



Have your say...

Community Risk Management Plan 2023 - 2026
Our 2023 - 2024 Question Booklet



Safest People, Safest Places



County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority

Question 1 - Emergency Response

Crewing of our fire engines

Currently, and for a number of years, the majority of our wholetime fire engines have been crewed by 4 firefighters. Throughout the Covid pandemic all of our fire engines were crewed by 4 firefighters. Our proposal is to introduce this crewing arrangement to the remaining 5 appliances which are currently crewed with 5 firefighters.

In reaching this proposal we have considered the following:

We are proud of being one of the fastest FRS to respond to an emergency, and have been recognised by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) as the fastest predominantly rural FRS in England. This proposal protects this position by maintaining the same number of fire engines within our Emergency Response function enabling us to respond quickly when required.

We are one of the most productive FRS in England, we know that our proactive prevention and protection work, of which the vast majority is delivered by front line crews who staff our fire engines, saves lives and keeps our communities safe. HMICFRS recognise that CDDFRS deliver almost two times the England average for Home Fire Safety Checks and almost 4 times the England average for Fire Safety audits. This proposal ensures we protect the current number of fire engines available to undertake proactive prevention and protection work.

Since 2019 the majority of our fire engines have operated with 4 firefighters with no compromise to our safety record.

Many FRS elsewhere in the country safely operate with 4 firefighters crewing fire engines. For example our immediate neighbouring FRS within the North East all crew appliances with 4 firefighters.

This proposal will save £750,000 in order to meet the identified budget deficiencies contained within the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). This is achieved through the careful management of vacancies when they arise.

Alternative options we have considered, required to save the £1 million budget deficit, would impact on the number of fire engines we have available, or the staffing arrangements with less fire engines being available for immediate deployment.



We propose to crew all of our Wholetime fire engines with 4 firefighters. **Do you agree with this proposal?**

Please circle your response

Yes

No

Question 2 - Protection

Business Fire Safety

We propose to review the Risk Based Inspection Programme (RBIP) for business premises to ensure our proactive protection and enforcement activities are aligned to identified risks, to maintain the reduction of non-domestic fires and ensure the continued safety, from fire, of employees and visitors to these premises.

Following HMICFRS inspections across the fire sector it has been highlighted there should be a national risk model for defining what are high-risk premises for the purposes of fire protection.

Through Phase 2 of National Fire Chiefs' Council's (NFCC's) Definition of Risk project there will be a new model developed into the likelihood, consequence and risk of non-domestic fires. This work will support a national approach to fire safety and support fire and rescue service's RBIP.

These products will be supported by a risk assessment methodology to facilitate consistent application of the strategic framework to risk management planning.

Therefore, it is timely that we review our current model against this proposed national methodology. This will enable us to ensure we are focusing our resources on activities where they will have the greatest impact on reducing risk and vulnerability within their local communities.

By reviewing our current approach we will ensure we are delivering an evidence based and consistent approach to determining 'level of risk' that also provides a national benchmarking capability.



We propose to review the Risk Based Inspection Programme for business premises to ensure our proactive protection and enforcement activities are aligned to identified risks, to maintain the reduction of non-domestic fires and ensure the continued safety, from fire, of employees and visitors to these premises.

Do you agree with this proposal?

Please circle your response

Yes

No



Question 3 - Our Strategic Plan

Have Your Say

Our CRMP shows you how we use our resources to manage risk and we always appreciate your feedback on this. So this year we will be asking you for your general opinion of our plan.



Do you have any overall comments about our Community Risk Management Plan and approach to allocating our resources?

Tell us your views here:



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) is committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in both the service we deliver to the community and the employment of our staff. Equality, diversity and inclusion is about equality of opportunities, understanding and respecting differences and ensuring the right people receive the right services. We also understand that a diverse and inclusive workforce with individuals who are able to offer different skills, experience and knowledge will benefit us as an organisation and ensure we are able to meet the needs of the diverse community we serve. To help us better understand our communities and to make progress in promoting equality, diversity and inclusion, please complete the following questions:

Note: Your response is completely anonymous.



What best describes your gender? (Please self- describe)



What age group are you in?
Please tick

17 - 24	
25 - 35	
36 - 45	
46 - 55	
56 - 65	
66+	
Prefer not to say	

What is your sexual orientation?
Please tick

Bisexual (both sexes)
Heterosexual (other sex)
Gay Woman
Gay Man
Prefer not to say
Prefer to self-describe
<hr/>
<hr/>



Do you identify as Trans?
Please circle

Yes

No

Prefer not to say





Do you consider yourself to have a religion?

Please tick

Atheism		Islam		Sikhism	
Buddhism		Hinduism		Other	
Christianity		Judaism		Prefer not to say	



What is your ethnic background?

Please tick

White		Asian or Asian British		Mixed		Black or Black British		Other Ethnic Group	
Welsh English Scottish Northern Irish or British		Bangladeshi		Asian & White		African		Arab	
		Chinese			Black African and White				Caribbean
		Indian		Black Caribbean and White					
Gypsy or Irish Traveller		Pakistani							
Any other white background		Any other Asian background		Any other mixed background		Any other black background		Prefer not to say	



If any other ethnic background, please state here



Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Please circle

Yes

No

Prefer not to say



If Yes, please tell us the type of disability you have



How Do I Share my Views?

We want to hear from you whatever your view of the Service and always welcome your comments. If you have any feedback please use this box to tell us what you think:



Tell us your views here:

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

Fill in our online survey:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CRMP23-24/>



For more information please visit:

www.ddfire.gov.uk



If you have any difficulties completing our online survey you can call us on 0345 305 8383 or write to us for a paper copy at:

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Belmont Business Park
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