

# East Sussex Fire Authority

## 2012/13 Council Tax leaflet

### HOME SAFETY

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service can provide FREE home safety advice and FREE smoke alarms to help those at greatest risk. People most at risk from fire are the elderly, particularly those living alone, single parent families and people with reduced mobility, hearing or sight impairment.

If you consider yourself to be at risk for any of these sorts of reasons, your local Fire & Rescue Service staff are available to visit your home to discuss fire safety issues with you. They will also ensure that you have working smoke alarm(s) in your home and where you do not, they will supply and fit smoke alarms.

To see if you are eligible for a FREE visit or to recommend someone you feel will benefit from this service, please call **0800 177 7069** or visit **[www.esfrs.org](http://www.esfrs.org)**

In the first nine months of 2011/12, we completed over 6,900 home safety visits and fitted more than 9,500 smoke alarms in people's homes - but we still had to attend nearly 1,200 primary fires.



### ACHIEVING SAFER AND MORE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

#### Message from the Chairman

I am pleased to introduce East Sussex Fire Authority's Council Tax leaflet for 2012/13.

The following pages give some explanations about our costs, including how we are funded and how our costs have changed from 2011/12. Information is also provided on what we have achieved during the year and our aims for the future.

This Authority supports Value for Money, which is all about providing quality services to the standard that the community expects, and at a price that you, as council tax payers, are prepared to pay.

Our Service will cost council tax payers £81.86 for the year 2012/13, which is unchanged from 2010/11 (Band D property). It has only been possible to achieve this council tax freeze because the Fire Authority has made further savings on its budget of nearly £1m in 2012/13 to offset its additional commitments, coupled with accepting the Government's latest Council Tax Freeze Grant. However, this latest Council Tax Freeze Grant is for one year only and it will be necessary for this Authority to resolve the resultant funding gap in future years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Livings".

**Councillor John Livings**  
Chairman of East Sussex Fire Authority  
February 2012



# East Sussex Fire Authority

Established on 1 April 1997, the Fire Authority comprises 12 Councillors nominated by East Sussex County Council and six Councillors nominated by Brighton & Hove City Council.

## Summary of East Sussex Fire Authority Spending and Service Plans 2012/13

### Planned Spending in 2012/13

	Cost in £ thousands		Increase (decrease) %
	2011/12 £'000	2012/13 £'000	
Employees	25,621	26,029	1.6
Pensions	3,251	3,200	(1.6)
Premises	2,227	2,093	(6.0)
Transport	1,339	1,396	4.3
Supplies & Services	4,625	6,034	30.5
Support Services	501	527	5.2
Cost of borrowing for buildings and vehicles etc.	870	834	(4.1)
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>38,434</b>	<b>40,113</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Less income and special grants	(431)	(1,283)	
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>38,003</b>	<b>38,830</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Provision for Balances (money set aside for possible extra spending)	1,200	1,200	
<b>Fire Authority Budget</b>	<b>39,203</b>	<b>40,030</b>	<b>2.1</b>

### How spending has changed

Increase on 2011/12 Revenue Budget	£'000	% increase (decrease)
2011/12 Revenue Budget base	<b>39,203</b>	
Pay and price inflation	882	2.2
Other commitments less savings	(90)	(0.2)
<b>Net Expenditure (Standstill budget)</b>	<b>39,995</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Add new service investments	120	0.3
Less efficiency savings	(85)	(0.2)
<b>2012/13 Revenue Budget</b>	<b>40,030</b>	<b>2.1</b>

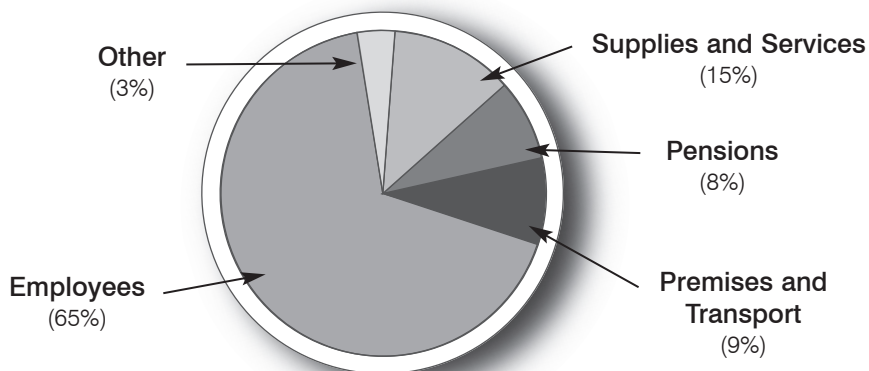
## Where the money comes from

	£'000	2011/12 £ per head of population	£'000	2012/13 £ per head of population
<b>Total Revenue Budget for the year</b>	<b>39,203</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>40,030</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>To be met from:</b>				
Government grant including business ratepayers	13,834	18	13,885	18
Council Tax Grant	618	1	1,360	2
Collection Fund Surplus/(deficit)	77	-	21	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,529</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15,266</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Balance from Council Tax payers</b>	<b>24,674</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>24,764</b>	<b>32</b>
Band D Council Tax	<b>£81.86</b>		<b>£81.86</b>	

## Employees (expressed as full-time equivalents - FTEs)

	2011/12	2012/13
Operational staff	425	421
Retained staff (24-hour availability)	242	242
Mobilising and Communications Staff	30	30
<b>Total operational staff</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>693</b>
Add Community Fire Safety and Support Staff	169	167
<b>Total Number of Employees (FTEs)</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>860</b>

## Planned spending in 2012/13



# Our plans for 2012/13

Here is what we aim to do next year to make you safer, in addition to responding to every 999 call received:

- Prevent fires from starting in the first place by continuing to improve home fire safety for vulnerable people and those at greater risk.
- In partnership with others, strive to drive down arson, road traffic collisions and accidents in the home.
- Continue to provide a quality and cost-effective fire & rescue service.

Here is what we achieved in 2011/12:

- Continued to make our services to our local communities more effective.
- Worked with our partners to ensure more vulnerable people in our local communities received home fire safety checks and fitted smoke alarms in homes to those that most needed them.
- Progressed our performance improvement agenda.

## How we performed and future plans

We publish a Medium-Term Plan, which summarises our aims for the future, as well as an Annual Plan, which shows how we are performing and how we will provide our services to you in the future.

If you are interested in learning more about us, both plans are available on request by using the contact details overleaf or visit: [www.esfrs.org](http://www.esfrs.org)



## Contact Information

The Fire Authority would welcome any views on the way in which East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service delivers its services, or if you are seeking more information about what we do, or anything on our finances, please contact us by:

Email: [enquiries@esfrs.org](mailto:enquiries@esfrs.org)

Write to: **Des Prichard, Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive,**  
**East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters, 20 Upperton Road,**  
**Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 1EU**

Phone: **01323 462053** to speak to an adviser on Fire Authority Council Tax matters. Please contact your billing authority for all other queries on Council Tax issues.

If you would like our information in an alternative format or another language, please call: **01323 462053.**

