

Revenue Budget 2015/16

Report of the Treasurer

For further information about this report please contact James Walton, Treasurer, on 01743 255011 or Joanne Coadey, Head of Finance on 01743 260215.

1 Purpose of Report

This report incorporates the recommendations made by the Fire Authority's Strategy and Resources Committee on 5 February 2015, and by the Strategic Risk and Planning Group (StRaP) Members' Working Group on 4 February, in relation to the revenue budget for 2015/16. The report also confirms the use of assumptions for medium-term financial planning.

2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is recommended to approve a revenue budget for 2015/16 and a forward financial projection to 2019/20, as set out in section 5.

3 Strategy and Resources Committee

At its meeting on 5 February 2015, the Strategy and Resources Committee considered a budget package, based on a revenue budget of £20.654m for 2015/16. There had been a number of developments since the Authority met in December, which included:

- The provisional grant settlements for 2015/16 were released on 18 December, which were £25,000 less than the figures provided in December 2014;
- Confirmation that those authorities, which chose to increase precept levels by more than 2%, would trigger a referendum; and
- Council tax base was confirmed at 147,603.03, an increase of 1.95% on 2014/15.

4 Further Developments

Shropshire Council and the Borough of Telford & Wrekin have now outlined the Fire Authority's share of business rate income for 2015/16, which is subject to final revision in the last two months of the financial year.

Business rate income figures have now been confirmed by Shropshire Council and the Borough of Telford & Wrekin, although they are subject to revision in the last two months of the financial year. These numbers, along with a joint deficit of £9,000 on the business rates collection fund, have been factored into planning assumptions.

The council tax collection fund for Shropshire Council has now also been confirmed, and the Council has reported a surplus payable to the Fire Authority of £306,000. This one-off income has been added to the planning model.

5 Proposed Final Budget Package

The position for 2015/16 and into the medium term can now be summarised as follows:

	2015/16 £000	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000
Expenditure:					
Budget	20,899	20,507	20,580	20,079	20,457
Surplus / -deficit	542	261	39	445	23
Total	21,441	20,768	20,619	20,524	20,480
Funded by:					
Grant and business rates	7,363	6,774	6,232	5,734	5,275
Business rates collection fund	-9	-	-	-	-
Council tax	13,612	13,994	14,387	14,790	15,205
Council tax collection fund	475	-	-	-	-
Total	21,441	20,768	20,619	20,524	20,480

6 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report other than those discussed within the report.

7 Legal Comment

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

8 Initial Impact Assessment

An Initial Impact Assessment form has been completed.

9 Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.

10 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.