

What does the Authority do?

The Authority is responsible for West Midlands Fire Service, which serves the West Midlands conurbation. In addition to providing an emergency response, your fire and rescue service provides you with fire safety advice to prevent death and injury from fire and also to prevent losses to business and amenities. We also provide fire safety advice and enforce fire safety legislation if required and we are actively involved in contingency planning arrangements.

We have a three-year rolling strategy and annual plan. This sets out how we intend to protect and serve you, the community of the West Midlands.

The Authority's vision is

"Making the West Midlands safer, stronger and healthier"

This is supported by our priorities:

RESPONSE - Dealing excellently with incidents

PREVENTION - Delivering services which support safer and healthier communities

PROTECTION - Protecting life and property to make businesses stronger and communities safer

We have an important role to play in helping people live safer, healthier lives and supporting West Midlands businesses and the economy to thrive.

Our Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) identifies and assesses all foreseeable risks which our communities may face. This assessment informs our Service Delivery Model, priorities and how we use our resources to reduce risk and vulnerability across the West Midlands.

Further information can be found on our website at www.wmfs.net/our-plan



How many people work for the Authority?

The table below gives details of the budgeted staffing establishment of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority. Numbers are shown as full-time equivalent posts:

Budgeted Staffing	2022/23	2023/24	Change
Total Employees	1,875	1,893	18

How much does the service cost?

The table below details the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority's revenue budget for the financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24:

Revenue Budget	2022/23	2023/24
Expenditure	£123.665m	£134.825m
Income	-£74.260m	-£80.961m
Council Tax Requirement	£49.405m	£53.864m

At 31st March 2022, the Authority's borrowing was £32m.

Council tax requirement per head of population in 2023/2024

£17.90



Who pays for it?

The West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority precept is the part of the council tax which pays for the fire service. The total amount of precept for each City/District Council is shown below:

Local Authority	2022/23	2023/24
Birmingham	£17,575,153	£19,222,154
Coventry	£5,732,105	£6,284,807
Dudley	£6,380,157	£6,851,361
Sandwell	£5,092,269	£5,605,000
Solihull	£5,323,388	£5,780,475
Walsall	£4,884,445	£5,301,543
Wolverhampton	£4,417,355	£4,818,580
Total Precepts	£49,404,872	£53,863,920

Why has the Council Tax requirement changed?

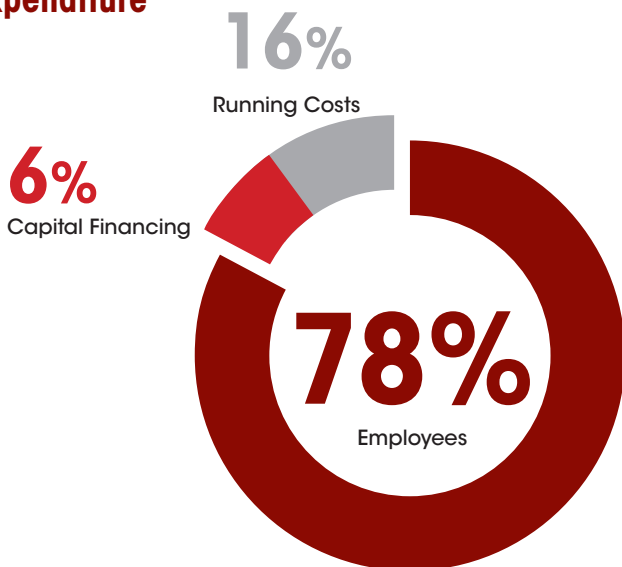
The Authority's council tax requirement for 2023/24 is £53.864m compared with £49.405m for 2022/23, an increase of £4.459m. This change is analysed in the table below:

Changes To Council Tax Requirement	
Pay Award Provision	£6.501m
Employees	£0.997m
Inflation	£2.372m
Running Costs	£1.786m
Efficiencies	-£1.074m
Income	-£2.042m
Government Grants	-£4.081m
Total Change	£4.459m

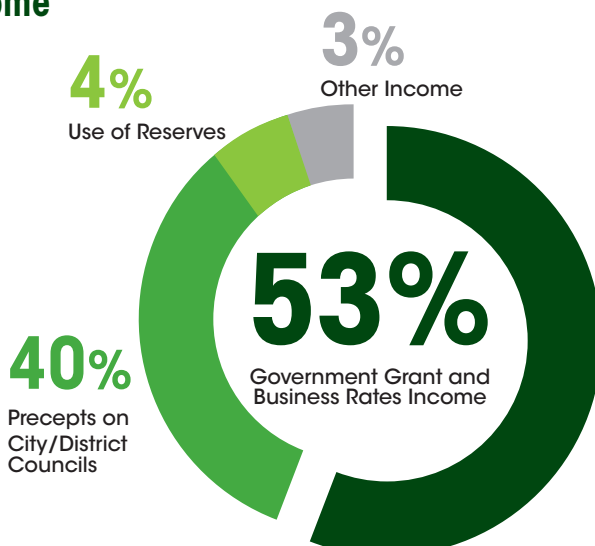
How is the budget spent and financed?

The pie charts below show in percentage terms how the budget is spent and financed:

Expenditure



Income



How much does the service cost in 2023/24?

The table below details the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority revenue budget for the financial year 2023/24:

Revenue Budget: Cost Of Service in 2023/24	
Employees	£105.659m
Running Costs	£21.235m
Capital Financing	£7.931m
Total Expenditure	£134.825m
Government Core Funding	-£56.867m
Other Government Grant	-£14.080m
Other Income	-£4.440m
Use of Reserves	-£5.574m
Total Income	-£80.961m
Council Tax Requirement	£53.864m

Anything else?

For further information relating to the Fire Service, contact **The Chief Fire Officer** using the address below. For financial information relating to the Fire Service, please contact **The Treasurer** at the address below.

**West Midlands Fire Service Headquarters,
99 Vauxhall Road,
Birmingham,
B7 4HW.**

This leaflet contains financial information on your Fire Service. The Authority is committed to equality of opportunity but must demonstrate value for money. Whilst all requests for our leaflets and publications to be reproduced in alternative formats and languages will be considered, where possible we will seek other methods of communication.

Please call **03300 589 000**.

To find out more about staying safe in your home and to book a Safe and Well visit, go to: www.wmfs.net/our-services/safe-and-well



WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE

Making the West Midlands safer, stronger and healthier