

Summary of Accounts

Details of Avon Fire Authority's Spending during the past financial year

2007/08

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2007/08

Avon Fire Authority has published a statement of accounts for 2007/08 in accordance with proper accounting practices as set out in the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy) Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for Local Authority Accounting. A copy of the statement of accounts is available on the Avon Fire & Rescue Service website www.avonfire.gov.uk.

The purpose of this document is to pick out the key elements from the statement to make the accounts more accessible to a wider audience.

The document is in four sections:

- a summary of financial performance
- the Consolidated Revenue Account,
- the Cash Flow Statement and
- the Consolidated Balance Sheet.

Each section provides a brief explanation of the purpose of the statement and a summary of the financial position.

Financial Performance

The revenue budget for 2007/08 which was set in February 2007 was £43,584k. When contributions from/to balances and reserves are excluded, the level of total net expenditure planned for the year was £44,124k.

The actual level of net expenditure in 2007/08, before transfers to and from reserves, totalled £43,135k which is £989k less than the revised budget. The majority of this under-spend was transferred to a reserve for future budget pressures identified in the Authority's medium term financial plan.

COST OF THE FIRE SERVICE

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

The Income and Expenditure Account is a summary of the resources consumed in providing services and managing the Authority during the last year. The statement identifies the cost of the individual elements of the service along with details of how the money has been raised to pay for it.

As you would expect, a large proportion of the expenditure goes on the emergency response role, which in addition to direct firefighting, responding to road traffic accidents and other emergencies includes the cost of answering emergency calls. Once again in 2007/08 there was a positive shift in resources into community fire safety work as part of the Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan. Avon Fire Authority aims to reduce the terrible impacts of fire and other emergencies by preventing them happening in the first place. Find out more about the Community Safety work Avon Fire & Rescue Service do in the 'Your Safet'y section of the website www.avonfire.gov.uk.

2007-08	
Services	£'000
Community fire safety	8,011
Firefighting and operations	34,210
Emergency Planning & Civil Defence	230
Authority Management Costs	755
Non Distributed Costs	313
Net cost of services	43,519
Net interest payable\receivable)	83
Net interest charges on net pensions liability	14,820
Net operating expenditure	58,422
Less	
Items included in net operating expenditure not charged to taxpayers (*)	(15,287)
Total	43,135
Funded by	
Government - revenue support grant	(3,505)
Business rate payers - contributions	(20,883)
Council Tax payers	(19,196)
Total	(43,584)
Net transfer to working balance\reserves	(449)

(*) Details of items not charged to taxpayers	
Net notional pension costs	(13,347)
Depreciation of assets	(2,872)
Revenue funding for fixed assets	932
Total	(15,287)

MOVEMENT OF CASH (CASH FLOW)

Avon Fire Authority is also required to prepare a cash flow statement which provides details of the cash movement for the year on the four types of financial activities which are undertaken. These are revenue activities, returns on investment and servicing of finance activities, capital activities and financing activities.

During the year the total cash paid out exceeded the amounts received by £1,464k, decreasing the cash and bank balance shown in the balance sheet.

2007-08

	£'000
Net cash received \ (paid)	
Revenue activities	1,055
Returns on investments and servicing of finance activities	21
Capital activities	(4,926)
Financing activities	2,386
Net cash paid	(1,464)

FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31ST MARCH 2008

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

The purpose of this statement is to provide a summary of the assets and liabilities of the Authority at the end of the financial year and provide details of what reserves and balances the Authority has available.

By far the largest items in the balance sheet are two self balancing items valued at approximately £335m relating to the underlying commitments that the authority has in the long run to pay retirement benefits to its employees. However statutory arrangements for funding these commitments mean that the financial position of the authority remains healthy.

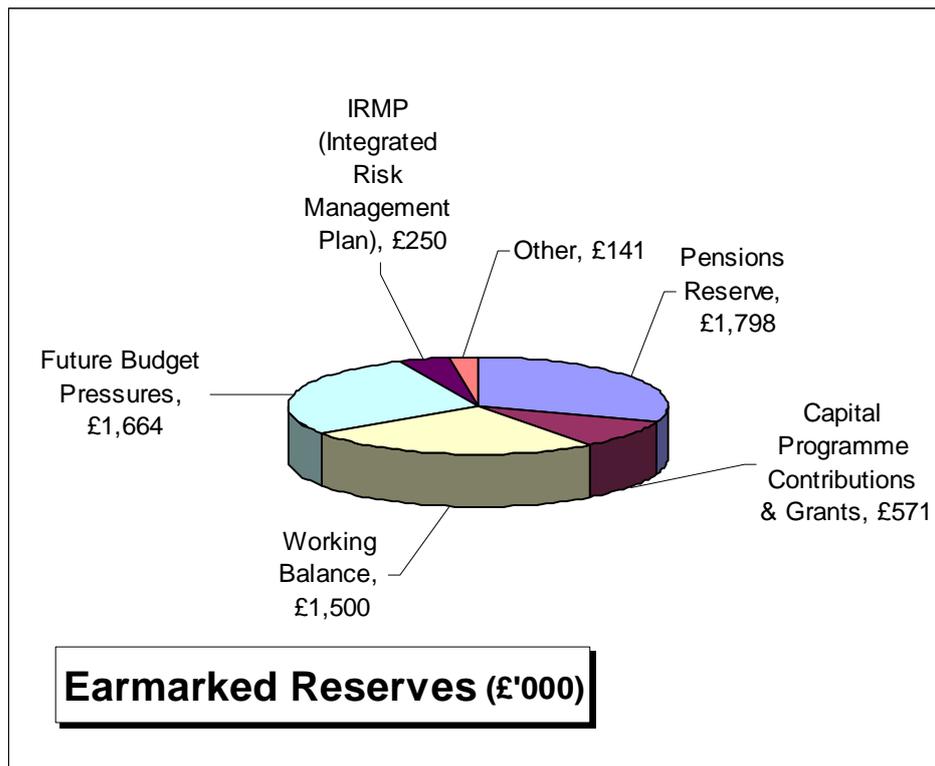
31st March 2008

Assets	£'000
Intangible Assets	154
Land and buildings	60,208
Vehicles Plant and Equipment	7,687
Debtors (money owed to us)	7,301
Investments, stock and cash	2,613
Total Assets	77,963
Liabilities	
Borrowing	(13,696)
Creditors (money we owe)	(4,151)
Government Grants Deferred	(190)
Deferred Liabilities	(572)
Provisions	(277)
Pension liability	(334,509)
Total Liabilities	(353,395)
Total Assets Less Total Liabilities	(275,432)
Reserves	
Revaluation Reserve	946
Capital Adjustment Account	51,520
Capital Receipts Reserve	687
Pensions Reserve	(334,509)
Earmarked Reserves	4,424
Fund Balance	1,500
Total net worth	(275,432)

RESERVES

Reserves include earmarked reserves set aside for particular purposes and a working balance which the Authority considers necessary to mitigate financial risks.

31 March 2008



CONTACT US

Avon Fire Authority values the opinions of the people it serves. If you wish to comment about the services of the Authority, contact Avon Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters on 0117 9262061.

If you would like further information with about the Authority's accounts and finances please contact:

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For more information about Avon Fire Authority visit our website www.avonfire.gov.uk