

East Sussex Fire Authority

2011/12 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 request a FREE visit or recommend someone you feel will benefit from this service, please call 0800 177 7069 or visit www.esfrs.org

In the first nine months of 2010/11, we completed over 8,100 home safety visits and fitted more than 10,300 smoke alarms in people's homes. But we still had to attend nearly 1,100 primary fires.



Message from the Chairman

I am pleased to introduce East Sussex Fire Authority's Council Tax leaflet for 2011/12.

The following pages give some explanations about our costs including how we are funded and how our costs have changed from 2010/11. 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 taxpayers, are prepared to pay.

Our Service will cost council taxpayers £81.86 for the year 2011/12 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 budget cuts of £0.653m in 2011/12 to offset reductions in general Government Grant. However, the Government is also providing a temporary grant to any authority agreeing to freeze council tax in 2011/12 and this has also helped to achieve the same level of precept as in 2010/11.

Councillor Ted Kemble

Chairman of East Sussex Fire Authority

February 2011



**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**



The Government Standard

East Sussex Fire Authority

Established on 1 April 1997, the Fire Authority comprises 12 Councillors nominated by East Sussex County Council and 6 Councillors nominated by Brighton & Hove City Council.

Summary of East Sussex Fire Authority spending and service plans 2011/12

Planned Spending in 2011/12

	Cost in £ thousands		
	2010/11	2011/12	Increase (decrease)
	£'000	£'000	%
Employees	26,320	25,621	(2.7)
Pensions	3,367	3,251	(3.5)
Premises	2,056	2,227	8.3
Transport	1,338	1,339	-
Supplies & Services	4,218	4,625	9.6
Support Services	447	501	12.1
Cost of borrowing for buildings and vehicles etc.	964	870	(9.8)
Gross Expenditure	38,710	38,434	(0.7)
Less income and special grants	(596)	(431)	(27.7)
Net Expenditure	38,114	38,003	(0.3)
Provision for balances (money set aside for possible extra spending)	1,200	1,200	-
Fire Authority Budget	39,314	39,203	(0.3)

How spending has changed

Increase on 2010/11 Revenue Budget	£'000	% increase (decrease)
2010/11 Revenue Budget base	39,314	
Pay and price inflation	398	1.0
Other commitments less savings	(384)	(1.0)
Net Expenditure (Standstill budget)	39,328	-
Add new service investments	528	1.3
Less efficiency savings	(653)	(1.7)
2011/12 Revenue Budget	39,203	(0.3)

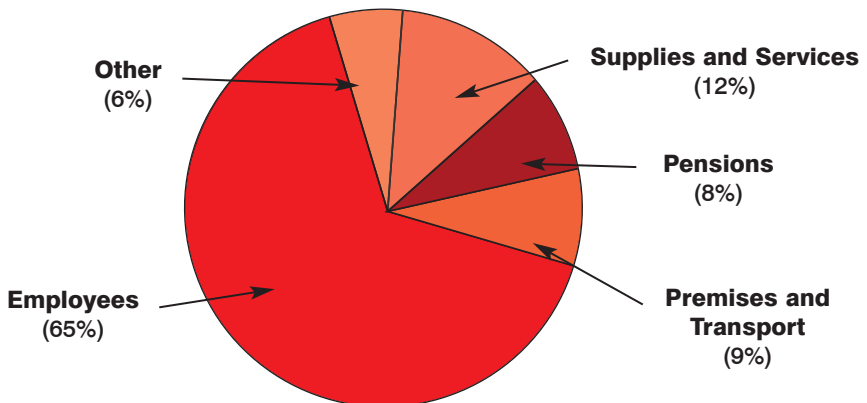
Where the money comes from

	£'000	2010/11 £ per head of population	£'000	2011/12 £ per head of population
Total Revenue Budget for the year	39,314	51	39,203	51
To be met from:				
Government grant including business ratepayers	14,673	19	13,834	18
Council Tax grant	-	-	618	1
Collection fund surplus/(deficit)	100	-	77	-
Total	14,773	19	14,529	19
Balance from Council Tax payers	24,541	32	24,674	32
Band D Council Tax	81.86		81.86	

Employees (expressed as full-time equivalents - FTEs)

	2010/11	2011/12
Operational staff	429	425
Retained staff (24 hour availability)	242	242
Mobilising and Communications Staff	30	30
Total operational staff	701	697
Add Community Fire Safety and Support Staff	170	169
Total Number of Employees (FTEs)	871	866

Planned spending in 2011/12



Our plans for 2011/12

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 crashes and accidents in the home.
- Continue to provide a quality and cost effective fire and rescue service.

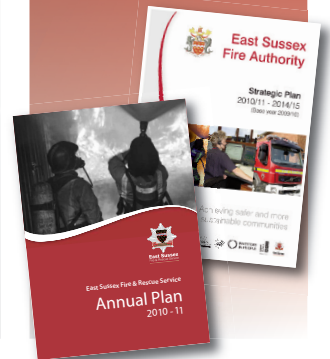
Here is what we achieved in 2010/11

- Continued to develop our Community Risk Management Plans to make our services to the community more effective.
- Worked with our partners to ensure the most 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 Strategic 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 below or visit: www.esfrs.org



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

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 contact **01323 462053**.