**Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Budget and Spending**

The 2018/19 budget for Suffolk’s fire and rescue service was £21,699,866. The chart below provides a high-level breakdown of how this money was spent across the Service. These figures vary slightly from year to year as budgets are established to meet the risk for the following year. The chart shows that the largest proportion of spend was on firefighters and officers delivering front line fire and rescue services in our communities.

Fire Service funding comes from both council tax and central government grant with approximately 55% currently coming from council tax. This clearly shows that expected further government grant reductions will have a significant impact on the overall budget for the fire service.

**Operating Efficiently**

We want the service we provide you to be effective, community-focussed, financially sustainable and resilient and we’re always looking for ways to work efficiently and use the resources we have in the most cost-effective way. The types of initiatives and projects we have developed in recent years include:

* Using government supported private finance to completely refurbish or rebuild 11 fire stations
* Sharing 16 fire stations with Police and Ambulance ‘blue light’ partners with plans for more in the next few years
* Continuing with plans to review and improve our vehicle fleet, replacing our oldest fire engines with new and more efficient vehicles
* Providing better firefighting and rescue equipment and clothing for firefighters improving both public and firefighter safety
* Crewing our fire engines in a more efficient way
* Reducing the size of the fire service’s support functions and middle and senior management team
* Continuing to explore opportunities to collaborate with public sector partners in areas ranging from procurement to our 999 control and shared support functions

**Capital Funding**

The Service has a capital programme for significant purchases associated with property, appliances and equipment. The programme is financed through the sale of assets, capital grants from government and contributions from the Service’s revenue budget.

In 2014 we were successful in bidding for a share of the Government’s £75m Fire Transformation Fund. The £4.9m we received is being used to increase the number of shared fire, police and ambulance stations in Suffolk.

**Our Budget and Spending 2019-20**

The total Fire Service budget for the 2019/20 financial year is £21,548,845. This money is divided into the following high-level breakdown.

The chart shows that the largest proportion of spend will be on firefighters and officers delivering front line fire and rescue services in our communities. The expenditure budget for our staff, £16,167,266 is divided in the following way between our departments;

Our total budget (2019/20) displayed in Operational Service Areas is shown below;