**Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Budget Consultation 2015/16**

**Where our money comes from**

**Grant**

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority receives around one third of its budget from government grant and business rates. Between 2011/12 and 2014/15, the Authority’s government grant will have reduced by around £2.7million.

**Council Tax**

We receive around two thirds of our income from council tax. Each band D household in the area currently pays just £1.74 per week for its fire and rescue service.

**Where your money goes**

Around 70% of the total budget is spent on our staff: firefighters on the full time and part time duty systems, Fire Control staff, and non-uniformed support staff.  
The remaining balance is spent on the supply and maintenance of operational equipment, uniforms, supplies and services, information and communications technology, and funding the capital programme.

This year's capital programme includes building improvements at a number of our part time staffed stations, the replacement of service vehicles and operational equipment, and improvements to training facilities.

**Where we have saved money**

In 2011/12, we began a programme of budget cuts, which has seen a reduction of more than £3million in the revenue budget over four years. During this programme, budget reductions have included:

* A reduction in both firefighters and support staff of 60 posts (around 10% of total staff)
* A reduction in operational fire officers of 25%
* An increase in the life of fire engines from 12 to 15 years
* Changes to the way in which some fire engines are crewed.

This programme of cuts, along with other budget reductions implemented by officers, means that the Service continues to operate within its budgets. But even after these reductions, the Service is still likely to face a budget shortfall in future years.

The Fire Authority’s **Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2020 Process** has been developed to ensure that:

* We have appropriate plans in place to deal with a potential shortfall in the Service’s budget in future years, and
* The Service’s resources continue to be used to best effect to reduce risk within the County.

As part of the IRMP, officers have consulted with employees and members of the public about improving the way the service is delivered, and also making efficiency savings into the future. A number of reviews will be undertaken over the next two years.

**What about 2015/16?**

This year, we propose to increase council tax by 1.99% (3p per week per average household). This is because we want to ensure that the public still receive an effective fire and rescue service, now and into the future.

You can view our plans for the budget here, and give us your views on our proposals until 24 February 2015.

<http://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/09%20-%202015-16%20and%20Later%20Years%20Budget.doc>

<http://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/09%20APPENDIX%20Green%20Booklet.doc>

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