



Request for a Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner Decision

SECTION 1

Please identify who is requesting the decision:			
OPFCC Decision		Decision Number:	
CCFRA Decision	Y	Decision Number:	CF 020/2024
Constabulary Decision		Decision Number:	

(Please indicate whether this is a PART 1 or PART 2 decision (For Part 2 decisions, only the Section 1 is to be published))

PART 1 Decision:	Y	PART 2 Decision:	
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DECISION TITLE: 2025/26 Budget, Medium Term Financial Forecast, Reserves Strategy and Charging Policy

Executive Summary: (no more than 100 words)

The Commissioner is asked to approve the revenue budget, capital budget, reserves strategy and charging policy for 2025/26 and the level of council tax to support the budget, having taken into account the advice of the CCFRA Chief Finance Officer in his report on the robustness of the proposed budgets. The papers provide provisional financial information for the years 2026/27 to 2029/30 and for 10 years in respect of the capital programme and reserves.

Recommendation:

The Commissioner is asked to:

- note the CCFRA Chief Financial Officer's report on the robustness of the budget 'the Local Government Act 2003 Requirements' report (appendix A to Item 9A), taking into account his advice in respect of his decisions on the proposed budgets.

- Approve Appendix B of the attached report ‘Cumbria Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority (CCFRA) Budget 2025/26, Proposed Precept Level and Financial Forecasts 2025/26 to 2029/30 (item 9A) which sets out the budget resolution for decision by the Commissioner in order to formally approve the level of council tax precept. In the context of the budget resolution, it is recommended that:
 - a) The revenue budgets outlined in the report and appendices be approved, having regard to the Local Government Act 2003 Requirements report
 - b) That the budget requirement for 2025/26 be set on the basis of the amount within the budget resolution at appendix B
 - c) The council tax for Band D properties be approved at £98.19 for 2025/26, an increase of £4.95 or 5.31%, being the amount within the budget resolution
- Approve the Reserves Strategy for 2025/26 which is provided within item 9A.
- Approve the Charging Report for 2025/26 which is provided as a separate report (item 9B)

Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner

I confirm that I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for Cumbria Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner. Any such interests are recorded below.

I hereby:

approve

do not approve

the recommendations as set out above.

Delete as appropriate:

Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner / Chief Executive (delete as appropriate)

Signature:

David Allen

Date: 04/02/2025

SECTION 2

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS BELOW WITH FACTS AND ADVICE FOR THE PFCC

1. Introduction & Background

- 1.1 It is a legal requirement for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to annually set a balanced budget and to allocate funds to the Chief Fire Officer to secure the maintenance of the Fire and Rescue Service for Cumbria. The attached reports set out the proposed budgets and the advice of the CCFRA Chief Finance Officer regarding their approval.

2. Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 Please see attached reports. The Local Government Act 2003 report sets out the primary issues for consideration in approving the proposed budgets.

3. Implications

(List and include views of all those consulted, whether they agree or disagree and why. Must be completed prior to submission).

- 3.1. Financial
As set out in the attached reports
- 3.2. Legal
It is a legal requirement to annually set a balanced budget and determine the police precept.
- 3.3. Risk
The Local Government Act 2003 report documents the risks to the financial forecasts. Specific operational reserves and contingencies and general balances have been set at a level that in the view of the CCFRA Chief Finance Officer is reasonable in the context of those risks that it is possible to provide for.
- 3.4. HR / Equality
The proposed budget provides resources used by the Fire and Rescue Service. The Commissioner has arrangements in place to hold the Chief Fire Officer to account in respect of the Public Sector Equality Duty. The budget is subject to an equality impact assessment. The 2025/26 budgets for the Fire and Rescue Service provide resources to maintain establishment numbers.
- 3.5. I.T.
The budgets and capital programme are supported by a comprehensive Digital Data and Technology strategy. There are significant implications for ICT following from the investment proposed for both capital and revenue to support the delivery of the strategy.

3.6. Procurement

There are significant procurement implications arising from the budgets in respect of both revenue supplies and services expenditure and procurement of large capital estate and ICT schemes. Procurement regulations require procurement business partners to lead and/or support business managers in any significant or complex procurement activity.

4. **Backgrounds / supporting papers**

(List any relevant business case, EIA, PID, Media Strategy and append to this form; list persons consulted during the preparation of the report)

Add link to Police, Fire and Crime Plan, CRMP, Commissioning Strategy, etc