

CONSULTATION ON THE FORMULA GRANT REVIEW

OPTIONS FOR A NEW RELATIVE NEEDS FORMULA FOR FIRE AND RESCUE (responses by 20 July 2009)

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- **What comments or suggestions do you have on the current formula or suggestions for changes/alternatives?**

Population is currently a key driver and should remain so.

Deprivation is a key driver in terms of how the Fire Service needs to deliver its functions and based on previous studies such as the CLG's own Green Street Burnham report, the weighting for deprivation should be strengthened within any new formula.

References to past expenditure have the potential to being a perverse incentive and effectively encourage Authorities not to generate efficiencies and so should not be considered as a driver in terms of future Formula Grant distribution.

- **Do you have a view on whether the formula ought to be based on statistical analysis, on judgement, or on a mixture of the two? What is the reasoning behind your view?**

Providing a well structured statistical basis can be achieved this would provide a more robust, transparent methodology for allocating grant than one based on judgement, which will inevitably be subjective to some extent and therefore open to criticism.

- **What are the main factors that drive your fire and rescue authority revenue expenditure and how would you rank them in importance (%)?**

Operational incidents which are closely linked to increasing efforts within fire prevention/fire protection work.

Deprivation which is a key driver for the demands of the service is a real issue in West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority.

National Resilience similar to all of the other Metropolitan Fire Services. The West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority would play a key part in any regional or national major catastrophe.

Broader working involvement within the West Midlands communities e.g. youth engagement and education for Primary and Secondary school children.

- **What are the main activities of your fire and rescue service and approximately how much time and resources are dedicated to the activity?**

An analysis will be provided of the expenditure over the following key areas.

Operational Response
Community Fire Safety work
Support services
Resilience/major rescue
Control Room function

There has been over recent years an increasing emphasis towards Community Protection and Prevention work and a comment indicating this will be included.

- **If a new formula were to be created on the basis of judgement, what are the main factors that we should seek to reflect? How important is each, and why?**

Please refer to the answer above in connection with concerns relying on judgement as the basis for allocation. However, if this were the basis for allocation, the main items to consider would be:

Deprivation
Population
National Resilience