

## Annual Review of Charges – Special Services

### Report of the Treasurer

For further information about this report please contact Keith Dixon, Treasurer, on 01743 260202 or Joanne Coadey, Principal Accountant, on 01743 260215.

#### 1 Purpose of Report

To present proposed increases in charges made for special services.

#### 2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to approve that the proposed charges for special services be applied from 1 April 2008.

#### 3 Background

Charging for special services is currently permitted by Orders issued under Section 19 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. This report lays out proposed increases to the current tariff of charges, following a review undertaken at the request of the Fire Authority.

#### 4 The Fire Authority's Current Charges

The tariff of charges currently in place for special services is reviewed annually. Following approval of the last increases in February 2007, Members of the Fire Authority requested that a full review was undertaken.

Finance officers collated tariffs from fire services both around the country and regionally, and Shropshire's charges were measured against them. Following the review, officers concluded that this Authority's tariff was not out of line with what was being charged regionally and nationally. The review also drew the attention of Members to the small monetary values earned from special service calls.

To this end, it is proposed that the Authority's charges are increased for inflationary purposes only, and that the percentage rate to be used is the pay award for operational staff, awarded in July 2007.



## 5 Financial Implications

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

## 6 Legal Comment

The Fire Authority has the power to impose special charges only in certain circumstances.

## 7 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.

## 8 Appendix

Revised Special Service Charges 2007/08 to 2008/09

## 9 Background Papers

### Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority

19 December 2007, Report 15 Review of Charges – Special Services and minutes

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	*



**Special Service Charges**

<b>Appliances</b>	<b>2007/08 Net Rate per Hour* With Crew £</b>	<b>2008/09 Net Rate per Hour* With Crew £</b>
Pumping Appliance	205.00	209.92
Major Appliance	272.00	278.53
Special Appliances	69.00	70.66
Utility Vehicles	69.00	70.66

\*part of an hour to count as a complete hour

<b>Miscellaneous Charges</b>	<b>Hourly Rate* £</b>	<b>Hourly Rate* £</b>
Preparation of (New/Amended) Fire Certificates	49.00	50.18
Search of files (+ document charge, see below)	28.00	28.67
Interviews with Brigade personnel  (Charge is based on interview plus travelling expenses incurred) Minimum charge	54.00	55.30
Copy of Means of Escape Certificate  Minimum charge – based on preparation time	49.00	50.18

\*charge per hour and pro rata

	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Charge</b>
Replacement Fire Certificate	49.00	50.18
Copy of Fire Report	49.00	50.18
Copy of Fire Investigation Report	240.00	245.76
Copy of Fire Regulations	6.30	6.45