



Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service



Precept and Budget Information 2018/19

***Foreword by Councillor Colleen Atkins MBE,
Chair of Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
and Paul Fuller CBE QFSM DL, Chief Fire Officer.***

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service delivers a first class prevention, protection and response service to the people of Bedfordshire through our highly trained and well equipped personnel, giving you an excellent fire and rescue service.

Last year we attended over 6,500 emergency incidents including 456 dwelling fires, 454 road traffic collisions, 75 flooding incidents and 1,231 special incidents (which includes animal rescues, aircraft and railway incidents). There were 814 deliberate fires.

We also undertook 4,316 home fire safety checks, operational crews fitted 1,931 ten-year smoke alarms in addition to equipment installed by our prevention team and visited 1,956 businesses to conduct fire safety audits. Following the Grenfell Towers incident, we have inspected 114 high rise buildings across the county to ensure they are fire safe.

In 2016/17 our firefighters saved 30 people from fires and rescued another 314 people. They also extricated 99 casualties from road traffic collisions.

We plan our services to deal with these varied risks but there's no typical day for our firefighters and support staff. From house fires to road traffic collisions, from water rescues to saving a horse from a ditch, we get there swiftly so our well trained, professional teams can deal with the incident using the best possible equipment.

Our firefighters are just as likely to be found giving safety advice at a school or community event as fighting a fire or assisting paramedics gain entry to a house where a vulnerable person needs their help. We will also be inspecting fire hydrants to make sure they are working and no one has parked over them, checking that local businesses have assessed their fire risks and are keeping their staff and customers safe.

Our safe and well visits include checking for trip and slip hazards and other home safety risks as well as providing fire safety advice to our communities' most vulnerable people. Almost one thousand visits have already taken place in 2017/18.

Back at the office our support teams make sure we get the best value for money for our purchases, our books balance, bills get paid promptly and that our fire appliances and equipment are well maintained. They ensure we have good health and safety systems in place and communicate well internally and with you, our council taxpayers.

For £1.84 a week (for a Band D property) Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service provides you and your family with a round-the-clock, 365 days a year emergency service.

This enables your fire and rescue service to respond effectively to incidents, manage the risks you face and reduce the number of emergency incidents we attend. We work tirelessly to develop our employees and create a safe, fair, equal and caring workplace for all our staff. Finally the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority ensure the highest standards of governance and continually seek improvements to the services we provide.

In the coming year we will be consulting with local people on our new Community Risk Management Plan that sets out how we assess local risks, put preventative measures in place and respond should incidents occur.

After receiving 2,563 responses to our consultation in January 2018, the Fire and Rescue Authority has increased its Band D Council Tax requirement for 2018/19 by 2.99%, just 5.3 pence per week or an increase of £2.78 on last year's Council Tax. This will help us to continue to provide excellent protection services across the county from our fourteen strategically located Community Fire Stations.

Alongside a programme of efficiency savings, this small increase will enable us to continue to meet the needs of our communities while at the same time delivering the necessary reductions in overall costs and continuing to give you excellent value for money.



Councillor Colleen Atkins MBE, Chair of the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority

Colleen Atkins



**Paul M Fuller CBE QFSM DL MSc BSc FIFire
Chief Fire Officer, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service**

Paul M Fuller

Revenue Budget

Our revenue budget sets out the money necessary for the day to day running of the Service. Our efficiency measures have allowed us to continue with key service improvements whilst restricting the increase in this year's Council Tax to 2.99% (equivalent to an increase of 5.3 pence per week for a Band D household).

This has been achieved despite the impact of an 18.6% reduction in Government grant to the Authority (compared to 2017/18) totaling £0.653m, and the effect of inflation which is forecast to increase our costs this year by £0.702m.

Capital Budget

Our capital programme highlights spending on assets such as our fire stations and fire engines. Each year the Authority draws up a rolling four year programme of capital projects. The capital projects for this year total £1.253m and these are being funded by contributions from the revenue budget.

Projects for this year include:

- Investment in our vehicle fleet, to maintain effective, economic and efficient fire engines and appliances;
- Investment in IT;
- Investment in the modernisation of our buildings;

Efficiency Savings

An efficiency saving occurs when the cost of an activity is reduced but its quality and effectiveness remains the same or improves. The Fire and Rescue Authority continues to focus on finding new ways to deliver the highest quality services at lowest possible cost.

In 2015, the Government announced the revenue support grant funding for the Service over the four years from 2016/17 to 2019/20. This settlement equates to a 55% funding reduction from 2015/16 funding levels.

Total achieved and planned savings and efficiencies between 2010/11 and 2017/18 total £5.3m, with a further savings and efficiencies of £1.058m by 2021/22

Some of the key areas where the Authority is achieving its planned efficiency savings include:

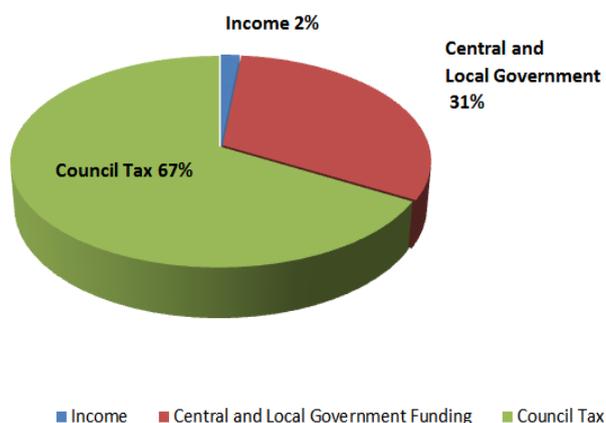
- Savings in managerial and support staff costs through shared service arrangements, organisational restructure and improvements to working systems;
- Savings in firefighter crewing arrangements;
- Savings to the public through collaborative work;
- Savings in the Service Vehicle Replacement Programme through improved asset management and maintenance.

Audit Judgement on Value for Money

In the 2017 Annual External Audit Letter from Ernst & Young, the Fire and Rescue Authority was awarded an 'unqualified conclusion', meaning that we were judged to have satisfactory arrangements in place in all areas.

Financial Charts

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM 2018/19



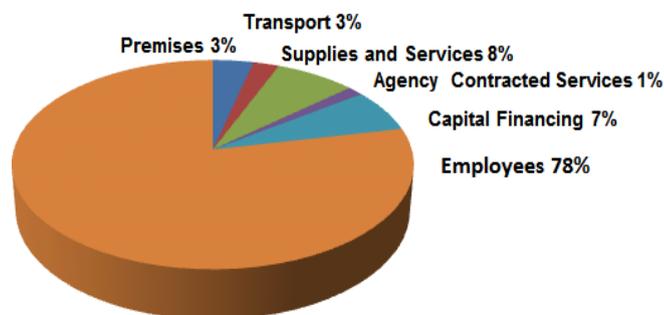
Where does the money come from

	2018/19	2017/18
	(£m)	(£m)
Gross Budget	29.9	29.3
Income	-0.5	-0.6
Budget Requirement	29.4	28.7
Central and Local Government Funding	9.4	9.8
Council Tax	20.0	18.9
	29.4	28.7

What the money is spent on

	2018/19	2017/18
	(£m)	(£m)
Employees	23.3	22.7
Premises	1.1	1.1
Transport	0.7	0.7
Supplies and Services	2.2	2.3
Agency and Contracted Services	0.3	0.4
Capital Financing	2.0	2.2
	29.6	29.4
Reserves Funding	-0.2	-0.7
Budget Requirement	29.4	28.7

WHAT THE MONEY IS SPENT ON 2018/19



The Band D Council Tax for 2018/19 will be £95.59

The Fire and Rescue Authority has agreed a budget requirement of £29.437 million for 2018/19



Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

If you would like a printed copy of this leaflet
please contact us on 01234 845000
or email bedfadmin@bedsfire.com

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
Southfields Road
Kempston
Bedford
MK42 7NR

Tel 01234 845000

www.bedsfire.com

Follow us on Twitter: @bedsfire

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/bedsfire