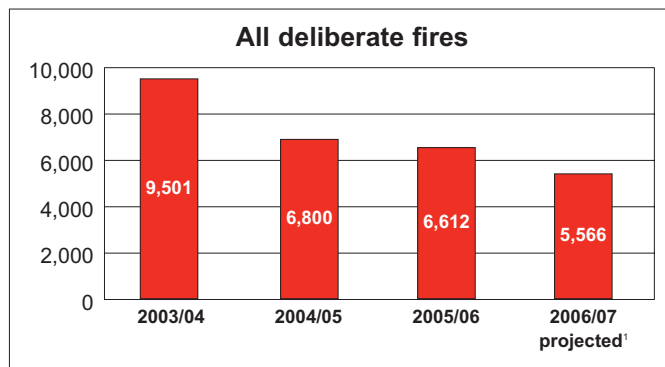


Reducing the number of fires

The Fire and Rescue Service does much more than respond to 999 calls. Our staff deliver an education programme in most schools in Kent and Medway, and work with young offenders, as well as provide advice and practical help to make homes safer from fire. We also work with the police and local councils to remove abandoned cars and rubbish which could be used to start fires.

It is still vital that we can respond quickly when fires do happen, but all this activity has helped to reduce the number of fires started, as the table opposite shows. This is true for all types of fires but the biggest reduction has been in those started deliberately, which account for almost two thirds of the fires we go to. At worst they endanger lives, but even small fires can cause real problems for local residents.



As well as fires, we also go to, and work to prevent, other emergency incidents such as road accidents.

At the end of 2006 we asked for your views on revising our key aim and objectives. The results set out below reflect your views and will be used to drive our plans for the next three years.

Aim: to save lives and reduce risks

Our pledge to the public is that we will:

- Invest in preventing fires and accidents
- Respond quickly when you need us
- Be prepared to deal with major incidents

Our commitment as an organisation is to:

- Engage, listen and learn
- Innovate and improve
- Care for the environment
- Be effective and efficient
- Be representative and respectful

What you can do to help us:

- Fit smoke alarms – and make sure they work
- Drive safely – and make sure your children do
- Bin your rubbish – and protect your environment

Kent & Medway	2004/05 actual	2005/06 actual	2006/07 estimate¹	Average for England²
Total fires (per 10,000 population)	61.8	61.5	53.8	65.3
Accidental fires in the home (per 10,000 homes)	12.5	12.9	10.9	16.7
Deliberate fires (per 10,000 population)	42.8	41.1	34.6	N/A

¹Based on data at January 2007

²Latest published government data (2004/05)

Council Tax 2007/08

If you have any comments or questions about the information in this leaflet, please write to:

Chief Executive & Chief Fire Officer
Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Authority
Headquarters
Straw Mill Hill, Tovil
Maidstone ME15 6XB
or email: info@kent.fire-uk.org

Each year we publish a Service Performance Plan which sets out our past and current performance and future plans. It also shows how we compare with other fire and rescue authorities nationally. This report is published at the end of June, and is available on our website or by post from the address above.

The Authority has published its Medium Term Financial Plan for 2007/10 which includes the financial implications of the Service Performance Plan and the forecast for resources. This document is on our website.

If you would like this leaflet in a different language or format, please telephone 01622 692121. You can also find it on our website at www.kent.fire-uk.org



Kent Fire & Rescue Service

2006/07		2007/08
£'000	Revenue budget	£'000
53,139	Employees	55,302
1,150	Firefighters' pensions	1,360
3,029	Premises	3,314
3,056	Vehicles and travel	3,084
4,138	Equipment and supplies	4,442
1,391	Fees and services	1,503
1,010	Other costs	1,098
1,449	Contributions to capital	1,610
939	Debt financing costs	1,039
69,301	Gross revenue expenditure	72,752
-4,696	Service income	-5,018
-1,257	Transfers to/from reserves	-1,602
242	External funding adjustment	-
63,590	Net budget requirement	66,132

Financed by:

27,291	Gov. grant/business rates	28,111
110	Collection fund surplus	97
36,189	Council Tax	37,924

Why Spending Has Changed

	£'000
Revenue budget 2006/07	63,590
Pay and prices	3,229
Service developments & pressures	742
Savings	-1,185
Movements in grant and reserve funded expenditure	-244
Revenue budget 2007/08	66,132

The revenue budget for 2007/08 is £66.1m, after income and transfers from reserves. This is 4% more than the equivalent budget last year, with most of the increase arising from national pay awards for staff and the cost of inflation. Additional money has also been provided for road traffic accident response and other service improvements.

The Authority is committed to keeping the Council Tax increase as low as possible, so we have reviewed how some of our services are delivered to make them more efficient. We have also been able to make savings due to the successes of our community safety work in reducing demand. This has meant that we have been able to find savings of nearly £1.2m, whilst still delivering a high quality and improving service.

Capital budget

In addition to the revenue budget, the KMFRA also sets a capital budget for investment in projects with long term benefits.

	2007/08
	£'000
Premises developments	328
Investment in IS/IT	840
Operational vehicles & equipment	2,138
Regional Control Centre project	50
Community fire safety schemes	313
Total capital expenditure	3,669

Funded by:

Borrowing	1,475
Revenue contributions	1,610
Capital grants	433
Capital receipts	151

The KMFRA share of your Council Tax

Your Council Tax bill is made up of charges from the KMFRA, as well as other local authorities in your area. These are the amounts that relate to fire and rescue services for this year.

Band	Council Tax
A	£41.10
B	£47.95
C	£54.80
D	£61.65
E	£75.35
F	£89.05
G	£102.75
H	£123.30

The Council Tax for a band D property is £61.65, which is just 3.79% more than the equivalent charge of £59.40 for 2006/07.

The Council Tax goes towards:

- Answering 43,300 emergency '999' calls
- Responding to 23,000 incidents
- Educating over 70,000 children and young people in primary and secondary schools
- Carrying out home fire safety checks and fitting over 7,500 smoke alarms
- Reducing deliberate fires to improve your quality of life

***A smoke alarm is not an
EARLY warning...***

IT'S YOUR ONLY WARNING