



County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority

Information for Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rate Payers

2021/22

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 £29.3 million in 2021/22.

Funding

We receive approximately 36% 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 2021/22.

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

Band	Amount 20/21 (£)	Amount 21/22 (£)	Increase (£)
A	70.32	71.70	1.38
B	82.04	83.65	1.61
C	93.76	95.60	1.84
D	105.48	107.55	2.07
E	128.92	131.45	2.53
F	152.36	155.35	2.99
G	175.80	179.25	3.45
H	210.96	215.10	4.14

The Authority has set its budget at £29.3 million for 2021/22. This represents an increase of £0.1 million on the 2020/21 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) 2020/21	Estimate (£m) 2021/22
Employees	24.086	24.938
Premises	2.824	2.802
Transport	0.611	0.624
Supplies	4.369	4.483
Contingencies	0.280	0.265
Capital charges	3.095	2.756
Gross Expenditure	35.265	35.868
Less Income and recharges	- 4.078	- 4.882
Less Reversal of capital charges	- 3.095	- 2.756
Less Contributions from reserves	- 0.150	- 0.222
Add Actual capital financing	1.231	1.330
Add Contributions to reserves	-	-
Net Expenditure	29.173	29.338
Funded by:		
Government support	9.171	9.190
Local non-domestic rates	1.503	1.432
Surplus/deficit on collection fund	0.033	(0.116)
Council Tax	18.466	18.832
Total Funding	29.173	29.338

Investing for the future

The Authority plans to spend £2.189m on capital projects in 2021/22. This includes:

Investing for the future	(£m)
Improvements to premises	1.000
Vehicles	0.436
Equipment	0.513
Information Technology	0.240
Total (£m)	2.189

Service Performance

By the end of 2020/21 it is estimated that the Service will have dealt with 6782 incidents (excluding emergency medical response) compared with 6882 in 2019/20.

Performance area	Actual 19/20	Estimated 20/21
Accidental dwelling fires	228	206
Deaths from accidental dwelling fires	1	0
Injuries from accidental dwelling fires (where the casualty was taken to hospital)	20	17
Fires	3447	3376
Special services e.g. road traffic collisions, left releases and animal rescue	1108	943
Safe and wellbeing visits	19316	5047
Fire safety audits	2002	1066

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: 0191 916 0217 or 0191 916 0214

Website: www.ddfire.gov.uk



Fit smoke
alarms



Test it



Plan an
escape route



Put cigarettes
out properly



County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Service

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

is now carrying out Safe
and Wellbeing Visits over
the telephone.



Staff from your local fire station can give you a call to chat about how to keep you and your family safe from fire.

This includes checking you have working smoke alarms, to using electrical items and planning a safe escape in an emergency.



If you or someone you know would like a fire safety check, then call the Community Safety Team on 0191 916 0217 or 0191 916 0214 to arrange an appointment.

**More fire safety information is available on our website
<https://www.ddfire.gov.uk/>**