



County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority

Information for Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rate Payers 2024/25



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.
- Briefly outlines 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 £35.4 million in 2024/25.

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 2024/25.

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

Band	Amount 23/24 (£)	Amount 24/25 (£)	Increase (£)
A	76.46	78.75	2.29
B	89.20	91.87	2.67
C	101.95	104.99	3.04
D	114.69	118.12	3.43
E	140.18	144.37	4.19
F	165.66	170.62	4.96
G	191.15	196.87	5.72
H	229.38	236.24	6.86

The Authority has set its budget at £35.4million for 2024/25. This represents an increase of £3.3 million on the 2023/24 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) 2023/24	Estimate (£m) 2024/25
Employees	27.864	29.556
Premises	3.294	3.330
Transport	0.790	0.826
Supplies	4.611	4.632
Contingencies	0.500	0.974
Capital charges	2.437	2.635
Gross Expenditure	39.496	41.953
Less Income and recharges	-6.064	-6.332
Less Reversal of capital charges	-2.437	-2.635
Less Contributions from reserves	-0.614	-
Add Actual capital financing	1.720	2.464
Add Contributions to reserves	-	-
Net Expenditure	32.101	35.450
Funded by:		
Government support	10.185	12.542
Local non-domestic rates	1.459	1.549
Surplus/deficit on collection fund	(0.243)	(0.133)
Council Tax	20.700	21.492
Total Funding	32.101	35.450

Investing for the future

The Authority plans to spend £2.9m on capital projects in 2024/25.

This includes:

Investing for the future	(£m)
Improvements to premises	0.500
Vehicles	1.610
Equipment	0.517
Information Technology	0.286
Total (£m)	2.913

Service Performance

By the end of 2023/24 it is estimated that the Service will have dealt with 7111 incidents compared with 8833 in 2022/23.

Performance area	Actual 22/23	Estimated 23/24
Accidental dwelling fires	199	198
Deaths from accidental dwelling fires	1	5
Injuries from accidental dwelling fires (where the casualty was taken to hospital)	9	18
Fires	4932	3292
Special services e.g. road traffic collisions, lift releases and animal rescue	1164	1270
Home Fire Safety Visits	18382	18539
Fire safety audits	1927	1995

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 on 0345 305 8383.

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

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

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



County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Service

Free Home Fire Safety Visit

We encourage all households to have a home fire safety visit with our service; your safety is our priority.

During a home fire safety visit staff from your local fire station come to your home 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 would like a home fire safety visit:

You can call us, or visit our website to fill in an online form. You can also scan the below code to take you to the online form.



0345 223 4221



www.ddfire.gov.uk



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