

Revenue Budget: 2015/16 Precept

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 seeks Fire Authority approval to:

- A budget for 2015/16;
- Council Tax levels for 2015/16; and
- Precepts on billing authorities and related matters.

The Authority is required to issue a precept before 1 March 2015 and all items in the “Recommendations” below must be taken together. For ease of reference the key elements of the budget are set out in appendices to this report.

2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to:

- a) Approve that a net budget requirement is set at £21,440,734 (calculated in accordance with the provisions of Section 43(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992);
- b) Approve a total precept of £13,611,952 to be levied on the billing authorities;
- c) Approve a Council Tax, resulting in a basic amount of Council Tax at Band D calculated in accordance with the provisions of the 1992 Act (Section 44) of £92.22;

- d) Approve, under Section 40(2) of the 1992 Act:
- a. The amount of Council Tax calculated for each category of dwelling in each billing authority's area, as follows:

Band	2015/16 Council Tax
	£ p
A	61.48
B	71.73
C	81.97
D	92.22
E	112.71
F	133.21
G	153.70
H	184.44

- b. The amount calculated (in accordance with Section 48 of the 1992 Act) as payable by billing authorities for 2015/16, as follows:

Council	Precept £
Shropshire Council	9,444,373
Borough of Telford & Wrekin Council	4,167,579
	<u>13,611,952</u>

- e) Approve that the Treasurer:
- i Issue the necessary precepts and information to the billing authorities in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IV of Part 1 of the 1992 Act and be authorised to make any amendment to the above to reflect the final approved budget, after consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Fire Authority; and
- ii Is authorised to make payments required from, and to, reserves and provisions within the approved budget strategy and within the Authority's Financial Rules, in conjunction with the Chair and Vice-Chair;
- f) Approve the revenue budget and pensions account, illustrated in Appendix A, for budgetary control in accordance with approved standing orders;
- g) Approve the Service Reporting Code of Practice Provisional Revenue Account at Appendix B; and
- h) Approve the schedule of reserves and provisions at Appendix C

3 Budget Process

The Fire Authority's net spending (budget) for services in 2015/16 has been reported throughout November 2014 to February 2015. The budget is set out in Appendix A and is reported in the Fire Authority's service areas.

The funds receivable in the form of revenue support grant, business rates and top-up payments is £7,363,237. The Fire Authority's share of the council tax collection fund balances totals £474,449, and the deficit payable by the Authority to the business rates collection fund is £8,904. A council tax base equivalent to 147,603.03 Band D properties has been notified to the Fire Authority by the billing authorities.

4 Financial Implications

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

5 Legal Comment

There are no legal implications other than those outlined in the report.

6 Initial Impact Assessment

An Initial Impact Assessment form has been completed.

7 Appendices

Appendix A

Revenue Programme Budget 2015/16 and Pensions Account

Appendix B

Service Reporting Code of Practice Provisional Revenue Account

Appendix C

Budget for Provisions and Reserves

8 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.

Revenue Programme Budget 2015/16 and Pensions Account

Revenue Budget 2015/16 Key Service Areas	Pay £000	Other £000	Total £000
Executive and Resources			
Executive and Resources Pay	1,063	0	1,063
Executive		39	39
Finance		2,657	2,657
Technical Services		1,635	1,635
Workshops		346	346
Pay and Price Contingency		1,155	1,155
<u>Total Executive</u>	1,063	5,832	6,895
Service Delivery			
Service Delivery Pay	11,361	0	11,361
Fire Prevention		74	74
Area Command		8	8
Operational Response		10	10
Training		386	386
Fire Control		0	0
Health and Safety		5	5
<u>Total Service Delivery</u>	11,361	483	11,844
Corporate Support			
Corporate Support Pay	1,249	0	1,249
Information and Communications Technology		747	747
Programme Office		158	158
Corporate Support		376	376
Human Resources		172	172
Development		0	0
<u>Total Corporate Support</u>	1,249	1,453	2,702
Total Revenue Budget	13,673	7,768	21,441

For the purposes of Financial Standing Orders, revenue votes are described in **bold** print and underlined.

	Estimate 2015/16
<u>PENSIONS ACCOUNT</u>	£000
<u>Contributions</u>	
Employer contributions – 1992 scheme	-988
Employer contributions – 2006 scheme	-310
Employee contributions – 1992 scheme	-684
Employee contributions – 2006 scheme	-292
Ill-health charges	-80
Inward transfers from other pension schemes	0
Total contributions	<hr/> -2,354
<u>Costs</u>	
Pensions outgo	4,893
Total deficit to be funded by top-up grant	<hr/> 2,539

Service Accounting Code of Practice Provisional Revenue Account

	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
Expenditure:			
Community Fire Safety	1,972	20	1,952
Firefighting and Rescue Operations	17,883	110	17,773
Emergency Planning and Civil Defence	91	2	89
Democratic Representation and Management	180	0	180
Corporate Management	270	0	270
Non-Distributable Costs	0	0	0
	<hr/>		
Net Cost of Services	20,396	132	20,264
Interest Payable and Similar Charges			400
Investment Income			-45
			<hr/>
Net Operating Expenditure			20,619
Contribution to Reserves			542
Minimum Revenue Provision			280
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Amount to be met from Precept			21,441

Budget for Provisions and Reserves

	Balance 01/04/15 £000	Spend £000	Income £000	Interest £000	Balance 31/03/16 £000	Spend £000	Income £000	Interest £000	Balance 31/03/17 £000	Spend £000	Income £000	Interest £000	Balance 31/03/18 £000
Equipment Replacement	108	-70	50	3	91	-75	50	3	69	-80	40	3	32
General	591	0	0	12	603	0	0	12	615	0	0	13	628
Earmarked Capital	3,160	0	0	30	3,190	0	0	35	3,225	0	0	35	3,260
Unearmarked Capital	1,322	0	542	20	1,884	0	261	20	2,165	0	39	20	2,224
Extreme Incidents	344	0	0	8	352	0	0	8	360	0	0	8	368
Pensions and Other Staff Matters	1,808	-200	0	20	1,628	-200	0	20	1,448	-200	0	20	1,268
Information and Communications Technology (ICT)	698	-300	0	10	408	-300	0	5	113	0	0	5	118
Income Volatility	1,061	0	0	20	1,081	0	0	20	1,101	0	0	20	1,121
Service Transformation Programme Staff	300	-150	0	5	155	-155	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Service Delivery	238	-40	0	5	203	-40	0	4	167	-40	0	4	131
Building Maintenance	410	-40	0	3	373	-40	0	3	336	-40	0	3	299
Operational Equipment	260	-50	0	3	213	-50	0	3	166	-50	0	2	118
Training	260	-50	0	3	213	-50	0	3	166	-50	0	2	118