of the financial statements**

# 2. Audit of the financial statements

## The scope of our audit and the results of our opinion

Our audit was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Code, and International Standards on Auditing (ISAs).

The purpose of our audit is to provide reasonable assurance to users that the financial statements are free from material error. We do this by expressing an opinion on whether the statements are prepared, in all material respects, in line with the financial reporting framework applicable to the Authority and whether they give a true and fair view of the Authority's financial position as at 31 March 2022 and of its financial performance for the year then ended.

Our audit report, issued on 29 November 2022 gave an unqualified opinion on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

# 03

Section 03:

**Commentary on VFM arrangements**

### 3. Commentary on VFM arrangements

#### Overall summary



# 3. VFM arrangements – Overall summary

## Approach to Value for Money arrangements work

We are required to consider whether the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The NAO issues guidance to auditors that underpins the work we are required to carry out and sets out the reporting criteria that we are required to consider. The reporting criteria are:



**Financial sustainability** - How the Authority plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services



**Governance** - How the Authority ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks



**Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness** - How the Authority uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services

Our work is carried out in three main phases.

### Phase 1 - Planning and risk assessment

At the planning stage of the audit, we undertake work so we can understand the arrangements that the Authority has in place under each of the reporting criteria; as part of this work we may identify risks of significant weaknesses in those arrangements.

We obtain our understanding of arrangements for each of the specified reporting criteria using a variety of information sources which may include:

- NAO guidance and supporting information
- Information from internal and external sources including regulators
- Knowledge from previous audits and other audit work undertaken in the year
- Interviews and discussions with staff and directors

Although we describe this work as planning work, we keep our understanding of arrangements under review and update our risk assessment throughout the audit to reflect emerging issues that may suggest there are further risks of significant weaknesses.

### Phase 2 - Additional risk-based procedures and evaluation

Where we identify risks of significant weaknesses in arrangements, we design a programme of work to enable us to decide whether there are actual significant weaknesses in arrangements. We use our professional judgement and have regard to guidance issued by the NAO in determining the extent to which an identified weakness is significant.

### Phase 3 - Reporting the outcomes of our work and our recommendations

We are required to provide a summary of the work we have undertaken and the judgments we have reached against each of the specified reporting criteria in this Auditor's Annual Report. We do this as part of our Commentary on VFM arrangements which we set out for each criteria later in this section.

We also make recommendations where we identify weaknesses in arrangements or other matters that require attention from the Authority. We refer to two distinct types of recommendation through the remainder of this report:

- **Recommendations arising from significant weaknesses in arrangements**  
We make these recommendations for improvement where we have identified a significant weakness in the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Where such significant weaknesses in arrangements are identified, we report these (and our associated recommendations) at any point during the course of the audit.
- **Other recommendations**  
We make other recommendations when we identify areas for potential improvement or weaknesses in arrangements which we do not consider to be significant but which still require action to be taken.

The table on the following page summarises the outcomes of our work against each reporting criteria, including whether we have identified any significant weaknesses in arrangements or made other recommendations.

# 3. VFM arrangements – Overall summary

## Overall summary by reporting criteria

Reporting criteria	Commentary page reference	Identified risks of significant weakness?	Actual significant weaknesses identified?	Other recommendations made?
 Financial sustainability	11	No	No	No
 Governance	14	No	No	No
 Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness	17	No	No	No



### 3. Commentary on VFM arrangements

#### Financial Sustainability

How the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services



# 3. VFM arrangements – Financial Sustainability

## Overall commentary on the Financial Sustainability reporting criteria

### Overall responsibilities for financial governance

We have reviewed the Authority’s overall governance framework, including Fire Authority and Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee reports, the Annual Governance Statement, and the Annual Report and Accounts for 2021/22. These confirm that the Authority appropriately undertook its responsibility to define the strategic aims and objectives, approve budgets and monitor financial performance against budgets and plans to best meet the needs of the Authority’s service users.

The Authority receives assurance on all aspects of financial management and operational performance through reports to the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee. This includes:

- overseeing and assuring financial and operational performance;
- considering the risks associated with any material financial transactions;
- considering the financial and operational risks involved in the Authority’s business and how they are controlled and monitored by management; and
- taking action needed to address issues raised or to make improvements.

Our review of supporting papers confirmed that it did so effectively throughout 2021/22.

### The Authority’s financial planning and monitoring arrangements

The Authority’s 2021/22 financial plan was designed to achieve break-even without any requirement for operational savings or a call on reserves, other than those earmarked for non-recurring 2021/22 projects.

Audited accounts show that the plan was achieved with a managed underspend of £1M. In April 2022, this was used to help create a new Pay and Prices Reserve to combat rising inflation. The rapid increase in inflation in the past six months demonstrates that this decision was prudent.

The Authority receives quarterly management accounts providing detailed commentary of performance against budget, including explanations of significant variances. The financial position was challenged at these meetings and the reasons for the surplus were clearly articulated. The scale of the surplus was accurately forecast from month 11 when the level of unbudgeted income was confirmed.

Budget Preparation commences the September before the forthcoming year. Pressures are logged and notified to the Head of Finance so the budget, Medium Term Resource Strategy (MTRS) and management accounts forecasts can take them into account. The MTRS is regularly updated and reported to members as financial forecasts change. There were three such updates in 2021/22 after the 2021/22 Budget and MTRS were formally approved in February 2021.

### The Authority’s arrangements and approach to Financial Planning 2022/23

The Authority approved the 2022/23 Budget as part of a new MTRS in February 2022, which included agreeing a 1.99% increase in the council tax precept. As in the previous year, the 2022/23 financial plan was balanced without the need to achieve operational savings or rely on reserves. The MTRS covered a rolling four year programme and was designed to maintain the general reserve at the minimum level determined by the Executive Director of Finance’s risk assessment of £5.9M, with reserves only used for some minor smoothing between the four years and earmarked projects. The MTRS included an annual 3.5% non-pay savings target (£0.3M), which is secured by reducing budget allocations and allowing budget holders discretion about delivery. At this stage, no operational savings were required.

Mid-year management accounts forecast a small overspend of £0.2M, due to inflation being higher than was foreseeable when the budget was set. However, the Authority has a history of recovering small overspends in the second half of the year. For example, in 2019/20 a similar overspend was projected mid-year but a £0.1M underspend was achieved. Accordingly, it is anticipated that most if not all of the new Pay and Prices Reserve will be available to balance the 2023/24 budget.

The latest update of the MTRS was reported to the Authority in early December 2022. This reflects the latest inflation forecasts, pay negotiations and indications in the Government’s Autumn Statement about future funding and rules on referendums for council tax increases. The Executive Director of Finance updated his financial risk assessment and concluded that general reserves of £7M were required until 31 March 2024. The MTRS is designed to achieve this, with £2.2m of these reserves being utilised over the subsequent two years. The Finance Settlement for Local Government was issued on 20 December 2022 which was subsequent to the MTRS being considered by Members at the December HFA meeting. Following the Settlement the Authority has a balanced budget over the medium-term on the assumption that the 2022/23 Firefighter pay award is 5%.

In recognition of the financial risks in the MTRS the Authority has developed a potential savings plan to be considered further if required.

# 3. VFM arrangements – Financial Sustainability

## Overall commentary on the Financial Sustainability reporting criteria - continued

### The Authority's arrangements and approach to Financial Planning 2022/23 (continued)

The Authority's positive track record in terms of delivering savings and keeping within budget has allowed it to establish a general reserve of £7.4M at 31 March 2022, which is marginally above the minimum level determined by the Authority's risk assessment and about 15 per cent of net revenue expenditure. In addition, the Authority has earmarked reserves of £7.5M set aside to meet expected pressures over the period of the MTRS. The overall level of usable reserves reflects the level of financial risk, with an increase of £1.1M in 2021/22 and the strategy assumes that financial risks will return to a more normal level by 2024/25..

The impact of potential changes in fire cover on response times and life risk is carefully modelled before operational savings are consulted upon. For the period 2010/11 to 2019/20 the Authority's funding reduced by 40%, but savings of £11M were achieved without compromising performance, as evidenced by the most recent HMICFRS inspection covered on page 18.

The Authority undertakes substantial work to understand possible future impacts on the budget. The medium term budget projections consider various budget pressures, such as pay and price increases, the revenue implications of the capital programme and other pressures including the triennial revaluation of pensions. The risk register contains a critical risk and remedial action regarding the financial position and is monitored quarterly.

The MTRS includes sensitivity analysis to show the impact of each 1% of pay award above the forecast level (£0.4M). The small projected overspend for 22/23 assumes a 5% pay award, but the firefighting unions have recently rejected a 5% pay offer. Given that employee costs represent three quarters of expenditure, this represents the greatest risk to the financial plan.

We have critically assessed the underlying assumptions used in the MTRS and consider them to be appropriate. The Authority has added flexibility because its budget includes about £1M per annum of revenue contributions to its capital programme and the Authority is able to re-phase and refinance its capital programme to deliver instant revenue savings. The MTFS is underpinned by workforce planning and capital programmes and takes into account risks arising during the year and planning assumptions within the Community Integrated Risk Management Plan (ICRMP). We have not identified any inconsistency between the various plans in prior years or from our review of the CIRMP.

### Conclusion

We have not identified any significant weaknesses in the Authority's arrangements in relation to the financial sustainability reporting criteria.

### 3. Commentary on VFM arrangements

#### Governance

How the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks



# 3. VFM arrangements – Governance

## Overall commentary on the Governance reporting criteria

### The Authority’s governance structure

The Authority has an established governance structure in place which is summarised in its Annual Governance Statement and set out in the Constitution. The Constitution is updated annually and includes a scheme of delegation assigning clear responsibilities to the Strategic Leadership Team, the Authority and its sub-committees. The structure allows for effective oversight of the Authority’s operations and activity. We reviewed these documents as part of our audit and confirmed they were consistent with our understanding of the Authority’s arrangements in place and were fully operational.

This includes arrangements such as registers of interests being maintained and published and codes of conduct, updated to reflect the most recent Local Government Association models. The Authority has approved and adopted a code of corporate governance applicable to Members, which is consistent with good practice set out by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance (CIPFA) and Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE). We reviewed the declarations of interest during the financial statements audit. We have confirmed that all relevant declared interests have been appropriately reported within the 2021/22 financial statements.

The Authority met 9 times in 2021/22 and has established committees with appropriate remits that met as follows in 2021/22:

- Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (7 occasions); and
- Pension Board (2 occasions).

The terms of reference and work plans of these various committees ensures that the Authority is provided with adequate assurance and this is confirmed through an annual review of effectiveness. We consider the committee structure of the Authority is sufficient to provide assurance that decision making, risk and performance management is subject to appropriate levels of oversight and challenge.

Our review of Authority and committee papers confirms that reports clearly articulate the purpose, key points, financial impact, recommendations and action points. Minutes are published and reviewed by the Authority to evidence the matters discussed, appropriate challenge and decisions made.

We attended most Governance, Audit and Scrutiny committees in the year and found that members were appropriately skilled to undertake their role and provided appropriate challenge to Management and Internal and External Audit. All are independent Members and are recruited and trained to provide a range of skills and collectively provide effective scrutiny.

### The Authority’s risk management and monitoring arrangements

The Authority has a comprehensive risk management system in place which is embedded into the governance structure of the organisation. The processes are supported by the Authority’s Corporate Risk and Opportunity Policy and the Authority leadership plays a key role in implementing and monitoring the risk management process.

The Authority has overarching responsibility for risk management and considers the content of the Corporate Risk Register as part of its scrutiny of bi-annual Performance Reports. The Corporate Risk Register takes account of any changes in the entity’s internal and external environments. The register is completed with senior management input and they are pro-active in evaluating the risks. We are satisfied that the management team have appropriate industry and regulatory knowledge.

The Strategic Leadership Team discuss the risk register at each meeting, consider the mitigating measures in place and agree on a risk score. Risk registers are updated following the meeting. During the meetings, horizon scanning takes place to identify new or emerging risks for the Authority. Appropriate action is taken following these discussions. We have confirmed through attendance at Authority meetings that detailed discussion and challenge has taken place on high level risks. The risks are clearly linked to the Strategic Aims of the Authority and are included in operational performance reports, providing a thread from operational to strategic risk management.

### The Authority’s arrangements for internal control

In order to provide assurance over the effective operation of internal controls, including arrangements to prevent and detect fraud, the Authority has outsourced internal audit and local counter fraud work to TIAA. Work plans are agreed with management in advance of the start of the financial year and reviewed by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee prior to final approval.

We have reviewed the Internal Audit Plans for 2021/22 and 2022/23 and confirmed planned work addresses the expected areas with annual coverage of key financial controls. Progress reports are presented to each Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee meeting including follow up reporting of recommendations not fully implemented by agreed due dates. This allows the Committee to effectively hold management to account on behalf of the Authority.



# 3. VFM arrangements – Governance

## Overall commentary on the Governance reporting criteria - continued

### The Authority’s arrangements for internal control (continued)

Our attendance at Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committees throughout the period confirms the significance placed on internal audit findings. Members of the committee actively request management attendance at committees to discuss findings from internal audit reports.

Internal audit gave a reasonable assurance opinion on financial controls in 2021/22 with no significant governance weaknesses identified for reporting in the Annual Governance Statement. We did not identify any new internal control weaknesses in 2021/22 but commented in our Audit Completion Report on an outstanding recommendation regarding the need to annually test the disaster recovery plan. The Authority experienced a cyber-attack in May 2022. However, the Authority was able to restore the ledger and recover critical data sufficiently to provide comprehensive accounts and working papers for audit by the planned audit start date of 20 June 2022.

The Authority has an appropriate Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy which sets out detailed policies and procedures to prevent and detect fraud. The latest version of the policy was updated in December 2020. In December 2021 the Authority updated a separate bribery policy.

### The Authority’s arrangements for budget setting and budgetary control

The Authority’s MTFS includes the identification and evaluation of risks to the Authority’s finances and is developed in parallel to the budget for the following year and setting of the precept.

We examined the assumptions behind the 2022/23 Budget and we have confirmed the assumptions are reasonable, the main ones being:

- Grant funding increasing by <1% per annum;
- Council tax income increasing by about 5% per annum;
- Pay awards of 3.5% in 22/23 and 2% per annum thereafter;
- Non-pay inflation increasing by variable amounts given the widely different forecasts for some categories (e.g. energy); and

- £1M per annum revenue support to the capital programme.

Responsibilities of budget holders are clearly set out in the Budget Monitoring procedures note and they are required to provide explanations for variances in their quarterly budget reports. Budget holders have access to the general ledger and are encouraged to review progress between the formal quarterly reports.

Budget reports are usually available by the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month following quarter end. They show the actual expenditure and income compared to what was budgeted and highlight any variances. The budget holders then update their year-end forecasts within 5 days of receiving the reports.

We found that explanations for budget variances were detailed and clear and in most years forecasts in budget monitoring reports have been very accurate. In 2021/22 the forecast underspend increased significantly between months 9 and 11, but this was the result of additional income being confirmed and a policy of reigning in expenditure to establish an earmarked reserve to cover the increasing risk of inflation.

The Authority achieved full compliance with CIPFA’s Financial Management Code in 2021/22.

### The Authority’s arrangements for performance management

Performance against targets and prior years was reported bi-annually to the Authority in 2021/22. The reports detail the Authority’s performance against the target for all standards, as well as highlighting the key concerns, and the mitigating actions to show how performance will be improved where necessary. The performance reports are discussed as adjacent agenda items to management accounts and officers describe the relationship between the two. An annual performance report is prepared and published on the Authority’s website.

An Internal Audit Report in April 2021 gave performance management a ‘*substantial assurance*’ opinion, the highest available rating. The report made no recommendations and identified two areas of good practice.

### Conclusion

We have not identified any significant weaknesses in the Authority’s arrangements in relation to the governance reporting criteria

### 3. Commentary on VFM arrangements

#### Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness

How the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services



# 3. VFM arrangements – Improving Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness

## Overall commentary on the Improving Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness reporting criteria

### The Authority’s arrangements for assessing performance and evaluating service delivery

One of the Authority’s four strategic plan objectives is ‘to efficiently manage the service’. This includes making appropriate use of public money and delivering value for money.

In June 2021 the Authority considered a benchmarking report, comparing the Authority’s performance in 2020/21 to the family average for key performance indicators. Although most authorities achieved a reduction in incidents in 2020/21, which was linked to lockdown restrictions, the Authority achieved a much greater reduction. Primary fires fell by 14% and the fall in arson (25%) was the highest among the family group. The Authority improved its performance in 2020/21 for all key indicators and performed better than average for most indicators.

Although incident levels have increased since lockdown restrictions were lifted the Authority met all of its performance targets in 2021/22 and most of the increase has been focused in secondary deliberate fires and low severity accidental dwelling fires that pose a low risk of death or critical injury. In July 2022 a post project review found the unwanted fire signal policy introduced in 19/20 had reduced such false alarms by 25% and generated £53K income.

The 2022/23 Mid-Year Performance Report shows that the Authority has continued to meet response targets with 97% of first appliances arriving at dwelling fires and road traffic accidents within the specified times and 85% of second appliances arriving within five minutes of the first appliance.

The Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee selected five subjects to review in 2021/22, which were clearly related to areas that Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) identified for improvement in its first full inspection of Humberside Fire Authority reported in June 2019.

We witnessed appropriate challenge of improvement plans in these areas through our attendance at Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee meetings. These reviews showed significant improvements as a result of implementation of the Service Improvement Plan. For example, an employee survey showed that the number of employees reporting bullying and harassment had fallen by 80%, since the previous survey.

### The Authority’s regulator assessments and independent reviews

In July 2022, HMICFRS published their report on the second full inspection of the Authority together with a summary of findings of all inspections in tranche two. HMICFRS rated the Authority ‘Good’ for each pillar of inspection and for all 11 sub-scores. This represented a significant improvement on the previous inspection when the People Inspection Pillar had been rated ‘requires improvement’ and to date no fire and rescue authority has achieved a better set of inspection ratings.

The results are summarised in the following table:

Inspection Pillar	Inspection rating	Previous inspection rating
Effectiveness	Good	Good
Efficiency	Good	Good
People	Good	Requires Improvement

HMICFRS commended the Authority’s response to its previous inspection stating that the Authority had “created a service improvement plan using the areas for improvement highlighted in our 2018 inspection with the aim of improving the service it provides to the public. It was clear throughout our inspection that this has worked”.

HMICFRS’s report on all tranche two inspections cited good practice at Humberside in respect of::

- a falls response partnership;
- risk-based station planning;
- IT procurement; and
- evaluation of positive action plans.



# 3. VFM arrangements – Improving Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness

## Overall commentary on the Improving Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness reporting criteria - continued

### The Authority’s arrangements for effective partnership working

The Authority has developed shared services in several areas with Humberside Police and some of these arrangements predated the Police and Crime Act’s requirement for closer collaboration between Police and Fire services. The main partnerships are:

- Emergency Services Fleet Management (Humberside) Limited (ESFM), which is a joint arrangement that provides vehicle maintenance to both authorities;
- A shared service for estates management, which has recently been expanded with a joint Estates manager recruited;
- A shared health and safety team as commended by HMICFRS on the previous page; and
- Two senior finance posts shared between the two authorities.

Some properties are shared and reports show opportunities for further sharing are being explored.

Partnerships appear to be working well as evidenced by the performance monitoring reports. Partnerships are risk-assessed before being entered into and an established framework exists. A Partner’s proposal to create a community safety hub in Scunthorpe has been understandably ruled out due to recent modernisation of Scunthorpe Fire Station.

The collaborations are primarily designed to improve service resilience but some economies of scale have been achieved. In October 2020 the Authority received a report formally evaluating the sharing of senior finance posts and identified a saving of £53,000 per annum with suitable governance and the intended resilience benefits.

### The Authority’s arrangements for commissioning services

The Authority has an in-house procurement team with suitable qualifications and experience that are responsible for producing the Procurement Policy in use by the Authority. The procurement team use established national and regional procurement frameworks to maximise purchasing power and participate in national benchmarking exercises, which have not identified any scope for significant savings.

Outsourcing has been limited to a few support services where it is not economic to provide the degree of specialist support required in house (e.g. legal services and treasury management) and these are managed via service level agreements with councils.

The Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee are currently reviewing procurement as one of the five areas selected for scrutiny reviews in 2022/23. There is no evidence at this stage that procurement is likely to expose the Authority to significant financial loss or failure to deliver efficiency and performance improvements.

### Conclusion

We have not identified significant weaknesses in the Authority’s arrangements in relation to the improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness reporting criteria.

# 04

Section 04:

**Other reporting responsibilities and  
our fees**

# 4. Other reporting responsibilities and our fees

## Matters we report by exception

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 provides auditors with specific powers where matters come to our attention that, in their judgement, require specific reporting action to be taken. Auditors have the power to:

- issue a report in the public interest;
- make statutory recommendations that must be considered and responded to publicly;
- apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to the law; and
- issue an advisory notice.

We have not exercised any of these statutory reporting powers.

The 2014 Act also gives rights to local electors and other parties, such as the right to ask questions of the auditor and the right to make an objection to an item of account. We did not receive any such objections or questions.

## Reporting to the NAO in respect of Whole of Government Accounts consolidation data

The NAO, as group auditor, requires us to complete the WGA Assurance Statement in respect of its consolidation data.

At the time of preparing this report we have not yet received instructions from the NAO on what procedures are required. As such this work is outstanding. Until this work is concluded we cannot issue our audit certificate.

# 4. Other reporting responsibilities and our fees

## Fees for work as the Authority’s auditor

We reported our proposed fees for the delivery of our work under the Code of Audit Practice in our Audit Strategy Memorandum presented to the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee in March 2022. Having completed our work for the 2021/22 financial year, we can confirm that our fees are as planned and set out in the table below:

Area of work	2020/21 fees	2021/22 fees
Planned fee in respect of our work under the Code of Audit Practice	£24,561	£24,561
Recurring increases in the base audit fee arising from regulatory pressures	£4,966	£4,966
Additional fees in respect of the VFM approach introduced in 2020/21	£5,000	£5,000
Additional fees in respect of the revised ISA 540	£1,900	£1,900
Total fees	£36,427	£36,427

## Fees for other work

We confirm that we have not undertaken any non-audit services for the Authority in the year.

# Gavin Barker, Director – Public Services

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## **Mazars**

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Mazars is an internationally integrated partnership, specialising in audit, accountancy, advisory, tax and legal services\*. Operating in over 90 countries and territories around the world, we draw on the expertise of 40,400 professionals – 24,400 in Mazars' integrated partnership and 16,000 via the Mazars North America Alliance – to assist clients of all sizes at every stage in their development.

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**Humberside Fire Authority**  
**10 February 2023**

**MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS 2022/23 – BASED ON PERIOD  
ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report highlights the current financial position based on information to 31 December 2022.
- 1.2 The end of year projections are set out below for the revenue budget, the capital programme and the pensions account.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Members take assurance from this report and the Authority's financial position for the period ending 31 December 2022.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Management Accounts are reported to Members four times a year with the financial position at 30 June, 30 September, 31 December and 28 February.

**4. PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022**

- 4.1 The summary estimated outturn position for the current financial year based on information to 31 December 2022 is as follows:

CATEGORY	2022/23 OUTTURN PROJECTION
HFA	
Revenue Budget	£0.004m overspend
Capital Programme	£3.348m spend against £7.292m allocation
Pensions Account	£12.750m deficit

- 4.2 This is the second set of Management Accounts for the 2022/23 financial year and further updates will be brought to the Authority based on the period ending 28/2/23.
- 4.3 Further details on all of these areas are available electronically alongside the agenda papers on the Fire Authority's website at [www.humbersidefire.gov.uk/fire-authority](http://www.humbersidefire.gov.uk/fire-authority).

**5. RESOURCING/FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY**

- 5.1 Sound financial management contributes to the achievement of the Authority's objectives.

**6. RISK/ HEALTH AND SAFETY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The quarterly Management Accounts help to ensure that the Authority meets its legal and regulatory requirements.

## **7. LINKAGES TO ANY STRATEGIC/CORPORATE PLANS/POLICIES**

- 7.1 The production of robust, timely and detailed information in relation to the Authority's financial position contributes to the Strategic Plan objective of a 'Stronger Organisation'. The information specifically underpins good governance and good financial management.

## **8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There is no requirement to carry out an equality impact analysis as this report does not relate to a policy or service delivery change.

## **9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 That Members take assurance from this report and the Authority's financial position for the period ending 31 December 2022.

**Kevin Wilson**  
**Executive Director of Finance/S151 Officer**

### **Officer Contact**

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### **Background Papers**

2022/23 Management Accounts



**Humberside Fire Authority**  
**10 February 2023**

**Report by Executive Director of  
Finance/S151 Officer**

## **2023/24 PRECEPT AND MEDIUM-TERM RESOURCE STRATEGY 2023/24 TO 2026/27**

### **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report considers the Authority's Budget for 2023/24 onwards and the setting of the precept for 2023/24.
- 1.2 The report has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011 Sections 72 to 79 and the Local Government Finance Act 2012 to allow the Authority to approve:
  - The Council Tax Requirement for 2023/24;
  - The Council Tax Base figure for 2023/24; and
  - The basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24.
- 1.3 The report also complies with the Local Government Act 2003 and allows the Authority to approve:
  - The financial spending plans that are necessary to support the Authority's activities [Section 25(1)(a)]; and
  - Maintenance of adequate reserves and provisions [Section 25(1)(b)].

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Members approve the 2023/24 precept at a level of £4.99 higher on a Band D property than the 2022/23 level and also approve Appendices A and B.

### **3. 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR**

- 3.1 There has been a series of reports to the Fire Authority on the budget position for 2023/24 onwards. Reports have been considered at the September, October and December 2022 round of meetings.
- 3.2 The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2022/23 was released in December 2022 and the key headlines were:
  - A £1.144m (6.6%) increase in support from Government for the 2023/24 financial year;
  - Council Tax Referendum threshold of £5 or above on a Band D property for Humberside Fire Authority for 2023/24.
- 3.3 The Authority's Medium-Term Resource Strategy (Appendix A) has been updated in line with new information that has become available since December 2022. The main examples of this are:- the Council Tax Base for 2023/24; Collection Fund surplus/deficit figures; and the Capital Programme which is largely based on the Premises, IT and Vehicles reports for 2023/24 onwards approved at the December 2022 Fire Authority.

## **4. DELIVERING EFFICIENCIES AND IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY**

### Efficiencies

- 4.1 We have worked extremely hard at delivering efficiencies as a Service and achieved over £11M of cashable efficiencies between 2010 and 2018. We have continued to achieve efficiencies in recent years and have delivered a further £1.3M of recurring efficiencies in the period 2018 to 2022. We continue to set a non-pay savings target for each financial year and for 2023/24 this is 3% (which is intended to stretch us more than the 2% target that has been included in previous CSRs), saving £0.27M per annum.
- 4.2 We have a proactive and professionalised procurement function that has achieved cost avoidance savings of £1.20M since April 2020 through national, regional and local procurement.

### Improved Productivity

- 4.3 The Authority is actively engaged in NFCC Efficiency and Productivity workstreams with our Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive being the National NFCC Lead for Productivity and Efficiency. The following key areas of productivity improvement have been implemented in recent years:-
- Improved risk reduction through implementation of a 2021/22 Prevention and Protection Review, increased capacity to conduct specialist business safety inspections and efficient use of capacity from the Full-Time shift system to deliver targeted audit and engagement activities and community Safe and Well visits;
  - Ongoing development of sector leading data, intelligence and analytics, including proactive sharing with partners, to further improve community risk modelling and targeting of Prevention and Protection activities;
  - Medical response and support, where the community needs it and where this does not affect our emergency response. Including Emergency First Responders and Falls Teams crewed by operational and support staff;
  - Improved efficiency at Full-Time fire stations through maintaining a global standard crewing figure for fire engines and using excess firefighters to perform other managed activities, including supporting crewing at On-Call fire stations (and vice-versa), and risk and safety activity in the community;
  - Planning and monitoring of routine activities has increased community focussed Safety, Engagement and Risk activity;
  - Full-Time operational staff support delivery of Prevention and Protection activities, in a structured and co-ordinated way. Conducting Business Safety Engagement and Audits to release capacity for Inspectors to focus on inspection and enforcement;
  - Effectiveness of Safety activity is evaluated using OSARA, performance dashboards, independent evaluation via Independent Audit and Scrutiny;
  - Reduction of Unwanted Fire Signals (Fire Alarm False Alarms) is well embedded and our charging regime for repeat offenders is subsidising upskilling of staff to perform protection activity;

- Proactively leading collaboration and partnership working across blue-light, health, local partnerships: Joint Fire/Police Fleet; Estates; Health, Safety and Environmental management;
- Innovations introduced for Training, including greater use of technology to support virtual training and assessments, learning and development;
- Service wide emphasis on outcome-based performance monitoring via Power BI dashboards.

## 5. 2023/24 PRECEPT

- 5.1 The decision on the 2023/24 precept for Humberside Fire Authority has to be taken in the light of a number of significant factors.
- 5.2 The Government has set a referendum threshold for 2023/24 of £5 or above on a Band D property for Humberside Fire Authority. Therefore, any increase at or above this level will require a Humberside area-wide referendum in support. Clearly, there would be a significant cost attached to any such referendum.
- 5.3 Secondly, although the Authority has provided for 5% pay awards in 2023/24 there remains a significant risk that they could be in excess of this.
- 5.4 Thirdly, the Authority has suffered a historic reduction in Government support over 2011/12 to 2021/22. Much has been done to respond to this, but the fact remains that the Authority has lost circa £11m of its funding from Government over this period. Future funding settlements beyond 2023/24 are likely to be very constrained for unprotected services such as Fire and Rescue.

## 6. COUNCIL TAX/PRECEPT – CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Authority ran a public consultation for the 2023/24 council tax precept (Appendix C sets out analysis of the responses in more detail). For 2023/24 options of not to increase, and increases of £2.69, £4.99 and £7.99 were put forward. The Service has generated an excellent level of engagement on the issue and the responses in summary are as follows:-

Options	No Increase	Increase of £2.69	Increase of £4.99	Increase of £7.99	Total
Number of responses	873	249	811	392	2,325
Percentage	37.5%	10.7%	34.9%	16.9%	100%

- 6.2 Appendix C of this report sets out in detail the comments received as part of the responses.

## 7. MEDIUM-TERM RESOURCE STRATEGY 2023/24 TO 2026/27

- 7.1 Members have been regularly briefed on the Authority's medium-term financial position.
- 7.2 In broad terms the budget for 2023/24 to 2026/27 is balanced subject to:-
- council tax increases of £4.99 on a Band D property in 2023/24 and 2024/25 and 2.99% in 2025/26 and 2026/27;
  - Pay awards of 5% in 2023/24 and 2% in each year from 2024/25 onwards;
  - The use of £1.2m funding from reserves during 2023/24 and 2024/25.

## **8. RESERVES**

- 8.1 The Authority's reserves consist of the General Reserve (£5.908m at 1 April 2022) and a number of Earmarked Reserves created to meet specific areas of future expenditure (£8.686m at 1 April 2022).
- 8.2 Again, as a result of good forward planning by the Authority, the reserves are in a sound position, but they do need to be seen in the context of the current and future significant reductions in Government funding and the major financial uncertainties that still lie ahead.

## **9. REVIEW OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES' RELATIVE NEEDS AND RESOURCES**

- 9.1 It is understood that this review is on hold at the moment with any changes unlikely to be implemented until 2024/25 at the earliest.

## **10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2003**

- 10.1 Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 specifically requires the 'Chief Finance Officer' (which for Humberside Fire Authority is the S.151 Officer) to report on the robustness of the estimates, the adequacy of reserves and the budget monitoring arrangements in place when determining a budget requirement and precept for a given financial year.
- 10.2 Robustness of estimates:- the S.151 Officer confirms that the budget estimates have been compiled on a robust and prudent basis.
- 10.3 Adequacy of reserves:- the S.151 Officer confirms that the current reserves held by the Authority are adequate. This position is kept under continuous review and any material changes will be reported to Members.
- 10.4 Budget monitoring arrangements:- the S.151 Officer confirms that the Authority has timely and robust monitoring arrangements. The proposal is to again issue management accounts to all Members and SLT within 10 working days of 30 June, 30 September, 31 December and 28 February.

## **11. DETAILS OF CONSULTATION AND/OR COLLABORATION**

- 11.1 The Budget has been developed with the full involvement of SLT and the full Fire Authority.
- 11.2 The Authority has consulted widely with the public and businesses as part of the Budget and Precept Consultation.

## **12. RESOURCING/FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY**

- 12.1 The Authority must statutorily set a balanced budget and council tax for the forthcoming financial year.

## **13. RISK/ HEALTH AND SAFETY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 No direct issues arising but the Authority must notify its intention with regard to the precept increase before the end of February each year and set a balanced budget.

## **14. LINKAGES TO ANY STRATEGIC/CORPORATE PLANS/POLICIES**

- 14.1 The Medium-Term Resource Strategy dovetails with the Authority's Strategic Plan and the Authority's Community Risk Management Plan.

## **15. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 15.1 There is no requirement to carry out an equality impact analysis as this report does not relate to a policy or service delivery change.

## **16. CONCLUSION**

- 16.1 In broad terms the budget for 2023/24 to 2026/27 is balanced subject to:-
- Council tax increases of £4.99 on a Band D property in 2023/24 and 2024/25 and 2.99% in 2025/26 and 2026/27;
  - Pay awards of 5% in 2023/24 and 2% in each year from 2024/25 onwards;
  - The use of £1.2m funding from reserves during 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- 16.2 That Members approve the 2023/24 precept at a level of £4.99 higher on a Band D property than the 2022/23 level and also approve Appendices A and B.

**Kevin Wilson**  
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### **Background Papers**

September, October and December 2022 MTRS reports.





HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY

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# MEDIUM-TERM RESOURCE STRATEGY 2023/24 – 2026/27

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## **I. Purpose of the Medium-Term Resource Strategy**

- 1.1 This is the Medium-Term Resource Strategy (MTRS) of Humberside Fire Authority. It covers a period of four years but will be reviewed annually to reflect the dynamic nature of both the fire service and changes in funding. It describes the financial direction of the organisation and outlines financial pressures.
- 1.2 The MTRS provides options for delivering a sustainable budget and capital programme over the medium term. It also sets out how the Authority can provide the resources to deliver the priorities in the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) within the challenging financial climate.
- 1.3 The MTRS sets the financial context for the Authority's revenue budget, capital programme and precepting decisions.
- 1.4 The overall financial strategy seeks to deliver the Authority's Community Risk Management Plan, 2022 - 2025.

## **2. Aims of the Strategy**

- 2.1 The MTRS assists in:
  - (i) Supporting delivery of the Community Risk Management Plan 2022-2025;
  - (ii) Improving financial planning and the financial management of the Authority's resources, both revenue and capital;
  - (iii) Maximising the use of resources available to the Authority, both internal and external;
  - (iv) Ensuring that the Authority provides value for money and continues to deliver efficiency gains;
  - (v) Reviewing the Authority's policy on the use of reserves, ensuring the position continues to be sustainable and that there are sufficient resources over the medium term;
  - (vi) Responding to external pressures, including changes to funding resulting from the Government's annual funding announcements.
  - (vii) Ensuring that the Authority's long-term plans are sustainable and efficient.

## **3. Principles of the Strategy**

- 3.1 The key principles underlying the Authority's MTRS 2023/24 – 2026/27 are:
  - (i) Overall expenditure of the Authority will be contained within original estimates each year.
  - (ii) The Authority will maintain a Prudent Minimum General Reserve (PMGR), reviewed annually, to cover any major unforeseen expenditure or loss of funding. A flexible approach will be taken to the use of reserve balances above this level where appropriate, balancing the opportunity costs of maintaining reserves against the benefits of alternative approaches.
  - (iii) The Authority will maintain earmarked reserves for specific purposes only when appropriate, and which are consistent with achieving objectives.

- (iv) The Authority will continue to prioritise the achievement of Value for Money, securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources; in establishing the framework for the Fire Service within Humberside and; in commissioning and procurement decisions.
- (v) The Authority's Chief Finance Officer will prepare a rolling programme of four-year budget forecasts to inform the Authority's budget and precepting decisions.
- (vi) The Authority, supported by the Authority's Chief Finance Officer and Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive, will continue to contribute to national reviews of fire funding and take every opportunity to engage in order to pursue the fair and equitable funding of Humberside Fire Authority.

## **4. Reviewing the Strategy**

4.1 The Authority's MTRS review for 2023/24 to 2026/27 has been carried out under the following key themes:

- (i) The financial context in which the Authority operates;
- (ii) The Authority's current financial position;
- (iii) The impact of the revised CRMP including the impact of the Grenfell Tower tragedy, increased focus on business safety and Local and National Resilience arrangements;
- (iv) The impact of inflation;
- (v) The future budget pressures that the Authority will face over the period of the strategy;
- (vi) Budget savings;
- (vii) The Authority's capital programme;
- (viii) Reserves policy;
- (ix) Risk assessment;
- (x) Financial Resilience.

## **5. Community Risk Management Plan**

- 5.1 The successful delivery of the Strategy requires the Chief Fire Officer to manage a complex set of resources, demands, and priorities whilst reviewing and revising plans to meet the risk profile for fire services within the available financial resources.
- 5.2 HMICFRS (His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services) considers that a Service is efficient if it is making the best use of its resources to provide fire services that meet expectation and follow public priorities, and if it is planning and investing wisely for the future.
- 5.3 The Authority's MTRS is underpinned by workforce planning and capital programmes which are aligned with the delivery of the Community Risk Management Plan priorities and the continued delivery of an efficient and effective fire service to the communities of Humberside.
- 5.4 The Service is instrumental in identifying the risk in communities and providing engagement using the community safety teams. The CRMP identifies the level of risk in each of the four Local Authority areas and resources are located and distributed on this basis. The intervention standards allow measurement of the response to incidents based on the risk rating established.

## 6. Financial Context

- 6.1 **Funding Formula** - The Fire and Rescue Service relative needs formula (RNF) used to distribute Grant between Fire and Rescue Services was introduced in 2010/11 and much of the data used has not been updated. There has been recognition for many years that the formula no longer reflects needs, but previous attempts at reform of the relative needs formula in 2018 have not come to fruition due to various technical/political considerations. No change is anticipated to the RNF formula until at least 2024/25 at the earliest and therefore, the MTRS has made no assumptions in this regard.
- 6.2 **Local Government Finance Settlement and Council Tax Precept** – The Autumn Statement was announced on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Following this announcement amendments to grant and council tax assumptions have been made. The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and Council Tax referendum rules were announced on 19 December 2022.
- 6.3 This MTRS as presented includes an increase in the precept of £4.99 for a Band D property for 2023/24 and 2024/25. An increase of 2.99% has also been included for future years. Final decisions on the actual precept will be made each year by the Authority based on the financial circumstances at the time.
- 6.4 The Secretary of State determines the maximum increase that Fire and Rescue Authorities can make to Council Tax Precept without requiring a referendum and in 2023/24 this is £4.99.
- 6.5 The Authority has run a public consultation on the level of Council Tax Precept for 2023/24. There have been 2,325 responses with 62% of these agreeing with an increase.

## 7. Current 2022/23 Financial Position

- 7.1 The Authority's budget for 2022/23 is £47.624m. The quarter two revenue monitoring report shows a projected budget underspend of £0.004m as at 31 December 2022.

2022/23 Revenue Monitoring – Quarter 3 Position			
	Approved Budget 2022/23	Projected Outturn 2022/23	Variance 2022/23
<u>Financial Position</u>	£m	£m	£m
Fire Response and Protection	44.870	45.131	0.261
Capital Financing	2.754	2.489	(0.265)
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>47.624</b>	<b>47.620</b>	<b>(0.004)</b>
Central Government Grant	17.370	17.370	-
Business Rates	4.283	4.283	-
Council Tax Precept	25.961	25.961	-
<b>Central Grant and Precept Total</b>	<b>47.614</b>	<b>47.614</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Appropriations (to) / from reserves</b>	<b>0.010</b>	<b>0.006</b>	<b>(0.004)</b>

- 7.2 The budget is held by the Authority to provide financial resources to deliver operational fire response and protection. The Capital Financing budget comprises the revenue provision for repayment of borrowing, interest costs and investment income.
- 7.3 The overall forecast represents an underspend of £0.004m.
- 7.4 The forecast closing position on reserves for 2022/23 is £14.517m.

## 8. Medium Term Budget Pressures in Humberside

- 8.1 When calculating the medium-term budget projections for Humberside consideration has been given to a number of budget pressures including:
- (i) Pay and price increases;
  - (ii) Budget pressures;
  - (iii) Revenue implications of the capital programme.
- 8.2 **Pay and price increases** - Indicative budget forecasts for 2023/24 to 2026/27 reflect the impact of inflation on budgets wherever possible such as energy, business rates and rent increases along with known contract increases. In addition, estimates for future pay awards are at 5% in 2023/24 and 2% in future years.
- 8.3 **Budget pressures** - The MTRS also includes estimates of the impact of the valuation of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme and the triennial review of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).
- 8.4 **Revenue implications of the capital programme** – The most recent approved four-year capital programme is summarised in Section 10 below. The implications of this programme are fully reflected in the MTRS.

## 9. Medium Term Efficiencies and Productivity

- 9.1 Throughout the MTRS period efficiencies will continue to be delivered wherever possible, to sustain the investment in the fire service and balance the budget (See 11.2), for example:
- (i) Service Improvement Plan;
  - (ii) Non-pay savings (3% each year);
  - (iii) Savings through procurement through the continued use of regional and national frameworks;
  - (iv) Maximising income generation wherever possible.
- 9.2 The Authority is actively engaged in NFCC Efficiency and Productivity workstreams with our Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive being the National NFCC Lead for Productivity and Efficiency. Some of the key areas of productivity improvement that have been implemented in recent years are set out below:-
- Improved risk reduction through implementation of a 2021/22 Prevention and Protection Review, increased capacity to conduct specialist business safety inspections and efficient use of capacity from the Full-Time shift system to deliver targeted audit and engagement activities and community Safe and Well Visits;

- Ongoing development of sector leading data, intelligence and analytics, including proactive sharing with partners, to further improve community risk modelling and targeting of Prevention and Protection activities;
- Medical response and support, where the community needs it and where this does not affect our emergency response. Including Emergency First Responders and Falls Teams crewed by operational and support staff;
- Improved efficiency at Full-Time fire stations through maintaining a global standard crewing figure for fire engines and using excess firefighters to perform other managed activities, including supporting crewing at On-Call fire stations (and vice-versa) and risk and safety activity in the community.

## 10. Capital Estimates and Financing

10.1 The following table provides a summary of the 4-year capital programme:

Capital Estimates	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total £m
Major and Minor Building Schemes	0.588	0.790	0.790	0.790	2.958
Information Technology	0.600	0.675	0.625	0.625	2.525
Vehicles and Equipment	2.387	1.382	2.292	2.150	8.211
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.575</b>	<b>2.847</b>	<b>3.707</b>	<b>3.565</b>	<b>13.694</b>

10.2 Key areas to note in the proposed programme are:

- Building Schemes** - Estates refurbishment programme based on operational requirements;
- Information Technology** - the Service have a number of Improvement Schemes to deliver change and efficiency through transformation and costs relating to the implementation of the Emergency Services Network (ESN);
- Vehicles and Equipment** - a rolling programme of vehicle replacement and programmes for upgrading equipment.

### Capital Financing

Capital Estimates	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total £m
Forecast Expenditure	3.575	2.847	3.707	3.565	13.694
<b>Financed by:</b>					
Grants and Contributions	2.000	1.500	1.500	1.500	6.500
Prudential Borrowing	1.575	1.347	2.207	2.065	7.194
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>3.575</b>	<b>2.847</b>	<b>3.707</b>	<b>3.565</b>	<b>13.694</b>

10.3 The capital financing approach is to use Prudential borrowing and identified revenue contributions and reserves where appropriate to fund the Capital Programme and as mentioned

in paragraph 8.4 the revenue implications of this borrowing is fully reflected in the MTRS Budget Forecast.

## 11. Indicative Budget Forecasts 2023/24 to 2026/27

11.1 All the budget pressures, budget savings and funding assumptions outlined earlier in this Strategy are summarised below. Having considered the savings proposals and the availability of reserves to support the MTRS an important consideration is the precept proposal for 2023/24. The MTRS includes a precept increase of £4.99 built into the funding for 2023/24 and 2024/25 and 2.99% in each of the future years.

11.2 The budget forecast position is set out in the following table:

MTRS Group Budget Forecast	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
<b>Base budget</b>	47.625	52.693	54.415	55.485
<b>Budget pressures</b>				
Pay Related Increases	3.064	1.076	0.858	0.672
Non-Pay Inflation	0.688	0.386	0.394	0.417
Budget pressures / (Savings)	0.567	0.497	-	-
Revenue Impact of Capital Financing	1.028	0.051	0.117	0.210
<b>Total budget pressures</b>	5.347	2.010	1.369	1.299
Efficiency Savings Requirement	(0.279)	(0.288)	(0.299)	(0.311)
Additional Savings Requirement	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Budget Requirement</b>	<b>52.693</b>	<b>54.415</b>	<b>55.485</b>	<b>56.473</b>
Central Government Grant Income	18.514	18.551	18.774	19.280
Business Rates Received from Local Authorities	6.021	6.021	6.021	6.021
Business Rates – Collection Fund Surplus / (Deficit)	0.166	(0.300)	(0.300)	(0.300)
Council Tax Precept Income	27.055	29.044	30.510	32.050
Council Tax Precept - Collection Fund Surplus / (Deficit)	0.370	0.450	0.450	0.450
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>52.126</b>	<b>53.766</b>	<b>55.455</b>	<b>57.501</b>
<b>Funding Gap / (Surplus) Before Reserves</b>	<b>0.567</b>	<b>0.649</b>	<b>(0.030)</b>	<b>(1.028)</b>
<b>Planned use of reserves:</b>				
Transfer (from)/to Earmarked reserves	(0.567)	(0.649)	0.030	1.028
<b>Funding gap / (surplus) after use of reserves</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

11.3 The forecast budget is allocated as follows between Fire Service and Capital Financing.

Humberside Fire Authority	2023/24 £M	2024/25 £M	2025/26 £M	2026/27 £M
Fire Response and Protection	49.228	50.900	51.853	52.632
Capital Financing	3.465	3.515	3.632	3.841
<b>Total</b>	<b>52.693</b>	<b>54.415</b>	<b>55.485</b>	<b>56.473</b>

- 11.4 **Budget Monitoring arrangements** – the S.151 Officer confirms that the Authority has timely and robust monitoring arrangements. Management Accounts are reported to the Fire Authority and the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis.

## **12. Reserves**

### **Background information on Reserves**

- 12.1 Sections 32 and 43 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require billing and precepting authorities in England and Wales to have regard to the level of reserves needed for meeting estimated future expenditure when preparing budgets.
- 12.2 In establishing reserves, the Authority must comply with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code). The Chief Finance Officer is required as part of the budget setting process to provide a statement on the adequacy of reserves.
- 12.3 Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance on Reserves and Balances (LAAP Bulletin No 77 November 2008) and the requirements of the Code suggests twice yearly reviews of reserves. By doing this, the visibility of reserves are increased and consideration of their use is placed at the forefront of the decision-making process. Reserves are cash backed balances, held on the balance sheet until they are spent or released for other purposes. As such, they can only be spent once, and are not part of the base budget.
- 12.4 In addition, CIPFA along with the Home Office recommended as good practice that Fire Authorities publish an Annual Reserve Strategy Statement. The statement provides an explanation for each reserve along with its value. It also includes a narrative explaining whether the current and projected level of reserves is appropriate, and if governance arrangements for reserves are adequate and appropriate.
- 12.5 The Authority's balance sheet reserves are summarised as follows:
- (i) **General Reserves** - a contingency for unexpected events or emergencies;
  - (ii) **Earmarked Reserves** - to meet known or predicted liabilities.
- 12.6 CIPFA guidance issued in June 2003 confirms that relevant bodies should make their own judgements on such matters, taking in to account relevant local circumstances and an assessment of risk and the advice of the Chief Finance Officer.

### **Reserves Strategy**

- 12.7 The Authority must retain adequate reserves so that unexpected budget pressures can be met without adverse impact on the achievement of key objectives and council taxpayers. The Authority's policy for reserves and balances is based on a thorough understanding of the organisation's needs and risks. Part of this process is to give a clear explanation of the existing and proposed use of reserves and this is addressed in the paragraphs below.

### **General Reserve**

- 12.8 The expected General Reserve at 1 April 2023 will be £6.9m to match the identified level required following the risk assessment used to produce the Prudent General Minimum Level of Reserves.

## Earmarked Reserves

12.9 Earmarked Reserves represent funds which have been set aside by the Authority for specific purposes. The table below shows the overall strategy for use of reserves over the MTRS period.

MTRS Reserves Forecast	At 1 April 2023 £m	At 1 April 2024 £m	At 1 April 2025 £m	At 1 April 2026 £m	At 1 April 2027 £m
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>					
Insurance	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500
The Ark – National Flood Resilience Centre	1.000	1.000	-	-	-
Capital Programme Funding	2.220	2.070	1.920	1.770	1.620
Business Continuity	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
ESMCP	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.265
Service Improvement and Environment	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030
Control Room	1.000	0.500	-	-	-
Pay and Prices	1.600	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>7.615</b>	<b>5.365</b>	<b>3.715</b>	<b>3.565</b>	<b>3.415</b>
General Reserves	6.902	7.935	7.286	7.256	8.284
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>14.517</b>	<b>13.300</b>	<b>11.001</b>	<b>10.821</b>	<b>11.699</b>

12.10 The Authority retains £7.615m Earmarked reserves for the following purposes:

- Insurance – to meet potential uninsured losses;
- The Ark (National Flooding Resilience Centre) – to meet HFA contribution to the ARK project;
- Capital Programme Funding – funding for the Capital Programme to replace capital grant funding from the Home Office which has now ceased;
- Business Continuity – to meet any expenditure required in relation to maintaining the Service’s resilience;
- Emergency Services Mobile Communication Programme (ESMCP) – to meet the costs of the ESMCP rollout;
- Service Improvement and Environment – to support environmental initiatives across the Service;
- Control Room – to meet costs in relation to the Control Room;
- Pay and Prices – funding for pay and prices increases in excess of budget assumptions.

12.11 **Adequacy of Reserves** – the S.151 Officer confirms that the current reserves held by the Authority are adequate. The position on reserves will be kept under continuous review and will be reviewed again during 2023/24. Any material changes will be reported to the Authority.



### 13. Risk Assessment

- 13.1 The MTRS contains the most up to date information at the time of drafting, but the Authority's financial position is dynamic. A comprehensive financial risk assessment is undertaken for the revenue and capital budget setting process to ensure all risks and uncertainties affecting the Authority's financial position are identified. The Authority faces a number of significant financial pressures that could affect the position over the medium term. An assessment of the likelihood and impact of each risk and the management controls in place are shown in the following table:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management
Pay awards and price inflation being higher than anticipated.	Likely	High	Budget based on best information available and set at a prudent level.
Failure to deliver planned savings.	Possible	Low	Revenue monitoring updates to the Fire Authority.
Industrial Action	Likely	High	Recruitment of contingency crews. Inclusion of funding in the General Reserve
Further reductions in funding included in the next Comprehensive Spending Review and an unfavourable review of funding formula.	Possible	High	Balance on the General Reserve maintained at the Prudent General Minimum; forward planning; regular monitoring.
Future council tax precept rises limited by excessiveness principles determined by the Government.	Likely	Medium	Balance on the General Reserve maintained at the Prudent General Minimum; forward planning.
Costs associated with the outcome of the national legal challenge to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (2015) transition arrangements are not met centrally by the Home Office.	Possible	Medium	Balance on the General Reserve maintained at a Prudent General Minimum; close budget monitoring; annual review of budget and MTRS; existing Firefighters Pension Fund arrangements require the Home Office to balance the deficit on the Fund each year through a top-up grant.

- 13.2 **Robustness of Estimates** - the S.151 Officer confirms that the budget estimates have been compiled on a robust and prudent basis.

## 14. Financial Resilience

### Sensitivity analysis

- 14.1 The MTRS refresh is being undertaken in a more uncertain environment as significant inflationary pressures impact the economy.
- 14.2 Funding assumptions both in relation to local and national funding are likely to cause material changes late on in the planning process. This cannot be avoided but needs to be recognised.
- 14.3 The current MTRS assumes pay awards at 5% in 2023/24 and 2% in future years.

- (i) Pay makes up around 75% of the total spend this remains one of our single largest assumptions. The table below shows the impact of differing pay awards in terms of sensitivity. Each additional 1% will cost an additional £0.4m per year.
- (ii) The following information has been received from external sources around medium-term inflation rates based on their in-depth analysis of the current market:

Budget	Increase 2023/24 %	Reason
Insurances	10.0	Renewals due and hardening of market
Waste, Cleaning, Building Maintenance	10.0	Contract price increases
Electricity	44.0	Supply and demand on global market
Gas	10.0	Supply and demand on global market
Water	10.0	Historical rate of increase
Rates	20.0	Inflation
Fuel	5.0	Forecast oil price
IT	10.0	Shortage in skilled labour and higher shipping costs

- (iii) The uncertain environment in relation to income continues to be a challenge in relation to medium term financial planning. The following sensitivity analysis has been undertaken across three scenarios ahead of the spending review across both central government and local funding streams:

## Medium Term Resilience

14.4 The following six indicators have been developed by CIPFA to demonstrate the medium-term financial resilience of Fire Authorities. These indicators allow benchmarking with other Authorities and organisations and provide an overall assessment of financial resilience.

14.5 Funding gap as a percentage of Net Revenue Expenditure (NRE) over the MTRS period - Authorities need to have a clear estimate of their funding gap over the Medium-term Resource Strategy.

	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
NRE	52.974	54.704	55.783	56.785
Estimated Funding Gap	0.848	0.938	0.328	(0.716)
<b>Gap as a % of NRE</b>	<b>1.60%</b>	<b>1.71%</b>	<b>0.59%</b>	<b>(1.26%)</b>
Savings Identified	0.280	0.288	0.299	0.311
Additional Savings Required	-	-	-	-
<b>Unidentified Gap as a % of NRE</b>	<b>1.07%</b>	<b>1.19%</b>	<b>0.05%</b>	<b>(1.81%)</b>

14.6 Savings delivered as a percentage of planned savings – Authorities need to be sure that savings plans are effective and planned savings are delivered.

	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m	2020/21 £m	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m
MTRS Savings Planned	0.269	0.658	-	0.127	0.240
MTRS Savings Achieved	0.269	0.658	-	0.127	0.240
<b>% of Savings Achieved</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

14.7 Over/underspends relative to Net Expenditure – It is important that Authorities keep over/underspending under control and that actual expenditure is as close as possible to the levels planned.

	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m	2020/21 £m	2021/22 £m	2022/23* £m
NRE	42.948	46.343	48.352	45.290	47.624
Over/(Under)spend	(0.162)	(0.120)	(0.571)	(0.991)	(0.004)
<b>Over/(Under)spend as a % of NRE</b>	<b>(0.38%)</b>	<b>(0.26%)</b>	<b>(1.18%)</b>	<b>(2.19%)</b>	<b>(0.01%)</b>

\*estimated position

- 14.8 Useable Reserves as a percentage of Net Revenue Budget – Reserves allow for periods of uncertainty to be managed and healthy levels of useable reserves are an important safety net to support financial stability.

	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m	2020/21 £m	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
NRE	42.948	46.343	48.352	45.290	47.624	52.694	54.416	55.484	56.474
Resource Reserves									
General	5.270	5.251	5.758	6.373	6.902	7.935	7.286	7.256	8.284
Earmarked	4.600	4.938	5.173	7.408	7.615	5.365	3.715	3.565	3.415
<b>Resource Reserves as a % of NRE</b>	<b>23.0%</b>	<b>22.0%</b>	<b>22.6%</b>	<b>30.4%</b>	<b>30.5%</b>	<b>25.2%</b>	<b>20.2%</b>	<b>19.5%</b>	<b>20.7%</b>
<b>Change in %</b>	<b>(1.7%)</b>	<b>(1.0%)</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>(5.3%)</b>	<b>(5.0%)</b>	<b>(0.7%)</b>	<b>1.2%</b>

- 14.9 Council Tax as a percentage of Income – This shows the reliance of Fire and Rescue Services on core grants and potential impact changes in core grant funding could have on the financial sustainability of the Authority.

	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m	2020/21 £m	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
Precept	21.973	22.993	23.817	24.148	25.312	27.055	29.044	30.510	32.050
Total Financing	42.886	43.575	45.269	45.163	47.614	52.126	53.766	55.455	57.501
<b>Precept as a % of Total Financing</b>	<b>51.2%</b>	<b>52.8%</b>	<b>52.6%</b>	<b>53.5%</b>	<b>53.2%</b>	<b>51.9%</b>	<b>54.0%</b>	<b>55.0%</b>	<b>55.7%</b>

- 14.10 The Cost of Borrowing as a percentage of Net Revenue Expenditure – Borrowing commitments are long term and must be funded from ongoing revenue budgets. This table shows the amount of revenue funding committed to meet current and future borrowing commitments.

	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m	2020/21 £m	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
NRE	42.948	46.343	48.352	45.290	47.624	52.694	54.416	55.484	56.474
Borrowing	14.702	15.003	13.618	16.984	19.069	18.569	18.728	18.900	18.900
MRP	1.079	1.209	0.700	0.792	0.821	0.955	1.515	1.640	1.855
Interest	0.627	0.658	0.621	0.621	0.582	0.510	0.500	0.492	0.487
<b>Cost of Borrowing as a % of NRE</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
Level of Debt	14.702	15.003	13.618	16.984	19.069	18.569	18.728	18.900	18.900
<b>Level of Debt as a % of NRE</b>	<b>34.2%</b>	<b>32.4%</b>	<b>28.2%</b>	<b>37.5%</b>	<b>40.0%</b>	<b>35.2%</b>	<b>34.4%</b>	<b>34.0%</b>	<b>33.5%</b>

## **15. Conclusion**

- 15.1 The overall financial position for Humberside Fire Authority is sustainable over the medium term. However, this is dependent on annual council tax increases of £4.99 on a Band D property in both 2023/24 and 2024/25 and the use of £1.2m from reserves during 2023/24 and 2024/25. The Authority's overall financial position will be reviewed on an on-going basis.
- 15.2 The MTRS sets out how all four years will be financed and general reserves are set at the level identified in the Prudent Minimum General Reserve assessment, estimated at £6.9m for 2023/24.



**Calculation of Precept £4.99 Increase on a Band D Property**

<u>2022/23</u>		<u>2023/24</u>
£		£
47,623,935	Net Revenue Budget	52,693,448
(9,818)	Add : Contribution to/(from) General Reserve	(566,953)
-	Contribution to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	-
<u>47,614,117</u>	Net Budget Requirement	<u>52,126,495</u>
(17,369,534)	Less : Exchequer Assistance Formula Grant	(18,513,927)
(4,748,669)	Less : Business Rates received from Local Authority	(6,021,273)
(649,858)	Less : Council tax net collection fund (surplus)/deficit	(370,417)
465,501	Less : NNDR net collection fund (surplus)/deficit	(165,720)
<u>25,311,557</u>	Amount to be raised from Tax	<u>27,055,157</u>
280896.20	Divided by Tax Base	284491.67
<b>£90.11</b>	<b>Band D Council Tax</b>	<b>£95.10</b>
<b>1.99%</b>	<b>Precept Increase over Previous Year</b>	<b>5.54%</b>

<u>2022/23</u>	<u>Tax Band</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2023/24 Increase over -</u>	
			<u>Year</u>	<u>Month</u>
			£p	£p
60.07	A	63.40	3.33	0.28
70.09	B	73.97	3.88	0.32
80.10	C	84.53	4.43	0.37
90.11	D	95.10	4.99	0.42
110.13	E	116.23	6.10	0.51
130.16	F	137.37	7.21	0.60
150.18	G	158.50	8.32	0.69
180.22	H	190.20	9.98	0.83

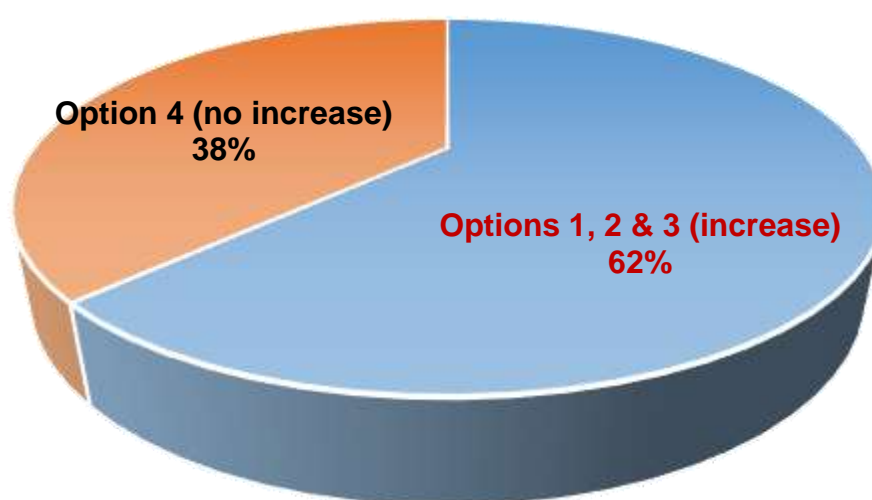
<u>2022/23</u>			<u>2023/24</u>	
<u>Collection</u>			<u>Collection</u>	
<u>Fund</u>			<u>Fund</u>	
<u>Balances</u>			<u>Balances</u>	<u>Total</u>
£			£	£
340,293	East Riding of Yorkshire	11,652,394	266,720	11,919,114
175,936	Kingston upon Hull	6,179,883	77,305	6,257,188
54,342	North East Lincolnshire	4,347,056	27,238	4,374,294
79,287	North Lincolnshire	4,875,825	(846)	4,874,979
<u>649,858</u>		<u>27,055,158</u>	<u>370,417</u>	<u>27,425,575</u>





## Consultation response

	Number of responses	Percentage
Option 1: £2.69	249	10.71%
Option 2: £4.99	811	34.88%
Option 3: £7.99	392	16.86%
Option 4: No increase	873	37.55%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2325</b>	



## Website survey responses

	Number of responses
Option 1: £2.69	238
Option 2: £4.99	787
Option 3: £7.99	311
Option 4: No increase	811
<b>Total</b>	<b>2147</b>

Survey undertaken via website and social media

## Social Media polls responses

	Total response
Option 1: £2.69	11
Option 2: £4.99	24
Option 3: £7.99	81
Option 4: No increase	62
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>178</b>

## Social Media breakdown of responses

	Twitter poll 1	Twitter poll 2	Instagram poll
Option 1: £2.69	3	2	6
Option 2: £4.99	7	3	14
Option 3: £7.99	24	17	40
Option 4: No increase	36	13	13

## Consultation comments

1,931 respondents provided a reason for their choice

*"I value Fire and Rescue services and want them to be able to maintain a full range of services, particularly at this time of increased flooding etc."*

*"Public services need to be properly funded and this option (2) avoids a referendum. It is also a small increase for those struggling with the cost of living"*

*"I accept an increase is needed but with the cost of living, the public can ill afford it."*

## Consultation data

- Sustained communications campaign across a number of channels
- 1075 responses alone came from My Community Alert
- Consultation webpage had 2,244 page views during the consultation
  - an average time on the page of 6.26 minutes, compared with an average time of 2.02 minutes people spend on the website as a whole.
  - evident people were reading the info.

### What gender do you identify as?

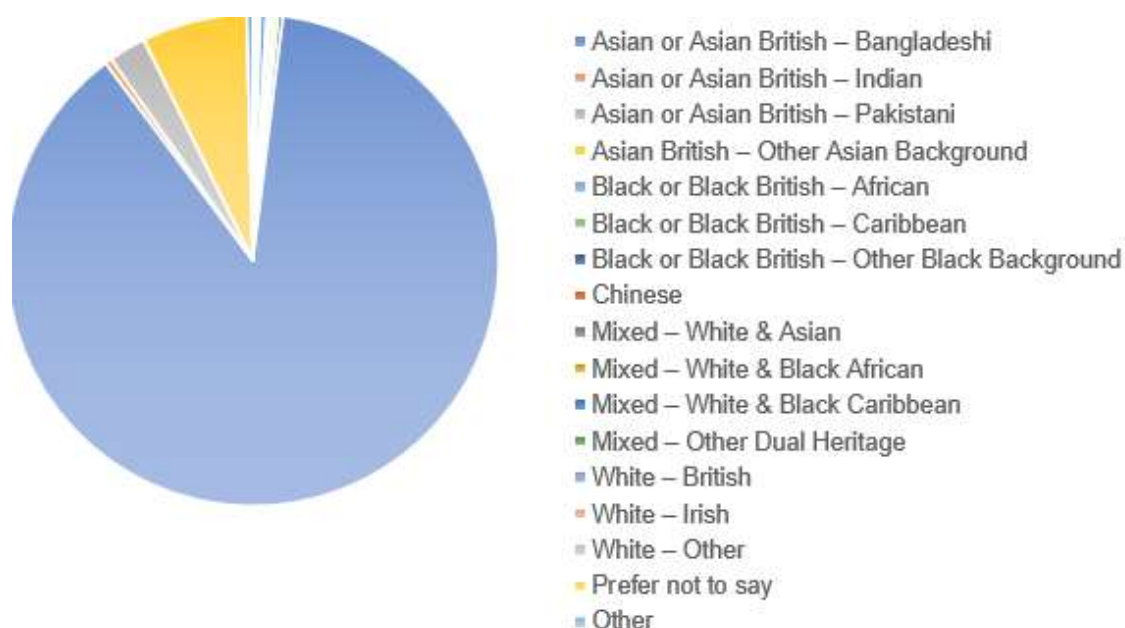
Man	1173	56%
Non-binary	7	0%
Woman	767	37%
Prefer not to say	131	6%
Other	11	1%

### What age are you?

Under 18	0	0%
18-24	18	1%
25-34	114	6%
35-44	246	12%
45-54	348	17%
55-64	438	21%
65+	790	38%
Prefer not to say	117	6%

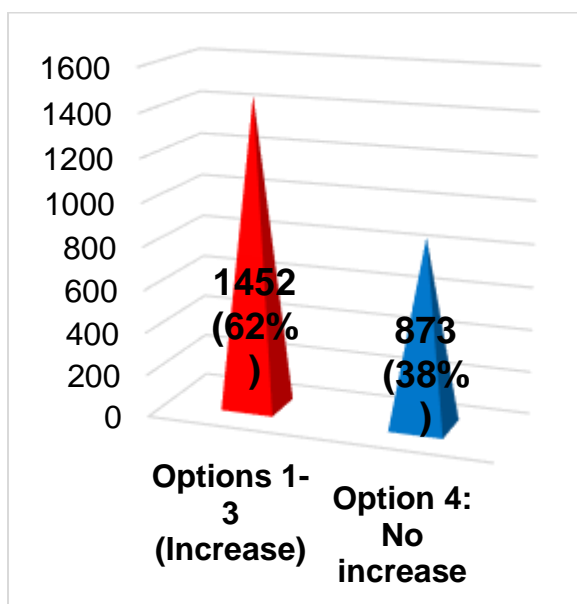
## Ethnicity

What ethnicity are you?	
Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi	2
Asian or Asian British – Indian	3
Asian or Asian British – Pakistani	2
Asian British – Other Asian Background	3
Black or Black British – African	8
Black or Black British – Caribbean	3
Black or Black British – Other Black Background	0
Chinese	2
Mixed – White & Asian	4
Mixed – White & Black African	3
Mixed – White & Black Caribbean	4
Mixed – Other Dual Heritage	6
White – British	1789
White – Irish	9
White – Other	50
Prefer not to say	141
Other	8



## Consultation outcome

Out of 2,325 respondents **62% in favour** of an **increase**



	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
Option 1: £2.69	249	62%
Option 2: £4.99	811	
Option 3: £7.99	392	
Option 4: No increase	873	38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2325</b>	

Of the 1,452 who supported an increase in precept, **56% were in favour of Option 2** (increase of £4.99 based on a Band D property).

## Choice of Increase



Personal and identifiable information and offensive words have been removed.

### Option 1 = 199 responses

£2-69 extra a year would seem like a good offer to me, for our safety and peace of mind and hopefully help the Fire Service in the sterling work they do. Thankyou.

3% is more than the public sector pay increase I got

A 3% increase is semi affordable whilst my wage has not gone up this last year but the cost of living has sky rocketed in a band A property this does make a difference with the cost of shopping baskets each week too.Happy to pay an increase but 5% just feels the wrong timing. Would love to see investment too but if the 3% pays for the service I'm good with that while we all struggle through these tough times cutting back where we can.

a modest increase should be acceptable

A reasonable increase considering the present circumstances. There is also a lot of waste within the services which can be cut to make them more efficient

A small increase is better than no increase.

A small increase is fair given the cost of living rise. We can then see if it's worthwhile.

A small increase is no doubt necessary.

A small increase should be normal, all the prices rise up.

A very important service. I can afford to pay just a little more.

Accept an increase is required but given the cost of living crisis there is a need to limit the precept

Accepting increases are necessary for Police and Fire departments these must be kept to a minimum

actually the service should be cheaper as in modern times the risk is reduced

Affordability

Affordability

Affordable

all bills are going up at the moment including cost of food, gas, electric and general living. when culminated, this is a huge impact on running a household and trying to manage in todays society and that is not taking into account any leisure activities as they have been sharply culled. had there been less squeeze elsewhere, i could accommodate the higher values.

All I can afford, would pay more if I could

All i can afford.

All I can afford.

All service providers will need to review expenditure & efficiencies in current climate, I am willing to contribute but believe central government should be supporting services we cannot allow the burden to fall on residents in the way government currently do

already an increase from PCC

An acceptable and affordable increase.
An increase, rather than none.
Anything more is to much in the current climate.
Appreciate a rise is needed but it needs to be sensitive to the impact of accumulative costs increases on individuals' wallets
As a band H property owner I already pay double that of a band D and am just a pensioner
AS a member of the working public and having to pay council tax, the recent global events have taken their toll on my outgoings to the extent that I am now almost £700/month worse off, with less disposable income. Whilst I realise that an increase funds this vital service, there are other avenues that local authorities should be looking into to avoid passing yet more increases int he cost of living to householders. I also fully accept that the central Gov't funding is restricted to LA's and that there has to be some mechanism in place to ensure our services are funded but, year on year, it seems that the householders are being asked to pay more and more, yet incomes remain largely unchanged and outgoings are spiralling upwards. I am seriously having to consider down-sizing as I have already missed a council tax payment this year and any further increases will cripple me. I am lucky in that I am still working but, for retirees who are on a fixed income, this must be a harrowing state to be in!
As a pensioner I can't afford no more
As we all know the current finances for most people are all ready stretched. And whilst an increase seems inevitable no doubt Council tax will rise as will the police budget. Bilton Parish Council have agreed not to raise precept to help residents
At least it's a rise in funding in difficult times
Bad times
Because everything is so tight financially at the moment
Because I don't have much money but will pay tiny bit more
Because people risk their own lives to save others
Because that's all I can afford
Because the service is very much needed
Because were finding it hard to pay the council tax from our income already.
Bills like gas and electricity so expensive can't afford other bills going up
Can't afford any more
Can't afford much more
Cheapest at this time of crisis
Cheapest option and you still get something
Concerned so many working people are already struggling to pay their bills
Cost of living crisis
Cost of living crisis
cost of living crisis so not able to support more
Cost of living increases and Pensioners on a restricted Incom
Cost of living is already high, firefighter responses are down from previous years
Cost of living situation, but rise is needed.
Cost of living squeeze
Cost of living too high
cost of living, as all who receive bills from all authorities and utilities are pricing residents out of a good living standard, especially the middle class who do not get any financial help.
costs are getting out of hand, I understand an increase is required but people are really suffering now
council tax to high for what service we get
Council taxi already very expensive. Would be useful and willing to pay more if fire service were multi trained for example able to deal with some medical emergencies to assist elsewhere too.
Currently I am unemployed, so other options does not seem to fit my current circumstances.
Don't see a need for a greater increase
Due to constant increases in all other items this is a push on people's finances
Every household is struggling financially and the precept only goes on higher wages for the bosses and their expenses the same as all councils
Every little helps
Everyone is going through hardships.....Both my wife and I work but here we are.....sitting in a cold house because we cannot afford to heat it
Everyone is struggling with all utility bills, food bills etc..... but 22pence P/M seems reasonable.
Everyone would like additional funds but there has to be a limit on what everyone can afford.
Everything is going up at the moment. I can't afford the higher options.
Everything is going up so an increase is to be expected. People are already struggling with bills and a larger increase could tip people over the edge into not paying, leading to larger costs for the authorities in other areas.
Fair payment
Financial reasons
Financial reasons
Fire and Rescue is vital and they turn up when you ring for them

Fire service are needed, the council should pay them enough out of our council tax without the fire service being forced to ask for more.
Fire service don't mind paying little more
For me, it is affordable and fire and rescue is an essential service
Generally I feel my council tax is to much as it is. I know the fire service offer an excellent service but I think any extra funding should come from the council. To be honest I don't know what they do with all the council tax I give them.
Gives a minimum increase test most people can afford
government should provide extra funds out of taxation
Government should put in additional funds rather than giving money to worldwide fund's. Sort out our own country and invest a years worth of worldwide funding to Britain.
Happy to pay a little more.
Has a pensioner it's the best option.
I accept that the force like everyone else needs more funding but I haven't seen a financial forecast to determine how much.
I accept that there must be some increase but they are already well paid. Some people are not in a position to demand an increase.
I accept the need for an increase in funding, but must be at the lowest possible amount given that wages and pensions are not in keeping with inflation.
I already pay too much under this out dated rating system
I am not convinced that signiifcant rise is warranted.
I am struggling to cover all the rising costs but acknowledge that some are necessary
I appreciate that extra funds are required but anything greater than this will put another financial burdon on people who are already struggling to pay bills.
I consider a small increase to be justiable.
I could not afford anymore at the moment.
I expect an increase as there is every year anyway. There will also be increases to other services (police etc), so when all these 'small' increases get added on the increase on the final tax bill will be large, so the lowest increase the better for me..
I feel at present that the organisation does not use their resources and estates effectively
I feel that the minimum should be applied as I understand the need for investment in a vital service but council tax is now being used as a way off cutting Central government funding and this should not happen.
I think some non-operational roles should be assessed for value. In these tough economic times, we all need to cut our cloth and not use scant finances for unnecessary things. The Fire Service should be no different. I suggest first for consideration should be diversity officers. There are plenty of other opportunities to be inclusive without the need for 'specialist' roles.
I think this is sufficient in these days of hardship
I would normally vote for option 3 for such a valuable service but the current cost of living is simply crippling.
I would potentially be willing to pay more but I would like to see what this money has previously been spent on and the plans for this next year, especially to see it's not 'wasted' and that it will actually impact the front line of firefighting.
I've had to opt for the lowest amount due to all the price increases
If the money went to the fire service it wouldn't be so bad. But unfortunately everything is Text very expensively in England so how much would they actually get out of that increase. I'm not only the fire service the police force and their ambulance services everybody's been squeezed.
If we can all help pull together
Important but have too many other essential increases to budget for so can't afford more
Important service to invest in. Higher rates would involve referendum and additional costs so this proposal is better.
income hasn't met inflation for many house holds.
Inflation is rampant caused by too many organisations jumping on the price increase band wagon.
Is affordable
It is suggested that the increase will be used to maintain services, but I believe it will be wasted on inflated salaries and gold-plated pensions which normal members of the public do not receive.
It seems fair that they should have a bit of extra money
It wouldn't make a big difference financially to us as a family but collectively would make a difference. Any more could be a stretch
It's what I can afford (just)
I've just moved to the area, and have found out that I am about to be made redundant, so a larger increase would cause more hardship.
keep increases as low as possible
Lack of money
Life is hard and bigger house, the bigger the other cost pressures! Large houses do not always equate to higher income (I live in a band b property )
Limited increase is affordable during these difficult times
Living on pension only cannot afford much more.
low income
Manageable amount of money under current climate
Many people simply cannot afford to feed their families and keep them warm. Any kind of precept however small should take into consideration all other increases they face.
Minimum in view of current cost of living.

Money is really tight for everyone
More money needs spending on the Police to tackle crime.
Most reasonable option
My late husband was a fire officer so I know what a worthwhile job the fire brigade does
Need
Need efficiency savings
Need to maintain services
No reason
No spare money
OAP
On state pension.
Only if firefighters ate legally prevented from striking.
Only limited improvement in policing/fire and rescue. I have doubts about fire and rescue and homophobia.
Option 1 is an increase . Better of the 4 options .
Our Parish Council is trying not to increase precepts in their council income at this time of genuine concern.
paid enough all ready
Part time service in humberside
Pensioner in June I can't afford much, I need an increase
People will be hard pressed to afford any increase so a small one is the only option that would be fair
potion one is affordable
Prepared to pay a small increase, but cannot agree to more due to the very high increase on the gas and electric, and then there is the council tax along with all other outgoings, Insurance etc.
Present cost of living situation this amount is something better than no increase
Reasonable for the times we live in at present.
Retired due to ill health. Double digit inflation high interest rates and very high energy bills.
Roughly 3% increase seems sensible given cost pressures balanced against the fact that the books are currently balanced.
Seems a reasonable balance bearing in mind all other increases coming over the next few months
Seems a reasonable increase
Seems reasonable, any more is problematic given the current cost of living
Seems the most publicly affordable option without incurring costs to the service.
Services need to ensure that spend is in line with ability to pay and that unnecessary expansionism is controlled
Smallest increase possible!
Struggling to pay my bills before any increase in Council tax.
The cost of living crisis is affecting everyone and while option 1 is a relatively small increase in itself this cannot be looked at in isolation and adds to the overall strain on household budgets when combined with other increases in council tax, police precept, food, energy, fuel and rail costs!s.
The F.B. Do not get the same amount of calls they used to (when.i was a fireman) it's more specialised.
The reason I would only do the 1st option is that I'm a pensioner and my pension doesn't increase at the same rate as everything else is going up! The main reason though is that our firemen are sent out to help London Borough when Eaton and Harrow are under threat leaving this area in dire straits. If there was a guarantee that this wouldn't happen then I would be willing to pay more for THIS AREA ONLY.
The smallest suggested rise will cover increased costs. The fire service should cut back on non-emergency services offered free of charge. These same services should still be offered but charged for at cost.
The squeeze on incomes is phenomenal, cant even afford to heat homes, keep electricity on
The whole cost of living has gone up so much, the government services must make cut backs like the private sector has to
They do a great job, this Increase is affordable to all I think .
Things are getting too expensive, what sounds like pennies is still unachievable for some families at the moment who are relying on food banks. How about MPs take a pay cut!!!
Think this is fare to all
This equates to approx 3% increase on my Band B yearly bill which I consider to be adequate considering ALL my outgoings for the next year may rise by the same %age increase..
This increase is in line with my pay "increase" this year.
This is a frankly ridiculous survey. What are people supposed to say? We don't want an increase? Which might mean underfunded services. You're asking us to make a choice when there isn't one.
This is the maximum we can afford in current environment.
This option is the lowest I can afford with inflation running at 10% we need to keep costs that I can affect to the lowest possible increase
This service should be government funded and not by the public. We already pay enough towards services through taxation etc.
This what I can afford to pay
Time are very difficult we are pensioners.
Times are hard



Times are hard for everyone
To ensure emergency workers get some well deserved pay rise!
To help massive increase in costs
Too many high salaried employees in unnecessary posts.
Total tax to pay is already far too high.
Town and parish councils will be increasing theirs as will social care and the Eryc so this will add an extra £10.00 a month at least when all are added together so a small increase is appropriate
Unable to afford any more due to rising costs of all energy and utilities
Under funded.
Vital service that must be supported.
we all have to tighten our belts so why not the fire service
We are all feeling the pinch were income and money are concerned this is all I am able to afford. The government should allocate more financial assistance into services across the country that support the citizens of England and support our own countries needs before anything else.
We are pensioners but would be willing to pay that amount
we are struggling with the cost of living can not afford any more risers in our cost.we are on a pension.
We cannot lose F&R functionality and this option would provide for an increase in funding in line with cost of living / inflation without "breaking the bank."
We don't get much from our police in our area. Why can't we reduce the hierarchy in the service and put mor bobbies on the beat!!!
We don't have spare money to pay any more at the moment
We must keep all increases to a minimum. Justifications of increases and consequences of no increase MUST be stated to make an informed view,
We must think of the less well off and minimise all increases.
We need the service an extra 22p a month can't hurt anyone?
We need to pay more for services, yes, but it is the care system that is really underfunded. If there is a priority, THAT is where it musty be. Far better returning the funding of services, such as police and fire AND NHS and care system, back to central government.
We need to ensure the FB don't go the same way as the NHS
We pay to much council tax
While there is clearly a need to increase the precept as costs are increasing, there is also a large increase in the number of proprties in the area which will on it's own increase the revenues generated through the council tax. With many households already struggling financially any increase needs to be kept as low as possible.
Whilst I believe in an ideal world all public services should receive additional funding this suggested increase is put forward on the understanding other services may ask for more so trying to balance proportion with pragmatism and affordability
With current financial situation, it is difficult to afford any more per month
With the other sections increasing it will add up to a much larger increase that will be unwelcome in the currant situation.
Would actually pay more if the government got its act together and started to not waste money on themselves and sorted the country out
Yes
Yes i am happy to contribute, they risk their lives for us
You can't give what you haven't got as a pensioner I am having all on to keep warm and fed
You haven't said what the additional money would be used for. Without good justification of why you need more money I can't justify my support for more money.
Your fire engines spend more time getting groceries in LIDL than they do on actual calls.

#### Option 2 = 576 responses

£5 per year is not a huge amount to pay in the grand scheme of things. The Fire and Rescue service needs up to date equipment and training to respond to emergency calls and enough to cover the Humberside area.
£5 per year isn't too much to ensure our firefighters are able to do what is required of them.
42p a month to keep me safe
A 5.5% increase so within the current level of inflation
A dedicated increase to a worthwhile service that reassuring to know is there if needed
A fair increase
A few pence extra a month to provide good services is a small price to pay
A good contribution which will make a positive difference without requiring a referendum
A good middle ground
A little from everyone all adds up. Also, no further costs would be generated.
A little increase is well worth it!
A modest increase to maintain a high quality service.
A professional fire and rescue service requires the needed funding.
A public referendum would be a waste of money and 42p a month is negligible
A reasonable amount of increase for a vital service.

A reasonable amount to help people stay safe and avoids the necessity of a referendum
A reasonable increase!
A referendum could wipe out the extra in Option 3 so it would seem to be Option 2 is the most economic and sensible option
A service you hope you never have to use but unlike the council services, one you know you can always rely on and worth the money.
A small amount to pay for a great service
A valuable service should receive adequate funding
A very important service that is under-funded & £5/year requiring no additional costs to the Service seemed the best option
A very small increase for the standard of service we have. They put our safety always before their own.
Accept costs are rising and standard of service must be maintained, if not improved.
acceptable
Additional funding should come from the wider government, not from locals already feeling the squeeze of a cost of living crisis. I only wish to pay extra to maintain or increase fire cover levels. Not to decrease.
Affordable
Affordability
Affordability
Affordable
Affordable
Affordable
Affordable for everyone.
Affordable increase
All money is tight at the moment BUT a fully equipped functioning fire service is vital
All public services need extra funding
An acceptable amount with no referendum
An acceptable and justifiable increase without incurring any cost to the Service
An essential service that needs to be protected
An essential service that requires appropriate funding
An increase is needed.
As a pensioner this amount is all I can afford
As our region suffers more from flooding and this area has been allocated to the fire service I believe more funding is required. I would like to know that the increase is ONLY spend on the service, not consultancy, or outside companies draining the system. I believe this should be tiered toward those who can afford it. There isn't an option for that.
As with most things nowadays an increase is understandable and I selected the median as it seems the most acceptable.
At £4.99 extra a year is nothing over the year. Would suggest the higher value but as stated would incur more cost for the consultation.
Avoid the extra cost of a referendum, but £5 increase is perfectly acceptable
Avoiding Option 3 to prevent generation of extra cost to the Service
Aware will need some increase as everything does but with everything going up income is limited
Balance of cost Vs return
Balance of minimising domestic budget impact with service need for adequate funding at a time when household budgets are under pressure. It is unfair though to keep asking households for above inflationary rises when incomes are falling in real terms. The government make choices with it's budget decisions and can afford to support core services if they so choose. Everyone else is also asking for more funding from local taxation (police, council etc) and cumulatively the impact is unfair.
Because it's the highest amount without incurring further cost to the service by having to hold a public referendum
Because its worth every penny
Because it's worth it
Because more needs to be done and I don't think they get enough for what they do
Because Option 3 looks like a non-starter, given that it would cost an unspecified amount for administration of a referendum
Because option 3 might not be cost-effective.
Because this is a vital service that, with climate change, will need to adapt to more severe weather conditions such as grass fires and flooding.
because we can't loose or water down our fire and rescue services
Because when you ring 999 needing a fire engine it turns up, unlike the two other services.
Been underfunded for years.
Best of both with no incurred costs
Best option all round. Doesn't need a public referendum and take away precious funds from an already overstretched fire service
Best option for the economy at this time

Best option in todays climate
Best option with no referendum
Best value & no cost to the service
Better if you increased the top bands and leave the lower bands the same as this year. I either have heat or food to pay more on something that doesn't help me is pointless
Better service needed
Brave and inspiring citizens xxx
Bush and is a fireman so will get it back when he gets a pay rise
Can manage to pay this amount.
Cannot do without these wonderful people
cheap
Clear need for these services
Climate changes are resulting in more forest and moorland fires and flooding in built up areas
Common sense.
Cost
Cost of living limits how much we can pay
Currently Band F but no better off financially than most.
Didn't vote for option 3 due to costs that would be incurred so opted for option 2.
Difficult to decide when we Don know what the total council tax bill will be for next year. Already challenging times so going for this option will help in someway.
Does not require public consultation and is affordable
Due to the incurring costs of option 3, I have chosen 3.
Easiest maximum increase without a referendum.
Easiest option with very little additional cost to maintain an essential service.
Emergency Services are a vital part of our Community.
Emergency services deserve to be supported financially and this small amount I think is justified and manageable for many people.
Erg
Essential service that needs proper funding. Prefered option ss does not generate extra costsd
Essential services
Essential services
Essential that the Service is able to maintain or increase its abilityto respond to emergencies.
Every service needs more funding.
Everybody is finding the cost of living a real burden
Extra funding for the fire service without incurring additional costs.
Extra money to support the service and no need for a costly consultation
Extra revenue to help provide better cover for the community without incurring the costs of a referendum
Fair increase
Fair increase for the service
Fair. Weare feeling the pinch but a 5% increase is reasonable.
Fairest of the 4 options
Feel this is fair
Fire & Rescue are often the first response to any event and I have no issues with increasing funding for this.
Fire and Rescue are lifesavers.
Fire and Rescue services are vital to the community
Fire brigade deserve a pay rise, they have done enough in shocking wages for a very long time
Fire is not invested in enough - The council should be ashamed to take that level of money for basically pencil pushing (and ruining our traffic) but leaving all our public services (e.g Fire and social care)being screwed.
Firefighters deserve better pay and the community need the best possible service.
Funding increase to the service with no additional cost.
Generates significantly increased income for small increase per household
GETS AN INCREASE WITHOUT A COSTLY REFERENDUM
Gets the service the money it needs without adding an extra cost to the service
Given the current situation i.e. inflation, energy etc. this rise appears fair

good service
Good service
Good services are worth paying for.
good value
Good value for money
Government austerity for vital public services requires local authorities to compensate. Option 2 provides this without needing a Referendum.
Great service although government should do more all public services all underfunded
Happy to invest in this vital service
Happy to pay due to cost of living increase
Happy to pay more for these services and 2 seems to represent better value than 3.
Happy to pay more to maintain this crucial public service in our area. Didn't select Option3 as looks prohibitive but would pay more.
Happy to see an increase when I know money going directly to the Fire Service, rather than 'lost' in over-inflated Local Authority private contracts.
Help provide a service that you never know when you need it. A type of insurance.
helps to fund a great service, and hopefully a better paid workforce.
Higher rate without referendum
Higher valued homes should reflect home owners that are more able to afford this uplift.
Highest increase available without referendum, and the associated overheads. I believe it is important to maintain a reliable service during a period of increasing costs.
Highest increase without incurring cost.
Highly valued service and cost effective option. No costly referendum
Hopefully be able to provide a better service in the long term.
Hopefully some of the increase will go towards a rise in wages.
Hopefully they'll get a pay rise and be around as and when needed rather than cutback
Hopefully this option would support the Fire Service in maintaining this essential function for all residents.
I accept an increase is needed but with the cost of living, the public can ill afford it
I accept that service is important and cost is acceptable
I am a pensioner with very small income
I am generally in favour of paying a little bit more for public services. Paying my share is not objectionable to me. Option 2 seems entirely reasonable to me and will hopefully provide HFRS with what it needs.
I am keen that the fire service can maintain their current service
I am supportive of properly funding public services & this seems a tiny amount, if it can improve services for all then money very well spent.
I am willing to pay a small increase to keep a reliable fire service.
I am willing to pay extra but we are not band d so unsure how it would affect us so went for the middle one.
I appreciate costs are rising if we want to maintain the service expect to pay for it but council costs are stretched
I believe option 2 would not be unmanageable for most. Next option would cost to implement.
I believe our emergency services need for funding and public support
I believe that this is a fair amount
I believe the Fire & Rescue is an essential service & obviously costs of running it will increase
I believe the Fire Service is a very vital part of our community and as such should not incur any loss in service
I believe this choice provides maximum income for the fire and rescue service without resorting to the additional expense of a referendum.
I believe this to be affordable with with our capability to pay
I believe this will work out best for firefighters pay with the extra costs on option 3. I would be happy to pay more for firefighters and control staff to get fair pay.
I can afford it
I can afford it and its an important service
I chose the highest amount that doesn't require a public referendum, and an extra fiver a year is definitely worth it,
I do believe that there must be an increase but as we also have to consider the Police precept and there will be the council increase it seems we will all have to share out what we can afford
I don't mind paying to improve the service but I am concious that we have just had a similar request from the police. People are struggling right now so I don't think a referendum would be successful.
I don't need to give a reaso
I feel the fire service is a crucial service within our community. Not enough money from our council tax is going to them. They literally save lives. This is why i would pay more. Heaven forbid i would ever need them but if i did i would want to know they are there. .
I feel the Fire Service requires more funding to achieve its goals in providing a an effective service to the community.
I feel this is an affordable option for me.

I get that the cost of providing services has gone up but public bodies such as yours have a duty to council tax payers to make efficient and proper use of the funding provided. My support for an increase in the precept is contingent on there being no wastage on woke virtue signalling activities of the sort we've seen too often from the police forces around the country.
I have chosen Option 2 but feel strongly that there is a significant lack of information about the facts behind the reason for requesting an increase. There is no breakdown of current and future spend nor any info on the nature of government support.
I have chosen the middle increase as it would seem to be reasonable. It however does not really matter to me as, being in receipt of Pension Credit I do not actually have to pay any council tax.
I have no problem with paying for extra funding public services
I highly value hard work and dedication of the Humberside Fire and Rescue Service and will happily pay an extra £4.99 a year on the council tax bill to support this service as it is very important that we continue to have it in our area.
I know people who work for the Fire and rescue service and recognise the hard work and support they give to the community a feel that they deserve and increase in funding.
I like fire service and you deserve more. However, humberside police force is so corrupt from top to bottom they should have funding removed and a complete new force set up
I live by the our fire station and the lads are constantly out. They hardly seem to get a break.
I may have mis-understood option 3 but I take it to mean additional costs would arise that would not improve the service.
I realise that ccosts will continue to rise for the Fire Service but as they are rising for all of us, I think the middle way is the fairest for everyone.
I really can't afford the increase due to my pitiful wages. However, I can't rely on the Government to fund public services sufficiently so have absolutely no choice, considering public safety. Unfortunately the Cabinet (full of corrupt millionaires) believe it's better for the poor to subsidise emergency services instead of the government. I can't afford to pay more council tax but don't want to see people die due to underinvestment. Sorry for any poor spelling or grammar but my phone is an old one so I can't see what I've written.
I support the increase to maintain this valuable service
I think a small increase is acceptable, although knowing the council it won't stop there, will it?
I think all the emergency services need increased funding to keep up with inflation and expand what they do
I think it would be reasonable rise in the current financial crisis
I think it's a reasonable increase and affordable to me.
I think that is nothing, considering the amount we reply on the Fire Service. I think it should be more. The proposed increase is less that a chocolate bar.
I think the extra cash will help the services suggested. I am band G so it is a fair increase for me to make.
I think the fire and rescue service do a fantastic job so I don't mind paying a bit more
I think the fire service does need an increase but also families are finding it hard with energy price hikes so a middle of the road option seems fair
I think the fire service needs a pay rise for all they do for our communities and the risks they put themselves in to save others. Thank you for what you do and I'm all for paying more to give you all what you deserve
I think we the cost of living making things so expensive such as mortgages , gas and electricity 42p is very reasonable
I think what the fire and rescue service does is lifesaving and vital and highly respected and valued. I do however think the government should be putting more money into the service from other sources rather than our council tax. However as we are all aware, the government is useless, so that won't happen.
I understand that the maximum it can be increased is £5 without the need for a referendum so I would happily increase up to this amount to maintain the excellent service that the fire service provides.
I understand the need for an increase due to the challenging economic circumstances. But given the coat of living crisis, I fear that a big increase will harm those most in need. There should be a moderate increase but one that is affordable to those struggling at this time.
I understand y the he increased cost, but that effects us all, with continues increases my band F tax seems like a second mortgage, so I think the selection I have made is more than enough
I Value Fire and Rescue services and want them to be able to maintain a full range of services, particularly at this time of increased flooding etc
I value fire service cover
I value our Fire Service and the jobthey do
I value the service greatly and feel it needs extra investment
I value the work and commitment of all our splendid public services, currently under threat by a short sighted government!
I want security and peace of mind
I wanted to select Option 3 (£7.99 per year) but a referendum wouldn't necessarily have a positive outcome and could be an additional cost for the service.
I was inclined to pay option three, but didn't want imply further cost to the service
I would be prepared to pay more council tax if it meant a better service and would prevent anymore strike action
I would be willing to pay more but suspect that you would fail in the public referendum.
I would choose option 3 but do not wish to cost money by having a referendum. Fire and rescue always deserve more
I would have chosen option 3 but as it would generate further costs to you I didn't.
I would have gone for 3 but as it would cost you Ii decided 2 was okay. like all organisation you will need more support. It seems to me you spend more time on Highway accidents then putting out firesbut when you do have to go to a fire it is usually a bid one and takes more then one engine so I would like to make sure you have the funding to do your job. I have never needed a your service but would like to know you are there if I did. Thank you for all you do.
I would have gone for option 3, but as it would trigger a referendum I am wary of inflicting further cost to the brigade when, as is the case with all local referenda, the turnout will be poor and hardly representative of local opinion.
I would have supported option 3 if it could be done at no referendum cost

I would like to see an increased police presence and am happy to pay a bit more for it
I would like to support the fire department to do their jobs effectively.
I would pay any increase fire service are the most under rated emergency service
I would prefer no increase but have to take a realistic view. Option 2 is the logical one to opt for.
I would support an increase for any of the emergency services. My only concern is that cash might be misdirected by corrupt councils
I'd be happy to pay this if it meant consistently available service and even more so if it allowed more permanent staffing in the area and rely less on voluntary team
If an increase is needed, I'm prepared to pay more council tax for it.
if needed to keep us all safe, it is a no brainer and to be honest option 3 is better but a consultation will be not recieved well hence option 2.
If option 3 didn't even a lot of costs and hassle, I would have supported that too. With the rising cost of everything and the stagnation of public service wages, it goes without saying that more money is needed.
If people had an emergency situation I would hope that there was a prompt response response.
If services are to be maintained then we all need to contribute to the rising costs.
If we want a good service from public bodies the public must pay more for them.
If we want to maintain and increase essential services we must pay for them!
important to maintain services and if possible increase service provided. I would opt for OPTION 3 if no further cost was involved
Important to maintain the service
Improved services that everyone benefits by
In common with everything else costs rise. Will there ever be a day when the council doesn't demand more. Not in my lifetime I think.
In view of the current cost of living crisis, the rise should be kept to a minimum.
Increase income at no cost to service
Increase needed given inflation. Just try and minimise the increase.
Increase seems fair without incurring extra costs
Increase without referendum
Increased cost in living means that while I agree there should be an increase, it has to be reasonable
Increased funding is necessary
Increased services
Increased support for vital life saving equipment, training and support to Firefighters
Inflation
Inflation
Inflation
Inflation is rife, this Service will need to cut back even with more income coming in, No increase is unfortunately not a viable option.
Invaluable service
Invaluable service
Is more than I'd like but service has to be maintained
It allows for inflation without being a great burden
It is a small amount each month to support a service we hope, personally, never to need but would 100% rely on if needed!
It is a small amount to pay for the service
It is a very good idea that everyone can afford the tiny annual amount.
it is affordable
It is an essential service that should be properly funded.
It is like insurance, you hope it won't be needed but reassuring it is there, I tend to 'over; insure wanting to be safer than sorry
It makes sense
It provides a solid increase without the ridiculous waste of time and resources of a referendum.
it seems a reasonable increase to maintain an efficient service
It seems a small annual increase and avoids extra costs incurred if option 3 was chosen
It seems reasonabl
It seems the best choice without creating extra unnecessary costs.
It would seem necessary
It's a fair increase for a service that nobody wants to have to use. For those that do need your help then they will want the best response from you. That can only come from an increase in the council tax allocation. It's cheaper than paying for a private service that can't compare
It's a minimal increase if it helps prepare them for current threats. We were flooded in February 2020 along with many others locally, and it's an horrific experience to go through. We need trained service people to know what to do, for both prevention and rescue.
It's a reasonable amount and affordable for most people at under £5 a year

It's affordable
It's affordable for me
It's getting worse for most people trying to pay bills.
It's not an unreasonable amount to keep a valued service running.
It's a compromise between need for the Fire Services and lack of money completely by lesser bands
It's a modest amount from each household but will generate help towards the upkeep of the service when all homes in Band D pay
It's a necessary service.
It's a small amount to ask for an emergency service.
It's a small increase but will make a difference
It's a tiny amount of money for such a vital service. If it wasn't for the cost of a referendum I would have chosen option 3.
It's a very small increase which wouldn't be detrimental to our finances
It's affordable
It's needed to keep people safe.
It's not excessive for vital services
It's not too much for a Band D property and wouldn't incur expenses to implement it
It's really middle line and not too much money per month for people who might struggle with any more increase
It's reasonable and helps extra costs. It's the middle ground
It's the one you recommend
I've selected option 2 as no requirement for a public referendum with this option. I think the Fire & Rescue Service do a fantastic job and support you all the way! Thank you for always being there!
Just about affordable, please no more.
Keep any increase to a minimum, we ALL need to tighten our belts
Keep everyone safe
Levels of service need to be maintained if not improved
Life savers
Like any service, less money means a less efficient service.
Lives are priceless. £5 extra a year is not a lot to help save lives
Looks like best value option
maintain services
maintain services
maintain the service
maintain valued service
manageable
Maximum additional funding without incurring further costs to the service
Maximum allowed without referendum
Maximum amount without referendum
Maximum increase to maintain service without additional costs.
Maximum increase without the cost of a public referendum
Mid choice
Mid choice
Middle ground
middle ground and we need the service
Middle of the road option.
Middle option
Midpoint amount due to COL crisis
minimum
Modest increase affordable.
Money is tight
Money is tight
More funding required
More money for the service without the extra expense of a referendum
More money is needed but shouldn't waste any on an additional consultation

More money needs to go to the fire service
Most cost effective option whilst increasing the funding.
Most cost efficient increase to funding without the need for costly referendum. The slight monthly increase is well worth it.
Most help for no cost to the service
Most sensible option due to admin and beurocracy
Must maintain high standards of public safety
My choice is a compromise.
My chosen option represents an increase of approximately 5% which is well below current inflation and therefore represents very good value for continuity of service. As first responders, your service is vital to our community.
Necessary services that we all require
Need a good fire and rescue service
Need recognised at reasonable level.
Need to fund cost of living for staff
Need to keep a first class service risk there lives for us
need to keep up the standard of service.
Need to maintain & improve services to ensure public safety.
Need to maintain the service at a good level
Need to provide a good service
Need to support emergency services more.
need to support fire and rescue
Needed service adequately funded
No extra cost for the fire service but greater protection for the local area
No guarantee that option 3 would be approved
No increase would be a nice to have but as with most things an increase is the most probable. I therefore selected the median option.
No need for a public referendum creating additional costs to all. Fair rate of rise.
no point in option 3 if it involves expense of referendum
not a lot to pay to keep a great service
Not much difference these days to the cost of one pint of beer per year. Most can afford this one way or another.
Not sure what the extra increase will go towards and as not against it would have been useful to have further information where this money would go on so went mid range.
Of more benefit to the Service.
Only higher option without referendum costs
Option 2
Option 2 as Option 3 would take money out of the already tight budget you already have
Option 2 is affordable and it doesn't involve the additional cost of option 3, which requires going to a public referendum.
Option 2 seems most likely to be accepted with least blockers. I would support more, but if that requires a vote there's no way a public referendum would give the right outcome as people are short sighted and simply won't vote to spend more money on something they don't think affects them - until it does.
Option 2 would appear to be a reasonable increase to enable The Service maintain their ability to respond to incidents and invest for the future, particularly in these times of relatively high inflation.
Option 2 would not need a referendum, avoiding the associated costs.
Option 2. Option 3 seems a reasonable amount to pay, BUT the additional cost counts it out. Perhaps a slight increase per annum until we reach option3 amount. We need to support our police and fire services and this increase is tiny. Go for it!!
Option 3 will would waste money on a referendum with the result uncertain.
Option B because as pensioners we are being hit hard by the cost of living rises and the council tax rise will out further pressure on finances.
Our emergency services MUST be properly funded. I would happily pay an extra £1.00 per month to do this.
Our emergency service and workers are vital to our communities
Our emergency services should be much better funded
Our services are under funded. It's a small price to pay to the organisations that save lives every day!
Partly because they are not threatening to strike, mainly because of the diversity of their work
Presumably needed
Prices are going up elsewhere. I am trying to make ends meet just like everyone else.
Provide a better service
Provide a good service
Provide better resources for the fore and rescue service



Public services are having a tough time financially
Public services need to be properly funded and this option avoids a referendum. It is also a small increase for those struggling with the cost of living
Reading the options, this seems to be the best financial option for the services
Realistic
Reasonable
Reasonable
Reasonable
Reasonable :)
reasonable amount in current climate
Reasonable increase
Reasonable increase amount.
Reasonable increase for variety of households
Recognise an increase is required and feel this amount is reasonable
Reliable services are necessary. The cost of a referendum makes it undesirable.
Represents good value for money increase given the current economic situation. I would have voted for a higher increase if additional costs for referendum was not incurred.
Represents good value. Small price to pay for a vital service. Will seem insignificant when/if I need them
Safety and value
Save costs from 3 but would consider 3 if no referendum
Seemed a middle of the road reply that not exorbitant.
Seems a reasonable ammount to ensure Humberside Fire & Rescue are there when needed.
Seems a reasonable amount to pay
Seems a reasonable amount to pay for an improved service. Ever thought about providing a bit extra for local NHS services via council tax?
Seems a reasonable increase
Seems a reasonable request in the current economic climate.
Seems about right
Seems fair to all parties
Seems fair to all parties
Seems fair to both parties
Seems like a fair value increase at the present time
Seems like a viable option
Seems reasonable
Seems reasonable
Seems reasonable
Seems reasonable and would not require a referendum at extra cost.
Seems reasonable. Council tax locally is very expensive and going up but we need a good service.
Seems sensible
Seems the fairest
seems the most sensible option - I think a referendum would not succeed at 67pence
seems to be the best option for very little cost
Seems to be the better option to enable good service, and I can afford it.
Seems to be the fairest option without incurring further expense.
Seems very reasonable to maintain an excellent service
Service needs to be fully financed.
Service underfunded
Services need to be adequately funded - underfunded services don't work properly. Would have chosen option 3 but it appears to be offset by higher admin costs
Services require investment and support
Should pay more towards the services that members of the public need.
Small amount at least cost to the Service.
Small amount for a much needed service.
Small increase which should be affordable to majority
So that you can increase staff wages, a benefit you seem to have missed off the ones listed above!

So the service can get more people or different equipment
Still value for money
Such a good service and deserves the increase in payment.
thats about right,i dont agree with the police getting an increase,until i see evidence of police walking the beat.petty crime is soaring
The best I can do. I wish I could increase to the maximum.
The best option for the device without cost to them. Our public services are essential and should be properly funded.
The cost of everything has risen, makes sense that this should increase in order to maintain the service
The cost to the council tax payer is low and the benefits are high. Also option 3 seems to be not worth the hassle and costs.
The council are slowly adding services onto the bill as extras, but council tax was meant to provide financing for all services. They waste money. Fire , emergency and police should have priority funding, otherwise the councilouncil will end up with a tiered system.
The council should look after the money we already give in a better way, unfortunately money is often wasted and never re coupled. If the fire service are looking for more money, the police will follow suit.
The fire and rescue service is under pressure as it is to maintain current service levels, the small amount each household is being asked to contribute to help maintain and improve the service is worth it
The Fire Service , along with the Police & Ambulance service should be funded as needed no matter what the cost is, & in this case £5 per year is a minuscule amount..
The fire service are a crucial part in our society and we depend on them. Nobody ever wants to call for the fire brigade as usually his means a fire but it's reassuring to know that when you do need them, they're are there.
The fire service does a great job and is here when you need them. If a small increase is needed to maintain these services I am willing to pay.service'
The fire service is a vital service. I would be prepared to pay more for it, including option 3 but if it requires a public referendum then the extra cost may outweigh the benefit
The fire service is an essential service and they have a hard job
the fire service is an important service and for it to not be funded properly would lead to loss of life and additional lost to property
The Fire Service is necessary and at least we are being given a choice! We have been given no choice over other increases in cost of living, utilities, fuel, council tax, etc which have already increased more than the £18 per week pension uplift we can look forward to in April.
The fire service needs to have proper funding to keep people safe.
The least worse option
The minimum would only scratch the surface but the middle ( ruling out a referendum) one would allow more scope to plan more effectively and utilise resources efficiently
The option I can sfford
The rising service cost
The safety of the public and for the fire brigade staff is of paramount importance. If this can make the necessary difference, I support it.
The Service deserves full support from the public.
The service is important for all so worth supporting, not just for major incidents but also for supporting falls
The Service need this level to be effective faced with the current Governments intransigence/contempt for public services
The services provided by Fire & Rescue go well beyond any basic fire-fighting service and their team-working approach with other emergency services is impressive. These services deserve good pay and rewards and the best equipment and an additional £5 a year is little to pay for that security.
The work done by emergency services is vital and it's important we invest in them so that they can invest back into protect our community.
There are always savings to be made if one looks harder
There has to be a limit as to what people can afford.
There is a need for an increase due to inflation, but not a big increase if it will cripple many households. There is no need for question 6-9. Nothing to do with this price increase.
These are essential services for the whole community.
These services are vital and deserve every penny!
These things don't pay for themselves. As a civilised nation it is the right thing to do.
They are essential services
They are worth more
They deserve more money. No need for a referendum
They do a great job although I would like to have seen reasons for the need for an. Increase as I have little knowledge of the service.
They do a great service
They do a sterling service and need resources
They do enough for us, the fire service deserves fair pay. I believe an extra £5 a year is achievable to almost any budget. It's less than a months subscription to Disney plus, and I think most people would rather have the fire brigade than the ability to watch The Lion King online
They have higher rates as generally have more income
they need our help
They need to be able to attend where needed
They provide an amazing service and deserve an increase

They should have the increase they need, but would losing a referendum mean no increase? Seems safer to support the highest option that doesn't require a referendum.
This enables a price without having a public enquiry
This helps around
This is a compromise rise for a hard pressed service
This is a fair increase in the current circumstances and will not need a referendum and the costs involved.
This is an acceptable increase in council tax for me and my household for the services it provides
This is an essential service and requires support
This is an essential service and you never know when you may need it!
This is an essential service for the safety and well-being of us all and needs and increase in the precept
This is reasonable.
This is the best option that does not require a referendum. I think it is important to keep vital services funded
This option would generate a generous amount without further costs to the service
This seems to be a reasonable, mediocre increase.
This service is critical, excellent and value for money.
This service is essential and needs better funding.
To better fund the service
To ensure adequate resources
To ensure the current level of service is maintained
To ensure this vital service is maintained
To get fire cover and crewing levels back to an acceptable standard
To help cover the increase in running cost
To help ensure the service is there when needed, but not at an unaffordable extra cost
To help increase further options in emergency services, and keep up with inflation.
To help maintain an essential service
To help maintain and improve services for the community
To improve the service.
To keep pace with inflation
To maintain a decent service and is affordable
To maintain an excellent service and protect lives
To maintain services as they are presently
to maintain the present level of service
to maintain the services already provided
To maintain the standard
To preserve the service
To provide greater funding for the fire service.
to provide a much better and stabler service to the community
To provide an effective fire service
To recognise increasing demands on the service for climate change and in anticipation of increasing public health roles ie falls service
To stop deterioration in services
To support a vital service.
To support essential services but protect the financially vulnerable
To try to at least maintain service
Too many cost increases for a lot of families so medium level increase
Valuable and necessary resource.
Valuable service
Value for money if we are to be safe
Valued, valuable and necessary service, which should rightly be sufficiently funded.
Very valuable service. If it wasn't for generating further costs I would have selected option 3.
Vital service to the community
Vital service which is currently underfunded
Vital service. Increase is negligible.


Want good service
Want to be safe and pay for a good service
Want to maintain the level of service
Want to support you
We all need the service
We all need yo
We are all under financial pressures, we must be realistic about what is affordable.
We are more than happy to pay a little extra per month to the fire brigade, an essential service. We never know when we may need your services to save our lives, the lives of our families or our property from burning to the ground. The fire fighters put their lives at risk to save ours and it's a disgrace you have been put in a position of having to ask residents in the area to pay a few pence a month more to maintain the current service!! We fully believe that this service should be properly funded by the Government, who are persistently cutting back on essential life saving services we have already paid for in our taxes! It's the same as the NHS, ambulance drivers and other public services the current Government is running into the ground. That said there is never a shortage of police, fire and other services in London and surrounding areas!!! So much for levelling up and investing in the 'Northern Power House'!! Again a failure by this Government to invest in essential public services and to rely on the continued hard work of the staff!! A big thank you though to all our local fire brigade staff for their hard work and for all the lives you have saved and will continue to save!
We cannot underestimate their worth.
We can't afford more.
We don't pay enough for the services we expect. Brexit was a hard reality for the idiots who voted for it. The true cost is now coming home to them. Good luck.
We must preserve the coverage of our fire dept. 42p is so little but it would have a significant impact.
We need a good professional service. Thankyou
We need a decent service it's like the nhs I'd pay a bit more if we got a decent service not the rubbish we have to put up with now..
We need a good fire service.
We need a good service and it helps us get that .
We need a fire service that provide a modern service sufficiently staffed. You cannot put a price on a life.
We need fire service. We must pay.
We need good public services
We need more firefighters
We need our fire service. No referendum required for this option.
We need qualified people for this service and they deserve a good wage
We need the service and due to horrendous government cuts it's up to us again to foot the bill.
We need the services of the fire dept in emergencies - they need our help now in this coming year
We need their services and deserve the money
We need these services and as such we should contribute
We need these services.
We need to ensure all our emergency services are fairly funded
We need to ensure continuity of service at a time of rising costs. Option 3 no go on a cost benefit basis
We need to ensure the level of service continues
We need to improve services
We need to keep the brilliant service and build.
We need to keep the fire service up to scratch
We need to keep the service we have got now.
We need to look for new technology but many households are under financial pressure. I feel option 2 is acceptable.
We need to maintain services by whatever means
We need to pay for services and this cost is not unreasonable
We need to pay for the service. I would also support option 3 if the cost of a referendum does not reduce the increase too much
We need to support all our services.
We need well equipped & well trained fire fighters. This takes money. .
We should not cut back in essential services but constantly improve them. However my response is based on the assumption that everything is being done to ensure maximum efficiency maintained by constant review.
We want to support a good service
well worth it
What would we do without a reliable fire service - well worth every penny
Why not.

Will always need the fire service
Willing to pay more for fire service, but wouldn't want to pay the costs of a referendum. Would rather see increases over two or three years than waste the money on additional admin.
Willing to pay more in order to keep the same service
Wish I could afford more but think they do a great job
With the community charge increase not in yet, police in, and others standing on side lineswater / parish council
WORTH EVERY PENNY
Worth every penny
Worth every penny ..risk their own lives to save others and sadly take abuse from a minority
Worth every penny if you need them !
Worth every penny if your trapped in a crashed vehicle or a burning building.
Worth every penny 👍
Worth extra and avoids additional costs.
worth it
Worthwhile, would choose 3 but that would cost the service more and may counter the proposed increase
Woth it.
Would be happy to accept option 3, but generating further cost to the Service seems counter productive.
Would have been option 3 but for the additional cost of a referendum.
Would have chosen option 3 but for referendum requirement
Would have gone for band 3 but sounds like would be difficult
Would have gone for option 3 but the cost of a referendum put me off.
would suit my income/expenditure
You cannot put a price on saving someones life, the fire servive deserve every penny they get.
You deliver an excellent service. Thank you
you deserve it, you save lives
You need it
You never know when you might need them
you say there will be additional cost if I choose option three. I do not want wasted funding on consultation. If option 3 did not incur cost I may be prepared to pay more.
You would like more, the public would prefer the lower amount, so middle ground is acceptable.
your costs are increasing just like everyone else's
Your service is underfunded by government

### Option 3 = 258

100% worth it best insurance policy ever.
2p per day is no real difficulty for anyone
67p is next to nothing in the scheme of things
67p per month is barely noticeable to an individual household but could make a huge difference where it is needed, and provide a valuable service
7.99 per year is very reasonable it would barely pay for 2 coffees or a bottle of wine
A fair price for what you get , still less than £100
A modest annual increase for a secure service
A service well provided but needs support. Each year as costs rise we will be asked for more money. Give to get a good service.
A small amount of money xan make a big difference if everyone agrees
A small amount to pay considering the lives and property saved. They put their life on the line on a daily basis serving the community.
A small increase for the added benefit.
A small increase which would hardly be noticed
A small price to pay for such an invaluable service
A vital public resource
Absolutely essential
After successive Tory cuts to public services then a small increase like this is the least we can do to deliver better. If my house was burning down & you couldn't attend I'd be mortified. The central government should pay.
All our public services are massively underfunded by this government, they want to see services fail!!! I can afford this increase, but many people can't. We need a change of government
All public services are severely underfunded by successive tory governments and desperately need funding to continue to supply essential services.

always there to be called on in an emergency
An essential service that has to be paid for.
Anything that aids the saving of life and property is well worth the extra expense
appropriate and reasonably affordable increases for our emergency, value for money.
Appropriately funded services
As a pensioner we will be receiving a 10.1% increase so more than willing to pay for option 3
As all other services want to increase, we as pensioners will not be able to afford anymore
Because it saves lives
Because the Fire Service is an invaluable part of everyone's lives that they hope they will never need!
Because the service provided by the Fire Service is invaluable.
Because they are a essential service xxx
Because they are an invaluable asset to society.
Because they do an incredible job and deserve every penny
Better service with more investment.
Better services mea higher costs
Clearly the fire and rescue service is very important and needs to be supported.
Definitely a good service at all times
Disappointed, no figure given of increase/decrease to fire service taking into account of cost of referendum. I chose this in anticipation that any increase in funding would improve the effective survival rate of victims in an emergency, especially for a child. This was brought into to the general publics consciousness through the tragic loss of four kids who died after falling through the ice.
Do not want a reduction in the service or cover. It is imperative we keep our emergency services at an effective level.
Don't want to burn down!
Emergency services MUST be properly funded
Emergency services are a must, no cheap option is suitable.
Emergency services are essential and should be looked after. And they will be able to look after us in times of need.
Ensure maximum safety in the community
Essential service
Essential services should be funded to ensure they maintain the highest level of service
Essential services, not just fighting fires.
Everyone could benefit from a better funded service
Everything needs to go up to reflect the cost of living.
Fantastic service
Fire & rescue is a much needed service in our rural area.
Fire and rescue a professional essential service I value this highly
Fire and Rescue are an essentail service and needs to be maintained at the present level or increased. Lives can be at risk if the service is reduced Pramedics also need frequent support both to reach patients who are within secure premises and also they need hep to move baramentic patients.
Fire and Rescue Service has been underfunded for years. Services need to be maintained as is and invested in in terms of equipment and staff
Fire service pays an important role and they deserve the rise
For important safety issues
Given current inflation rates this would enable the service to continue to be provided without futher cutbacks on top of those experienced over the last decade or more
Good service
good value for what they do
Great service
Great service
Happy to contribute more if it assists delivery of service. Living rurally it's always a concern, access to emergency services.
Happy to help the emergency services, especially ones that aren't always in the press
Happy to pay for a service that saves lives
Happy to pay more for a better service
Helping our hero's get everything they need to help us, and to live with peace of mind for the cost of two coffees a year. A no brainer.
I am aware the police continue to have an increased amount
I am worried about the public referendum and wasn't sure if I should go with option 2 instead But I have had enough of services which are not adequately funded. I want as good a service as possible and these are not huge amounts. Public services are important, our fire service is important, and our fire fighters need all the help we can give them.

I believe an increase would be beneficial. This is the largest on offer that would not incur the additional costs of a referendum.
I believe everyone should pay the same for fire services. I do not receive an enhanced pension being in E band
I believe in properly funded public services and a monthly increase of less than a pound is not going to affect me. However I would have liked to have seen a short explanation of the likely impacts of the three levels of increase. I do feel that I am buying a pig in a poke with the consultation presented as it is.
I believe that the fire service is worth supporting when inflation has reduced the income of key workers. We need to support this key service.
I believe there will be an increase in the services provided
I believe the services need the help.
I can afford it and a well-funded Fire Service benefits everybody
I can afford this at the moment, hopefully any extra money would be spent well
I chose option 3 because I think this amount is needed.
I feel these services are important
I have never needed the services of the Fire Service but have seen cases where they do a highly dangerous job and hope they continue to be adequately funded.
I have paid substantially more in increases to streaming service subscriptions in the past 12 months so this is a no brainer.
I hover in thought between 2 & 3, being in band E due to other demands and needs that are required from rates
I need to know that when or if I need them they will be there
I support the increase in the fire service, as the security they offer us is justifiable
I think it is very important for public spending to be increased and if general taxation is not to be increased, local council tax should be used
I think it is worth it to be safe
I think that the number of needless deaths should be minimised.
I value the service. Heaven forbid I ever need you, correct tools and staff for the job. If not via the council, set up a fund me page. I already donate clothes etc to the fire bins charity. Pay it forward! I'm not wealthy, in poor health, but give what I can. I would gladly add £12 a year,
I want a better service and for a better service I am prepared to pay
I want a good fire service and for its staff to be paid well.
I want adequate funding for these essential services
I'd rather pay extra money knowing it goes directly to the fire service. I know the council tax will go up, it always does! But that goes in god knows what that the council deem sensible. At least with the fire service you know what you're getting.
I'd really like for my house not to burn down
If for any reason I should need the services I want them to have the resources to provide them.
If we want to maintain services then they have to be paid for. Everything comes at a cost.
Increased resources for service
Inflation and cost of living will affect all budgets in service sector I believe this is the only way to keep pace with maintaining standards
Investing in frontline
Is £5 - £8 a year so much to pay to save lives.
It's a life saving service and have to do everything to keep it up to date
It is a much needed service and should be funded more
It is important to have properly funded emergency services
It is short sighted, an insult and nigh on ridiculous to cut budgets of essential services.
It is still a relatively small part of any overall Council Tax associated charge.
It is vital that we have an efficient and effective Fire and Rescue Service and I am willing to pay more to help ensure that.
It makes sense
It's a minimal amount to pay for safety of myself, my family and my community
It's a much needed service.
It's important
It's important, we all need them 
It's needed
It's not much extra for such a valuable public service
It's underfunded
It's a crucial service
It's a necessity
It's a service that is needed
It's a small price to pay for Fire and Rescue services.
It's an insurance in reality and the extra pence per month pales into insignificance against the cost of underprovision.

It's essential we have this service
Its important to maintain levels of protection.
its worth it
It's worth it.
It's worth the investment to protect property and lives as long as it's not to pay for more managers.
Keep and improve services. No efficiency savings
Keep people safer
Maintain services
Money has to be invested to help our Fire service in these difficult times
More funding is required for the emergency services and people should foot the bill for it.
More money is needed so let's help
Most reliable emergency service
Necessary to maintain standards
Need all the funds possible where would we be with out this service
Need to keep community safe
Need to maintain high level of aervice
Needed
Needs funding correctly
No brainer. We need to maintain good quality services.
Of course we should increase this service puts their lives at risk more than any other to save citizens. We waste so much revenue on so called immigrants (most of whom are actually illegal migrants) not to mention the inflated wages of our mps and the foreign aid budget. The entire system requires a complete overhaul.
Only £8 a year to increase all of our safety .....it's a small price to pay!
Only happy with the above if we retained an equivalent in town service that we have currently
option 3
Our 999 services need our money to perform well. They do an amazing job & deserve more monetary help.
Our Fire Service is worth every penny!
Our local services are so very important, people need to realise the contribution is small in comparison to not having an adequate and meaningful service provision
Over the year this still only amounts to 7.99 and this represents excellent value
pay firefighters more
Pay more for better service and wages
Pay rises
Pay the firefighters fare pay
People who own larger property usually have bigger incomes
Primary response named itself. There is no bigger priority in society than our public services.
Protecting services
Service they do, put their lives at risk to save ours
Services need to be maintained
Services should be individualised so folk can understand their payments. E.g. road tax used to pay for roads & N.I. paid for health. When explained as in the questionnaire it's clear to me that I can afford this.
Small amount to pay for our service
Small cost for the added benefit
small price to pay to keep us safe
So you can pay your staff what they deserve
something we need
Such an essential emergency service that needs proper funding.
Such sevices ar essential for the whole community, whether or not we have a personal need for such resources.
The cost works out at 66 pence per month. I feel that for the reassurance of having a fully funded service that can fully function in its duties is a very important one
The fire and rescue service do an amazing job, anything that can help towards safer systems for them in order to continue to protect us is worth such a small amount
The fire and rescue service is a vital service for NEL people on higher band should pay more however with cost of living crisis perhaps there should be a grant available to subsidise this. Not making the general public pay
The fire and rescue services need our support.



The fire brigade are an important asset to the community, in my book there's no need for a costly public referendum, just add the increase on to the invoice without telling anyone, no one will notice and it wont give the wokey, lefty, anti everything bigade a platform to spout nonsense.
The fire service are invaluable and £7.99 a year is more than excellent value for money
The fire service is a vital public service
The Fire service should and must have the correct funding, to keep their equipment up to standard and for recruitment. If proper funding is not is forth coming, then staff will leave for better paid jobs, so the service will be depleted.
The most. I would assume. I've never used the fire service but its reassuring to know that they are always there if neededed thefire
The service has already been trimmed excessively and become increasingly vulnerable to an inability to cope and still maintain a basic service for others at the same time.s if there was a mjore incodent
The service is too important to underfund.
The service is under funded
These days with increases in fires and floods due to climate change, if a fire and rescue service is required we want it to happen without question.
These HERO'S can't be expected to risk their lives to save others without updated equipment.
These people put their lives on the line regularly to protect and serve and save members of the public, many of them are volunteers who have regular jobs at the same time. The fact that this service is under funded is a travesty when this country spends billions in aid to other countries who have the funds to aid space programs and build naval destroyers yet will not support their own citizens. We are also spending billions on young, fit, fighting age men to be housed in hotels across our country, many who are not fleeing for their lives but illegally taking advantage of our soft system. This money could be utilised much more effectively in other areas.
These services are precious and should be maintained at any cost.
These services are worth every penny, we should not compromise our safety.
They are a necessary service and deserve extra investment.
They are a necessary service which they perform selflessly
They are an underfunded but vital lifeline at times of emergency and we should do all we can to safeguard its future
They are worth their weight in gold and deserve every penny they are paid. God forbid that any of us need their service but if/when we do we know they'll be there for us.
They can afford it...
They deserve it
They do a fabulous service underfunded as all nhs services are
They don't get paid enough!
They need it
They need more money
They provide a very important service which needs our support.
They provide an essential service
Think it is time we paid properly for our services and pay the people doing the job mor3 money
This is a vital local service which is delivered at a relatively low price and must be preserved and enhanced. Whether funding comes from local or central tax income is a matter for citizens to consider when voting in local and national elections. In the meantime everyone should chip in to support our essential services.
this is a vital service not only for fire but rescue eg vehicle accidents, in water, on ice etc etc
This is an acceptable and manageable amount to pay to improve fire and rescue services which any one of us may need in the future.
This is an emergency service that is paramount.
This is an important service which needs to have updated equipment and training for staff.
This seems very little increase to keep all the fire and rescue services going for 900.0000 people.They are too important to allow any of their functions to be dropped.
To assist in a system of improved cover for the whole brigade area.
To enable the HFA to continue to support their communities at a suitable level.
To ensure good service levels are maintained. Ensuring the money goes directly to the relevant services and into the councils coffers for daft schemes.
To ensure great service
To ensure we maintain cover in Pocklington
To get a better service or better pay for the workers.
To have properly funded local services, with parishes.
To help improve the service for those in need
To help maintain an effective & efficient fire service for our area
To help support a very important service
To maintain and develop our current fire and rescue service, I feel an increase of less than £1 a month for the average household would be feasible. I appreciate that wages (including my own) aren't increasing at the same rate as everything else, but the safety and security of our emergency services is the responsibility of everyone. I have never (thankfully) had need to use the fire service, but I sleep better knowing it is there if I (or my family) ever did.

To maintain the service
To offer better services to all in the area.
To pay firefighters what they deserve
To provide a robust service
Totally necessary.
Underfunded already. If I need them I want them to be able to respond effectively
Valued and essential service
Valued service
Very little increase for the service provided
Vital Service needs properly supporting.
Want the best service
We can afford more
We have to fund for the type of society we want to live in.
We have to maintain services at the very least
We need a good reliable Fire and Rescue Service.
We need a properly funded fire service and we have to pay for it. It's all our money - wherever it comes from - so let's just pay it. If it comes out of our existing taxes we pay for it with less somewhere else so I'm good to give you the cost of a pint of decent beer spread over 12 months.
We need better services and these need to be paid for.
We need emergency services. They are a 'must have'.
We need good quality service and well paid firefighters
We need our fire brigade they do an amazing job
We need our fire service and I don't want to see it cut. If Option 3 was too costly to the fire service, I would choose Option 2.
We need the fire and rescue services to be of the highest possible standard,as I believe they are now.
We need to be willing to pay more for our services! As long as the money goes to correct place
We need to fund our service properly
We need to have a well equipped and payed fire service
We need to help the essential services before the system breaks down.
We need to support all our services and this is a very small increase on a personal level.
We need to support our fire service and I can afford to pay this extra to ensure we have a great service.
We need to support the fire and rescue service
We should all be prepared to pay extra to keep our Fire Service running efficiently
Well funded public services are important
Well worth it, not even a couple of pints.
What would we do without them?
When there needed they are there
with increase we will maintain our levels of service which all citizens want for our area
With inflation in double figures we have to give our firefighters a decent salary increase
Worth every penny
Worth every penny and more
Worth every penny if needed
Worth every penny when you need it and these guys are deserving of the best equipment.
Worth every penny.
Worth the money
Would be willing to pay more obviously we need them
Would not notice £8 / year increase. Good value for money.
You cannot fault the work they do
You deserve much more for the valuable, life saving work you do.
You do a great job
You guys are worth every extra penny for risking your life every day ... thank you!
You provide an excellent service but I'm aware the full services you currently provide may be jeopardised if additional funding cannot be secured.
You're worth every penny! We are pensioners but over a 12 month period it isn't a lot to ask.
Your service always ask for the lowest raise and we cannot risk the loss of services and the higher amount isn't much per month

**Option 4 = 735**

A cost of living crisis for everyone makes increases to precepts inappropriate at this time.
Absolutely not, at a time when people are genuinely struggling to pay for increased bills you want to add further cost to there living. The government need to fund services correctly you can not keep increasing the publics bills to make up for the short fall
Affordability
All businesses need to become more productive & make better use of current resources
All expenses are going up day to day.
All ready get enough just wasted with top earners
All the major funding comes from the government not the council that is a fact because back in 2004 when there was a change needed on PPE it was the government pot that paid the millions for it to be changed. As well the fire service has changed dramatically over the years from fire fighters to fire prevention personnel.
All the services; police, schools, highway maintenance, NHS are essential and should be funded centrally. The government were able to pump £200 billion into quantitative easing and they always have enough money to fight wars, but there is never enough to pay for nurses. This initiative is nothing more than government offloading their responsibilities onto the very people who are paying the price. If the government can't fund the fire service, they could tax the corporations properly or even better have a go at the tax havens. Quote frankly this proposal is an insult to the working people of this country.
Already pay a significant amount & unlike other emergency services fire fighters have had significant pay increases despite many having multiple jobs.
Already got too much inflation, Govr need to support fire services not poor people.
Already have to pay more for cost of living
Already lot of inflation, why putting burden on people
Already pay enough
Already pay enough
Already pay enough
Already pay enough
Already pay enough
Already pay enough council tax
already pay enough.
Already pay too much for services.
Already paying a lot. Everything has increased, apart from my wages.
Already spending too much on desk jobs too many chiefs and not enough fire people actually doing fires and fire safety work.
Already struggling with increased costs
Already struggling with living cost
Already too expensive
Already too expensive
Am on benefits but in band b and already struggling to pay my council tax if it keeps going up with rent cost and living cost I be on the street. Haa it is when you report a crime you never see the police do anything these days not like when I was in the police force and sorry to say the fire service needs to start charging the housing association unnecessary call outs like to trent view house because one of their residents keeps setting the fire alarms off every week they would be able retrieve the funds they especially when 3 fire engines have to turn up for no reason
An increase however small is realistic or affordable to taxes.
Any extra payment will be indirectly be paying a wage for some sort of manager within the council. Which on evidence is a massive waste of resources.
Any increase at the moment up to band D is a struggle as it's food or heating for most
Any increase should be covered by the government not the public who are already overstretched with the vast increases to their utilities.
Any increase would not be used for improving services but would be put into gold-plated pensions for employees
ar too much as it is. Fund the req
Are you serious. Skint
Aren't people hard pressed enough
As a pensioner on fixed income, there's no way to earn more money to cover any increases.
As a pensioner, with the energy bills increasing, where is this extra money coming from because, even with a triple lock increase, it's not my pension.
As pensioners, we too are finding it difficult to make ends meet. We cannot go on strike and ask for more! The people that do this are putting lives at risk. No increase!
As the main incidents in your reason for extra funding appear to be based on 'climate change' i.e. flooding and grassland fires and the 'science' is, at best, based on 'modelling' this is not a good enough reason for such increases. As the country is in a cost of living crisis I suggest that your service do as the rest of us are having to do, cut your spending too. I'm sure not repainting your engines in rainbow colours and putting up banners informing us that you have been rewarded as GOOD by the Inspector of Fire Services! If you have spare capacity for this type of spending then you do not need more.
As with all emergency services it is not about throwing more money at them. But by using money more efficiently.

As you say, it's unwelcome in a financial crisis!
Ask the government for more funding, not the public.
Be like everyone else no increase
Be more efficient and agree to necessary reforms to your service and stop acting if you live in the dark ages. We all have to adapt to new ways of working. If you don't like the job go elsewhere.
Because as a resident of new build estate most properties whether 3 or 4 bed are band d and I feel we pay enough.
Because everything has gone up & cannot afford a further rise on my council tax
Because EVERYTHING is going up
Because I already pay enough
Because I am struggling now I do not get a reasonable increase in my pension. My gas and electricity have rocketted and food prices are ridiculous. The Government and council should fund them, Especially with all the years of road works we are paying for which make things come to a standstill in Hulln
Because I can't afford to pay any increase. Already struggling with energy and food increases.
Because it should be the same amount for everyone irrespective of the property value/band. The service should be the same for everyone.
Because it would not make a difference at all.
Because money is tight and as you are an emergency service you should not hold the country to ransom, your issue is with the government and not the public, we already pay far too much as it is
Because the council waste needlessly, expenses to the local councilors, the police do the same and fire service workers are hardly overworked (I was married to a fireman) we are all struggling to keep warm without increases elsewhere
Because they spend all night in bed then have second jobs.
Because we cannot afford another increase also we
Because you get enough money. You need to reorganise your staff and use your resources sensibly, spending it on celebrating gay pride is just wasting money and unnecessary.
Being band F I always have to pay above average on every increase my council tax is like having a second mortgage which as a pensioner can be difficult.
being in a band F property already meant we could not get recent Energy Cost assistance so feel unfairly weighted by linking to Property Banding.
Bills are crippling people already. How can we afford to live?
Both me and my partner work full time jobs. We have children and are being squeezed financially every way. Normally, I would be more than willing to contribute further. Your services are imperative and you guys do an amazing job but despite it being on at worst a 7.99 PA increase I have to put a disagreement in somewhere. Therefore, if it was my choice I wouldn't pay.
Can hardly afford to live now without any increase.
Can not accept increases at this time
Can you not guess?
can't afford it
Can't afford any more increases
Can't afford any more increases
Can't afford anymore with the council tax bound to go up significantly again
Can't afford anything more, can't even afford heating
Can't afford it
Can't afford it
Can't afford it
Can't afford it
Can't afford it. Reduce council wages, particularly at the top.
Can't afford my bills as it is
Can't afford to pay anymore money
Can't even afford heating.
Can't keep giving to everyone - everything is/has gone up. £100's a month more and people just can't afford it.
Can't remember the last time I saw a fire engine on the roads!
Cannot afford
Cannot afford any more
Cannot afford any more increases of any amount
Cannot afford any more increases. Small increases seem insignificant when isolated, but when you review what's being asked with increases in cost across every area of life, it's too much. Especially when firefighters are then striking about pay.
Cannot afford it - pensioner
Cannot afford it! It is unbelievable that the country can apparently support illegal immigrants, but not support its own people
Cannot afford more
cannot afford to pay anymore

Cannot keep increasing cost on a percentage basis
Can't afford
Can't afford any increase
Cant afford any increases no matter jow small
Can't afford anymore increases!
Can't afford current council tax bill or heating and food as it is
cant afford it
Cant afford it
Can't afford it now !! Paying far too much already.
cant afford it.
Can't afford needless increases to bills at this time.
Cant afford the extortionate rates on council tax as it is . Take it off the high paid people who wont miss it
Can't afford to put the heating on so can't afford to pay anything extra
cant afford. to pay even bill the increases as it is!
Charges should be paid for by high risk companies in the area, ABP, oil refineries etc
Continuously pushing inflation up like this harms the economy by forcing base rate hikes. Expecting people whose backs are already against the wall to be taxed more is going to do more harm than good. What services would rescue those of us who would be forced into losing thier house because of the continuous price rises? Private sector workers are not getting wage rises to keep up with price rises and expecting them to be able to pay more is shortsighted and selfish.
Cos people have not got the money right now!
Cost of living crisis
Cost is sufficient
Cost of living
Cost of living
Cost of living
Cost of living
Cost of living
Cost of living
Cost of living
Cost of living
Cost of living
Cost of living
Cost of living
Cost of living
Cost of living
Cost of living "crisis" not a time for further rises. Make efficiency savings and renegotiate supplier contracts etc. find the money elsewhere.
Cost of living already rising exorbitantly.
Cost of living already too high for pensioners.
Cost of living crises
Cost of living crises and we pay enough already.
Cost of living crises. Our council don't know how to spend the money wisely with nothing to do with this consultation.
Cost of living crisis
Cost of living crisis
Cost of living crisis
Cost of living crisis
Cost of living crisis
Cost of Living Crisis
Cost of living crisis
Cost of living crisis
Cost of living crisis
Cost of living crisis
Cost of living crisis
Cost of living crisis
Cost of living crisis
Cost of living crisis
Cost of living crisis , not the right time. Staff asking for unreasonable pay in crease.
Cost of living crisis and the economy
Cost of living crisis can't afford more

Cost of living crisis makes this unaffordable.
Cost of living crisis we only have myself earning a wage and am already struggling, we can't afford any more increase s as wages are staying the same. My husband had to retire due to ill health, recurring sepsis and I am recovering from cancer treatment.sorry would like to help but unable to.
cost of living crisis, and 13 years of cuts by central government meaning the conservatives and cleggs liberals
cost of living crisis, struggling to survive
Cost of living crisis.
Cost of living crisis.
Cost of living crisis. I think we pay enough already for the service we receive
Cost of living etc. Low wage increases
cost of living increasing but income isn't
Cost of living is already at an all time high. I couldn't possibly be able to afford to pay anymore
Cost of living is causing hardship for many families
Cost of living is costing enough already
Cost of living is making it hard enough without further increases in expenditure
Cost of living is ridiculous, I can barely afford to live, my salary isn't going up to match all of these increases.
Cost of living is spiralling
Cost of Living is way to high and inflated as usual in rip off Britain - just keep taxing us until we all break
Cost of living issues for the majority of people
Cost of living means cash is already tight
Cost of living plus government refusal to increase pay award for public sector workers
Cost of living pressures
Cost of living too high
Cost of living trying to get bills down not up
Cost of living!! Not been able to put food on the table!
Cost of living, no significant changes to services seen
Cost of living, use the money we already pay more wisely, pay the top dogs less. . What next , you'll want us to do the same for other services, individually. . What will you do tomorrow, differently, will the extra money , that you didn't do yesterday !!?? No increase
Cost of living, we have no spare money left in fact we are broke
Cost of living. The Fire Brigade contributed significantly to a potential 34% increase in my development's service charge by over the top and officious 'regulatory changes' - focus on core firefighting.
Cost of living. The less amount of fires we have these days
Cost savings can be done by cutting the deadwood from management
Cost to me
Cost to me. Skint
Costs for everything are increasing. A serious look at reforming of all public services is required in my opinion.
Costs of living is too high without more increases
cosy of living, immigrants, house prices will drop because of it, already pay a lot to live in east riding, funny how consulted over increase, but none for the immigrants proposal at the lawns.
Counci tax is high enough. Additional increase not justified.
Council get too much as it is get rid of these useless local councillors. Use their wage instead .
Council isn't supporting normally working people
Council tax already too high and surely could do fund raisers to raise some money.
Council Tax as a whole is virtually unaffordable in these times of financial uncertainty, the precepts for other services will no doubt request increases which should not be funded further by the taxpayers.
Council tax in the Driffeld area is already extortionate for what we get.
Council tax is actual legal theft!..... ££££'s for no or very few services! If councils were run like private companies they'd be bankrupt quickly due to the despicable, uneducated public servant idiots who waste time and money without consequence.
Council tax is already high enough. Thinking about the recent rise in cost of living a rise in council tax to help pay for service would be wrong. Given that most properties have fire alarms etc. I will not support the rise.
Council tax is already poor value
Council tax is already too expensive
Council Tax is already too expensive
Council tax is expensive enough
Council tax is high enough
Council Tax is high enough

council tax is high enough as it is
Council tax is high enough. I am living on carers allowance and cant afford any more out goings.
Council tax is too high already
Council tax is too high already
Council tax is too much already, I can't afford to heat my home (rented, moldy, none insulated old coucil/LHP house!) and you want me to pay more, NO!!
Council tax needs to become cheaper per year not more expensive . Let's get rid of party affiliation at council level and replace them with an elected board of representative's from business backgrounds saving the local tax payers millions a year in wages this round release more funds for public services and lower tax bills .
Council tax services are poor as it is. Perhaps you could reappropriate funding from overpaid senior council staff?
Councils just love to Squander Taxpayers hard earned money.
Councils waste too much public money, they need to cut back on pointless council resources starting with unnecessary management structures.
Current cost of living
Current cost of living increases this is just yet another increase we can not currently afford
Current financial situation of us and the country.
Current wages do not support this proposed action
Currently paying to much
Difficult Financial Times as a pensioner
Divert some of which the council take, it's about there was give and not just take!
Do be serious
Do not think more money would improve the quality. Better targeting would improve outcomes.
Do what everyone else does and stop wasting money
Do you look around you? our bills are already as high as we can afford.
Doesn't tell me what the increase will be spent on. More fire fighters? better equipment? Or a payrise for the commissioner etc.
Don.t you people know you cannot keep increasing the council tax, people cannot afford it.
Don't use the service
Dont get our moneys wort now?
Don't want to pay mor
Due circle money people can't afford also you doing fundraising raise too.
due to all other bills increasing, i can no longer afford to pay for heating etc
Due to medical reasons I have had to take early retirement and any extra costs would be difficult to meet
Due to no explanation as to what the various taxation options will mean to the delivery of the service. Before agreeing to pay more will the investment be to reduce cuts to service, maintain current service levels or invest in a better service?
Due to the current cost of living crisis, people are all ready at breaking point and have no more money to give
Due to the current costs of living being do high at the present time.
Due to the current economic situation any rise is unacceptable
Each and every member of a fire crew are well paid for the job/career-path they chose for themselves. They were free to choose any other pathway thru life. To imply they are special, or heroes, or worthy of special treatment above others who are doing often far more dangerous and under paid work is a bit delusional and self-seeking. I don't have any animosity towards the service, and I guess it does a good job when required. But it isn't special - and all public (and some private) services need a vibrant economy to pay their running-costs and salaries. We don't have one. So best advice is to stop demanding money from people who don't have any, and try and maintain the goodwill of the people who pay you.
Efficiency gains are still to be realised. Recover costs of attendance at road traffic collisions from insurance companies. Restructure then organisation. Merge with adjacent authorities to reduce senior management costs.
Energy costs
Enough increase elsewhere without anymore being thought of
enough is already wasted sometimes all they do is eat at our expense, sometimes do't even get a shout
Enough paid already
Even though i think the fire service do require more money and i do agree there should be more paid for it, my choise is no increase due to the cost of living at the moment is putting myself and a lot of others on the bread line and the sad truth is that many just dont have any disposable money left
Every year ERYC comes begging funny how pensions have gone up by a meagre amount and then ERYC puts the local council tax up and takes the whole increase away. Perhaps you should look closer to home you've waisted how much money on plastic puffins??if you can afford to do things like that DON'T COME PEGGING FROM ME.
Every year this goes up and with the everything going up for the homeowner why don't the government force benefit claimants into work and utilise the saved money from that to add incremental pay rather then let the working people pay for everything!
Every year we are being asked to increase our fund. The cost of living crisis is starting to pinch and I'm whirl those households which will suffer .
Every year we get this rubbish yet there is no evidence, detailed breakdown or justification for the increases.
Every year we see the council tax rate increase by a percentage which I believe considers the cost of running our essential services and therefore it would not make any sense to offer to pay anything more.

Every year you ask for more money from the public to pay for a public service that is not properly funded by the government, the squeeze on living costs has increased enormously you shouldn't be asking households to spend more on a service that the government should fund.
Everyday I see Hull City Council and central government wasting millions of pounds, while elderly and people struggling pay more.
Everyone is already struggling make us of what you have and better educate
Everyone is skint and can ill afford another increase in council tax
Everyone is struggling
Everyone is under enough financial pressure without volunteering to pay more. No doubt our Council Tax as a whole will go up by an extortionate amount.
Everything is costing too much as it is.
Everything is going up, even the Police want more! Ain't nobody can afford this
Everything is so expensive already, even the small increases everywhere add up
Everything on the rise it's getting harder to feed our family
Extra expense at an already difficult time
F&R should be amalgamated with the Ambulance Service to create economies of scale, improvements in performance, and a simplified leadership and management structure
Family budgets are stretched now.
Far too expensive as it is.
FB are running at no where near capacity and therefore I struggle to see how a rise is justified.
Fed up of North East Lincolnshire promising developments in Cleethorpes and then NOTHING happens!! Where's the funded money gone????
Finances are already being squeezed enough
financial crisis we're all in money not going any where especially Energy electric and heating oil
Financial reasons
Financial strain on already stretched ratepayers
financially tough times for people living on fixed income
find elsewhere in the money u waste !
Find savings within the organization, maybe less staff in offices, or promoted for promotion sake. Save money with the police and ambulance service by sharing more resources and support staff
Fire service precedent goes up every year. It just grows and grows. Public services have great pensions already. Too much of a class divide these days. But railworkers fireman, police and border force are well paid. I'd be happier if those at lower pay rates got higher increases. It's the lower paid more money should go into
Fire service yes police no why become they don't do what they are payed to do as it is. My sons house broken into to in October and we are still waiting for them to come out, when you go see them for any reason there not interested not even when someone has threatened to kill you there still not interested
fixed survey hoping blackmail folks "support" sic your brigade. Take from Walthams/cabinets' salary in NLCouncil
Food , electricity , gas , Fuel prices have all gone up people cannot afford to live as it is then you want to put prices of council tax up sorry but no
For the extra increase in funding, what better level of service would I recive?
For the poor service we receive I don't think an increase is justified.
Funds should come from other ways eg insurance for accidents, fines for false call outs and business rates
Get it from central government (London).
Get rid of the unnenary managers and diversity officers that will save a few thousand and employ firefighters.
Get the government to fund it. Can not afford any more increases and council tax is already ridiculously high better still get the councillors to reduce their money and their excess can go to your funding
Give plenty of money already. Just spend it wiser less management more doing
Government should fund Public Services
Hard times
hard times
Have no disposable income
Have seen no active present of this service
Have you heard of the cost of living crisis, the working tax payer cannot afford any more!
Head over to Fire Brigade HQ down Summergroves Way HU4 and watch lots of overpaid underworked managers
Heating and eating are a priority for me, and with those costs increasing alarmingly, I feel unable to support and afford an increased contribution for Humberside Fire & Rescue Service.
HFRS are an under utilised service in comparison to other emergency services. Make cost savings rather than increase council tax contributions
Household costs this year for everything have risen. We cannot afford it.
Household finances.
Households budgets are already being squeezed enough, costs are going up and incomes aren't. There cannot continue to be erosions in living standards at this rate. Council tax is 1 of the biggest household expenditures



Households simply cannot afford any further increases to bills whilst energy prices are at present levels.
How can I make an informed choice when there is no breakdown of what the extra funding is for, it is just a list of figures. It might be to fund extra tea and tiffin for all I know
How can I make an informed decision when this site makes no attempt to show what the advantaged the different rates would provide. You just seem to be asking how much people are prepared to be screwed over?
How do you expect pensioners to pay more? We are so stretched as it is and very stressed/anxious about living costs. Save money by focusing on fire-fighting and stop painting fire engines pink etc!
Humberside fire and rescue service, last year, reported an underspend of almost £1 Million, you do not need our money
I think I pay enough now we can't afford any more with the fuel increases
I already cant afford my council tax
I already pay enough
I already pay enough council tax but it will be increased again with no extra amenities unless you frequent Church Square in Scunthorpe
I already pay enough council tax, with rising bills in every other area of my life as much as I would love to provide you more financial support, I just cannot afford it.
I already pay too much Council tax and am on pension
I already pay. £203 per month. Everything is going up. Catching those that are self employed not putting cash through the books will get tax that should be added to the pot. I reported someone... No one interested.
i am a pensioner and cannot afford to pay any more
I am a pensioner my increase goes to paying final state pension,to people who,can retire early with final salary pension
I am a pensioner with limited income.
I am a pensioner. The proposed increase in my pension has already been swallowed up by energy costs and food costs. Any further increase and I will be swallowed up by debt.
I am already paying over £260 per month council tax, so no I don't want to pay a penny more you get enough.
I am an oap and cannot get benefits so I have to live on my pension and no one gives me a increase to cover all these extra costs so it's a definite no from me
I am disabled and already pay over a £100 a month council tax. I. Am already struggling as the increase in disablement is not in line with increases of every household bill, petrol and food. I'm very scared.
I am not getting an increase in my salary so how do you expect me to fund the money
I am not willing to pay for a service that strike
I am on state pension and struggling already. I cannot heat my home
I am sick and tired of your ever expanding services and ever increasing precept charges get back to providing a fire service reduce to size of your staff and the number of appliances you have .Reduce your precept by 50% and you could still provide the required service. Get back to basics you are a burden on the community you purport to serve.
I am stretched as it is
I am struggling and every penny counts. Central government should pay
I am struggling to eat and keep myself well. I believe you should get more but financially not doable from me personally
I am struggling to stay alive at present
I am unable to answer as there is no indication to what the impact of each will be
i believe all bands should pay the same amount as we get the same service
I believe as a band D property owner we shouldn't have to pay more for these services. Each house hold should pay the same as we receive no better service for paying more. I currently work two jobs to keep my house. Whilst those in lower band properties are often on the benefit system.
I believe i pay enough
I believe the current council tax level is one of the highest in the country for North East Lincolnshire Council. The increase in energy prices has impacted household expenditure along with increased interest rates. I personally feel the local authority is poorly managed. Current local authority funding through various means could be diverted to the key services.
I believe the fire service is adequately funded
I believe there is enough money to cover the services. Stop funding posts connected with diversity etc & pay fire fighters & their training instead.
I believe there should be one tariff for all properties an it should not be linked to property price band as we all get the same service
I believe we are all suffering in the public sector. But my money would go too the health service more than anywhere else.
I believe we should all contribute to cost savings in these difficult times.
I can hardly afford to live in my house as is.
I can't afford to fuel my vehicle and feed my dogs. I'm currently burning pallets on a log burner to keep warm as can't afford to have Gas Heating on. The only people who could afford such an increase are the extremely well off. Don't you get paid a fair amount anyway for being sat about most of the time and the majority of you have second jobs and you and The Police are asking for more money from the Taxpayers
I can't afford to shop at the moment
I cannot afford and increases
I cannot afford any more.
I can't afford any increase in my council tax as my income is fixed and cannot withstand ever increasing bills. Already I am eating into savings to pay for essentials. I don't think it is reasonable for Humberside Fire Service to expect to ask council tax payers for an increase every year as this would seem to show no regard for the cost of living crisis currently facing most households. For now I strongly feel that it is important to try our very best to live within our means.

I can't afford it
I can't afford to
I do not see them providing much value now, let alone paying them more.
I don,t get value for money.
I don't see what we would get for the increase?
I don't see why we should further pay any increase, this should come from central government.
I don't think the fire service is in need of it.... I would give more to nhs
I don't have enough money
I don't have the money to pay any increase
I feel the HUMBERSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE ask / take the lions shire of. the COUNCIL TAX. I see no difference in the service.
I feel the services need revamping not increasing in funding.
I feel we pay enough council tax already.
I fully understand this is just a paper exercise and the decision will have already been taken to increase the Precept. Every year at this time we are told by the Council, Fire Service,, Police Service and Parish Council that they each only need a little more. Well, a lot of little bits equal a big bit, yet we see no decreable increase in services. I feel each of these authorities should be held accountable by the public for their expenditure and until they are I cannot sanction any increase.
I have been asked if I would pay the increase for the police and I agreed as I feel I would call on the police service more than the fire service
I have never used the fire service in 69 years and think they should look at efficiency first.
I have no increase in my income.
I have no spare funds
I have no spare money
I have not seen any improvement over the last 10 years or more.
I live in Hessle, there are hundreds of houses been built or already built, that is thousands more council tax they are getting. My wages have not gone up and everything else is going up, how can we justify and afford this increase
I need the money so I can eat
I pay enough
I pay enough already for a poor service
I pay enough already you thieves
I pay enough I was a second gear valuation!! And put in council tax F band. My council tax is far greater than any mortgage payments that I ever had...
I pay enough through my council tax
I pay enough. You also get involved and spend money in areas you have no need to be, ie coastal rescues
I pay too much already in wrong tax band and council refuse to review
I simply can't afford my bills now so any increase will just cause more hardship.
I simply have no extra money to spare, even 22p per month. People on a good wage no doubt find this difficult to believe. Please do not pile on financial pressure.
I support all services but the cost of living has got unmanageable. Any increase just ads to the burden
I think more can be taken from the council tax payment already being paid
I think they are well equipped enough for the amount of incidents they attend and we'll enough trained ,how much technology do they need to fight a grass fire would rather pay more for social care
I think we pay enough
I think we pay enough already.
I think we pay enough council tax as it is and as my only income is state pension I just can't afford to pay any more
I was once a on call firefighter and I tried to get full time on a number of tries but you kept saying I was not good enough. So you expect me to sat you deserve a pay rise you do not.
I work for NHs and we didn't. Have increase for the past 10 years.
I would be quite happy to pay extra if I felt that current funding showed equality but it doesn't. Governments have failed In providing honest taxation, excess profits are allowed, non-doms pay little tax. But in the meantime the public face the consequences. Rather than increasing local taxation the authorities should be pressing the Government for more funding.
I'd pay more for police not fire
I've never seen a Humberside fire engine make it to Stamford Bridge!!
If I saw an increase in employment for fire and rescue I'd be happy to pay more. However given that there is no improvement in the service due to cutbacks, I won't be offering more money.
If the council was run like a private business instead of a job for the boys at stupid wages there would be need foo this. If this was a private business heads would have rolled years ago.
If the money was actually spent on firefighting/rescue equipment and pay I would not object, however when you can paint your vehicles in rainbow colours and push the dogma of diversity instead of just recruiting people who can do the best job regardless of who or what they are.
If you don't have sufficient funding already you should be asking how you can afford to fund staff for covid testing ,falls teams etc.

If you need extra money then reform the defined benefit pensions they and local government provide.
Im more than happy for the fire service to have more money but the majority of our cohncil tax bill goes to the council ..... and what do they actually do for us??? Cut the green bins down so we dont get them emptied weekly.... we pay our road tax for what?? Plenty of pot holes.... why cant they take some off what goes to the council and actually pay fire police ambulance etc more???
I'm skint
Im struggling to pay because of the gas and electric prices, food shopping.
In recent years we have paid a greater increase to the Police in North Lincolnshire than the rate of inflation but seen nothing for i
In the current economic climate a propos increase will be felt hard by all and there is little information provided on how any increase would be used to benefit those paying at times were any saving helps.
In the current economic climate it sends out the wrong message for yet someone else asking for a increase, no matter the amount. People have to learn to live within their means, so do the services. I do realise this survey is just a paper exercise and whatever the public say will be ignored and a increase will be forced upon us.
In these difficult times any increase will be a further problem for those that can least afford it
income not rising so where the hell are we supposed to find £ to fund all these rises, however moderate? And media say police solving crime is v poor so what are we funding? energycosts?please be clear
Increase in gas, electricity are my priority
Increase will fund hardship.
Increased energy payments, reduced pension due to inflation, higher costs of food due to inflation.
Increases to council tax are immoral during a cost of living crisis
Inflation and struggling to pay bills
Inflation on a pension does not help. Too much money wasted by council and services
Information regarding any increase already allowed for on previous year has not been included, so unsure if this is a request for additional monies which in light of current pressures on household incomes, doesn't seem appropriate at this time. An increase of some sort would be supported in line with inflationary pressures however.
It is enough that the council will stop wasting the money it already receives from us and allocate it for such purposes.
It is evident on occasions that HFRS over resource incidents particularly RTCs when smarter efficient use of available resources would be an efficiency saving. Equally HFRS are involved in other non-firefighting projects including co-responder schemes and Falls-teams. In these austere times all Public Sector organisations should be making efficiency savings
It is my understanding that the service has quite a good amount of money left over from the previous year so I don't believe any increase is warranted!
It's EVERY year you come cap in hand. The government should foot the extra cost not us AGAIN!!No doubt you'll be asking for more next year.
It's the same as the NHS!!! The money never gets down to the workers. It goes to the well paid management!!!! They are over managed and in Scunthorpe do very little!!!!
It's a difficult time to support increases
Its expensive enough as it is
Its Robin Hood in reverse. Take from the poor and give to the well salaried.
It's unaffordable
Iv never used rhe fire service.....ever! Also if any of this goes to the police i would stage a protest. I am a law abiding citizen and have need help from the police twice this year and both times I was told that basically I don't matter. What am I paying for???? and why would I pay more when i see nothing for my monet. Its madness
I've already had my council tax band increased from D to E and had to backpay the increase for the rest of the year. I can't afford to pay my bills as it is so no increase would be welcomed.
I've got no extra money and cannot afford to increase your funds..
I've not had a standard of living pay increase in 6 years - I can't afford any increases in bills.
I've only selected option 4 as the information provided is too high-level. The projected additional income you've provided within the consultation paper i.e. £0.76million / £1.42million / £2.27million, the number of people serviced being 900,000 and the stated 'significant financial challenges', I'd be interested to see further information of how seemingly low sums of additional money would really impact the service. We already know that council tax bills are going to rise wholesale, circa 5% (?) - wouldn't additional fire service funding be allocated from that?
Land owners are rich, mostly Tory voters, they can afford to pay to have their fires put out. The East riding is full of Firestations with doors plastered over with vinyl so we cant see how few engines are provided but a big silly sign outside the fire station in Beverlaaay about northern area command - what a waste of moneys
Learn to manage what is in the pot like all the residents of Hull and area.
lets wait and see what happens with inflation over the next 12 months as most people are struggling at the moment
Life is tough enough at the moment, try again next year
Limited fixed income. Cannot keep paying for increases and putting nothing back into the pot.
Limited income pensioner
LIVE IN A VILLAGE AND THE POLICE ARE NEVER SEEN, FEEL LIKE JUST WANT THE MONEY TO INCREASE SERVICE TO URBAN AREAS WHILST WE IN THE RURAL AREAS ARE FORGOTTEN
LOW PAY
Make better use of existing funds, improve efficiency etc
Make cuts to excess back office sections and increase number of firefighters

Manage your resources better stop wasting money
Money lack of it
Money far too tight already.
Money is tight
Money is tight already without more increases
Money is tight at the moment, taking extra money will harm those who really need it!
Money is very tight at the moment and we can't afford to pay any more
Money tight
Money too tight
Money too tight
More important things need addressing
More money needed in other areas - to benefit the poor
Most firemen have 2 jobs !!
My business has closed down and I amUnemployed
My council tax is expensive enough (band F) and cost of living increases are massive
My council tax bill is High enough ahead
My council tax is already extortionate and all I see from the council is activities wasting money.
My council tax is already too high.
My disposable income is zero
My income has not increased
My income is restricted, and every aspect of daily living has increased substantially, so I'm unwilling to pay more money for the fire and rescue service
My outgoings are currently far greater than my income and I do not want them to increase even further. Perhaps the fire service can cut back on some of their less important expenditure and forego any increase to the precept this year. Times are very hard!
My understanding is that public sector services should be paid from our taxes claimed through work salary. I believe public sector services are not paid enough but this should be lobbied at a higher level to come out of national taxes not local.
Never spend full budget and have plenty of budget left from years of underspending
New house builds has been on an all time high in recent years and therefore there must have been significant council tax gains from this. In addition with the cost of living crisis, it is simply unreasonable to ask for a penny more from people who are at breaking point.
No excess money to pay any increase
No increase can be justified
No mone
No money to pay for bills I already have Cannot afford any more
No money to spare for increases. Council taxes are exorbitant now. Time to stop the gravy train.
No more tax!!!
No raise needed
No transparency in where the money is going. Not prepared to fork out for their pension guarantees when my own is being diminished.
Nobody, I mean nobody can afford extra payouts as we hit the finicial dire straits
not everyone can expect an increase
Not everyone has the money to afford an increase people who are on state pension don't you think we are struggling already
Not in that band
Not required
Not seen any benefit from the police rises in previous years
Not value for money, struggle on what you've got by making cuts, like everyone else who doesn't have access to taxpayers money.
Nothing against fire service but we pay enough council tax and our council waste it
Now is not the time to increase sny element of local taxation. All organisations need to buckle down and make efficiencies to enable services to be undertaken at a lower cost.
oap on benefits
Once we agree to any increase, however small, the council will take this as carte blanche to hike levels year on year with no further consultation
Only on state pension
Other priority
Our council tax goes up every year so why should we pay more to these services
Our property is band H but we have no streetlights or footpaths, so feel that we are currently subsidising those who do have these facilities

Our wages haven't gone up, but everything else keeps going up. We can't manage, this (alongside the other increases that are due) will push us over the edge! If someone calls a service out, charge them a small fee, I'm sure they won't mind paying if they are needing help! When will this stop? We will all revert to being on benefits soon because it's a better choice, and that's a sad thought
over paid, over pensioned under worked, they all have spare time jobs because they get so much time off, wish we all did
over-paid, over-pensioned and underworked
Pay enough
pay enough
Pay enough already
Pay enough as it is
Pay enough as it is & with the cost of living crisis any increases would make people worse off
Pay enough council tax. Get government to fully fund local authorities
Pay enough into council taxes already
Pay enough now
pay out enough
Pay to much or ready
Paying enough already
Paying enough at the moment. Really feeling the pinch with inflation at over 11%
paying out enough already
paying too much for stuff now
Pensioner - cannot afford any increase
Pensioner need every penny and more
Pensioner on limited income
Pensioner short of money
Pensioners on basic pension
Pensions can only go so far ,look for ways to make the service more efficient.looking at the next questions ,don't see the need for the ethnicity ,age ,sex etc why ask these questions .that's a saving for you someone's time spent is wasteful
People are already struggling to make ends meet. The government need to sort this out
People are already struggling to pay just essential bills so I don't agree with raising the cost
People are hard up already, there's record inflation and the Council Tax is likely to go up more than ever.
People are struggling financially and every increase mounts up to cause hardship - you need to look at where you can make savings
People are struggling to meet their finances without making it worse
People are struggling to pay energy Bill's and struggling with the increase in their food budget. As a rural area we feel we get less of a service from most of the emergency services.
People are suffering financially and can not even afford the basics of food /heating. The monthly budget is not stretching even for essentials. Review increases when the cost of living crisis is stabilized .
People can not afford any more. Breaking point!
People just can't afford it at the moment, hold off for a year
People pay enough with increases in utility bills, food and other essentials. Perhaps an internal audit etc of actually who does what and for what income. Start at the top and start culling or increase peoples work load.
People should be more responsible for their own actions. Pay for the services when you need them.
Peoples lives are hell at this time with cost of living, TAKE NOTE, people are DESPERATE and have less money.
Please provide a reason for your choice
Police and ambulance need it more. They don't get to spend most night shifts in bed
Population is increasing yet fire provision has remained the same. Therefore you are getting a higher income regardless. It's a cost of living crisis.
Prefer not to say
Price Inflation
Prices are already out of reach and we get a poor service currently anyway.
Prices are high for all. No other public service is getting a pay rise.
Public expenditure must be kept very strictly under control
Public sector costs continue to rise and management (in my view) is part of the problem. Again and again the simple answer seems to be increase the precept/council tax, or any other stealth tax to pay whatever is requested. Whilst many services are vital there needs to be reform. Public sector employees receive excellent benefits, Final Salary Pension (Some only need to work 25 years!), Generous sick pay, duvet days, some have built up 48 days holiday! Flexi time, WFH, etc etc. Reform is the only way to break the circle of higher costs.
Purely cost of living crisis
Recession,
Reside in a Band E property and are already struggling to pay our bills.

Resources need to be used more efficiently.
Retained station in Driffield, no requirement for any increase.
Rising bills are already crippling a large number of families. Adding to the financial pressures of households in the area exacerbates the stress and pressure already being felt.
Run the council like a business and stop jobs for the boys on paying stupid wages, if this was a private business it would have sacked half of you. business
Save money by cutting all the woke policy's and Diversity Training etc. Trim the fat off the bone and divert money to people who actually fight fires. There is so much wastage everywhere in every service.
Savings can be made through reducing supervising and administration staff as well as reduction in issuing FREE household fire alarms.
Savings required
Scrap your diversity officers if you are short of money
See no value
Seen no benefit from police increase. Also cost of living crisis
Service are for all, so why should only some people pay increase
Service is adequate
Service is rubbish. Why pay for a bad service
Service poor parking issues on housing estate not Sorted
Service should be a national one- There is no need for 40 plus different authorities and all the duplicated admin functions- Cut out this waste and there is loads of money to run a fire service.
Services cost so much already.
Should be reorganised to push funding into core operational services and come away from community services which is funded through YOS and local authorities
Should have integrated with other emergency services when proposed. Work practices need updating radically.
Simply cannot afford any more increases what so ever as living hand to mouth as it is at the moment
Simply cannot afford it - we are pensioners!!! Our income does not increase in line with the cost of living.
Simply costs are rising for everyone
Some people haven't had a pay increase for 5years, so where does all this extra money come from?? Utilities have tripled, food has doubled, interest rates on mortgages have increased! When will hard working people be able to get a break from giving everything they earn back to the government!!!
Stop the crazy money spent on illegal immigrants.
Struggle enough with these payments
Struggling and this is just one more thing to worry about
Struggling to pay bills now without anymore increases
Struggling to pay in Goole as it is
sympathetic in principle but all these rises and no pay rise makes it unaffordable
Talk to our politicians, they seem to be the one getting rich whilst mere mortals are finding it hard to but food and heat homes!
Tax increases during a cost of living crisis are immoral
Tax is big enough without extra increase with little seen
Tax is high enough
Tax too expensive
Taxes High enough
The amount I pay at the moment should be adequate
The amount we pay is adequate
The cost of basic essentials has risen to such an extent that given an option to pay more, we just have to decline. Our pension rises by a tiny fraction and costs for food, and energy has ripped away the opportunity to pay for any luxuries.
the cost of everything is pushing everyone into poverty
The cost of living
The cost of living at the moment is causing people to not be able to afford basic things, further increases in anything would be crazy and would just compound people's misery
The cost of living increases are way to significant compared to the lack of wage rises. My annual take home due to this is equivalent to that in 2009.
The cost of living is high enough. No more increases in all sectors. Until waste full spending is eliminated.
The cost of public services is out of control, in particular salaries (which includes, pensions, generous sic pay, short working week, flexible hours, generous holidays etc etc) continue to increase costs. Whilst pay is important it must be remembered that the private sector who do not get these generous benefits have to pay for the public sector. So better control of costs, better management and financial responsibility is needed rather than simply continually choosing the easy option of plundering pockets rather than sorting out and dealing with the bigger issues.
The council tax is far to high as it is for the poor services we get
The current cost of living is having a negative impact on all
the current economic situation

The current level of fire service should be maintained by cutting other council services (for example by reduced government workers salary and expenses, or less funding for fake green washing initiatives) NOT by charging honest working people more for council tax, who already pay high costs for terrible services.
The current precept is sufficient.
The data from the FRS would suggest that in terms of efficiency , although rate good humberside is 17% more costly than merseyside which is rated outstanding in the category
The fire and rescue service is a comparatively well funded and well supported part of our local service provision. Most crucially the support they receive from charities and support groups mean that they are much well supported compared to local healthcare. I would prefer the money to spend on policing or on keeping the roads in good condition.
The Fire and Rescue Service should look at utilising it's funding for its service function. That function should not include employing people to run such unnecessary operations as 'My Community Alert'
The fire service absolutely COULD and SHOULD manage their finances better before begging off the public in a cost of living crisis. The government should provide additional funding if required.
The fire service could do more with their time. Money is not well spent and they have little to do in Scunthorpe. They mostly put out stolen moped fires or wheelie bin fires. They do not appear busy when seen out in the community. They are probably over managed too like the police service and nhs.
The fire service earn more than enough based on the time they spend idle !
The fire service employees earn a very good wage and have a standard of living far beyond many others in the public sector, I cannot agree an increase in funding for the fire service.
The Fire Service in Market Weighton doesn't get called out regularly so feel an increase is unjustified
The fire service need to have better cost controls in place, as money has been wasted by bad management for years. Everyone else is having to look at cost controls, why should the fire service be any different.
The government should be providing proper funding for our services. We should be putting pressure on them to do so rather than levying an additional tax burden on residents.
The government should pay and for nhs aswell we are on the breadline barely making ends meet while they wallow in wealth it's disgusting
The government should properly fund local councils so you don't have to ask for extra money from hard pressed locals.
The increase for last and this year combined is more than my increase in salary as a percentage overall
The increase should be coming from the government, they are taking enough off us in taxes, they need to spend it on services in our country instead of giving it to other countries
The money should be taken from what is already paid to the council as they don't do anything for the amount we pay them
The more monies paid to the local services will increase in direct proportion to the amount of service provided whether it is required or not. Plus any idiotic diversity training by the woke brigade.
The number of additional properties being built and each paying council tax, including a fire and rescue precept should mean that an increase for all households is not needed. Although the suggested amounts are small on their own small increases in numerous charges and bills adds up to significant amounts at a time when a lot of people are struggling
The price will be increased no matter what we say.
The public are paying for too much with no wage increases. I appreciate that this is potentially a small increase, but too much of a pressure.
The reason being the government should pay more rather than the average working man, who cannot afford anymore increases, it just never stops
The reason for my answer is in the present climate instead of increasing we should be looking at ways to reduce our bills instead of increasing i never see any police presence in Driffild our roads are atrocious
The Service has a surplus of several million pounds. Why do you want more?
The service has recorded an increase in money saved in the past two years with both years having an increase in council tax. Why ask for more money off the public when the service doesn't need more money to save. Should be lobbying the government for money not the members of the public especially when we are in a living crisis with gas and electricity bills.
The service needs to look at budget savings before increasing the precept.
The UK is experiencing a cost of living crisis
The unfair system needs changing. Why should I pay more when in a higher band property when I only get the same services. Everything is going up except my income.
There are fewer and fewer incidents, but more and more highly paid managers!
There are just too many increases in the cost of living to keep hiking prices everywhere
There are other ways to increase the charges
There have been no investments in the service on the south bank so if you want more money, tell the north bank councils to pay for it
There is a cost of living crisis
There is a cost of living crisis and your trying to squeeze more money out of people
There is a cost of living crisis. No matter how small people cannot afford all these increases, one after another after another. Money will only stretch so far increases
There is a cost of living crisis and everything thing is going up. I've had a meager payrise.
There is no information as to what each option funds, i.e. whether service would be cut back, remain the same or improvements so have chosen based on my increase or lack thereof on income!
There is no spare money in the household budget for increases, during this energy crisis, which will worsen into 2023.
There isn't a lot of spare cash at the moment
There's a limit to the outgoings families are able to sustain
There's no need to spend more

These are essential services and should be funded by the Government. Councils should be putting pressure on the Government to fund shortfalls
They don't spend the money wisely and we are all suffering poor wages too!!!
They get enough
They get lots of time off meaning many have time to take a second income. I would gladly pay extra for an increase for our armed forces who have to step in for every service that wants to strike !
Thin end of wedge,start of journey down never ending road ,I'm old enough to remember when water rates were separated from council tax
Things are difficult enough, with heating, food, fuel etc. There just isn't enough to go round
Things are hard enough and the increases over the last few years have been high
This consultation should only go to people who actually pay council tax and not those on benefits who are exempt.
This is the start of a very slippery slope. Get rid of some of the overpaid fat cats before going down this route
Times are financially very hard for everyone
Times are hard and any increase should be subsidised by government not hard working families
Times are hard and it's difficult because have less money
Times are hard and money is tight
Times are hard and no doubt the police will want an increase as . Also how much is spent on new equipment and where is that kit located on the south bank . I understand the fire service is there for emergencies but what would this increase fund ?
Times are hard financially
Times are hard. All these increases no matter how small add up and impact the working people who are already struggling . Every one thinks their service is import and can justify the increase but it's not fair on others. Savings should be made within.
Times are really hard at the moment and having to tighten our belts as had to cut down on putting heating on and prices for most things have gone up , but my wages are not increasing, so you should tighten your belt the same as everyone else .
Times are very hard as a person on minium wage job any increase is to much
Times are very hard for everyone, both local and central government need to realise that the "tax payer" is not a bottomless pit of money. Support is provided for pensioners and those on benefits, working people get no support so cannot afford to hand Council more money
To much money is already wasted on woke training and non core activities, Go back to basics of fighting fires.
Too expensive
Too expensive already
Too expensive already.
Too many chiefs in highly paid office jobs. We already pay enough.
Too many cost increases everywhere else
Too many managers sucking up the money just like the broken nhs service!! Overmanaged.
Too many people on this island
Too much in current climate
Too much tax already, everything is going up, no money
Too much waste within the service already
Trim some of the management fat, as we have had to do.
Unable to afford any extra
Unable to afford any increase . Council should be looking at options to reduce council tax.
Unable to afford more
Unable to afford most bills
Unable to afford. Cuts to support services and senior leadership if money required.
Unable to pay
Unaffordable by me.
Unfortunately Humberside Fire & Rescue have just cost me £75. Fire Engine went passed me and flicked up a stone that cracked my car windscreen, not very happy.
Unfortunately the cost of living is taking its toll on everyone except the rich who can afford increases. I would recommend that you target people via how much they earn.
Unless local appliances are returned, I.e., Waltham, Cleethorpes, then we would not be willing to increase our contributions. We appreciate the fire services and the work they do, however listing flooding as potential usage of further funding seems highly irrelevant considering we have been many years without any flooding locally.
Until normal working shift patterns ie awake and working and retiring at 67 are adopted why should we pay more ?
Use money you are currently allocated more efficiently and cut spurious management posts. Woke diversity ect
Very hard times financially with cost of living crisis.
We already ay far to much tax
We already pay a large amount of council tax and over the years the services have become poorer ie waiting times for ambulances but especially the nearly non existent policing in my area.I refuse point blank to pay anymore until services are improved.
We already pay enough for these local services. If they need more funding they should make cuts or economies.



We already pay enough via Bank G
We already pay for the service and any increase would not be reflected in increased service
we already pay more than sufficient, look to make real savings in none essential areas where money is wasted
We already pay to much
We already pay too much- band G
We already pay too much for the services we are given
We are all finding hard in these uncertain times and everyone wants increases
We are already finding it difficult to pay the current council tax charge as well as other day to day living costs.
We are already stretched with the cost of living increase however I feel we already pay a substantial amount which I was always led to believe covered the situations highlighted.
We are cutting back on heating so we can afford to eat so are dreading the council tax rises
We are in a recession and we can't afford an increase the rates will go up the town precept will increase and on top of all that there is the police and fire services .
We are in band F and it's already £3,000 a year
We are in band g, our council tax is already a huge amount of money, we cannot afford to pay any more
We are in in Band F which is nearly £3,000 a year and we are pensioners. The increases should be based on the number of people in the household. But then again the don't pay brigade expect everything free. The increase should be based on the ability to pay not historic out of date house valuations.
We are Paying enough Council tax and nothing to show for it
We are paying over the odds for everything there has to be stop limit people are struggling on a daily basis.
We are pensioners and all our outgoings have gone up enormously. How can we fund this too - particularly as the Fire Service wastes money painting fire engines rainbow colours/pink etc: just stick to putting fires out/rescuing people please. And don't expect us to fund you any more than we already do.
We are struggling as it is myself and my husband are on minimum pay and con not afford to pay any more
We are struggling has it is.
We can not afford it.
We can't afford any more cost increases due to the high energy prices, sorry.
We can't afford it.
We cannot afford increased charges we are forced to pay to boost the public purse when we are struggling with personal cost increases to stay warm and fed.
We can't afford it
We don't have enough money as it is!
We don't have many fires these days because of circuit breakers and as far as traffic accidents the firemen would do better if they were out on the road in lay-bys not asleep in the stations
We don't have enough money to feed us and bill we can't keep given out money we don't have.
We have had no service in our nearby community in years
We have never used the fire service, the police don't usually do anything and we have used an ambulance once which, took forever to arrive.
We have no police service
We just don't have the money in our pockets anymore
We need to cost cut and achieve a more focused and streamlined approach. Cost of living for all has really cut peoples real disposable income so maybe all authorities should also tighten their belts
WE PAY ENOUGH
We pay enough
We pay enough already
We pay enough already
We pay enough already!
We pay enough already, for less services
we pay enough already. and you are on good money and have the option to take a second job,
We pay enough and you need to manage your budget better.
We pay enough as it is. Why don't you take the extra 60 odd pence off the universal credit users?
We pay enough council tax
We pay enough council tax as it is let alone increasing it yet again the cost of living crisis is hitting us all hard and no one can afford there bills without unnecessary increases
We pay enough in council tax for ever diminishing services, I'm not prepared more for a workforce that aren't particularly productive or proactive and spend half their time in bed!!
We pay enough now
We pay enough or ready

We pay enough tax with hardly anything to show for it anymore, nevermind the constant energy price Increase, food price increase, other bills and cost of living
We pay enough towards our council tax. Fire Service get paid enough for working 8 or 9 24hour shifts a month. They then work 2nd jobs. We shouldn't need to pay towards that
We pay enough we have a cost of living crisis on at the moment
We pay enough!!!
We pay far too much
We pay full pop's for everything & have never asked for public support, we are pensiable age and always worked, never had any additional support and managed so this generation should adopt this criteria
We pay more than enough! Who dreamt up this Precept nonsense?.
We pay to much already
We pay to much already , how much more do you think we can afford ?....you can bet the council tax will be going up another 5% next year atleast . Enough is enough , why don't the council stop wasting money ...start at the top and get rid of some of the over paid ....that might help !!
We pay too much now
We should I fund someone who is on strike!
We're all paying enough and we're all getting poorer every year we all have tax tax tax and nothing ever gets done
We're retired and still pay tax on pensions now.
Weary of paying significantly more for everything . The squeeze on finances is becoming unbearable.
We're paying out enough
We're paying too much now, Used to live in the South its cheaper in Berkshire than here !!!!!!!
We're really struggling. Any increase will have an impact - you can't look at it in isolation.
Were taxed to the hilt as it is.
What do you actually do not an awful lot try working one job like nhs staff not 2 as main job ie fire spent sleeping
What improvements will there be for an increase in funding?
what will the money be used for? in principle I back wage increases but many of us are also struggling, and dpubt any increase to you will benefit workers. will it be used to offset energy prices etc?
When I can afford to heat my home I would then consider an increase.
When you have staff on 24 hour shifts so they can sleep at night. The police, nhs. And many organisations do not.
where do we get money to pay any increase
Where not made of money
Why ask, you have never listened before. Hundreds of new houses are being built in our area you will, as will the council, benefit from a huge increase in council tax revenue.
Why pair more for one service when everyone else in the public sector gets less
Widow cannot afford increase
With Covid-19, we have seen increases everywhere, It is time they stopped. We should all refuse to pay more for things, and it has to start somewhere.
With everything going up in price, people especially some pensioners and low incomes this is becoming too much.
With inflation going up day by day a hold on any services/taxes should be put on hold
With inflation money already very tight and a further financial burden will take me and others over the cliff.
With inflation there is a limit to what pensions permit us to spend.
With prices increasing daily this council shouldn't be punishing the ordinary working people
With the cost of living crisis, bills have gone up enough
With the cost of living rising, I am not be to pay anymore
With the cost of living, this would put more pressure on our household income. This wouldn't be affordable.
With the increase in cost of living it is impacting us. If I really had to option 1 would be the only increase I would find acceptable but prefer no increase
With the ongoing cost of living crisis and the increasing cost of energy families and households cannot afford additional increases for public services.
Would have thought with all the new property being built that there would be plenty of money in pot.so that it never went up
Would rather pay extra towards policin
Wrong timing
Year long year increase for a reduction in service.
Year on year increases, reduce staff in your safety section and do more online if needs be. Review your staff wages and look at higher paid staff, what do they do ? Can you reduce back room staff ? This will not affect your front line staff or fire tenders
You are going on strike and you want us to pay more, think about it. The amount of money us the tax payer has spent already training to cover when you are on strike would have paid for an extra increase, you have a cheek even asking
You asked the same question last year. Try asking me if I need a pension increase.

You get enough
You have not provided a reason for the increase and what you would spend it on. Had there been more information I would have selected an increase dependant on what was being offered by each potential increase.
You have not said how each of the 4 options would impact on the services that you provide - so how do you expect to decide which to support.
You have reported significant year on year underspends, last year to some £900'000, it is utterly absurd with that being the case that you would ask me to increase my contribution during a period of unprecedented financial hardship to households. Your reasons of 'protecting us from grassland fires and flooding' are also incredibly weak as over the summer I personally witnessed firefighters dealing exceptionally well with fires in fields etc and your website states that you already have a significant capability for dealing with flooding incidents.
You keep underspending the budget, so you have enough money to run the fire service
You should be demanding more funding from the Government not asking people who are struggling to pay their bills and put food on their tables to pay more. This is shameful.
You should be making savings like the rest of us
You waste money and why ask, you will put it up anyway
You waste money already
You waste too much money already

### Responses outside of the survey = 3

I don't want any increase at all in the precept. People are hard up as it is. I think it's a damn disgrace that you falsely claim to be 'consulting' the public (see above), I don't think the service provides good value for money and I also see that strikes are forecast shortly. Great service!
If you need more cash, reduce the Council Chief Ex and senior managers salary to what he/she to represent the actual input they make.
I have a real concern that in society we are currently placing more pressure on those who are decent citizens, the people who take on their social and moral responsibility.  I like many people do the following:  Drive within the rules, using a safe and maintained car. Have fitted smoke and gas sensors in my home. Unplug electrical devices at night or when not in use. Do not set fires to dispose of waste.  Why is it that for most taxpayers we must suffer increases in our tax to cover those who are not taking on their social responsibility. Should it not be the case that following a road traffic accident it is the person at fault insurance that should cover the cost for the fire service.  After many years of advertising, new homes fitted with smoke sensors etc why should the taxpayers continue to fund fire awareness for domestic properties. Simply make having a smoke sensor mandatory in our region. Should an inspector call and there is no detector a fine should be issued.  When faced with a cost as a consequence to not following rules in general people follow the rules. If I burst a pipe in my home while doing some DIY than I cover the cost for a repair or claim on the insurance. If I set fire to my home the fire service, make everyone else pay the bill for putting out the fire. This is wrong the home insurance or person setting the fire should face the cost.  There is now a saying (you can no longer police those who no longer want to be policed). More than ever criminals are not being correctly punished for crime, they are not made to pay for the cost to police them again its down to those who accept to be policed.  As an example of how we are now accepting and pacifying those who refuse to have any social or moral responsibility, I watched the local news were a young woman while being interviewed had a cigarette in one hand, packet of cigarettes in the other and was covered in tattoos. Talking about how she needed a food bank as she could no longer afford food. Ridiculous. These are also the type of people who do not follow the social rules we all live by. I personally am completely fed up as are many having to work hard and then be expected to pay for those that fail to be reasonable for themselves.  It is the same problems in the NHS, thousands of requests every year for an ambulance when not needed, these calls should be charged. Any person turning up at A&E with a sports injury should pay for the treatment once over 18 years old. Most people doing sports will pay hundreds for sports equipment, maybe 50 pounds a year for insurance is now needed to reduce the cost to the NHS. Social responsibility must be put high on the list if we are to have a fair society.  Sorry for the rant but funding methods need to change, a fair tax charge for service is correct but funds need to be raised by charging for services to those who use it.



**Humberside Fire Authority**  
**10 February 2023**

**Report by Executive Director of  
 Finance/S151 Officer**

## **FEES AND CHARGES 2023/24**

### **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 In accordance with relevant Fire Service Acts, Fire Authorities have the discretion to charge for special services performed (where there is no immediate threat of fire) and for services relating to training, fire safety and administration. The total income for the Fire Authority generated through these sources was circa £1k in 2021/22.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the revised charges shown in Appendices A and B be approved with effect from 1 April 2023.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 SPECIAL SERVICES AND OTHER CHARGES**

The revised charges proposed at Appendix A reflect the following:-

- Staff related costs – charges are normally uplifted in line with firefighter's pay award. The firefighters pay award for 2022 is yet to be settled but it is proposed that the charge is increased by 6% and will be adjusted in 2024 to reflect the actual pay award.
- Non staff related costs – charges are uplifted in line with Consumer Price Index (CPI) at September 2022 which was 10.1%.

#### **3.2 PENSION SHARING ON DIVORCE**

Fire Service Circular 17/2001 advised Fire Authorities on the charges they may levy when dealing with cases of pension sharing involving serving members of the Firefighter's Pension Scheme or pensioners. The charges for 2023/24 have been uplifted by 7.75% which is a combination of the average green book pay award increase for 2022/23 plus the 2021/22 pay award which hadn't been settled by the time the 2022/23 charges had been set.

### **5. RESOURCING/FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY**

- 5.1 The annual inflationary uplift of fees and charges ensures that the Fire Authority continues to recover reasonable costs for chargeable services.

### **6. RISK/ HEALTH AND SAFETY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 No direct issues arising but the Authority has discretion to charge for certain activities and the inflationary uplift of fees and charges is good practice.

### **7. LINKAGES TO ANY STRATEGIC/CORPORATE PLANS/POLICIES**

- 7.1 No direct issues arising.

### **8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There is no requirement to carry out an equality impact analysis as this report does not relate to a policy or service delivery change.

## **9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 That Members approve the revised charges shown in Appendices A and B with effect from 1 April 2023.

**Kevin Wilson**  
**Executive Director of Finance/S151 Officer**

### **Officer Contact**

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### **Background Papers**

2021/22 NJC Local Government pay rates

2022/23 NJC Firefighter and Local Government pay rates

**SPECIAL SERVICES**  
**REVISED CHARGES FROM 1 APRIL 2023**

	Current Charge £	Revised Charge £
<b>OPERATIONAL</b>		
<b>1. Personnel</b>		
Total personnel hours to be rounded up to the next hour		
Grade 1	17.25	18.25
Grade 2	18.25	19.25
Grade 3	18.25	19.25
Grade 4	19.54	20.75
Grade 5	22.00	23.25
Grade 6	25.00	26.50
Grade 7	27.25	29.00
Grade 8	30.25	32.00
Grade 9	35.00	37.00
Firefighter	36.00	38.25
Grade 10	38.00	40.28
Crew Manager	39.00	41.25
Watch Manager Training	40.00	42.50
Grade 11	42.50	45.00
Watch Manager	43.50	46.00
Watch Manager FDS	44.50	47.25
Station Manager	44.50	47.25
Grade 12	47.00	49.75
Grade 13	51.25	54.25
Grade 13a	53.75	57.00
Grade 13b	57.00	60.50
Group Manager	51.25	54.25
Station Manager FDS	52.25	55.50
Group Manager FDS	61.25	65.00
Director	88.50	93.75
Executive Director	113.25	120.00
DCFO	117.50	124.50
CFO	138.00	146.25
Total personnel hours for professional advice to be rounded to the next hour (COMAH sites)	56.75	60.25
<b>2. Vehicles</b>		
Number of hours for each vehicle to be rounded up to the next hour		
a. Pumping appliance	141.50	155.75
b. Aerials	291.50	321.00
c. Light portable pumps	46.50	51.25
Aquator, ejector, deep lifts	27.50	30.25
d. Vehicles (all classes) – training or carrying	53.00	58.25

	Current Charge £	Revised Charge £
<b>3. Equipment</b>		
Charge per day/part day (collection and return by hirer)		
a. Hose (per length)	17.00	18.75
b. Branch and nozzle	15.00	16.50
c. Salvage sheet	17.00	18.75
d. Lighting unit/generator	43.50	48.00
<b>4. Testing/repairing equipment</b>		
a. Hose testing – per length	30.50	33.50
b. Hose repairs – per patch	17.00	18.75
c. Tying-in couplings – per pair	40.00	44.00
d. Recharge cylinders	30.50	33.50
<b>NON-OPERATIONAL</b>		
<b>5. Administrative</b>		
a. Copies of extracts of fire reports	102.00	112.25
b. Interviews with officers (per officer per occasion)	126.00	138.75
c. Photographs per Compact Disc	21.00	23.25
1st Hard Copy Photograph	29.50	32.50
2nd and Subsequent Photograph	4.00	4.50
<b>6. Maintenance of Fire Equipment</b>		
a. Fixed charge	15.50	17.00
b. Per item inspected	4.00	4.50
c. Hourly rate	31.00	34.25
d. Minimum charge	18.50	20.50



**CHARGES IN 2023/24 FOR INFORMATION  
RE : DIVORCE CASE ENQUIRIES AND SETTLEMENTS  
CURRENT SCHEME MEMBERS (including deferred pensioners)**

<b><u>Type of Information/Service requested</u></b>	<b>Current Charge £</b>	<b>Revised Charge £</b>
One cash equivalent transfer value (CETV) in any 12 month period (provided to scheme member)		
Further CETV in any 12 month period (charge is recoverable from scheme member)	212.00	228.50
Other information (i.e. form E, letter from Solicitor or request from scheme member on behalf of Solicitor or Court)	106.00	114.00
<b><u>EARMARKING ORDER</u></b>		
One off initial cost for setting up (payable by - as decided by the Court Order, the payment should be enclosed when copy order sent to Corporate Finance & Procurement Section)	74.50	80.50
Payment of one off Lump Sum under the earmarking order - over and above the set up costs. (payable by the scheme member, the payment should be enclosed when the copy order sent to Corporate Finance and Procurement Section)	74.50	80.50
Periodic payments - over and above the set up cost (payable by the scheme member as an annual deduction taken from their pension in April each year)	74.50	80.50
<b><u>PENSION SHARING ORDER</u></b>		
One off set up/administrative charge (payable by - as decided by the Court Order or if not specified, by the Ex-Spouse of the scheme member, payment should be enclosed when copy Court Order sent to Corporate Finance and Procurement Section)	1,055.00	1,137.00



**Humberside Fire Authority**  
**10 February 2023**

**Report by Monitoring Officer &  
 Secretary**

## **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2023/24**

### **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Fire Authority on an annual basis considers and approves a scheme of allowances paid to its Members. The approval of the scheme is a matter for the full Authority.
- 1.2 Allowances payable to Independent Co-opted Members of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny (GAS) Committee are aligned with the payments made to the Members when carrying out their duties as Members of the Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) of Humberside Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Authority is asked to determine its Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2023/24 (see Appendix 2).

### **3. BACKGROUND AND REPORT DETAIL**

- 3.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 made provision for Combined Fire Authorities to establish Member Allowances Schemes from May 2003.
- 3.2 The Fire Authority has frozen basic and special responsibility allowances since 2008/09.
- 3.3 Recognising that Members of the JIAC for Humberside Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside are paid an attendance allowance based on the rates set by the Home Office for attendance at Appeals Tribunals, the Authority has agreed that the Independent Co-opted Members of the GAS Committee are paid on a similar basis and that they receive an annual allowance (paid monthly rather than an as attendance allowance) calculated on the same basis as that adopted for the JIAC.
- 3.4 Appendix 1 to this report sets out the current Members' Allowances Scheme, as of 1 April 2022.
- 3.5 The Authority is asked to consider and approve a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2023/24, a proposal of which is set out at Appendix 2. The Authority is required to have regard to the recommendations made by any Independent Remuneration Panels in relation to any Authority that has an Independent Remuneration Panel that nominates Members to the Fire Authority. The Members' Allowances Schedule for the four Unitary Authorities in Humberside are available for viewing on the respective Unitary Authorities' websites.
- 3.6 The 2022/23 Members' Allowances Scheme must be published by Public Notice on 1 April (or as soon as practicable thereafter). The actual allowances paid during 2023/24 will also be published as soon as practicable thereafter.

### **4. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There is no requirement to carry out an equality impact analysis as this report does not relate to a policy or service delivery change

## **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The Authority is asked to determine its Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2023/24 (see Appendix 2).

**Lisa Nicholson**  
**Monitoring Officer & Secretary**

### **Officer Contact**

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### **Background Papers**

None

### **Glossary/Abbreviations**

GAS	Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee
JIAC	Joint Independent Audit Committee

**HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2022/23**

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 made provision for Combined Fire Authorities to establish Member Allowances Schemes from May 2003.

The HFA at its meeting on 11 February 2022 agreed that the allowances be frozen at their current level for 2022/23 as set out below.

	£
1. Basic Allowance (per annum)	
All Members	4,457
2. Special Responsibility Allowances:	
a. The Chair of the Authority	11,137
b. The Vice Chair of the Authority	8,356
c. The Chairs of Committees	561
3. Independent Co-opted members of the GAS Committee	
a. Chairperson of the Committee	£1,680/year (£140 per month) *
b. All other Members of the Committee	£1,480.50 each/year (£123.375 per month) *
4. Childcare & Dependant Carer Allowances (per hour)	
a. Childcare	5.80
b. Dependant	10.40
5. Travel Allowances	
a. Car Allowances – In accordance with the National Joint Council for Local Government Services casual user rate:	
Up to 999cc	0.469**
Over 999cc	0.522**
(up to first 8,500 miles per annum, thereafter £0.144*)	
b. Motorcycle	0.240
c. Bicycle (per mile)	0.05
d. Public Transport	Actual Cost
6. Subsistence Allowances	
Actual cost not exceeding	
a. Breakfast – more than 4 hours before 11.00am	6.46
b. Lunch – more than 4 hours including 12noon to 2.00pm	8.92
c. Tea – more than 4 hours including 3.00pm to 6.00pm	3.50
d. Dinner – more than 4 hours ending after 7.00pm	11.03
e. Overnight (covering 24 hours)	
London #	136.40
Outside London	120.42
f. Out of Pocket Expenses (per night)	4.92

<b>Notes</b>
# Includes Local Government Association and Annual Fire Conferences overnight attendances outside London.
* Based on 7 meetings a year it recognises that Members of the Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) for Humberside Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside are paid an attendance allowance based on the rates set by the Home Office for attendance at Appeals Tribunals. The Authority has agreed that the Independent Co-opted Members of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny (GAS) Committee should be paid on a similar basis, and that they receive an annual allowance (paid monthly rather than an as attendance allowance) calculated on the same basis as that adopted for the JIAC. Mileage and bridge toll costs will continue to be met as before. The only exceptions to the above remuneration arrangements for Independent Co-opted Members of the GAS Committee will be on the very rare occasions when they might be asked to attend training arranged for them in support of their role e.g. Treasury Management training when such attendance will qualify for the one-off £26 hourly rate + travel expenses + bridge tolls. In addition, for attendance at HFA Member Days/HFA meetings, GAS Committee Members will be reimbursed for their travel expenses and bridge tolls.
** Not increased by NJC since 1 April 2010

**HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2023/24 -  
PROPOSED DRAFT SCHEME FOR PUBLICATION**

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 made provision for Combined Fire Authorities to establish Member Allowances Schemes from May 2003.

The Fire Authority, at its meeting of 10 February 2023, agreed that the allowances for Elected Members be frozen at their current level for 2023/24 as set out below.

	£
<b>1. Basic Allowance (per annum)</b>	
All Members	4,457
<b>2. Special Responsibility Allowances:</b>	
a. The Chair of the Authority	11,137
b. The Vice Chair of the Authority	8,356
c. The Chairs of Committees	561
<b>3. Independent Co-opted Members of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny (GAS) Committee</b>	
a. Chairperson of the Committee	£1,680/year (£140 per month)*
b. All other Members of the Committee	£1,480.50 each/year (£123.375 per month)*
<b>4. Childcare &amp; Dependant Carer Allowances (per hour)</b>	
a. Childcare	5.80
b. Dependant	10.40
<b>5. Travel Allowances</b>	
a. Car Allowances - In accordance with the National Joint Council for Local Government Services casual user rate:	
Up to 999cc	0.469**
Over 999cc	0.522**
(up to first 8,500 miles per annum, thereafter £0.144*)	
b. Motorcycle	0.240
c. Bicycle (per mile)	0.05
d. Public Transport	Actual Cost
<b>6. Subsistence Allowances</b>	
Actual cost not exceeding	
a. Breakfast - more than 4 hours before 11.00am	6.46
b. Lunch - more than 4 hours including 12noon to 2.00pm	8.92
c. Tea - more than 4 hours including 3.00pm to 6.00pm	3.50
d. Dinner - more than 4 hours ending after 7.00pm	11.03
e. Overnight (covering 24 hours)	
London #	136.40
Outside London	120.42
f. Out of Pocket Expenses (per night)	4.92

**Notes**

\* Based on 7 meetings a year it recognises that Members of the Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) for Humberside Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside are paid an attendance allowance based on the rates set by the Home Office for attendance at Appeals Tribunals. The Authority has agreed that the Independent Co-opted Members of the GAS) Committee should be paid on a similar basis, and that they receive an annual allowance (paid monthly rather than an as attendance allowance) calculated on the same basis as that adopted for the JIAC. Mileage and bridge toll costs will continue to be met as before. The only exceptions to the above remuneration arrangements for Independent Co-opted Members of the GAS Committee will be on the very rare occasions when they might be asked to attend training arranged for them in support of their role e.g. Treasury Management training when such attendance will qualify for the one-off £26 hourly rate + travel expenses + bridge tolls. In addition, for attendance at HFA Member Days/HFA meetings, GAS Committee Members will be reimbursed for their travel expenses and bridge tolls.

\*\* Not increased by NJC since 1 April 2010

# Includes Local Government Association and Annual Fire Conferences overnight attendances outside London.