

Revenue Budget: 2024/25 Precept

Report of the Treasurer

For further information about this report please contact James Walton, Treasurer, on 01743 258915 or Joanne Coadey, Head of Finance, on 01743 260215.

1 Purpose of Report

This report seeks Fire Authority approval to:

- A budget for 2024/25;
- Council Tax levels for 2024/25; and
- Precepts on billing authorities and related matters.

The Authority is required to issue a precept before 1 March 2024 and all items in the “Recommendations” below must be taken together. For ease of reference the key elements of the budget are set out in appendices to this report.

2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to:

- a) Approve that a net budget requirement is set at £29,198,100 (calculated in accordance with the provisions of Section 42a of the Local Government Finance Act 1992);
- b) Approve a total precept of £20,123,327 to be levied on the billing authorities;
- c) Approve a Council Tax, resulting in a basic amount of Council Tax at Band D calculated in accordance with the provisions of the 1992 Act (Section 42b) of £114.49;

- d) Approve, under Section 47 of the 1992 Act:
- a. The amount of Council Tax calculated for each category of dwelling in each billing authority's area, as follows:

Band	2024/2025 Council Tax
	£ p
A	76.33
B	89.05
C	101.77
D	114.49
E	139.93
F	165.37
G	190.82
H	228.98

- b. The amount calculated (in accordance with Section 48 of the 1992 Act) as payable by billing authorities for 2023/24, as follows:

Council	Precept £
Shropshire Council	13,646,194
Borough of Telford & Wrekin Council	6,477,133
	<u>20,123,327</u>

- e) Approve that the Treasurer:
- i Issue the necessary precepts and information to the billing authorities in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IV of Part 1 of the 1992 Act and be authorised to make any amendment to the above to reflect the final approved budget, after consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Fire Authority; and
- ii Is authorised to make payments required from, and to, reserves and provisions within the approved budget strategy and within the Authority's Financial Regulations, in conjunction with the Chair and Vice-Chair;
- f) Approve the revenue budget and pensions account, illustrated in Appendix A, for budgetary control in accordance with approved standing orders, and
- g) Approve the schedule of reserves and provisions at Appendix B

3 Budget Process

The Fire Authority's net spending (budget) for services in 2024/25 has been reported throughout November 2023 to January 2024. The budget is set out in Appendix A and is reported in the Fire Authority's service areas.

The funds receivable in the form of revenue support grant and s31 grants, business rates and top-up payments is £9,114,468. The Fire Authority's share of the council tax collection fund surpluses totals £47,081, and its share of deficits payable on the business rates collection funds is £86,776. A council tax base equivalent to 175,764.97 Band D properties has been notified to the Fire Authority by the billing authorities.

4 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report other than those discussed within the report.

5 Legal Comment

There are no legal implications other than those outlined in the report.

6 Appendices

Appendix A

Revenue Programme Budget 2024/25 and Pensions Account

Appendix B

Budget for Reserves

7 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.

Revenue Budget 2024/25 and Pensions Account

Revenue Budget 2024/25 Key Service Areas	Pay £000	Other £000	Total £000
Executive and Resources			
Executive and Resources Pay	1,629		1,629
Executive		88	88
Finance		1,874	1,874
Pensions		390	390
Technical Services		2,131	2,131
Workshops		317	317
Pay and Price Contingency		1,655	1,655
<u>Total Executive</u>	1,629	6,455	8,084
Service Delivery			
Service Delivery Pay	16,156		16,156
Fire Prevention		-47	-47
Area Command		5	5
Operational Response		67	67
Training		184	184
Health and Safety		4	4
<u>Total Service Delivery</u>	16,156	213	16,369
Corporate Support			
Corporate Support Pay	2,248		2,248
Information and Communications Technology		1,449	1,449
Programme Office		10	10
Corporate Support		482	482
Human Resources		385	385
Development		171	171
<u>Total Corporate Support</u>	2,248	2,497	4,745
Total Revenue Budget	20,033	9,165	29,198

For the purposes of Financial Standing Orders, revenue votes are described in **bold** print and underlined.

	Estimate 2024/25
<u>PENSIONS ACCOUNT</u>	£000
<u>Contributions</u>	
Employer contributions – 2015 scheme	1,961
Employee contributions – 2015 scheme	883
Employee contributions – modified scheme	20
Ill-health charges	120
Inward transfers from other pension schemes	0
Total contributions	<hr/> 2,984
<u>Costs</u>	
Pensions outgo	-7,215
Total deficit to be funded by top-up grant	<hr/> -4,231 <hr/>

Budget for Reserves

	Balance 01/04/24 £000	Spend £000	Income £000	Balance 31/03/25 £000	Spend £000	Income £000	Balance 31/03/26 £000
General	577	0	0	577	0	0	577
Earmarked Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Major Projects	1,000	-1,000	0	0	0	0	0
Extreme Incidents	219	0	0	219	0	0	219
Pensions and Other Staff Matters	687	0	0	687	0	0	687
Information and Communications Technology (ICT)	604	-250	0	354	-250	0	104
Income Volatility	687	0	0	687	0	0	687
Service Transformation Programme Staff	487	-300	0	187	-187	0	0
Service Delivery	85	-20	0	65	-20	0	45
Building Maintenance	212	-50	0	162	-50	0	112
Operational Equipment	63	-50	40	53	-50	40	43
Training	50	-20	0	30	-20	0	10
Total	4,671	-1,690	40	3,021	-577	40	2,484