



Derbyshire
Fire & Rescue Service
Making Derbyshire Safer

We Want Your **Views**



Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service Planning
2010 - 2013 Consultation

www.derbys-fire.gov.uk

Introduction from the Chief Fire Officer

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service (DFRS) in 2008 was assessed by the Audit Commission to be one of only five Fire and Rescue Services in the country whose performance was improving strongly. The strength of our strategic leadership and motivation of our employees was commended. We were also seen as a key partner in Derbyshire, making a real difference to the quality of life for local people whilst delivering value for money services. It is within this context that this year DFRS are consulting on a single set of priorities with a view to rationalising our range of strategic plans down to one Service Plan.

This has been made possible by streamlining our business and financial planning processes with other key plans. These include the statutory Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and our Workforce Plan.

The Service has looked to the future in terms of new challenges and opportunities for further continuous improvement. We have considered legislation which we must comply with, including the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008-11 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

We are refining the work we carry out to identify vulnerable members of the community by developing our internal systems to make sure the latest risk information is available to operational fire crews and community safety teams. This will ensure that resources are targeted in the most effective way.

We have identified nine Service Priorities which we believe will enable us to deliver a Fire and Rescue Service that makes Derbyshire a safer place to live, work and visit. These priorities aim to offer an excellent, efficient, effective and community-focussed service based on risk profiling and value for money for all. The priorities, when finalised, following consultation, will subsequently be delivered through the development of detailed Service Objectives.

We now need your views and opinions. We will use your feedback to assist us in the development of our Service Plan for 2010-13. Please read the attached information which will enable you to complete the questionnaire, and return in the free post envelope enclosed.

Thank you for your support.



Brian Tregunna
Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive

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Why We Need Your Views

The DFRS Service Plan will set the direction the organisation takes between 2010 and 2013. The final document will be published in April 2010.

In consulting with all stakeholders in a meaningful way, we enable all sections of the community to give us their views on the development of our service priorities, and the allocation of resources to them. This process puts you at the heart of our decision-making, and will ultimately direct how we work with our communities.

This consultation document has been written in a way we hope is user-friendly, but we will try to help anyone who has difficulty reading and understanding it. We have included a short explanation of each proposal to help you make an informed decision. More in-depth information is available on request. The consultation

document has a questionnaire which relates to the main initiatives and areas of financial spend that have been identified.

Please take time to read this Service Planning Consultation document and let us have your views on our proposals. Your views are important and will contribute to our commitment to continual improvement and our ambition to achieve excellence.



How You Can Get Involved

As well as the draft document being available on our website www.derbys-fire.gov.uk we are also organising focus groups across Derbyshire for you to have your say. The focus groups will be held as follows:

Date	Venue	Time
29-Sep	Ilkeston Community Fire Station	6.15-8.30pm
01-Oct	Lee Wood Hotel, Buxton	2.15-4.30pm
05-Oct	Nottingham Road Community Fire Station	6.15-8.30pm
07-Oct	Bradbury Community House, Glossop	6.15-8.30pm
13-Oct	Sharpes Heritage Centre, Swadlincote	6.15-8.30pm
15-Oct	Gothic Warehouse, Cromford	6.15-8.30pm
19-Oct	Alfreton Community Fire Station	6.15-8.30pm
21-Oct	Staveley Community Fire Station	6.15-8.30pm
26-Oct	Winding Wheel, Chesterfield	2.15-4.30pm
26-Oct	Winding Wheel, Chesterfield	6.15-8.30pm
27-Oct	Derby Conference Centre	2.15-4.30pm
27-Oct	Derby Conference Centre	6.15-8.30pm



If you would like to attend one of these meetings, please phone 01773 837 270 or email us at:

DFRSconsultation@derbys-fire.gov.uk.

If you represent an external group of more than 10 interested people, we are willing to visit you at your convenience during the consultation period to discuss the issues regarding the consultation being undertaken.

Businesses and partner organisations will also be consulted through a series of meetings. The consultation will run for a 12 week period from 25th September 2009.



Service Priorities

We have developed nine Service priorities which will focus our activities to ensure we deliver an effective and efficient service to the communities of Derbyshire. These priorities are identified below:

Priority	What does this mean?
<p>Improvement - Develop Performance Management in order to drive continuous improvement.</p>	<p>We will improve our measurement and management of performance to ensure that our service is delivered to the community in an effective way and provides value for money.</p>
<p>Engagement - Improve engagement with all stakeholders.</p>	<p>We will make sure we know what our communities want from their Fire & Rescue Service. We will consult with all our stakeholders including the diverse communities within Derbyshire, keeping service users informed of our actions.</p>
<p>Governance - Ensure appropriate governance and assurance arrangements.</p>	<p>We will review our arrangements to ensure that as a public service we are open and accountable for our actions and that we act with integrity to provide an efficient and effective service that delivers value for money to our communities.</p>
<p>Service Delivery - Provide an efficient and effective service based on prevention, protection and response.</p>	<p>We will identify the risks within our communities and target resources to the areas of greatest risk. This will be achieved through targeted prevention activities such as home fire safety checks and the schools' education programme. We will also carry out fire safety audits to ensure commercial premises are safe and provide an effective and efficient response to emergencies.</p>

Priority	What does this mean?
<p>Equality & Diversity - To meet the diverse needs of communities and our employees using a risk-based approach.</p>	<p>We will strive to understand the needs of our diverse communities and employees within Derbyshire, through effective engagement and equality impact assessment, to enable vulnerable groups fair and equal access to our services or employment opportunities.</p>
<p>Partnerships - Work with partners to improve the overall quality of life of local people.</p>	<p>We will work with other services such as the Police, Local Authorities, Health and Voluntary Organisations to provide a more cost effective service with improved outcomes for local communities. We will continue to contribute to Local Area Agreements to assist in improving neighbourhoods.</p>
<p>Employees - Have a healthy and safe workforce with the right knowledge, skills and behaviours to provide an excellent service.</p>	<p>We will ensure our employees are highly trained and have the right equipment to carry out their job safely and professionally.</p>
<p>Assets - To provide appropriate facilities and equipment to meet the needs of Derbyshire's communities.</p>	<p>We will manage our buildings, fire engines and other assets to ensure that they are available, well maintained and ready for use to ensure an efficient and effective service is delivered.</p>
<p>Environment - To minimise our adverse impact on the environment.</p>	<p>We will monitor our effect on the environment and try to reduce any adverse impacts.</p>

Main Initiatives and Areas of Significant Spends

Community Engagement

(Questions 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11)

One of the most important challenges for DFRS is how the needs of diverse communities can be met in a manner which takes their differences into account sensitively and effectively. The need to tailor services to meet local needs calls for a much sharper focus on community engagement. This means we must work hard to make sure that vulnerable groups have fair and equal access to all our services. This can only be achieved by communicating effectively and considering how their particular needs are best met and targeting our resources accordingly.

Research recently published by the Government has redefined the potential fire risk factors (PFRF) used in Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) from those previously established. The national research points to four revised high risk socio-demographic targets or vulnerable groups in our communities. These are:

- Single parents
- People who have never worked
- African, Caribbean and other black communities
- Single adult households.

Fire Safety in Business

(Questions 7 and 8)

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 applies to almost all properties apart from private houses. Its main aim is to provide safety from fire. It places a legal duty on those responsible for such premises to ensure the safety from fire of all people, both in the building and any others nearby who might be affected by a fire.

Responsibility for this rests mainly with employers and also with those who have any degree of control over the buildings and the activities carried out in them.

As the main enforcing authority of the Order, DFRS has a duty to inspect premises to make sure the legal provisions are complied with. Where we find measures are not adequate, we will first give advice and guidance. Where necessary, DFRS will take enforcement action which may ultimately lead to prosecution.

There are many thousands of commercial business premises within Derbyshire and DFRS manage a risk-based inspection programme. This is to make sure those premises which present the highest potential life risk are inspected most frequently. However, DFRS believe a proactive approach to engage with those responsible for the generally lower risk and small - medium sized businesses will help provide a safer environment and make sure those responsible fulfil their legal duties.



Re-allocation of Resources

(Questions 5 and 6)

In our previous plans, DFRS pledged to review the duty system at the day-staffing stations in Glossop, Matlock and Swadlincote. The report from the review has concluded that there is a need to:

- improve the resilience of the Service through an increased number of fulltime firefighters.
- provide greater support for the provision of services in rural areas.
- reduce incident attendance times through immediate response at the time of the day when persons are most at risk.
- make appropriate arrangements for the provision of an operational response that meets current and future needs.
- have effective working arrangements that comply with current employment and health & safety legislation.

The proposal is to change Glossop, Matlock and Swadlincote into wholetime stations, providing 24/7 immediate fire cover by fulltime firefighters.

To enable this to happen, it is proposed to relocate existing employees by removing the second fire appliance from Ascot Drive Fire Station, Derby, where there is currently an over-provision. Overall, 18 new fulltime firefighter posts would be created. The changes are subject to consultation and final approval by Derbyshire Fire Authority and would be funded through the re-allocation of existing budgets.

Employer of Choice

(Question 12)

Recruitment of a diverse workforce has real organisational benefits. An effective Fire and Rescue Service relies on trust and strong partnership, between itself

and its communities. This is improved where those delivering the service reflect and actively engage with the community they serve. DFRS is committed to employing a diverse workforce and as an organisation will strive to balance the under-representation of particular groups and promote equal opportunities in employment and progression within the Service.

DFRS have embarked on an ambitious course of positive-action initiatives that have been designed to introduce under-represented groups to the work of the Service. Whilst there are many legislative requirements for organisations in relation to equality and diversity, DFRS believes there are huge benefits that this brings to the organisation and to the communities which it serves. By carrying out our role we believe we will fulfil our strategic aims and core values.

Mentoring for under-represented groups

(Question 13)

DFRS is committed to ensuring that we have a workforce which is reflective of our diverse communities.

We will work to ensure that mentoring and targeted development is available to individuals from underrepresented groups who have demonstrated a commitment to working for DFRS. By providing support to those prospective employees, we will ensure that they have every chance to fulfill their employment potential.

Violence, Alcohol and Licensing group

(Questions 14 and 15)

DFRS has been working closely with Licensing Officers in Amber Valley and Erewash. We have invested in a strategy to help in dealing with licensing and disorder issues throughout the community.

A vehicle, which has been jointly funded by DFRS, Derbyshire Constabulary, Amber Valley and Erewash Community Safety Partnership, has been bought to improve speed and efficiency when dealing with licensing issues.

All agencies have contributed to this partnership to tackle drunken behaviour and underage drinking. The initiative has been recognised as best practice in a recent external review of the Service. We are considering rolling out the initiative across the county, subject to financial approval.

DFRS' involvement in this project will assist in the reduction of alcohol related fires, road traffic collisions and anti-social behaviour.



Volunteering

(Questions 16 and 17)

A volunteer programme is being piloted by the DFRS North-West Area Prevention Team. The scheme is aimed at engaging with community volunteers to support current fire prevention activities. Volunteers are identified in conjunction with established volunteer centres/agencies across the county.

Volunteers with a variety of skills and abilities would help support and enhance the current established Prevention Team.

The main volunteering opportunities will be based around our current activities. This includes the generation and completion of home fire safety checks in targeted areas and providing support towards our current road traffic collision programmes, youth activities and educational initiatives.



Education programme for young people

(Questions 18, 19, 20, and 21)

DFRS is leading on a pilot of the educational initiative 'missdorothy.com'. This package is for children from 7 to 16 years old. It is a rounded approach to safety and embraces various themes such as road safety, fire safety, drugs and alcohol misuse.

The package is widely endorsed by Central Government, including the Department for Children, Schools and Families and is supported by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Professional Footballers' Association. We are considering extending this pilot across the county.

Road Safety

(Questions 22 and 23)

Road traffic collisions make up a significant part of the work of the Fire and Rescue Service. The consequences can be devastating. More people are killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions than fires in Derbyshire. DFRS considers that a multi-agency approach is the best way to prevent fatalities and injuries due to road traffic collisions. This brings together Government Departments and other key agencies such as the Police, local Councils and interest groups.

Equipment

(Question 24)

DFRS carries out research and development into new and improved fire and rescue vehicles and equipment. This is with the aim of continually improving the delivery of services and operational effectiveness. This research and development is built into a three-year strategy that includes a robust trial and evaluation process before equipment is purchased. This makes sure Derbyshire's firefighters have the most suitable resources for a wide range of incidents.

Modernisation of Fire Stations

(Question 25)

DFRS continually assesses its buildings and land against three criteria – its condition, suitability and sufficiency for long term future requirements. The assessment considers whether property meets operational needs, is based in the right places and is in a good state of repair. The results are then used to inform decisions about whether to maintain, repair or replace DFRS' property portfolio.



Environmental Impact

(Question 26)

DFRS carries out environmental protection work following emergency incidents. We have a long standing working relationship with the Environment Agency. DFRS now has an opportunity to look further at its work in terms of the adverse impact it has upon the environment. This includes looking at how it can reduce its carbon emissions through innovative working and future sustainability of the Service. This is achieved by providing new, more sustainable and energy efficient equipment, property and fire engines and continuing to reduce the number of fires. This will reduce damage to the environment as well as preventing further deaths and injuries.

DFRS does not currently report on its environmental performance in relation to buildings, vehicles and equipment or as a result of its response and prevention activities.

Further research and development in construction, procurement and operational practices that contribute to reducing our carbon footprint, together with improved monitoring and reporting will demonstrate the Service's commitment to sustainability.

Budget Information

Where we spend your money (Questions 29, 30 and 31)

Currently Derbyshire Fire Authority costs residents £1.26 a week (based on a band D property). In the last year we spent over £29 million on firefighting and rescue operations and £5 million on community fire safety. We invested over £6 million to improve our fire stations, vehicles and equipment to make Derbyshire safer. This included the completion of a new community fire station at Ilkeston.

We are reviewing all of our activities to see if they can be done more efficiently and effectively to deliver value for money for the taxpayer. We will again be setting clear efficiency targets as part of next year's budget setting process and will be reporting back this year on exactly what efficiencies we have delivered to you, the council taxpayer.

Below is a table that illustrates the weekly cost of Derbyshire Fire Authority for all the property bands available in Derbyshire, as well as the increase in cost that would result from a 3% increase in council tax. **Please note, no decision has yet been made about the level of council tax, this is merely for illustrative purposes.**

Property Band	Current Weekly Cost	Weekly Cost with a 3% increase
A	84p	87p
B	98p	£1.01
C	£1.12	£1.15
D	£1.26	£1.30
E	£1.54	£1.59
F	£1.82	£1.87
G	£2.10	£2.16
H	£2.52	£2.60





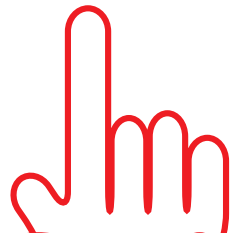


Derbyshire
Fire & Rescue Service
Making Derbyshire Safer

Pull Your

Finger

Out



Fit A Smoke Alarm

on each floor of your home

Test Your Alarm

weekly

Make A Plan

for you and your family to escape in case of fire



If you want any further fire safety information or a free **Home Fire Safety Check** contact:

East Area Office **0115 9326832**

North Area Office **01246 454413**

South Area Office **01332 345440**

West Area Office **01298 22274**

www.derbyshire-fire.gov.uk

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service

Career Opportunities

For information regarding career opportunities and/or current vacancies within Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service, you can contact us

Our firefighters are men and women from all walks of life, who bring a diverse range of skills, experience, qualities and attributes to enhance our workforce and the service we provide to our communities. Applicants must be 17½ years or over.



Email: enquiries@derbys-fire.gov.uk - **Website:** www.derbys-fire.gov.uk
Recruitment Hotline: 01332 777 018 - **Address:** Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Human Resources Administration, The Old Hall, Burton Road, Littleover, Derby, DE23 6EH.



Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service

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