West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority Finances 2014/2015

What does the Authority do?

The Authority is responsible for West Midlands Fire Service, which serves the whole county of the West Midlands. In addition to providing an emergency response, your fire and rescue service provides you with fire safety advice to prevent death and injury from fire and also to prevent losses to business and amenities. We also enforce fire safety legislation if required and we are actively involved in contingency planning arrangements.

The Authority's Vision is

"Making West Midlands Safer"

This is supported by our Mission Statement:

Providing a quality service to reduce risk by:-

reducing the likelihood of a fire or other emergency

reducing the consequences by having a working smoke alarm

sending a fire engine to help you

We have produced our Corporate Strategy, referred to as "The Plan", which sets out how we intend to protect and serve you, the community of the West Midlands. It focuses on the risks to life, firefighters, property, the environment, the economy and heritage. Each year, we will consult you and other interested stakeholders about the proposals in support of "The Plan."

Further information can be found on our website at **www.wmfs.net**.

How many people work for the Authority?

The table below gives details of the budgeted staffing establishment of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority. Numbers are shown as full time equivalent posts:

	2013/14	2014/15	Change
Total Employees	2,149	2,064	-85

How much does the service cost?

The table below details the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority's revenue budget for the financial years 2013/14 and 2014/15:

	2013/14	2014/15
	£m	£m
Expenditure	116.360	112.383
Income	-82.840	-77.673
Council Tax Requirement	33.520	34.710

At 31st March 2013, the Authority's borrowing totalled £43.2m.

Council tax
requirement **per head** of population in **2014/15**

£12.36

Who pays for it?

The West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority precept is the part of the council tax which pays for the fire service. The total amount of precept for each City/ District Council is shown below:

	2013/14 (£)	2014/15 (£)
Birmingham	12,096,139	12,412,439
Coventry	3,742,728	3,943,041
Dudley	4,356,162	4,529,463
Sandwell	3,457,724	3,602,253
Solihull	3,723,461	3,836,818
Walsall	3,204,023	3,314,012
Wolverhampton	2,940,055	3,071,974
Total Precepts	33,520,292	34,710,000

Why has the Council Tax requirement changed?

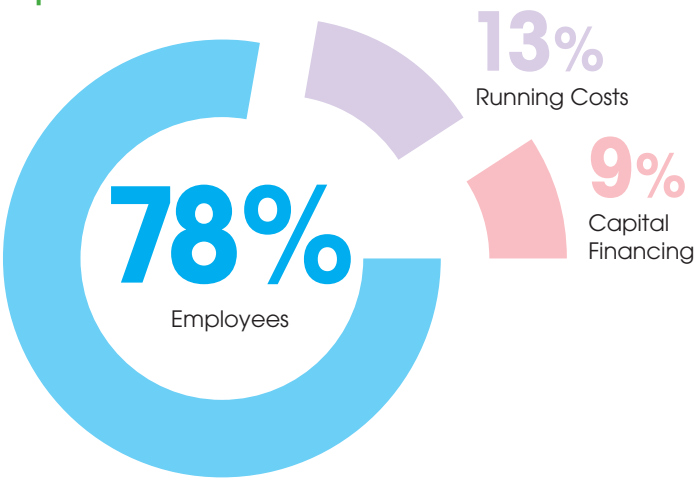
The Authority's council tax requirement for 2014/15 is £34.710m compared with £33.520m for 2013/14, an increase of £1.190m. This change is analysed in the table overleaf:

	£m
Government Grants	5.208
Pay Award Provision	0.810
Inflation	0.210
Efficiencies	-4.423
Capital Financing	-0.615
Total Change	1.190

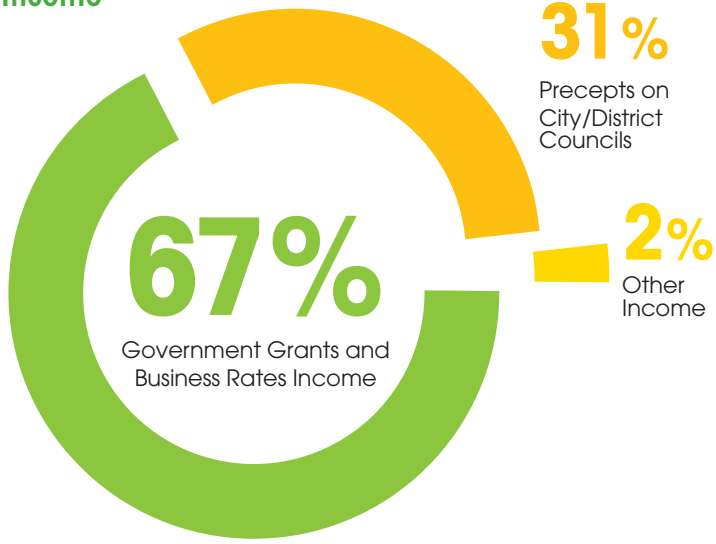
How is the budget spent and financed?

The pie charts below show in percentage terms how the budget is spent and financed:

Expenditure



Income



How much does the service cost in service reporting format?

The table below details the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority revenue budget for the financial year 2014/15 in Service Reporting format:

	£m
Firefighting and Rescue Operations	108.483
Community Fire Safety	14.432
Corporate & Democratic Core	1.358
Emergency Planning & Civil Defence	0.195
Cost of services	124.468
Appropriations & Interest	-15.827
Capital Grant	-5.776
Government Settlement Funding	-68.155
Council Tax Requirement	34.710

Anything else?

Further information relating to the Fire Service can be obtained from: **The Chief Fire Officer, West Midlands Fire Service Headquarters, 99 Vauxhall Road, Birmingham, B7 4HW.**

Financial information relating to the Fire Service can be obtained from: **The Treasurer, West Midlands Fire Service Headquarters, 99 Vauxhall Road, Birmingham, B7 4HW.**

This leaflet contains financial information on your Fire Service. The Authority is committed to equality of opportunity but must demonstrate value for money. Whilst all requests for our leaflets and publications to be reproduced in alternative formats and languages will be considered, where possible we will seek other methods of communication. Please call **0121 380 6678** (24 hour answerphone).

To book a free safety check in your home by your local firefighters, freephone **0800 389 5525.**

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