

West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority Finances 2017/2018

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.

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.

The Authority's Vision is

"Making the West Midlands Safer, Stronger and Healthier"

This is supported by our priorities:



Prevention

Safer and healthier communities



Protection

Stronger business communities



Response

Dealing effectively with emergencies

We believe that we have an important role to play in helping people live safer, healthier lives and supporting West Midlands businesses and the economy to thrive. We work with partners and the community to identify risk across the West Midlands and use this evidence as the basis of our Community Safety Strategy. This in turn, informs how we distribute fire stations, fire engines, equipment and most importantly emergency response staff across the West Midlands. We call this our Service Delivery Model.

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:

	2016/17	2017/18	Change
Total Employees	1,923	1,836	-87

How much does the service cost?

The table below details the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority's revenue budget for the financial years 2016/17 and 2017/18:

	2016/17	2017/18
	£m	£m
Expenditure	101.906	112.761
Income	-64.032	-73.384
Council Tax Requirement	37.874	39.377

At 31st March 2016, the Authority's borrowing totalled £39.7m.

Council tax
requirement **per head** of population in **2017/18**

£13.67

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:

	2016/17 (£)	2017/18 (£)
Birmingham	13,392,806	13,939,378
Coventry	4,343,499	4,512,386
Dudley	4,937,440	5,117,474
Sandwell	3,917,070	4,069,297
Solihull	4,115,519	4,283,778
Walsall	3,782,964	3,946,868
Wolverhampton	3,384,364	3,508,197
Total Precepts	37,873,662	39,377,378

Why has the Council Tax requirement changed?

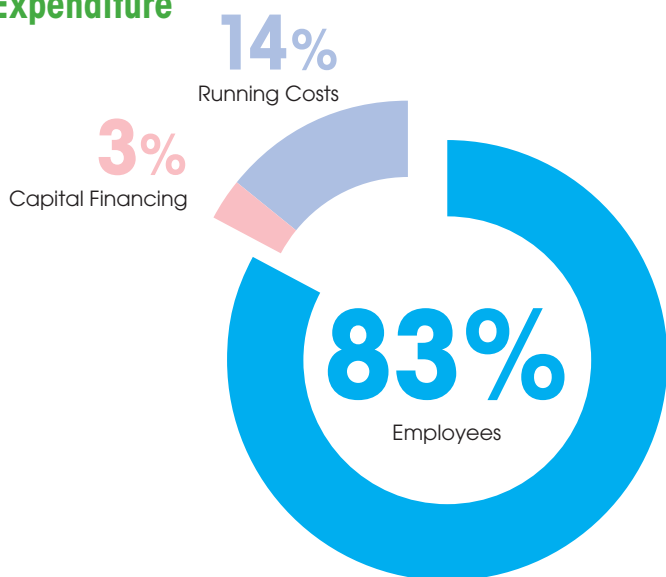
The Authority's council tax requirement for 2017/18 is £39.377m compared with £37.874m for 2016/17, an increase of £1.503m. This change is analysed in the table below:

	£m
Government Grants	4.152
Pay Award Provision	0.787
Inflation	0.168
Efficiencies/Other Savings	-3.604
Total Change	1.503

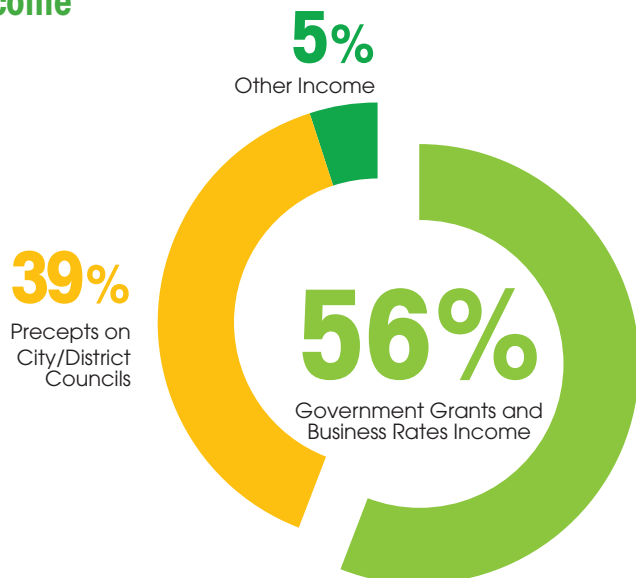
How is the budget spent and financed?

The pie charts below show in percentage terms how the budget is spent (after adjusting for revenue funding of capital) and how the expenditure is 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 2017/18 in service reporting format:

	£m
Firefighting and Rescue Operations	91.355
Community Safety	13.200
Corporate & Democratic Core	1.680
Emergency Planning & Civil Defence	0.114
Cost of services	106.349
Government Settlement Funding	-54.703
Appropriations & Interest	-12.269
Council Tax Requirement	39.377

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 Safe and Well visit in your home by your local firefighters, freephone **0800 389 5525**.

www.wmfs.net

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