

Base Budget plus Committed Change

Report of the Treasurer

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

1 Purpose of Report

This report shows the latest position on the base budget plus committed change, following budget reviews by heads of department.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report, for inclusion in the budget summary shown in report 5.

3 Background

As the first step in the budget setting process, finance staff and heads of department have reviewed all current budgets. This review has taken into account both changes as a result of the 2006/07 outturn, and unavoidable events so far in 2007/08.



4 Revised Position following Review

	2008/09 £'000	2009/10 £'000	2010/11 £'000
a) 2007/08 Budget	19,146	19,146	19,146
b) Committed Changes			
Firefighters' Pensions	13	61	134
Local Govt Pension Scheme	16	16	16
Leasing	(32)	(93)	(108)
Debt Charges:			
2007/08 Capital Programme	80	80	80
MRP	(15)	(17)	(20)
Retained Review	193	284	284
Efficiencies 2007/08	(63)	(27)	(27)
c) Other			
Injury allowances and pensions – current pension budgets not sufficient – in year virement approved by the Fire Authority in October	40	40	40
Pay and Prices – savings identified in 07/08 which are ongoing	(75)	(75)	(75)
Investment Income – based on levels of reserves and balances available to be invested	(139)	(139)	(139)
Rates – ongoing saving as a result of recent rates appeal	(38)	(38)	(38)
Waste disposal – to cover WEEE regulations and confidential shredding	4	4	4
Water charges – increased charges due to unexpected costs this year	6	6	6
Vehicle repairs – additional funds for 3yrs to overhaul pumps	5	5	
Vehicle repairs – regular replacement of primers on major pumps	4	4	4
Hydrants – road working safety notices may be required	9	9	9
False alarm reduction – publicity material to encourage further reductions	3	3	3
Youth Initiatives – increases required for Firesetter training, and further work with schools and young people	5	5	5
Community Safety – increases required to include marketing and publicity and printing costs	6	6	6
Total	19,168	19,280	19,330



In the note to the Budget Working Group on 30 August 2007, a figure of £19,519,000 was reported for base plus committed changes in 2008/09. The actual increase on Firefighters' Pensions is lower than originally anticipated, due to fewer retirements in 2006/07 than expected. In addition, interest earned on investments has been evaluated for the coming years, and will generate more income for the Authority. Finally, a successful rates appeal resulted in lower charges on the Authority's buildings from 2007/08.

5 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications other than those mentioned in the report.

6 Legal Comment

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

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 Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.

9 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.



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	*

