

East Sussex Fire Authority Council Tax and Budget Information 2018/19

East Sussex Fire Authority has agreed an increase of 2.94% in Council Tax. This means that Band D Council Tax will increase from £88.40 to £91.00 in 2018/19, providing a 24/7 emergency response for just £1.75 per week.

| What you pay for fire and rescue | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Council tax bands | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
| Annual cost | £60.67 | £70.78 | £80.89 | £91.00 | £111.22 | £131.44 | £151.67 | £182.00 |
| Weekly cost | £1.17 | £1.36 | £1.56 | £1.75 | £2.14 | £2.53 | £2.92 | £3.50 |

The decision comes as part of measures to help provide financial stability for the Fire and Rescue Service at a time when funding from central government has been reduced even further.

We make our communities safer



Fire Authority Chairman, Cllr. John Barnes, said:

“East Sussex Fire Authority is committed to providing an effective and efficient prevention, protection and response service to the communities it serves. We will be spending more on match funding the installation of sprinkler systems in local high risk / high-rise residential buildings which will help prevent fires, protect our residents and improve the safety of our firefighters.”

“We continue to work closely with South East Coast Ambulance Service in delivering life-saving services and we are working hard to improve safety within businesses and also reduce accidental dwelling fires and false alarms in our area.”

We are continuing to work to make our communities safer at home, at work and on the roads. To find out more about how we are doing this read our Integrated Risk Management Plan on our website: www.esfrs.org/riskmanagement



www.esfrs.org

Our plans for the future (our revenue budget)

The additional income from Council Tax along with planned savings of £0.7m from changes in crewing, reductions in pensions costs and contract savings will help us to balance the Authority's budget and will enable us to continue to invest in the Service's life-saving work as set out in our Integrated Risk Management Plan. Our revenue budget (for day-to-day spending) will increase by £0.8m in 2018/19.

| What we spend | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--|
| | 2017/18 £m | 2018/19 £m | 2018/19 % | |
| Employees | 27.3 | 27.2 | 71% | |
| Running Expenses | 9.7 | 9.4 | 25% | |
| Capital Financing | 1.4 | 2.1 | 6% | |
| Gross Service Expenditure | 38.4 | 38.7 | 102% | |
| | | | | |
| Income & Specific Grants | -1.6 | -1.7 | -4% | |
| Contribution to Reserves | 0.6 | 1.1 | 2% | |
| Net Budget Requirement | 37.4 | 38.1 | 100% | |
| | | | | |
| How we are funded | | | | |
| | 2017/18 £m | 2018/19 £m | 2018/19 % | |
| Government Grants | 4.6 | 3.7 | 10% | |
| Business rates | 7.4 | 7.9 | 21% | |
| Council tax | 25.4 | 26.5 | 69% | |
| Total Funding | 37.4 | 38.1 | 100% | |

Investing for the future (our capital budget)



As well as our day-to-day spending, in 2018/19 we will be investing: £2.1m in new fire appliances and other vehicles, £0.7m in improving our buildings and commencing a £2.6m investment in Preston Circus Community Fire Station.

We are working with other public services to see how we can use our buildings more effectively. Last year we moved to share a headquarters with Sussex Police which has allowed us to work more closely with them, reduce our running costs, and has allowed the sale of our old 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. Read more in our Fire Authority papers: <https://www.esfrs.org/about-us/east-sussex-fire-authority/fire-authority-meetings/>



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