

SAFE INVESTMENT

Essex Fire Authority 2007/08 Council Tax



PROVIDING VALUE FOR MONEY

For **£1.15*** a week your Fire and Rescue Service is committed to improvements in Service delivery, focusing on community protection and prevention.

(*Based on a Band D property)

**WE KNOW THIS IS EXCELLENT VALUE
FOR MONEY....WE HOPE YOU AGREE!**

Foreword



Councillor Lionel Lee, Chairman of Essex Fire Authority introduces this years spending plans for Essex County Fire & Rescue Service:

Once again I am proud to report that over the past 12 months our Service has been proactive in achieving improvements in both community fire safety and operational effectiveness.

Our initiatives have seen a significant reduction in accidental fires; this coincides with a noticeable reduction in injuries and deaths resulting from these fires.

All of this would not be possible without the dedication and support of our staff and our partners, in 2006 we increased our partnership working to ensure that we could do more than we have ever done before to make Essex a safer place to live, work and visit.

Our commitment to you in 2007/08 will focus on activities that continue to keep the people of Essex safe; at the same time delivering a Value for Money Service.



Community Safety

Firefighters from your local fire station are currently visiting homes in your area to give advice on Fire Safety and,

where it is needed, to fit **free smoke alarms**.

All our officers carry identification and there is absolutely no charge for this service.

If you would like someone to call, please call **0845 601 2495**

Introduction

Essex Fire Authority has responsibility for the Fire Service covering the Essex County Council area and the two unitary authorities of Southend and Thurrock. The Fire Authority levies a separate council tax for its purposes on all properties in its area. This leaflet summarises the Authority's plan for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service in 2007/2008.

The Service has 51 fire stations, strategically located to provide protection to all areas of the County. In 2007/08 it plans to employ 965 fulltime firefighters, 540 retained firefighters, 246 support staff and 47 Control staff.

Where we are going

As a fire and rescue service we want:

- Our people to feel inspired to deliver and be part of the best fire and rescue service
- To work with other people to do more than we have ever done to make Essex safe

To achieve this we have changed our focus on the work we undertake and now place even greater emphasis on fire prevention, protection and community safety.

Every year we produce a plan of how we intend to meet our aspirations. This plan is called the Integrated Risk Management Plan.

Integrated Risk Management (IRMP)

Integrated risk management planning requires continuous assessment of the Service's operating environment to take into consideration existing and future risks to the delivery of our objectives. It also provides a framework for exploring opportunities for development by looking for new and innovative ways of providing and supporting our services.

This year's plan allows for improvements in both

operational response and proactive community safety.

We plan to put people first and make the most productive use of our resources to:

- Reduce the number of emergency incidents
- Reduce loss of life in fires and other emergency incidents
- Reduce the number and severity of injuries occurring in fire and other emergencies
- Reduce the commercial, economic and social impact of fires and other emergency incidents
- Safeguard the environment and heritage (both built and natural)
- Provide communities with value for money

We are actively involved in partnership working through Essex, Southend and Thurrock Local Area Agreements we have enlisted the support of many new partners including Essex, Southend and Thurrock Social Care teams, the Fostering Network and many more.

Tell us your views

We would welcome your comments and suggestions. These should be sent to Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1AL.

Telephone: 01277 222531;
 Fax: 01277 229281 or email
enquiries@essex-fire.gov.uk.
 Website: www.essex-fire.gov.uk

Finance/Budget Issues

Financing the Service

The budget information shows how the Fire Authority will fund the fire service in accordance with its strategic aims and objectives and the Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2007/08.

In addition to meeting known cost increases, the agreed budget will provide for investment



in new equipment, increased attention to community fire safety, performance management and property maintenance and improvements.

Implementation of the plan – following public consultation – will see the delivery of a service that takes advantage of the latest developments in technology, allowing us to deploy more resources within the communities we serve to ensure Essex is a safe place to live, work and visit.

The additional cashable efficiency savings included in 2007/08 are estimated at £0.7m. Further savings of £0.9m will result from changes made in earlier years. In total this represents around 2.5% of net expenditure, in line with Audit Commission guidelines.

Fire Service Element of Council Tax 2007/08

	£		£
Band A	39.96	Band E	73.26
Band B	46.62	Band F	86.58
Band C	53.28	Band G	99.90
Band D	59.94	Band H	119.88

Band D is used as a base for calculating the tax. The number of Band D equivalent properties in Essex is **628,758**. To raise the required precept of **£37.69m** a Council Tax for Fire Service purposes of £59.94 is required; this is an increase of **2.9%** over the 2006/07 figure (£58.23). The other seven bands are fixed in direct proportion to Band D.

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service Planned Spending

The Essex Authority has approved a budget as follows:

	2006/07 £000	2007/08 £000
Gross expenditure	66,938	69,848
Income	(1,183)	(1,955)
Net expenditure	65,755	67,893
Contribution from general balances	(483)	-

Budget requirement 65,272 67,893

Financed by

Revenue support grant	4,695	4,302
Business rates	24,321	25,636
Collection Fund surplus	-	266
Council tax	36,256	32,689

TOTAL FINANCING 65,272 67,893

Changes in the budget requirement 2007/08:

£000

2006/07	65,272
Inflation	1,840
Other changes	781

2007/08 Budget requirement 67,893

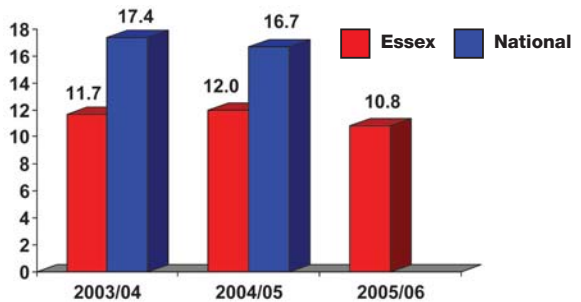
Service Activity during 2005/06

- We extinguished 8,743 fires
- We saved 267 people from fires
- We attended 1,421 road accidents
- We attended 2,882 special service calls
- We attended 9,744 false alarms
- We attended 24,123 incidents

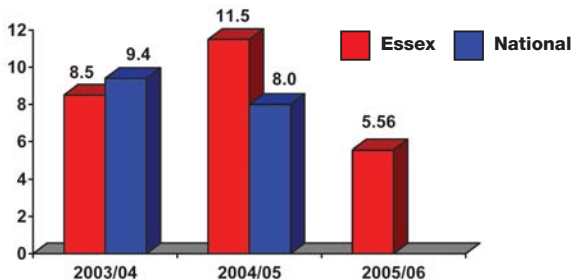
Copies of this document are available in other languages, braille, large print and audio cassette on request. Please contact Corporate Services on **01277 22531**

Nationally Set Performance Targets

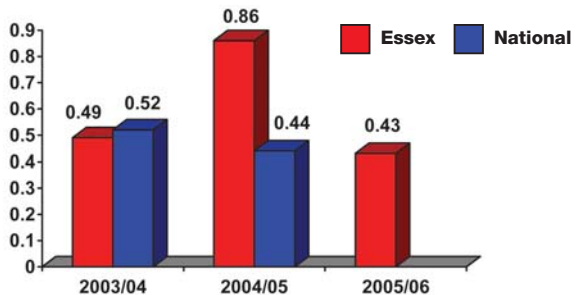
Accidental Fires in Dwelling per 10,000 Dwellings



Injuries arising from Accidental Fires in Dwellings per 100,000 population



Deaths arising from Accidental Fires in Dwellings per 100,000 population



Between 2004/05 and 2005/06 we have reduced the number of calls to accidental fires by 10%. A significant proportion of the Service's community safety initiatives are directed towards the reduction of accidental dwelling fires resulting in a significant reduction in fire related injuries.

The number of fire deaths during the last year fell by 50% from the tragic total experienced in 2004/05. The Service has set itself very challenging targets for continuing the reduction.