

Decision Note – Fire & Rescue Precept 24/25



REQUEST FOR DECISION BY THE STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

	Policing:	Crime:	Fire & Rescue:
This decision relates to:			x

APPROVAL (for completion by Staffordshire Commissioner only)

Rationale for approval

STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

Signature

Date 26th February 2024

Date decision required by: 7th March 2024 (Fire SGB)


If an urgent approval is required, please state reasons:

For completion by Staffordshire Commissioner's Office only:-

Decision Number: SCF/D/202425/001

Date Received: 29 February 2024

	Yes	No
Has the required decision been considered under the guidance of the Staffordshire Commissioner's Decision Making Policy?	X	
Has the required decision been deemed to be a Key Decision as defined within the Staffordshire Commissioner's Decision Making Policy?	X	
Who is empowered to make the required decision? Staffordshire Commissioner		

Title	Precept (Council Tax) levels for 24/25
Summary: The Commissioner is required to set the precept Fire & Rescue before the start of the new financial year. In doing so he puts forward precept proposals to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel which they are required to consider. Under legislation the Panel has the power to veto the precept proposals if they deem them too high or too low. The Police, Fire and Crime Panel registered their support for the Fire & Rescue precept on 12th February 2024. The proposal was for a 2.99% increase (£2.52) per annum, increasing the council tax to £86.77 per annum for a Band D property.	
Recommendation: That the Fire and Rescue precept is set as £86.77 for a Band D property from 1 April 2024.	
Chief Executive I hereby approve the recommendation for consideration.	
Signature	 Date 27 th February 2024

REPORT AND ADVICE TO THE STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

1. Introduction and background

The Commissioner is required to set the precept for both Police & Crime and Fire & Rescue before the start of the new financial year. It is a legal requirement to set the precept in good time to issue council tax leaflets and bills for the forthcoming financial year.

In doing so he puts forward precept proposals to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel which they are required to consider. Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Panel has the power to veto the precept proposals if they deem them too high or too low.

The Police, Fire and Crime Panel registered their support for the Fire & Rescue precept on 12th February 2024. The proposal was for a 2.99% increase (£2.52) per annum, increasing the council tax to £86.77 per annum for a Band D property.

The Panel confirmed their support in reports to the Commissioner.

2. Issues for consideration

The issues are explored in the budget suite of documents which were presented to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel on the 12th February 2024.

The link to these papers is in section 9 below.

3. What other options have been considered?

4. Consultation and Engagement undertaken

A budget consultation was undertaken with Staffordshire residents, the results are included within the budget papers linked in section 9.

Report Implications

5. Monitoring Officer comments:

Signature

Date

1st March 2024



6. Section 151 Officer comments:

In overall terms when considering the degree of review and scrutiny that has already taken place and the mitigating actions and controls referred to within the budget report for 2024/25, which also includes the overall reserves position and capital strategy, the Section 151 Officer, has given the reassurances required under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003.


Signature



Date 29 February 2024

	Yes	No
Has legal advice (outside of that provided by the Monitoring Officer) been sought on the content of this report?		N/A
7. Legal Comments:		
8. Equality Comments – N/A		
9. Background/supporting paper Agenda for Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel on Monday 12th February 2024, 10:00am - Staffordshire County Council		
Please answer the following questions	Yes	No
10. Public access to information?	x	
11. Does this decision involve the processing of personal data? (If yes please attach a completed Data Impact Assessment)		x
12. Is the publication of this form to be deferred? (If yes approx. how long?)		x
13. Does this form contain commercial or operationally sensitive information which is to be redacted? (If yes, please provide details with the submission of this note)		x

14. ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Author	Katharine Ross
Signed	
Date	26 th February 2024