



East Sussex Fire Authority Council Tax and Budget Information 2016/17



Achieving safer communities

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (ESFRS) provides the communities of East Sussex and the City of Brighton & Hove with a round the clock service for £1.67 a week (for the average household). We are helping people and businesses stay safe by providing safety advice as well as responding to fires, road traffic incidents, floods and other emergencies. Our community safety work has helped reduce the number of incidents we attend by 40% over the last 10 years. We are continuing to work to make the communities of East Sussex and the City of Brighton and Hove safer at home, at work and on the roads.

Our plans for the future

At the same time that we are working to reduce the number and type of emergency incidents we respond to, our funding from central government is still being reduced. We are continuing to work to ensure ESFRS is efficient and cost effective. We want to deliver our services at a price the public can afford to pay, whilst matching our emergency response to the changing risks across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. Through our 'Changing the Service, Shaping the Future' programme we have already identified savings of almost £6.4m between 2014/15 – 2020/21, but we estimate that we will need to find a further £0.2m to close our funding gap.

During 2016/17 we will be reviewing the way we provide our services through our Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). The plan assesses risk and need in our communities and helps the Authority

plan how to use its resources in the most effective way to save lives, improve public safety and reduce emergency incidents. The plan will be closely linked to our future financial planning and will be subject to public, stakeholder and staff consultation. If you'd like to get involved please email IRM@esfrs.org or contact us via the contact details in this leaflet.

Our budget for 2016/17 (revenue)

We have reduced our budget requirement by £0.2m for 2016/17. We expect to make new savings of £1.9m and invest an additional £1.3m in transforming the way we provide our services. To help balance our budget and ensure it is sustainable for the future, we have increased our Council Tax by 1.94%. This means Band D Council Tax will increase by just 3 pence per week, to £86.72 a year.

Investing for the future (capital)

As well as our day to day spending, in 2016/17 we will be investing: £1.7m in new fire appliances and other vehicles; £0.8m in new breathing apparatus to keep our firefighters safe and £1.4m in our fire stations. We are planning to share a headquarters with Sussex Police which will enable us to work more closely with them. This will also help to make savings on our running costs, and allow us to sell our current HQ. Together with West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service we will be investing £0.7m on in new technology at our Joint Control Centre.

Your Fire and Rescue Authority

The Authority comprises 12 councillors nominated by East Sussex County Council and 6 councillors nominated by Brighton & Hove City Council. East Sussex Fire Authority employs 705 people (full time equivalents), of whom over 540 are operational staff. The Authority provides a fire and rescue service from 24 fire stations to more than 800,000 people across East Sussex and the City of Brighton & Hove.

What we spend

	2015/16 £m	2016/17 £m	2016/17 %
Employees	28.3	28.3	74%
Running expenses	9.4	9.5	25%
Capital Financing	2.0	1.4	3%
Gross Service Expenditure	39.7	39.2	102%
Income & Specific Grants	-2.1	-1.7	-4%
Contribution to Reserves	1.0	0.9	2%
Net Budget Requirement	38.6	38.4	100%

How we are funded

	2015/16 £m	2016/17 £m	2016/17 %
Government Grants	7.8	6.3	16%
Business Rates	7.3	7.4	19%
Council Tax	23.5	24.7	65%
Total Funding	38.6	38.4	100%

What you pay - Council Tax Bands

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
Annual Cost	£57.81	£67.45	£77.08	£86.72	£105.99	£125.26	£144.53	£173.44
Weekly Cost	£1.11	£1.30	£1.48	£1.67	£2.04	£2.41	£2.78	£3.34

How to contact us

Further information on the Authority's finance and performance is available on our website www.esfrs.org or by contacting us using the details below

Telephone: 0303 999 1000

Email: enquiries@esfrs.org

Address: East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, Headquarters, 20 Upperton Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 1EU

