

Report of the Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel ('The Panel')

to the

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire ('The PFCC')

with regard to:

**The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire's
Draft Fire and Rescue Service Budget and Precept 2022/23**

We are required under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to consider, and report our views formally to you, on your proposed Budget/Precept for the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service for 2022/23. Accordingly, we considered those proposals at our meeting on 14 February 2022.

We have the power to veto your Precept if we consider it to be too low or too high. In the event of the veto being exercised, a revised proposed Precept would be required from you.

You attended the 14 February 2022 Panel meeting accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner, Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) for the Fire and Rescue Service and the Interim Chief Executive for the Staffordshire Commissioners Office.

In your introduction to the report, you explained that the Settlement Funding for 2022/23 had been confirmed at £13.652million, made up of; Revenue Support Grant (RSG) which had been set at £4.923million; Local Business Rates revenue of £2.670million and Business Top up of £6.059million. It was noted that the RSG had reduced by £9million since 2012. You informed the Panel that the total budget requirement for the service was £42,472million and that you proposing to part fund the balance from Council Tax funding of £28.532 million and proposed an increase of 1.99% per annum (£1.57 pa per Band D property), in addition to the declared collection fund surplus of £0.288 million.

it was explained that the Pay costs for 2022/23 had increased by £1 million due to an assumption of a pay increase of 3% and that there was significant risks and uncertainties beyond 2022/23 which included the impact of further national pay awards, implications of the Sargeant/McCloud High Court judgment on pension costs and risks associated with cost increases and the upcoming formula funding review and high levels of inflation. All of which made future planning a challenge.

The proposed Precept was supported by the Treasury Management Strategy, the Reserves Strategy and Capital Strategy and Capital Programme for the Service.

The Panel unanimously agreed to support the 1.99% increase in the Fire and Rescue Authority Precept for 2022/23 and would monitor the transformation programme through the regular MTFS updates.

Councillor T Holmes

Chairman for the meeting

On behalf of the Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel.