



County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority

Information for Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rate Payers

2022/23

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. 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 £30.2 million in 2022/23.

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 2022/23.

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

Band	Amount 21/22 (£)	Amount 22/23 (£)	Increase (£)
A	71.70	73.12	1.42
B	83.65	85.31	1.66
C	95.60	97.50	1.90
D	107.55	109.69	2.14
E	131.45	134.06	2.61
F	155.35	158.44	3.09
G	179.25	182.82	3.57
H	215.10	219.38	4.28

The Authority has set its budget at £30.2 million for 2022/23. This represents an increase of £0.9 million on the 2021/22 budget. We consult widely on our proposals for improvement through our Community Risk Management Plan, a copy of which is available on our website.

Revenue expenditure	Estimate (£m) 2021/22	Estimate (£m) 2022/23
Employees	24.938	25.929
Premises	2.802	2.957
Transport	0.624	0.609
Supplies	4.483	4.421
Contingencies	0.265	0.168
Capital charges	2.756	2.532
Gross Expenditure	35.868	36.616
Less Income and recharges	- 4.882	-4.887
Less Reversal of capital charges	- 2.756	-2.532
Less Contributions from reserves	- 0.222	-0.595
Add Actual capital financing	1.330	1.600
Add Contributions to reserves	-	-
Net Expenditure	29.338	30.202
Funded by:		
Government support	9.190	9.788
Local non-domestic rates	1.432	1.391
Surplus/deficit on collection fund	(0.116)	(0.519)
Council Tax	18.832	19.542
Total Funding	29.338	30.202

Investing for the future

The Authority plans to spend £3.116m on capital projects in 2022/23. This includes:

Investing for the future	(£m)
Improvements to premises	1.000
Vehicles	0.150
Equipment	0.479
Information Technology	1.487
Total (£m)	3.116

Service Performance

By the end of 2021/22 it is estimated that the Service will have dealt with 7601 incidents (excluding emergency medical response) compared with 6797 in 2020/21.

Performance area	Actual 20/21	Estimated 21/22
Accidental dwelling fires	219	194
Deaths from accidental dwelling fires	1	1
Injuries from accidental dwelling fires (where the casualty was taken to hospital)	15	14
Fires	3393	3793
Special services e.g. road traffic collisions, left releases and animal rescue	972	1395
Safe and wellbeing visits	4841*	19039
Fire safety audits	995*	2124
<i>*Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic certain activities were curtailed resulting in a temporary reduction in visits/audits, affecting the overall number delivered</i>		

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 via our switchboard.

Performance

Details of the Authority's performance are available on our website or by request from the Information Services team at service headquarters. Email requests to servicehq@ddfire.gov.uk, 0345 305 8383

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@ddfire.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



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 0345 223 4221 to arrange an appointment.