

DECISION OF THE CABINET ON 22nd JANUARY 2002

**CONSULTATION ON THE BUDGETS FOR 2002/03 OF THE LEICESTER,
LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY AND THE
LEICESTERSHIRE MAGISTRATES' COURT'S COMMITTEE**

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That the Combined Fire Authority be advised that the Cabinet, whilst accepting that the Combined Fire Authority budget decision is a matter for members of the Authority;
 - (i) points out that the County Council is a constituent authority with responsibility for funding 70% of the Combined Fire Authority budget and is therefore entitled, along with Council Taxpayers, to proper justification and explanation of the Combined Fire Authority's budget proposals;
 - (ii) is concerned that the Combined Fire Authority's budget proposals as now submitted provide no detail in respect of the largest single growth element, the non-uniformed staff review, proposing an increase in such staff of 36% with an ongoing cost of approximately £500,000, and that the Cabinet is therefore unable to take an informed decision on the overall proposals;
 - (iii) regrets that this situation has arisen but is prepared to consider a further submission from the Combined Fire Authority on which a properly informed decision can be taken by the Cabinet.

REASON FOR DECISION

To enable a response to be made to the Combined Fire Authority and the Magistrates Courts Committee, both of which are obliged to consult the County Council on their budget proposals.