



NFCC

Fire Central
Programme Office

Financing the Future

John Buckley
Chair, NFCC Finance Committee
Chief Fire Officer, Nottinghamshire



Senior Sector Group

- Group chaired by Luke Edwards, Home Office Director for Fire
- Membership includes NFCC, FSMC lead Members and Home Office staff
- Focus on developing a consistent message around finance for English Authorities
- Collective work helped secure 2020/21 budget settlement and Protection Board funding
- Recognition that more needs to be done for the Spending Review (SR).



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2020/21 Finance Settlement Outcome

- Inflation increase in grant
- S31 Pension Grant, ESN and National Resilience funding
- £10m secured for the creation of the Protection Board
- First real growth in funding for a decade; however,
- Did not secure £5 flexibility on precept.



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2021/22 and beyond

- Government likely to deliver a 3 or 4 year SR
- Fire Funding Formula to remain the same for now. This is owned by the Home Office and will be reviewed going forward
- Critical that the sector makes the strongest representation possible to Treasury:
 - Articulate the risks and pressures
 - Determine the resourcing requirements
 - Commit to what will be delivered and achieved.



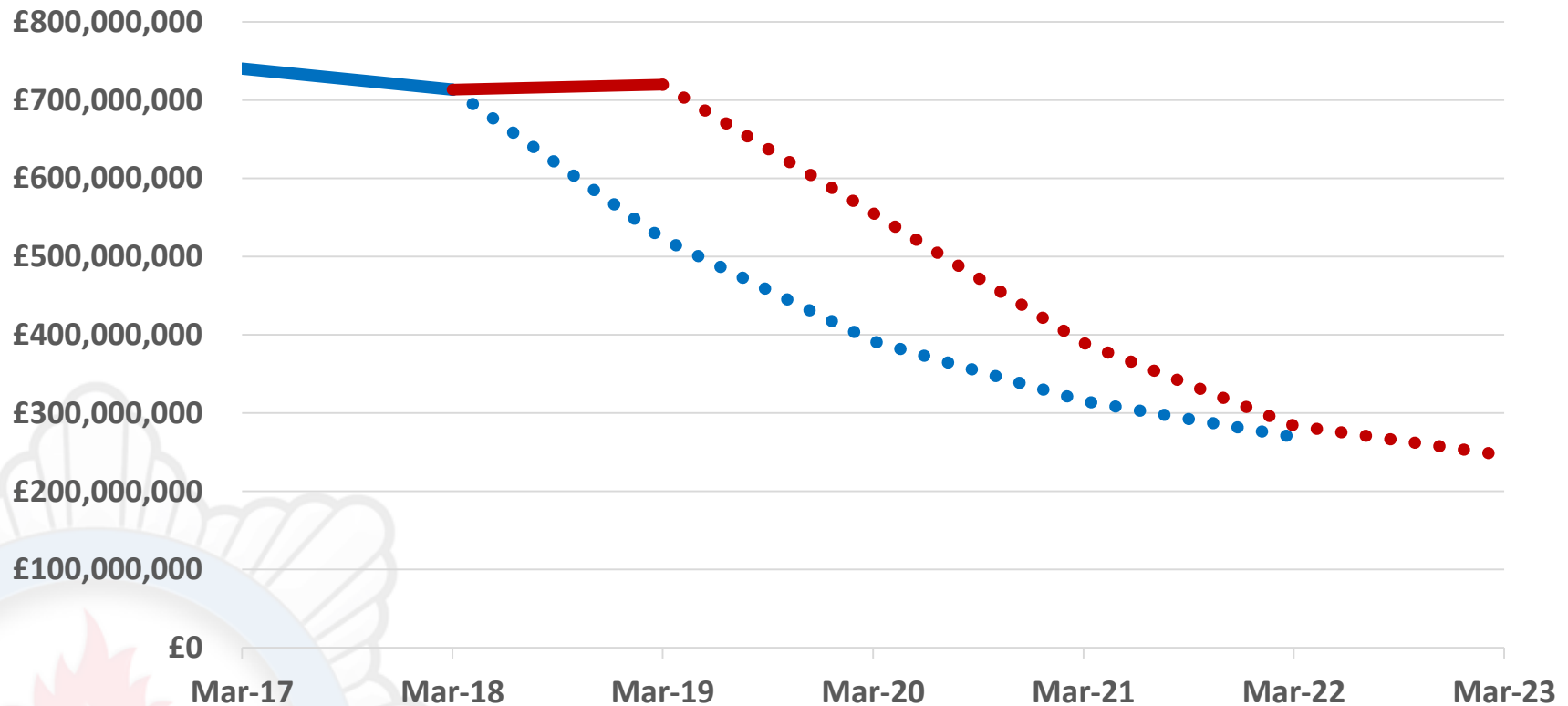
Sector Challenges

- Funding is inconsistent across the sector
- Previous inconsistency of message from the LGA, NFCC and FRA's
- Strong story to tell, but the absence of strong evidence to underpin it
- Grenfell / Hackitt and the Pension Remedy
- Changing risk profile – Climate and population demographics
- HMICFRS criticism of Efficiency (targets?)
- Workforce reform and the link to pay
- Reserves.



Reserves

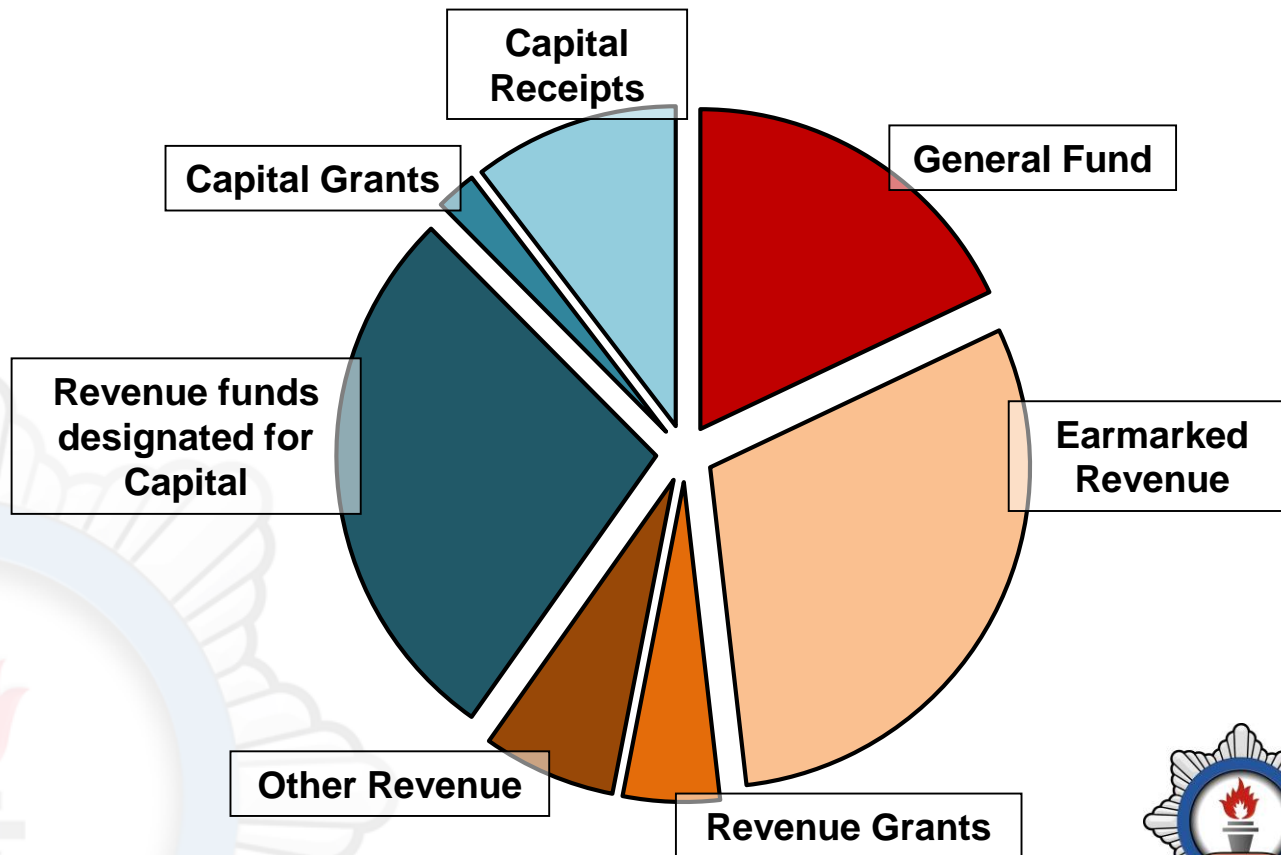
All English FRAs - Total Reserves (Survey 2018 vs. Survey 2019)



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Allocation of Reserves

All English FRAs - Total Reserves March 2019



Rising to the Challenge

- FSMC and NFCC agreed to approach the English FRA's to fund a central resource to build a case for the SR
- All FRA's agreed and the SR Strategic lead has now been appointed to lead on the work.



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