

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

Mr Adam Eckley, QFSM, MBA, M.I.Fire.E
Acting Chief Fire Officer and Acting Chief Executive



Mr Roger Hirst
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
Kelvedon Park
London Road
Rivenhall
Witham
Essex CM8 3HB

Headquarters
Kelvedon Park
London Road
Rivenhall
Witham
Essex
CM8 3HB

Enquiries to:
Kim Pepper, PA to CFO
DDI: 01376 576100
Fax: 01376 570466
kim.pepper@essex-fire.gov.uk
www.essex-fire.gov.uk

Our ref: AE/kep/Budget 2018-19

17th January 2018

Dear Roger

Re: ECFRS Budget 2018/19

Please find attached a paper containing the proposed budget for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service for the financial year 2018/19.

This budget has been prepared in line with the work previously undertaken by Essex Fire Authority to develop a medium term financial strategy that would deliver a balanced budget by 2020. As part of that process a significant amount of work was undertaken to develop a revised Integrated Risk Management Plan 2016-2020, a new Strategy for ECFRS 2016-2020 and proposals for options for change. Two 12 week public consultations underpinned this process and as a result of the decisions taken by the Authority in 2016, an efficiency plan for the Authority was approved by the Home Office in late 2016.

The accompanying paper contains a considerable amount of detail and, for brevity, this will not be repeated here.

The overall budget for 2018/19 is £69,996m, the details of which are set out on page 47 of the accompanying paper.

The details of the funding required to support the Service's budget requirement are set out on pages 43, 44 and 45 of the accompanying paper.

The staff numbers supported by this budget are set out in paragraph 42 on page 48 of the accompanying paper.

Of particular note is the information set out in paragraphs 25 and 26 on page 44 relating to council tax. In 2016, Essex Fire Authority consulted widely on a range of options for change each of which was aligned to proposed changes in the rate of council tax. The preferred option supported by the public, our staff and their representatives and which the Authority approved in June 2016, included planned increases in council tax of the maximum allowed under council tax referendum rules (2%).

I would welcome your support for the proposed budget and formally request your support for increasing the Fire and Rescue Authority precept by 1.95% (£1.35 for a band D property) which is in line with the public consultation exercise undertaken in 2016.

Yours sincerely



Adam Eckley
Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive