

NOTE OF THE TREASURER

EFFICIENCIES AND OTHER SAVINGS

1 Purpose of Note

This note sets out the efficiencies so far identified for 2007/08.

2 Recommendations

The Group proposes the following efficiencies for calculating the budget requirements for 2007/08 and later years:

	Efficiencies	Savings	Total
	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000
2007/08	100 -	95 -	195 -
2008/09	160 -	98 -	258 -
2009/10	124 -	91 -	215 -

3 Background

It was reported that the national target, if disaggregated to this Fire Authority would total £930,000 in 2007/08. Efficiencies have been identified to date of £678,000, therefore a target has been set for 2007/08 of £252,000.



4 Quantified Efficiencies

	2007/08 £ 000	2008/09 £ 000	2009/10 £ 000
i Hydrant Inspection and Maintenance Following a comprehensive inspection, it has proved possible to reduce the level of contracted work and concentrate resources more effectively.	20 -	20 -	20 -
ii Building Maintenance As a result of the capital investment in fire stations and the use of low maintenance, long-life materials, it will be possible to reduce annual maintenance costs by £50,000 a year and achieve current policy levels of building maintenance.	-	50 -	50 -
iii Rental Income Following investment in Retained Stations, rental income is being achieved.	9 -	9 -	9 -
iv Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) It is estimated that savings in costs can be achieved by re-issuing PPE, where it remains at agreed standards.	20 -	10 -	10 -
v Human Resources Redeployment rather than ill-health retirement	16 -	19 -	-
Wholetime recruit training – change of provider	10 -	27 -	10 -
Appointment of firefighters to Retained Support posts	25 -	25 -	25 -
	100 -	160 -	124 -

Unquantified efficiencies identified for 2007/08 are:

- i Recruitment of future wholetime / retained firefighters
- ii Extension of service
- iii Brigade photographer
- iv Reduction in deliberate fires – effect on retained crew costs
- v Incident command staff
- vi Respecification of Incident Command vehicles
- vii Regional benefits



Work is continuing on these, and has been given weight by the Fire Authority's having decided to continue to work to a target of the national disaggregated average. It would be imprudent, however, to specify a precise figure until the practical details for 2007/08 have been resolved.

In later years the Government has intimated that 2.5% efficiencies may be expected. This would total about £450,000, i.e. well in excess of current targets, and clearly very difficult for this Authority to achieve.

5 Other Savings

In the meantime, work has been proceeding to check whether all growth items are required. In particular, it is clear that it would be realistic to rephase the growth in retained firefighter numbers and, therefore, rephase the planned budget increases as follows:

	Planned	Revised
	£ 000	£ 000
2007/08	+ 95	-
2008/09	+ 193	+ 95
2009/10	+ 284	+ 193

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

