



Information for Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rate Payers 2017/18

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
- Briefly outlines our plans for further improvement



Top tip
Fit smoke alarms on each level of your home.



Top tip
Test your smoke alarms weekly. Never remove the batteries.



Top tip
Put it out. Right out!
Make sure you put cigarettes out properly and never smoke in bed.



Top tip
Plan an escape route and make sure everyone knows it and where door and window keys are kept.

For a free home fire safety check with free smoke alarm call 0845 2234221
For further home or business safety advice please visit www.ddfire.gov.uk

Your Fire and Rescue Authority

The Authority has an establishment of 569 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. 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 £27.8 million in 2017/18.

Funding

We receive approximately 40% 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 2017/18.

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

Band	Amount 16/17 £	Amount 17/18 £	Increase £
A	63.84	65.10	1.26
B	74.48	75.95	1.47
C	85.12	86.80	1.68
D	95.76	97.65	1.89
E	117.04	119.35	2.31
F	138.32	141.05	2.73
G	159.60	162.75	3.15
H	191.52	195.30	3.78

Why the Authority's total net expenditure has changed

The Authority has set its budget at £27.8 million for 2017/18. This represents a decrease of £0.8 million on the 2016/17 budget. This is mainly due to the ongoing implementation of efficiency initiatives across the Service through our Service Transformation Programme.

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

Revenue Expenditure

	2016/17 <i>Estimate £m</i>	2017/18 <i>Estimate £m</i>
Employees	21.742	20.669
Premises	3.463	2.704
Transport	0.605	0.611
Supplies	3.926	4.089
Contingencies	0.081	0.330
Capital charges	2.653	2.846
Gross Expenditure	32.470	31.249
Less: Income and recharges	-3.386	-1.835
Less: Reversal of capital charges	-2.653	-2.846
Add: Actual capital financing	1.606	1.197
Add: Contributions to reserves	0.571	0.039
Net Expenditure	28.608	27.804
Funded by:		
Government support	10.945	9.949
Local non-domestic rates	1.479	1.345
Surplus on collection fund	0.324	0.144
Council tax	15.860	16.366
Total Funding	28.608	27.804

Government Funding

Funding received from the government reduced by £1.0 million in 2017/18 compared to the previous year.

Investing for the Future

The Authority plans to spend £0.617million on capital projects in 2017/18. This includes:

Improvements to Premises	0.250
Vehicles	0.037
Equipment	0.250
Information Technology	0.080
Total (£M)	0.617

Service Performance

Number of Incidents

By the end of 2016/17 it is estimated that the Service will have dealt with 6959 incidents (excluding emergency medical response) compared to 6442 in 2015/16.

Performance Indicators

Performance Area	Actual 15/16	Estimated 16/17	Target 16/17
Accidental dwelling fires	229	223	260
Deaths from accidental dwelling fires	5	3	0
Injuries from accidental dwelling fires (where the casualty was taken to hospital)	17	23	26
Deliberate and not known primary and secondary Fires	2028	2166	2317
Road traffic collisions	339	321	No target
Proportion of malicious calls that we do not attend	70.7%	70%	70%

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** or by using the address details below.

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** or by using the address details below.

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: 0845 3058383

Minicom: 0191 384 7524

Email: ServiceHQ@ddfir.gov.uk

Website: www.ddfir.gov.uk

Address: County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service,
Fire Service Headquarters,
Belmont Business Park,
Durham, DH1 1TW.