



# East Sussex Fire Authority Summary of Spending and Service Plans 2013/14

I am pleased to introduce East Sussex Fire Authority's Council Tax information for 2013/14.

The following pages give some explanations about our costs including how we are funded and how our costs have changed from 2012/13. Information is also provided on what we have achieved 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 2013/14 which is unchanged from 2010/11. (For a Band D property.) It has only been possible to achieve this council tax freeze because the Fire Authority has made savings on its budget of £2m in 2013/14, coupled with accepting the Government's latest Council Tax Freeze Grant.

However, this latest Council Tax Freeze Grant is for a two year period only and it will be necessary for this Authority to resolve a significant funding gap in future years.

I am always keen to hear whether or not you consider we deliver value for money for the services we provide for the annual price that you have to pay.

Please send in your comments using the contact information provided.

I look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Livings'.

**Councillor John Livings**  
Chairman of East Sussex Fire Authority  
February 2013

Your firefighters attend over 40 accidental fires in local homes every month. Is your home as safe as it should be?



# Summary of Spending and Service Plans 2013/14

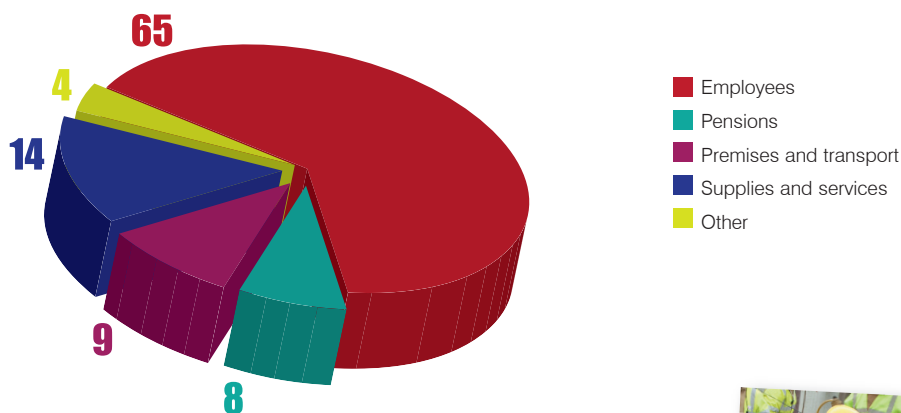
## How spending has changed

Increase on 2012/13 Revenue Budget	£m	% change
2012/13 Revenue Budget base	40.0	
Pay and price inflation	0.5	1
Other commitments less savings	-1.4	-3
<b>2013/14 Revenue Budget</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>-2</b>

## Planned Spending in 2013/14

Cost in £m	2012/13	2013/14	% change
Employees	26.0	25.2	-3
Pensions	3.2	3.0	-6
Premises	2.1	2.3	9
Transport	1.4	1.2	-14
Supplies & Services	6.0	5.3	-12
Support Services	0.5	0.5	-
Net Capital Financing	0.8	0.8	-
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>-4</b>
Less Income/grant	-1.2	-0.8	
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>-3</b>
Provision for Reserves	1.2	1.6	
<b>Fire Authority Budget</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>-2</b>

## Planned spending in 2013/14



We work in partnership with others to improve road safety



## Where the money comes from

	2012/13		2013/14	
	£m	£*	£m	£*
<b>Total Revenue Budget for the year</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>To be met from:</b>				
Government Grant**	13.9	18	17.0	22
Council Tax Grant	1.4	2	0.4	1
Collection Fund Surplus/(-deficit)	-	-	0.1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Balance from Council Taxpayers**</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>28</b>
Band D Council Tax	<b>81.86</b>		<b>81.86</b>	

\*Per head of population

\*\*Changes between years are due to changes in how Government grants are calculated and paid to local authorities

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

	2012/13	2013/14
Operational staff	421	412
Operational staff (retained - on call)	242	242
Mobilising and Communications Staff	26	25
<b>Total operational staff</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>679</b>
Add Community Fire Safety and Support Staff	167	151
<b>Total Number of Employees (FTEs)</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>830</b>

## Achieving safer and more sustainable communities

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 2012/13:

- In the first nine months of 2012/13, we completed over 7,300 home safety visits and fitted more than 9,400 smoke alarms in people's homes. But we still had to attend nearly 950 primary fires.
- We continued to make our services to our local communities more effective.
- We 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.
- We continued to progress our performance improvement agenda.



Fire Stations are community assets – could your local community group use them?

## Contact Information

The Fire Authority would welcome any views on the way in which East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service delivers its services.

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

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

Phone: **01323 462200** 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 462200.

Website: [www.esfrs.org](http://www.esfrs.org)

## Our 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)

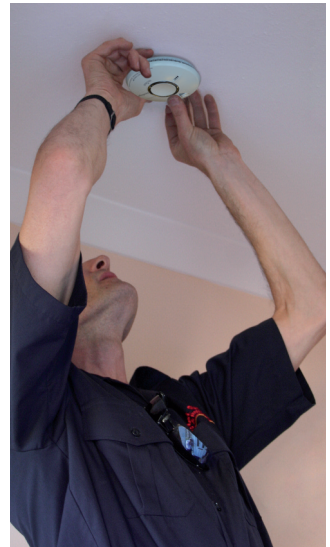
## East Sussex Fire Authority

East Sussex Fire Authority was 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.

## 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](http://www.esfrs.org).



Around 10,000 free home safety visits are carried out each year for local residents who are vulnerable to fire