

Annual Efficiency Statements: Backward Looking 2007/08 and Forward Looking 2008/09

Report of the Treasurer

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

1 Purpose of Report

The report seeks the approval of the Authority to the submission of its Backward Looking Annual Efficiency Statement (AES) for 2007/08, and Forward Looking AES for the current year.

2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is recommended to submit the Annual Efficiency Statements set out in the appendix.

3 Background

Communities and Local Government (CLG) issued Circular FRS 26/2008 on 20 June 2008 requiring submission of the AES up to 31 March 2008 – i.e. the “Backward Look”, and a forecast of efficiencies for 2008/09 i.e. the “Forward Look” by 19 July 2008. Changes to the new regime include a requirement to net off investment costs, and to exclude any collaborative efficiencies which must be reported jointly through the Regional Management Board.

4 2007/08 Backward Look

The intention is to return a figure of £252,000, column (ii) in the attached appendix. This includes £100,000, which is the saving through managing service levels, with vacant posts. This is the figure taken out of the budget in 2008/09.

The £252,000 also includes the £19,000 saved by reconsidering the purchase of Ford Rangers as reported in April 2008.

5 2008/09 Forward Look

The 2008/09 year means a new target - £110m a year for the Service nationally. Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority's notional share is about £275,000.

During the budget process it was felt prudent to declare the £100,000 of vacancy efficiencies, but the hope at that time was that this would increase to £160,000, and this addition is included.

Work examining the patterns of expenditure in the retained service indicates that the level of calls has been driven down through actions taken during the initiatives on Community Fire Safety. A further £100,000 may be available to redirect within the retained service, and will be the subject of a separate report.

There has also been an opportunity to rearrange duties in collaboration with partners at a saving of £41,000. This still leaves a shortfall to the disaggregate national target of nearly £64,000. As in previous years, your policy has been to maximise efficiency savings. The Authority also recognises the significant difficulties that simple disaggregation presents to authorities with a previous track record of successful implementation of efficiencies. For 2009/10 and 2010/11, the budget forecasts include an annual £150,000. To deliver £275,000 each year will require continuing efforts, especially through the Integrated Risk Management Planning process, to identify any possible opportunities.

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 Appendix

Annual Efficiencies

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.

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	*

Annual Efficiencies - Table of ongoing efficiencies identified to date

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)
Efficiency by Category	Brought Forward 31/03/07	2007/08 Actual	Total to 31/03/08	2008/09 Forecast	Total to 31/03/09	Category Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Revised Shift System / Crewing Arrangements						
- Aerial Appliances	259		259		259	259
Other IRMP Efficiencies						
- XL Cabs	90		90		90	
- Unwanted fire alarms	12		12		12	
- Reduced call-outs and incidents				100	100	
- Reissue of fire kit		20	20		20	
- Management of Vacancies		100	100	60	160	382
Collaboration						
- Market Drayton rental		9	9		9	
- Restructuring of duties				41	41	50
Ill health retirements						
- redeployment		16	16		16	16
Sickness Reductions					-	-
Other H.R. Savings						
- Driver Training	9		9		9	
- Wholetime /retained firefighters	6		6		6	
- Non uniformed inspectors	25	17	42		42	
- Retained Support Officers	25		25		25	82
Better Procurement						
- Reducing prices	42		42		42	
- Insurance Accident review	12		12		12	
- Insurance motor experience	49		49		49	
- Occupational health	4		4		4	
- Firebuy	3		3		3	
- Hydrant contract		20	20		20	
- Recruit training		10	10		10	140

Corporate						
- Senior Management Review	40		40		40	
- Risk management posts	33		33		33	73
Other						
- Ground maintenance	5		5		5	
- Retained (extreme weather)	65		65		65	
- Internal Workshop	9		9		9	
Rating Appeals		38	38		38	
Insurance of Vehicles		3	3		3	
Evaluation of vehicle needs		19	19		19	139
	688	252	940	201	1,141	1,141
National Target	676		930	275	1,205	
Excess/(Shortfall)			10	(74)	(64)	