



# Have your say...

Community Risk Management Plan 2021 - 2024  
Our 2021 - 2022 Consultation



**Safest People, Safest Places**



County Durham and Darlington  
**Fire and Rescue Authority**

# Introduction

Making sure County Durham and Darlington have the safest people and safest places is a way of life for us. We run safety campaigns to inform you of dangers and how to avoid them. We visit you at home to give you advice and check you have a working smoke alarm, and we will check out local businesses to help them achieve the required fire safety standards. Every emergency call matters to us and every incident is responded to with the highest level of care and professionalism.

We have dealt with significant challenges over recent years, including those brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic and we have responded by adapting and innovating to ensure that we are always there for you when you need us. We will continue to do this in the years ahead.

County Durham and Darlington Fire Service is part of your community so getting your views is a vital part of helping us to be the best Fire and Rescue Service. This guide sets out what our plans are over the next 12 months and we are very keen to hear from you. Find out how to take part in this year's consultation at the end of this document.



**Councillor John Robinson**  
Chair, Combined Fire Authority  
(CFA)



**Stuart Errington**  
Chief Fire Officer  
(CFO)



## Why Consult?

If you have ever had to call 999 you will know that your Fire and Rescue Service attend many types of incidents, as well as fighting fires. Much of what we do is focussed around preventing incidents occurring in the first place and we are really committed to expanding this work. We continually assess what risks our communities face and then put plans in place about how we use our resources to manage and respond to those risks effectively.

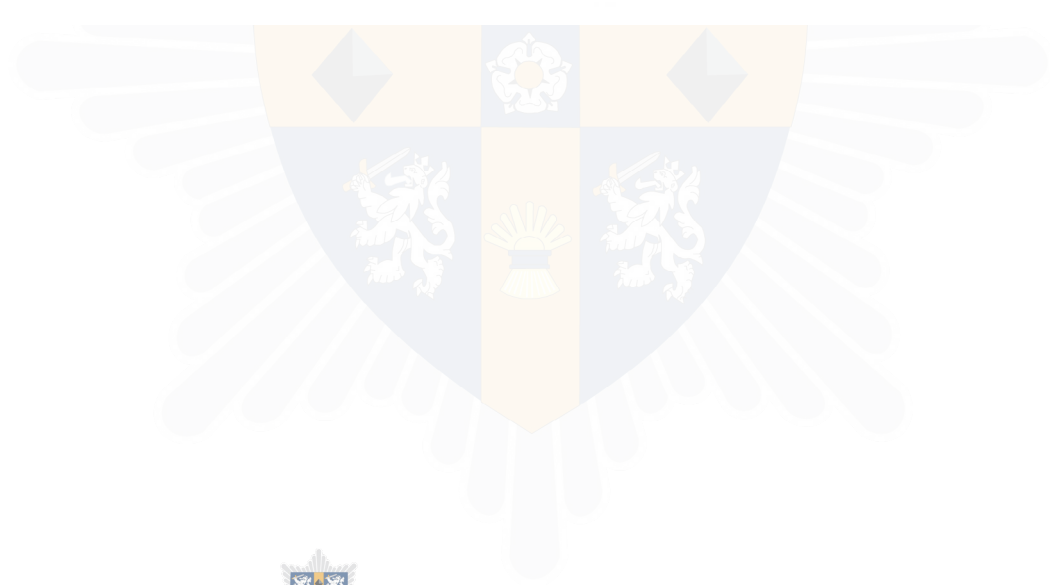
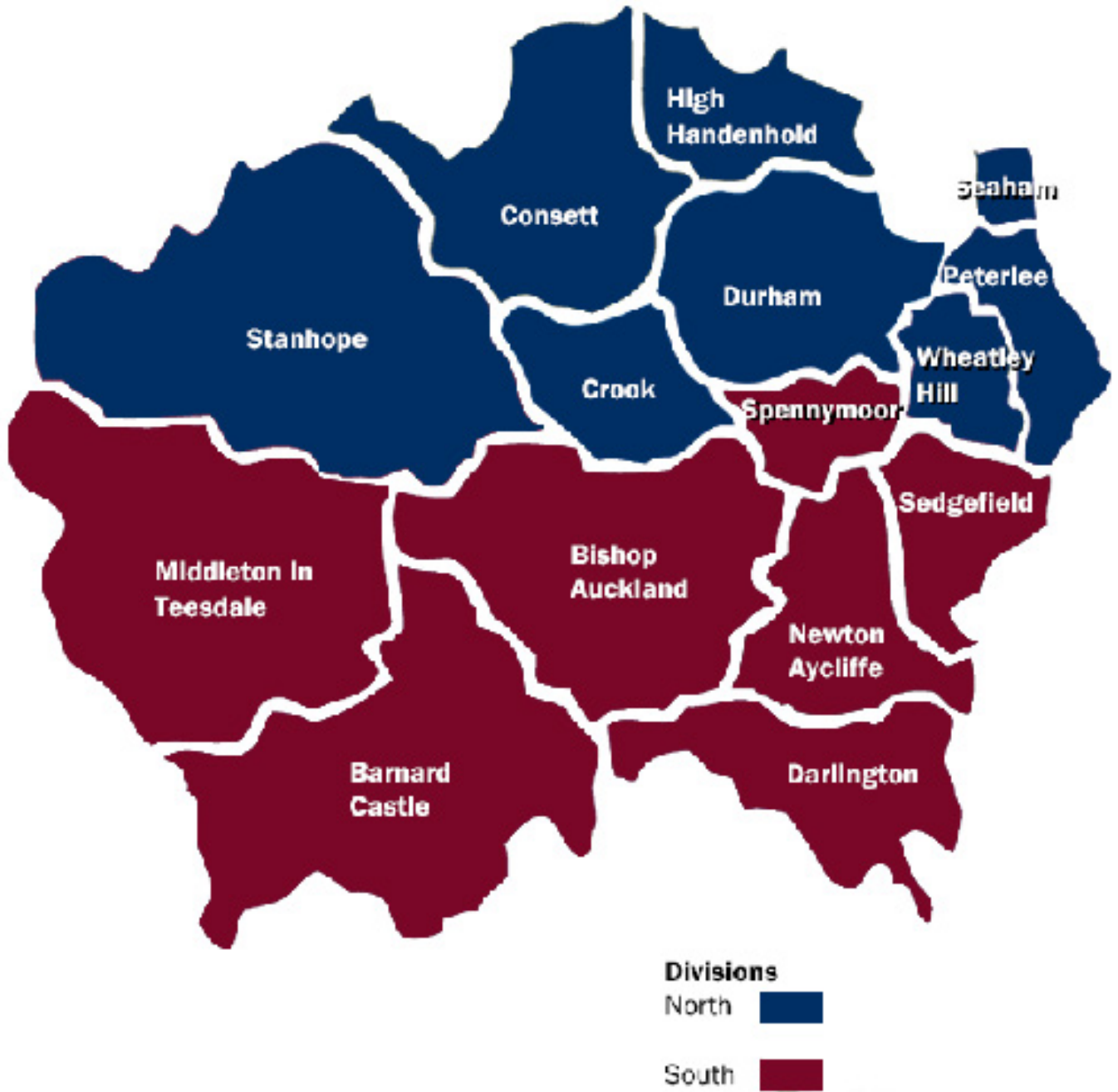
As an organisation rooted in the communities we serve it is important to us to take into account what you think about the impact of any changes.

You can find our three year plan in a document we call the Community Risk Management Plan, and we are tasked by government to produce this.

Every year we review this plan and you can find it the full version on our website at [www.ddfire.gov.uk/service-plans](http://www.ddfire.gov.uk/service-plans)



# Service Area



# Our Performance in 2019/20

The number of calls we received last year was

# 15,100



There were

# 228

accidental dwelling fires

We had

# 1,406

special services incidents which included attending road traffic collisions

# 2,634

Deliberate fires were started

We completed

# 19,317

Safe and Well-being visits



The total number of injuries from accidental house fires was

# 20

We completed

# 2,008

Business Fire Safety Audits



# Our Finances

It is essential that our finances stay healthy so that our Service has the resources it needs to do our vital work. This has been more challenging than ever over the last few years and in the face of continuing uncertainty over future funding arrangements, the overall economic outlook and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our planning means that every year we produce a medium-term financial plan – or MTFP – and this reflects the money we get from central government and business rates as well as the contribution you make through your Council Tax.

The table below shows our best and worst case scenarios of what we anticipate our budget shortfalls to be over the next three years:

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Best Case</b>	0	-0.626	-0.848	-0.964
<b>Mid Case</b>	0	-0.809	-1.218	-1.525
<b>Worst Case</b>	0	-1.269	-2.114	-2.836



# Last Year's Consultation Results

Last year we asked you a series of questions about changes we were planning and our overall approach to community and business fire safety.

## THE QUESTIONS WE ASKED...

- 1** Following our trial, do you support our proposal to implement the day crewing arrangements at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe on a permanent basis from April 2020?
- 2** Following our trial, do you support our proposal to implement the crewing arrangements at Durham and Spennymoor on a permanent basis from April 2020?
- 3** We have maintained our response standards based on our historical approach to responding to incidents. Do you support our approach to maintain these standards or do you think we should carry out a review?
- 4** Given the increase in arson that we have experienced over the last few years do you support our intention to reallocate some resources into arson reduction initiatives?
- 5** Do you support our approach to continue to focus our safe and wellbeing visits on those people who are at greatest risk from fire?
- 6** Following our trial, do you support our proposal to introduce a charging system for certain businesses when we attend multiple unwanted fire signals to their premises?

## WHAT YOU TOLD US...



After getting your feedback on our CRMP and response to our questions, here's what we did in 2020:

We Said	We Did
Implementing day crewing on a permanent basis at (Newton Aycliffe) and (Seaham)	Our crews in Newton Aycliffe and Seaham have now adopted this shift pattern permanently
Implementing the 4&2 model at (Durham) on a permanent basis if the trial proves successful	This model has now been implemented permanently in Durham
Implementing the change to (Spennymoor) where the day crewing engine becomes a wholetime engine on a permanent basis if the trial proves successful;	After a successful trial this has now been implemented in Spennymoor
Introduce a charging system for certain businesses when we attend multiple unwanted fire signals to their premises if the trial proves successful;	Our trial was successful in reducing the number of times we were being called to unwanted fire signals, so this has now been implemented permanently, freeing up more resources for life risk incidents
Review the crewing arrangements at our two appliance RDS stations and trial the opportunity of introducing Targeted Response Vehicles (TRVs) to these stations;	Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic has caused a delay in the delivery of the TRVs so we will look to run this trial in 2021/22
Carry out a further review of the structure at middle and strategic manager levels to take account of any opportunities that collaboration may present for further efficiencies;	We have reviewed the middle and strategic managers and implemented a restructure along with replacing 5 districts with 2 divisions.
Undertake a further review of the governance arrangements for the Fire Authority;	In 2020 the Government undertook a consultation of the role of the Police and Crime Commissioners with a view of broadening their role to include governance of Fire and Rescue Services. In light of this we have postponed our CFA review until the outcome of the Government's consultation of the future role of Police and Crime Commissioners is known, we will undertake an analysis during 2021 and take appropriate action when we know the outcome of the consultation.
Implement any changes suggested through the collaboration projects undertaken with Tyne and Wear FRS and Northumberland FRS.	Collaboration with neighbouring FRS's continues, during 2020 we have reviewed our legal arrangements for sharing resources across borders, established a regional collaboration which has been broadened out to include Cleveland FRS. Agreed to share specialist appliances and established additional opportunities for collaboration.

This is what we are going to do in 2021 following your feedback:

We Asked	You Said	We Did
We have maintained our response standards based on our historical approach to responding to incidents. Do you support our approach to maintain these standards or do you think we should carry out a review?	Yes	Carry out a review to make progress on this action.
Given the increase in arson that we have experienced over the last few years do you support our intention to reallocate some resources into arson reduction initiatives?	Yes	We have invested in additional staff to tackle this and have developed an Arson Reduction Strategy. We will work with our key partners across the region to support this work.
Do you support our approach to continue to focus our Safe and Well-being Visits on those people who are at greatest risk from fire?	Yes	We will be progressing this in the coming year and implement some of the learning from the approach we have taken during the Covid-19 pandemic.





# The Community Risk Management Plan

Every year we produce a strategic plan covering a three year period which helps us to deliver our vision of Safest People, Safest Places.

As part of this we assess all the foreseeable risks in our area and publish what we call a Community Risk Management Plan which outlines how we direct our resources to manage and mitigate those risks.

We review this plan every year to ensure that we are up to date.

You can read the full CRMP on our website at: [www.ddfire.gov.uk/service-plans](http://www.ddfire.gov.uk/service-plans)



## Question 1

Do you have any overall comments about our CRMP and approach to allocating our resources?



# Prevention and Protection

Our Service conducts Safe and Well-being Visits (SWVs) where trained staff will carry out a fire hazard assessment, offer personalized fire safety advice and provide free smoke alarms and other safety equipment.

We target the visits to the most vulnerable in our communities so that we can reduce the number of accidental dwelling fires that occur.

We also carry out Fire Safety Audits of businesses to make sure they are adhering to fire regulations and we can offer advice and support to ensure compliance.

In the coming year we want to build on this work to continue to see a reduction in the number of fires in our area.



## Question 2

Should we continue to invest and prioritise Fire Safety activities to ensure the built environment within County Durham and Darlington remains safe for occupants and visitors?

Yes/No



# Emergency Response

As a blue light emergency service it is vital that when an emergency occurs we have the right resources, equipment and personnel who can effectively respond.

In specific locations the service currently deploys crews using Tactical Response Vehicle, these provide a flexible approach to delivering prevention and protection work along with responding to incidents.



## Question 3

Should we continue to trial the use and various crewing arrangements of Tactical Response Vehicles (TRVs)?

Yes/No



# Collaboration

Delivering an effective and efficient service to our communities is at the heart of our vision of safest people and safest places.

We are committed to working with key partners to improve the service we provide and continue to seek opportunities through collaboration.



## Question 4

Should we identify opportunities for collaboration with local Fire and Rescue Services and key partners?

Yes/No



# How Do I Share my Views?

There are many ways you can share your views with us.

Fill in our online survey:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CRMP21-24/>

For more information please visit:

[www.ddfire.gov.uk](http://www.ddfire.gov.uk)

Check out our social media feeds:



@CDDFRS



@CDDFRS



@CDDFRS

Fill in the question and answer booklet and return it to us at Service Headquarters:

**CDDFRS Headquarters**

Belmont Business Park  
Durham  
DH1 1TW

You can print a copy from our website:

[www.ddfire.gov.uk/service-plans](http://www.ddfire.gov.uk/service-plans)



