

Efficiencies 2009/10 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 the implications for setting efficiency budgets in 2009/10 to 2013/14.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to confirm the efficiencies of £150,000 a year as set out in paragraph 4 for inclusion in future budget planning.

3 Background

The Authority had a total of £930,000 of on-going savings if it was to meet the national average target of efficiencies by March 2008. The Authority confirmed cumulative ongoing savings of £940,000, thereby achieving the national target average.

4 2008/09 to 2010/11

2008/09

An annual target of 1.6% was set for the Fire Service during the three year settlement announced in December 2007. 1.6% equates to about £275,000.

The Authority has decided to continue its policy of maximising efficiencies and therefore value for money, whether or not this falls short of or exceeds the national average target for the Service.

The current situation for 2008/09 is that efficiencies are projected to be delivered through reduced call-outs and incidents (£100,000); managing service delivery and staff vacancies, without increasing associated costs such as overtime (£60,000) and restructuring duties with our partners (£41,000).

2009/10 to 201/11

The annual target for the service of 1.6% - £275,000 if disaggregated to Shropshire and Wrekin, continues for these two years.

Planning has been based on £100,000 in 2008/09 – expected to be exceeded at £201,000 although still short of the £275,000 disaggregation.

The £100,000 was increased to a planned £150,000 in 2009/10 and later years. This still seems to be a prudent target on which to budget.

It is recommended that managed vacancy totals, be increased by £50,000 in 2009/10 – given experience this year, and the £100,000 reduction in call-outs and incidents identified in 2008/09 be confirmed in 2009/10.

An additional £150,000 from the same sources could be planned for 2010/11, although this would need to be confirmed by experience next year before being removed from the budget.

Finally it has been possible to maintain an estimated £50,000 balance within the Efficiency Reserve, partly by using other underspendings to invest in efficiencies – e.g. undertaking work to reduce the rates bill. Given the present uncertainty on future targets it would be prudent to maintain this balance for pump-priming future efficiencies.

5 Financial Implications

The financial implications are as outlined in the report.

6 Legal Comment

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

7 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.

8 Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.

9 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.

Balanced Score Card		Integrated Risk Management Planning	
Business Continuity Planning		Legal	*
Capacity		Member Involvement	
Civil Contingencies Act		National Framework	
Comprehensive Performance Assessment		Operational Assurance	
Efficiency Savings	*	Retained	
Environmental		Risk and Insurance	
Financial	*	Staff	
Fire Control/Fire Link		Strategic Planning	
Information Communications and Technology		West Midlands Regional Management Board	
Freedom of Information / Data Protection / Environmental Information		Equality Impact Assessment	*