

Efficiencies 2011/12 and Forward Budgets

Report of the Treasurer

For further information about this report please contact Keith Dixon, Treasurer, on 01743 260202.

1 Purpose of Report

This report looks at progress in identifying efficiencies for the period 2011/12 to 2015/16.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to recommend to the Fire Authority that it include £290,000 for planning the 2011/12 budget, and that it continue with a target of £150,000 per year for later years.

3 Background

The Authority has a policy of maximising efficiency gains, i.e. achieving more for the same cost, or the same for less cost. In recent years, it has reported the following efficiencies:

	Budget £000	Actual £000
2010/11	427	-
2009/10	149	281
2008/09	100	327
2007/08	100	252
2006/07	336	318
2005/06	85	203
2004/05	108	167
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		1,548

All Government targets have been met to date. However, it is difficult to identify ongoing efficiencies before the start of the year, and deliverable items have often been identified as the year progresses.

It is recommended that this approach is continued. Unless there is a clear idea of how money can be saved through efficiencies, it would not be prudent to budget on targets justified only by past performance, where we could not be certain to deliver.

Although it is not yet known if the Government's requirement for Annual Efficiency Statements will continue, it seems prudent to continue to budget for, and identify efficiencies as part of the budget setting process, in order to demonstrate the Authority's ongoing commitment to best value. The Government's current national annual ongoing efficiency target, which it disaggregates to this Authority is £307,000.

4 Work to date

To date potential efficiency savings have been identified as follows:

	2011/12 £000	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000
Review of Consultations	18	18	18	18	18
Saving in ill-health retained costs (reduce assumption lines to 2 retirements a year)	40	80	120	120	120
Post conversion	17	17	17	17	17
Insurance savings	100	100	100	100	100
Target for later years	115	265	415	565	715
	290	480	670	820	970

5 Summary

The reductions each year would be:

	Known £000	Target £000	Totals £000
2011/12	175	115	290
2012/13	40	150	190
2013/14	40	150	190
2014/15	-	150	150
2015/16	-	150	150

6 Financial Implications

The financial implications are as outlined in the report.

7 Legal Comment

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

8 Equality Impact Assessment

Officers have considered the Service's Brigade Order on Equality Impact Assessments (Personnel 5 Part 2) and have decided that there are no discriminatory practices or differential impacts upon specific groups arising from this report. An Initial Equality Impact Assessment has not, therefore, been completed.

9 Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.

10 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.

Implications of all of the following have been considered and, where they are significant (i.e. marked with an asterisk), the implications are detailed within the report itself.

Business Continuity Planning		Member Involvement	
Capacity		National Framework	
Civil Contingencies Act		Operational Assurance	
Efficiency Savings	*	Public Value	
Environmental		Retained	
Financial	*	Risk and Insurance	
Fire Control/Fire Link		Staff	
Information Communications and Technology		Strategic Planning	*
Freedom of Information / Data Protection / Environmental Information		Equality Impact Assessment	*
Legal	*		