

2010/11 Annual efficiency statement - forward look for fire & resilience services

Comments for actions in 2010/11

The Authority is fully committed to an ongoing modernisation programme of the Fire Service and to delivering an efficient, Best Value Fire Service to the people of Merseyside. The Authority through its integrated Risk Management Plan is redirecting its resources in the best ways to tackle the risks faced by the people of Merseyside. In particular the Authority has reviewed the way it utilises its staffing resource to meet the challenges facing the Service with the objective of making communities in Merseyside safer.

In setting its budget in recent years the Authority faced significant financial challenges because of changes in the way central government grants are calculated and the costs of the Firefighters Pension Scheme. This has led to the Authority's income being significantly reduced as these grants represent over 60% of annual income for the Fire Authority. CSR07 announced grant increases for the Authority of +1.0%, +0.5% and 0.5% for 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11, significantly below the forecast pay inflation for this period. This has meant that the Authority had to develop an innovative medium term financial plan that reduced overall expenditure in line with resources available, delivered significant financial efficiencies and kept Council Tax increases to modest levels.

Between 2006/07 and 2011/12 the Authority expects to reduce the cost of its workforce by approximately £9m which is equivalent to over 12% of the 2006/07 gross budget. This saving target is the single most strategic and demanding aspect of the Authority's current medium term financial plan. The Authority has identified this saving target is achievable over the medium term through savings arising from natural turnover rates

Key performance successes achieved by the end of 2009/10 include:-

- Continuing the successful management of accidental dwelling fires, a 19% reduction in accidental dwelling fires between 2003/04 and 2008/09
- A **37%** reduction in the number of injuries from primary fires between 2003/4 and 2008/09
- Fire deaths (in accidental dwelling fires) remain at half the number that occurred before the programme of home fire safety checks (9 in 2008/09).
- Deliberate primary fires reduced by **60%** between 2003/4 and 2008/09

- Completing a total of 111,000 home fire safety checks within a single year, and the total smoke alarms fitted from 1999 to date at +700,000
- Overall staffing arrangements have changed at over a third of fire stations in Merseyside

Revised Shift Systems / Crewing Definitions £0.360m cashable saving reflects the staff efficiency saving coming from modernising the workforce through the introduction of a self-rostering system delivering in-house crewing resilience within individual stations.

Other IRMP £0.325m saving - A review of the existing arrangements for the Authority's engineering workshop and stores will deliver a £0.150m saving. As operational staff retire this experienced resource will be used to provide front line resilience in a more efficient way.

Reduced Ill Health retirements saving £0.150m - over the recent years the Authority has seen a reduction in ill health retirements. This efficiency saving assumes this will continue in future years.

Better Procurement saving £0.100m - by controlling non-employee budgets and cash limiting the spend the Authority expects to deliver the same if not improved level of service at a lower cost.

Other- saving £0.175m - The Authority will use the fire brand name and excellent reputation of Merseyside Fire service to generate income through a social enterprise initiative.

Efficiency gains forecast for the financial year 2010-2011

All figures £'000

	Quality cross-check (QCC) met	Capital	Revenue	Net annual cashable efficiency gain 2010-11	Net cumulative cashable efficiency gain (include recurring gains from 2009-10 only)
Revised shift systems/Crewing arrangements (IRMP)	BVPI 143 BVPI 146	No	Yes	360	2,981
Other IRMP savings	BVPI 206 BVPI 209 BVPI 142	No	Yes	325	975
Collaboration				0	0
Reduced ill-health retirements	IN HOUSE DATA COLLECTION	No	Yes	150	350
Sickness reduction	IN HOUSE DATA COLLECTION	No	Yes	0	369
Other HR savings				0	0
Better procurement	INFLATION PROVISION DRAWDOWN	No	Yes	100	700
Corporate services	EXTERNAL REPORTING RETURNS	No	Yes	0	150
Other	INCOME TARGET SET	No	Yes	175	175
Total				1,110	5,700