



County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority

Information for Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rate Payers

2020/21

Safest People, Safest Places

Information contained in this leaflet:

- Explains the level of funding the Fire and Rescue Service receives from your Council Tax charge
- Shows how your money has been spent providing a Fire and Rescue Service throughout the last year
- Gives a snapshot of our performance
- Outlines briefly our plans for further improvement

Your Fire and Rescue Authority

The Authority has an establishment of 600 people to provide a comprehensive fire and rescue service to residents. This service is delivered from 15 fire stations strategically located throughout County Durham and Darlington.

We are committed to continue to improve our service and are undertaking an ambitious service transformation programme to challenge current methods of service delivery and introduce new ways of working to reduce costs without reducing the number of fire stations. During a period of continually reducing levels of funding, this will enable us to redirect resources to protect front line service delivery. We consult with the communities of County Durham and Darlington throughout the year to ensure our plans take account of local priorities. The Authority's vision is Safest People, Safest Places and we aim to achieve this by:

- Identifying and reducing risks and improving safety for people in their homes
- Responding to incidents effectively and competently
- Helping local people to understand the services that we can offer and ensuring we can deliver the services that people need
- Ensuring our staff are trained and skilled to work to the best of their ability
- Ensuring we understand our financial position and

performance to make informed decisions which benefit the public

- Providing services that represent good value for money

In order to provide a fire and rescue service in line with our priorities we require a budget of £29.2 million in 2020/21.

Funding

We receive approximately 37% of our funding from Government support and local non-domestic rates; the remaining amount is met through Council Tax.

What the Authority needs from you

There will be an increase in the amount of council tax you are required to pay in 2020/21.

The table below shows the annual amount due for each Council Tax band to fund your Fire and Rescue Service:

Band	Amount 19/20 (£)	Amount 20/21 (£)	Increase (£)
A	69.00	70.32	1.32
B	80.50	82.04	1.54
C	92.00	93.76	1.76
D	103.50	105.48	1.98
E	126.50	128.92	2.42
F	149.50	152.36	2.86
G	172.50	175.80	3.30
H	207.00	210.96	3.96

The Authority has set its budget at £29.2 million for 2020/21. This represents an increase of £0.8 million on the 2019/20 budget.

We consult widely on our proposals for improvement through our Strategic Plan, a copy of which is available on our website.

Revenue expenditure	Estimate (£m) 2019/20	Estimate (£m) 2020/21
Employees	23.095	24.086
Premises	2.730	2.824
Transport	0.617	0.611
Supplies	4.261	4.369
Contingencies	0.418	0.280
Capital charges	2.800	3.095
Gross expenditure	33.921	35.265
Less: Income and recharges	-3.833	-4.078
Less: Reversal of capital charges	-2.800	-3.095
Less: Contributions from reserves	-0.100	-0.150
Add: Actual capital financing	1.221	1.231
Add: Contributions to reserves	-	-
Net expenditure	28.409	29.173
Funded by:		
Government support	9.024	9.171
Local non-domestic rates	1.409	1.503
Surplus on collection fund	0.111	0.033
Council tax	17.865	18.466
Total Funding	28.409	29.173

Investing for the future

The Authority plans to spend £6.223 million on capital projects in 2020/21. This includes:

Investing for the future	(£m)
Improvements to premises	4.150
Vehicles	1.612
Equipment	0.306
Information Technology	0.155
Total (£m)	6.223

Service Performance

By the end of 2019/20 it is estimated that the Service will have dealt with 6905 incidents (excluding emergency medical response) compared with 7821 in 2018/19.

Performance area	Actual 18/19	Estimated 19/20
Accidental dwelling fires	248	229
Deaths from accidental dwelling fires	2	0
Injuries from accidental dwelling fires (where the casualty was taken to hospital)	14	21
Fires	4044	3395
Special services e.g. road traffic collisions, left releases and animal rescue	1263	1136
Safe and wellbeing visits	19479	19190
Fire safety audits	2184	2067

How to contact us:

Finance

Further information on the Authority's financial position is available on our website or by contacting the Treasurer to the Combined Fire Authority:

Telephone: 0191 3755609

Performance

Details of the Authority's performance are available on our website or by request from the Information Services team at service headquarters:

Telephone: 0191 3755582

Consultation

If you would like to become involved in the decisions made by the Fire and Rescue Authority you can assist by taking part in our consultation exercises. If you are interested in taking part in future consultation, require any further information or would like this information in an alternative format or language, please contact:

Telephone: 0345 3058383

Email: servicehq@ddf.fire.gov.uk

Website: www.ddfire.gov.uk

Address

County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

For home fire safety or business fire safety advice please visit our website or call us:

Telephone: 0345 2234221

Website: www.ddfire.gov.uk



Fit smoke alarms



Test it



Plan an escape route



Put cigarettes out properly