

# Integrated risk management plan consultation 2018-2019



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



**Safest People, Safest Places**



## Introduction

Having the safest people and safest places is at the heart of everything we do as a fire and rescue service and will be the golden thread running through every emergency call we take, every incident we attend and every home or business we make safer.

The tragedy that unfolded at Grenfell Tower last year served as a poignant reminder of the critical role we play in protecting our communities and has only made us more determined and passionate than ever to do the job we do and to do it well.

The last few years has seen some of the most significant cuts to public spending ever known. This means to continue offering a first-class fire and rescue service to the people living, working and visiting County Durham and Darlington we must be innovative and do things differently.

This document outlines some options we are considering to ensure you continue to receive a first class, cost effective fire and rescue service going forward.



**John Robinson**  
Chair of The Fire Authority



**Stuart Errington**  
Chief Fire Officer

## Our performance

The number of calls we received last year has decreased by

**2%**

- from 17,171 to 16,760.



We attended 71 non domestic building fires last year. That's a

**31%**

reduction from the previous year.

There were **0** deaths in house fires in 2017/2018 with numbers remaining low and fluctuating between zero and five in recent years.

Accidental house fires are up from 211 to 251, a

**19%**

increase from the previous year.

Last year we responded to 326 road traffic collisions. That's a

**0.6%**

rise from last year, where we attended 324.



Total injuries from accidental house fires are down from 24 to 20, a

**17%**

reduction from last year.





## Our finances

At a time when we, along with other public-sector organisations, face an uncertain future, it is essential that we have an effective medium-term financial plan (MTFP) in place. This means we can work towards balancing the budget over the medium term, taking account of our expenditure and of future central and local funding.

Our MTFP for 2018/19 to 2021/22 is set out in the table below. It has been calculated based on the assumption that council tax will increase by 2.95% in 2019/20 and 2.0% in 2021/21 and 2021/22.

The money we receive from government continues to decline and as a result we have a significant shortfall in funding from 2019/20 onwards.

In order to balance the budget we need to identify £0.448 million of savings in 2019/20 rising to £0.735 million in 2021/22. We have undertaken a full review of emergency response to identify further savings options and would welcome your views on our proposals.

### Medium term financial plan 2018/19 - 2021/22

		2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m	2020/21 £m	2021/22 £m
<b>Net Expenditure</b> (This is the money we have to spend)		28.507	29.010	29.632	30.230
Where our funding comes from	<b>Total government funding</b>	9.591	9.295	9.125	9.125
	<b>Local business rates</b>	1.374	1.408	1.408	1.408
	<b>Council tax</b>	17.170	17.859	18.402	18.962
	<b>Surplus on collection fund</b>	0.372	-	-	-
	<b>Total funding</b>	28.507	28.562	28.935	29.495
<b>Shortfall in funding</b>		-	-0.448	-0.697	-0.735

# Last year's consultation results

Last year we asked you to tell us how well we were doing. 969 people across County Durham and Darlington responded to our survey, this is what you told us:

**86%**

of people were satisfied or very satisfied with the service provided by County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS)



**72%**

of people are satisfied or very satisfied with the Safer County Durham and Darlington plan

**71%**

of people feel well informed of the work CDDFRS is doing



**82%**

of people were satisfied or very satisfied that CDDFRS are dealing with issues that matter to them



Overall **89%** of people's perception of CDDFRS was

**GOOD OR VERY GOOD**

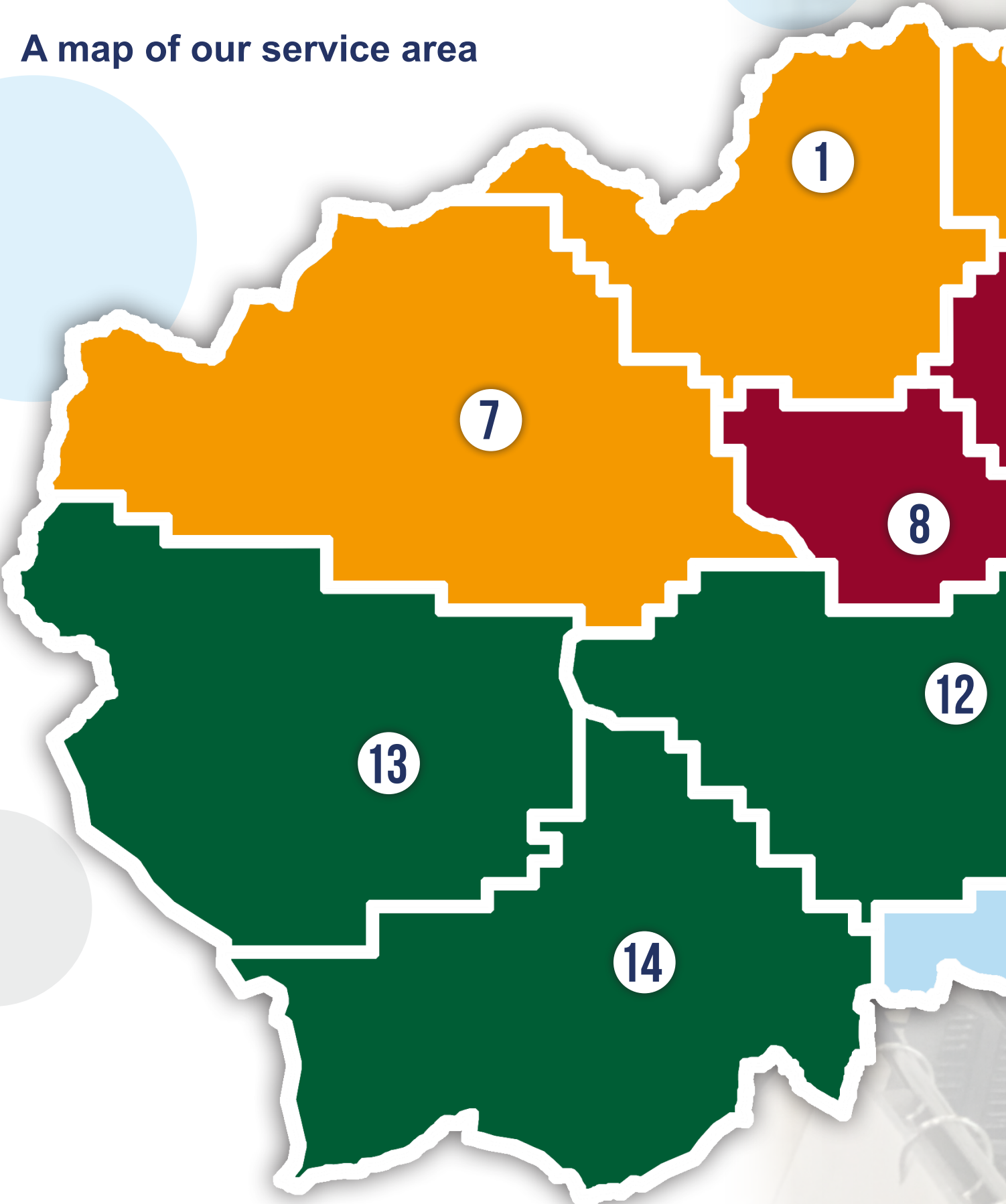
**88%**

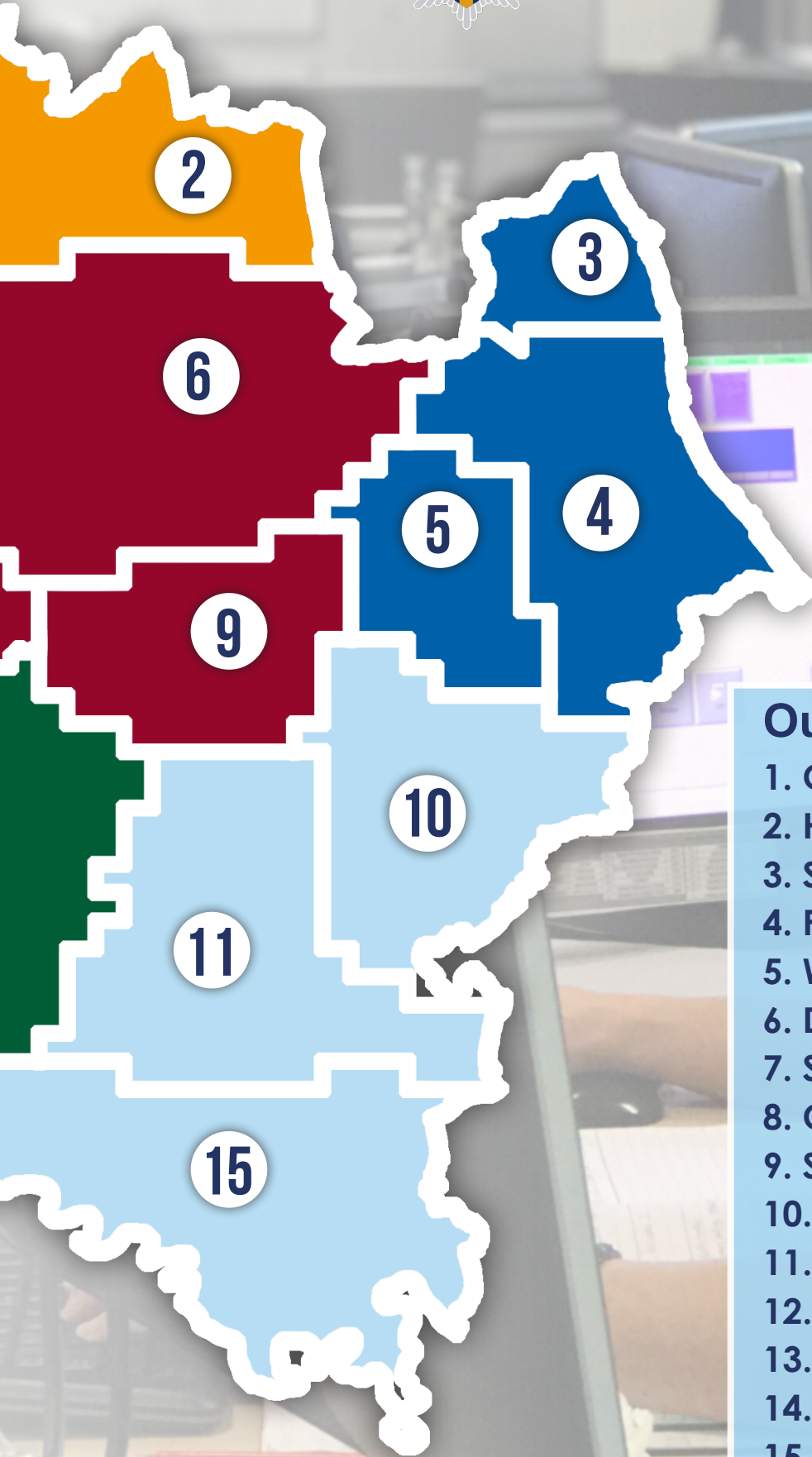
of people living in County Durham and Darlington feel safe or very safe



CDDFRS review **ALL** feedback, good and bad to ensure we can make the necessary changes to enable us to continuously improve.

A map of our service area





## Our fire stations:

1. Consett
2. High Handenhold
3. Seaham
4. Peterlee
5. Wheatley Hill
6. Durham
7. Stanhope
8. Crook
9. Spennymoor
10. Sedgefield
11. Newton Aycliffe
12. Bishop Auckland
13. Middleton-In-Teesdale
14. Barnard Castle
15. Darlington

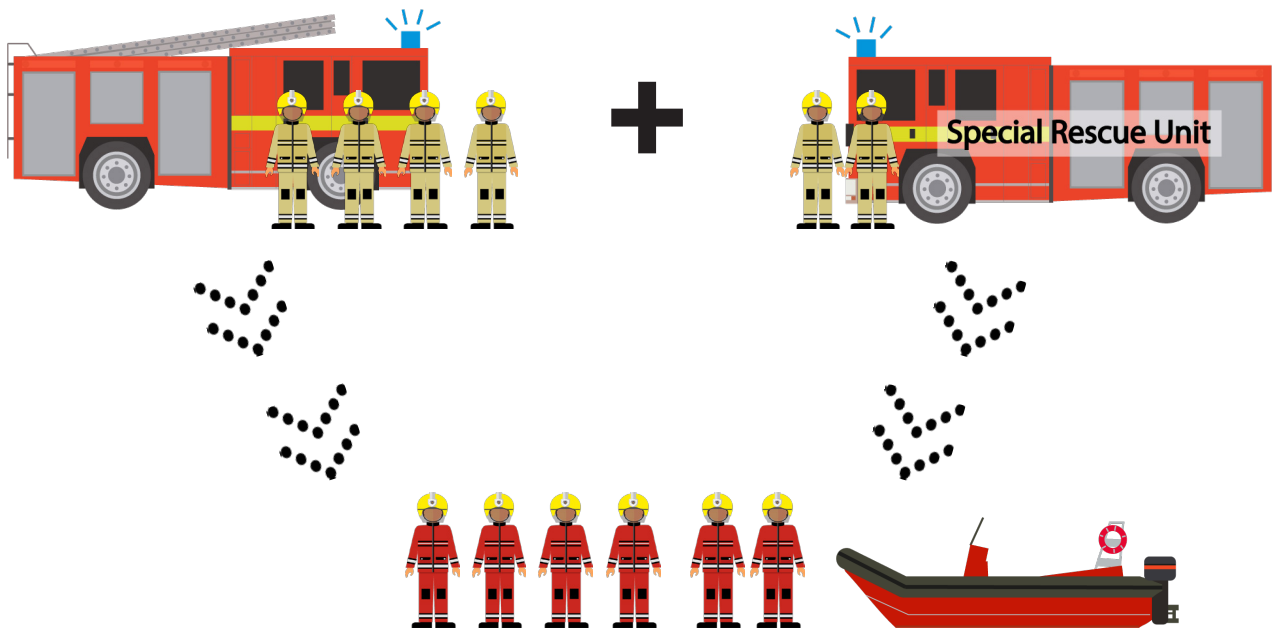


## Bishop Auckland crewing arrangements

Following a review of emergency response provision in 2017 a trial has been taking place where six whole time firefighters are on duty at Bishop Auckland fire station.

The trial is for the fire engine to ride with four wholetime firefighters and the Special Rescue Unit (SRU) to ride with two rather than utilise the station's on call firefighters. This would ensure both the fire engine and the SRU are immediately available to respond to incidents and also means our swift water rescue capability, also based at Bishop Auckland, can be immediately deployed as it needs a team of six firefighters.

Based on the information above, if the trial is deemed successful, should we continue with this staffing arrangement permanently?



 YES **OR**   NO



# Collaboration opportunities

CDDFRS have a statutory duty, under the Policing and Crime Act 2017 (the Act), to collaborate with other emergency services where it would be in the interests of efficiency or effectiveness or where it could increase public safety. The Act is focused on collaboration between Police and Fire services, however, at times, greater collaborative opportunities exist between two or more fire and rescue services or other agencies.

Enhancing collaboration has been one of our strategic objectives since 2011 and we have entered into a range of successful partnerships in areas such as: shared estates; shared operational resources; shared community engagement; and tri-service responders in rural areas.

We also have a good relationship with Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) and Northumberland Fire

and Rescue Service (NFRS) and a real willingness to work together. Successful collaboration in recruitment; promotion processes; mental health support; and health and fitness have shown the tangible benefits that can be achieved when the three organisations work together.

## The Future

There are other collaboration opportunities which could deliver greater benefits. It is proposed that these areas are explored in some detail to understand if they align with the following principles:

- Deliver better value for money
- Deliver improved outcomes
- Help reduce demand and/ or risk

It is our intention to examine a wide range of potential opportunities against these principles and take forward those that can deliver real benefits.

Based on the information provided above, do you support our intention to explore further collaboration opportunities with TWFRS and NFRS to improve efficiency, effectiveness or increase public safety?



County Durham and Darlington  
**Fire and Rescue Service**



# Revised crewing options

A legal ruling involving South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service means we need to make changes to one of our shift systems. We have recently carried out a comprehensive review of our emergency response provision across the entire service to ensure we have the right level of resources, in the right place, at the right times, to keep you safe and make sure we are offering the most efficient and effective service possible.

As a result, we are looking at three options and we would like you to tell us which option you prefer considering the pros and cons of each option.

## Seaham & Newton Aycliffe

Seaham and Newton Aycliffe currently have firefighters who work a 12-hour day shift

from 7am – 7pm every day.

Outside of these times, when they are on duty, the firefighters spend their rest time at special accommodation blocks on station, so they can respond immediately should you need them.

## Spennymoor

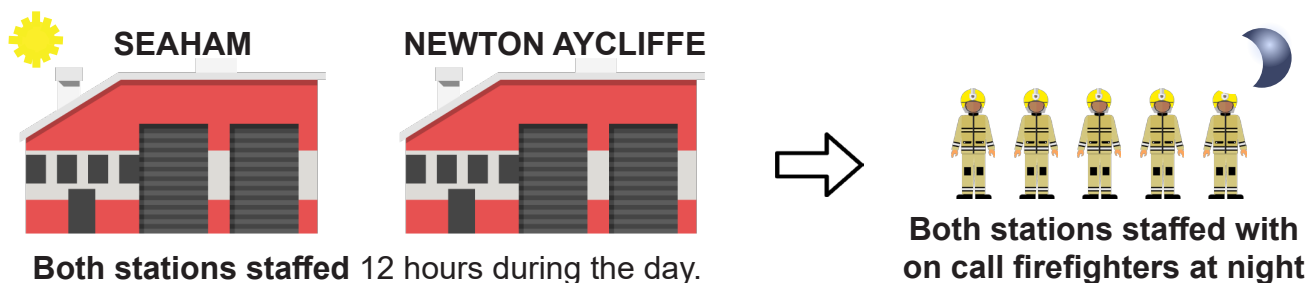
In Spennymoor firefighters are on duty from 8am – 5pm every weekday. Outside of these times on call firefighters are called into work within 5 minutes of being alerted to the incident.

## Durham

Durham station is crewed 24 hours a day, seven days a week and has three fire engines. Durham has the most resources of all our stations but is only the third busiest station in our service.

## Option 1

Have firefighters on duty at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe for 12 hours during the day. At night time only the existing on call firefighters will be called into work within 5 minutes of being alerted to the incident.



## Option 2

Have firefighters on duty at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe as described in option 1. In addition, to cover 12 hours over night, move the second fire engine and crew from Durham to Newton Aycliffe and the second fire engine and crew from Peterlee to Seaham, this will maintain staffing that can respond immediately at these stations.



### Option 3

Have firefighters on duty at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe as described in option 1. In addition, move Durham’s second fire engine and crew permanently to Spennymoor to replace the current arrangements. This means they would be there to offer an immediate response 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Both Durham and Spennymoor would then have identical resources when responding to incidents. This is CDDFRS’s preferred option.



	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Are our firefighters geographically stationed in the best possible place to respond to incidents across the service?	✓	✗	✓
Looking at demand and risk data, are our resources allocated to where they would be most effective?	✓	✗	✓
Will the number of fire engines stay the same or increase?	✗	✗	✗
Does this option create annual efficiency savings?	✓ £350K	✓ £50K	✓ £450K
Will the service’s overall response standards improve?	✗	✗	✓

For more information on all three options please visit:  
[www.ddfire.gov.uk/service-plans](http://www.ddfire.gov.uk/service-plans)



## Tell us what you think...

Use our online questionnaire:

[www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/IRMP201819/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/IRMP201819/)

Or alternatively complete the response sheet below and return to:

FAO Communications, CDDFRS HQ, Blemont Industrial Estate, Durham, DH1 1TW

### Consultation response sheet

#### Bishop Auckland crewing arrangements

If the trial currently being undertaken at Bishop Auckland fire station is deemed successful, should we continue with this staffing arrangement permanently? (Please tick)

YES

NO

#### Collaboration opportunities

Do you support our intention to explore further collaboration opportunities with TWFRS and NFRS to improve efficiency, effectiveness or increase public safety? (Please tick)

YES

NO

#### Revised crewing options

We must make changes to crewing at some of our stations, please tick your preferred option below or alternatively please tell us in the free text box your ideas.

OPTION 1

OPTION 2

OPTION 3

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