

East Sussex Fire Authority Council Tax and Budget Information 2017/18



We make our communities safer

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (ESFRS) provides the communities of East Sussex and the City of Brighton and Hove with a round the clock service for £1.70 a week (for a Band D household). We are helping families and businesses stay safe by providing safety advice and education 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 32% over the last 10 years. We are continuing to work to make our communities 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 that we make effective use of our resources. 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 and Hove. Since 2010/11 the Authority has made, and has planned to make, savings totalling £8.6m of which £6.7m will have been delivered by the end of 2016/17.



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The savings of £1.9m starting from 2017/18 include the savings from our senior management restructure, reducing the number of crew who ride on a standard fire engine to four and moving to share a Headquarters with Sussex Police.

During 2016 we consulted the public and our partners on 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 key themes from the IRMP are being developed and will be built into future budgets and investment plans. We have made funding available to pilot Immediate Emergency Care Responding (IECR) in 2017/18. This involves trained fire and rescue staff attending certain medical emergencies where they can respond more quickly than ambulance staff.

The Authority is starting to plan for growth in the county. We anticipate a significant amount of new housing with more people living in our area and driving on the roads. For more details of our IRMP visit www.esfrs.org/irmp

Our budget for 2017/18 (revenue)

We have reduced our budget requirement by £1.0m for 2017/18. We expect to make new savings of £1.4m and contribute £1.6m towards capital investment. To help balance our budget and ensure it is sustainable for the future, we have increased our Council Tax by 1.94%. This means the Band D Council Tax will increase by just 3 pence per week, to £88.40 a year.

Investing for the future (capital)

As well as our day to day spending, in 2017/18 we will be investing: £1.9m in new fire appliances and other vehicles; £0.7m in new breathing apparatus to keep our firefighters safe and commencing a £2.6m investment in Preston Circus Community Fire Station. We will be moving 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 has allowed the sale of our current HQ generating a significant capital receipt. Utilising capital receipts and existing funds there will be no need for new borrowing in the next five years. Together with West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service we will be investing £0.3m 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 six councillors nominated by Brighton and Hove City Council. East Sussex Fire Authority employs 761 people (full time equivalents), of whom 607 are operational staff. The Authority provides a fire and rescue service from 24 fire stations to more than 825,000 people across East Sussex and the City of Brighton and Hove.

What we spend

	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m	2017/18 %
Employees	28.3	27.3	73%
Running expenses	9.5	9.7	26%
Capital Financing	1.4	1.4	4%
Gross Service Expenditure	39.2	38.4	103%
Income & Specific Grants	-1.7	-1.6	-4%
Contribution to Reserves	0.8	0.6	1%
Net Budget Requirement	38.3	37.4	100%

How we are funded

	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m	2017/18 %
Government Grants	6.2	4.6	12%
Business Rates	7.4	7.4	20%
Council Tax	24.7	25.4	68%
Total Funding	38.3	37.4	100%

What you pay - Council Tax Bands



Annual Cost

£58.93 £68.76 £78.58 £88.40 £108.04 £127.69 £147.33 £176.80

Weekly Cost

£1.13 £1.32 £1.51 £1.70 £2.08 £2.46 £2.83 £3.40



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

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