



Local Government Act 1972

A Meeting of the Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington will be held in the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters on Tuesday 18 July 2023 at 10.00 am to consider the following business:-

PART A

1. Chief Fire Officer Commendation
2. Declarations of interest, if any
If Members are aware of a private or personal conflict of interest in relation to any items on the Agenda, this should be disclosed at this stage or when the conflict of interest arises during consideration of an item in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Members
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2023 (Pages 3 - 12)
4. Current Correspondence - Report of Director or Emergency Response (Pages 13 - 38)
5. Appointment of Committee Membership - Report of the Clerk (Pages 39 - 44)
6. Member Champions - Report of Director of Corporate Resources (Pages 45 - 46)
7. Notes of the Performance Committee 30 June 2023 - Report of the Chair of the Performance Committee (Pages 47 - 62)
8. Community Safety and Arson Reduction - Report of Community Safety and Arson Reduction Member Champion (Pages 63 - 68)
9. Estates Update - Report of Director of Corporate Resources (Pages 69 - 70)
10. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgent to warrant consideration
11. Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the discussion of items containing exempt information

Part B

Items during which it is considered the meeting will not be open to the public (consideration of exempt or confidential information)

12. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

PURSUANT to the provisions of the above named Act, **I HEREBY SUMMON YOU** to attend the said meeting



H LYNCH

Clerk to the Combined Fire Authority
for County Durham and Darlington

County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UL

TO: The Members of the Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington

Durham County Councillors:

Councillors J Atkinson, A Batey, R Bell, J Blakey, J Cairns, C Hampson, N Jones, B Kellett, L Kennedy, R Manchester, C Marshall, C Martin, I McLean, E Peeke, J Quinn, S Quinn, G Richardson, K Rooney, P Sexton, J Shuttleworth and S Zair

Darlington Borough Councillors:

Councillors A Anderson, G Lee, D Ray and M Snedker

Minutes of a **meeting** of the **Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington** held at **Fire and Rescue HQ, Durham** on **20 June 2023** at **10.00 am**.

Present:

Durham County Councillors:

Councillors J Atkinson, A Batey, R Bell, J Blakey, J Cairns, C Hampson, N Jones, B Kellet, L Kennedy, R Manchester, C Marshall, C Martin, L Mavin (substitute for K Rooney), I McLean, E Peeke, J Quinn, S Quinn, G Richardson, P Sexton, J Shuttleworth, S Zair

Darlington Borough Councillors:

Councillors G Lee, D Ray and M Snedker.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Anderson and K Rooney.

Independent Persons:

Independent Persons to be appointed.

A1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A2 Appointment of Chair

The Clerk outlined the standing orders under which the appointments can take place. Members were asked for nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority.

Appointment of Chair

Cllr R Bell proposed Cllr J Shuttleworth as Chair on behalf of the Joint Administration. This was seconded by Cllr S Zair.

Cllr C Marshall proposed Cllr S Quinn as Chair on behalf of Labour. This was seconded by Cllr A Batey.

A vote by show of hands took place with majority in favour of Cllr J Shuttleworth.

Members agreed to appoint Cllr J Shuttleworth as Chair of the Combined Fire Authority.

Appointment of Vice Chair

Cllr J Shuttleworth proposed Cllr S Zair as Vice Chair on behalf of the Joint Administration. This was seconded by Cllr G Richardson.

Cllr C Marshall proposed Cllr R Manchester as Vice Chair on behalf of Labour. This was seconded by Cllr A Batey.

A vote by show of hands took place with majority in favour of Cllr S Zair.

Members agreed to appoint Cllr S Zair as Vice Chair of the Combined Fire Authority.

The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting.

Members congratulated the Service, following the recent announcement that the number of accidental house fires across County Durham and Darlington is at the lowest level since records began.

A3 Appointment of Opposition Group Leader

The Clerk asked Members for nominations for the Opposition Group Leader of the Authority. Cllr C Marshall proposed Cllr S Quinn as Opposition Group Leader, and this was seconded by Cllr A Batey. Members agreed to appoint Cllr S Quinn.

A4 Review of the Constitution

The Authority received a report of the Chief Fire Officer and Clerk which sought approval for proposed amendments to the Combined Fire Authority Constitution (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

- I. The contents of the report and suggested amendments to the constitution were **noted**.
- II. The amended constitution as outlined at Appendix A was **approved**.

A5 Appointment of Chairs and Committees

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk which sought to approve the Chairs of the committees for the Authority for 2023/24 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Clerk highlighted that the remainder of committee membership would be agreed via group leaders following the meeting.

The Clerk asked Members for nominations for each committee Chair.

Appeals Committee

A proposal and second was received for Cllr D Ray.

A proposal and second was received for Cllr J Shuttleworth.

A vote by show of hands took place with majority in favour of Cllr J Shuttleworth. Members agreed to appoint Cllr J Shuttleworth as Chair of the Appeals Committee.

Audit and Finance Committee

A proposal and second was received for Cllr R Bell.

A proposal and second was received for Cllr B Kellett.

A vote by show of hands took place with majority in favour of Cllr R Bell. Members agreed to appoint Cllr R Bell as Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee.

Human Resources Committee

A proposal and second was received for Cllr C Martin.

A proposal and second was received for Cllr A Batey.

A vote by show of hands took place with majority in favour of Cllr C Martin. Members agreed to appoint Cllr C Martin as Chair of the Human Resources Committee.

Joint Consultative Committee

A proposal and second was received for Cllr I McLean. Members agreed to appoint Cllr I McLean as Chair of the Joint Consultative Committee.

Pension Board

A proposal and second was received for Cllr J Atkinson. Members agreed to appoint Cllr J Atkinson as Chair of the Pension Board.

Performance Committee

A proposal and second was received for Cllr J Blakey.

A proposal and second was received for Cllr C Marshall.

A vote by show of hands took place with majority in favour of Cllr J Blakey. Members agreed to appoint Cllr J Blakey as Chair of the Performance Committee.

Resolved:

- i Appoint Chairs for 2023/24 for:
 - a The chair of the appeals committee was agreed as Cllr J Shuttleworth
 - b The chair of the Audit and Finance Committee was agreed as Cllr R Bell
 - c The Chair of the Human Resources Committee was agreed as Cllr C Martin

- d The Chair of the Joint Consultative Committee was agreed as Cllr I McLean
- e The Chair of the Pension Board was agreed as Cllr J Atkinson
- f The Chair of the Performance Committee was agreed as Cllr J Blakey

- ii The appointment of the Chair of the Authority as Chair to the Appointments Panel and Salary Review Group in accordance with the constitution Section 3, Paragraphs 5 and 6 respectively were **agreed**.

- iii The Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority and the appropriate group leader to make any changes to the Committee that may arise during 2023/24 was **authorised**.

A6 Representation on Other Bodies 2023/24

The Authority received a report of the Clerk which sought agreement for the appointments process of Members of the Combined Fire Authority's to the Other Bodies for 2023/24 (for copy see file of minutes).

Cllr C Marshall requested that the LGA appointment work closely with the Labour representative for the benefit of the Service.

Resolved:

- i The Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair and appropriate Group Leader, to make appointments to the Other Bodies which the Authority are invited to nominate in accordance with the criteria that the appointment shall be in accordance with the overall political proportionality of the Authority was **authorised**.

- ii The Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair and appropriate Group Leader, to make any changes to membership of the Other Bodies that may arise during 2023/24 was **authorised**.

A7 Minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair (for copy see file of minutes).

A8 Current Correspondence

The Authority received an update from the Director of Emergency Response in relation to current correspondence received from government and other bodies relevant to the Authority and the status of each (for copy see file of minutes).

A9 Notes of the Human Resources Committee

The Authority received a report of the Chair of the Human Resources Committee which provided an update on the discussions and recommendations of the Committee held on 16 May 2023 (for copy see file of minutes).

Members **noted** the contents of the report

A10 Notes of the Audit and Finance Committee

The Authority received a report of the Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee which provided an update on the discussions and recommendations of the Committee held on 6 April 2023 (for copy see file of minutes).

Cllr R Bell highlighted the corporate governance action plan update and the comments in relation to inflation, pay awards and funding.

Members **noted** the contents of the report.

A11 Member Champions

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which set out details of the Authority's Member Champion Roles and sought nominations for the individual roles for the forthcoming two year period (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

- a) Member champion roles as set out in the report and as detailed at Appendix A-F was **noted**.
- b) **Noted** that the expression of interest form Appendix G needs to be submitted by email by 30 June 2023.
- c) **Noted** that the Fire Authority will approve the Member Champions at the Combined Fire Authority meeting on 18 July 2023, if there is more than one expression of interest for a champion role a further report will be presented and a vote will take place to allocate roles.

A12 Member Buddy System and Affiliation with Fire Stations

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which confirmed the Service Leadership Team contacts for the Member 'Buddy' arrangements and the fire station affiliation list (for copy see file of minutes).

Cllr S Quinn requested that her contact telephone number be updated.

Resolved:

Member Buddy and fire station affiliation details as set out in Appendices A and B were **approved**.

A13 Empty Building

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Emergency Response which provided an update on ongoing work in respect of empty buildings in County Durham and Darlington (for copy see file of minutes).

Members commented on police involvement, costs to the Authority, community issues and statutory powers. Chris Williams confirmed that local Authorities have the majority of statutory powers. It was agreed that Chris Williams would circulate the following further details to members; a list of empty properties, list of contacts for local authorities, costs to the Authority and detail around police notification.

Cllr I McLean queried what more Local Authorities could do to support the Fire Service. Chris Williams noted that the Service worked closely with both local Authorities and the project had moved on considerably over the last couple of years, however some high risk buildings are boarded up with OSB which can be easily removed. A quicker and more robust response would assist with the issue.

Cllr Lee queried the support received from Darlington Borough Council. Chris Williams confirmed that the Service worked closely with Darlington Borough Council however they were not yet working from a shared list.

Members **noted** the contents of the report.

A14 Community Risk Management Plan 2023 Consultation Results

The Authority received a report of the Chief Fire Officer which provided Members with information regarding the results of the Community Risk Management Plan Consultation which began on 17 February 2023 and ended on 11 May 2023 (for copy see file of minutes).

Cllrs I McLean, C Marshall and A Batey commented on actions of the government with regards to funding cuts and what further cuts would look like for the Service. Cllrs noted their opposition to approve the implementation of riding with 4 due to increased risk for staff and public. The Chief Fire Officer stated that planning within the Fire Service was done on a risk based approach, a range of mitigations were in place to support crews such as fire safety, enforcement and prevention. 80% of crews are currently riding with 4 on dayshift and 88% of crews are currently riding with 4 on nightshift. Discussion took place around this option which will protect the current fast response times.

Cllr P Sexton queried whether there was anything a crew of 4 couldn't do that a crew of 5 could do. The Chief Fire Officer confirmed there was nothing a crew of 4 could not do.

Cllr P Sexton questioned scope to review the precept cap. The Chief Fire Officer provided an update on the precept position and noted that lobbying would continue. A local precept would be challenging and expensive with not guarantee of success.

Cllr P Sexton queried whether the local authority could take on the precept risk. The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that it was the Fire Service's responsibility.

Cllr J Quinn queried alternative options to riding with 4. The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that mitigating options had been discussed as part of the MTFP for years and all none operational options had now been carried out. The options list had been agreed and risk assessed at previous CFA planning days and riding with 4 was the preferred option from members. If Members decided to vote against riding with 4 the next options on the list would need to be considered.

Cllr S Quinn noted concern that crews were on standby covering other areas and requested clarification on the process. The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the service's focus is always maximum and best cover across the Service area. Appliances are moved from time to time to ensure that coverage is maximised which is a standard business management tool.

Cllr G Lee commented on the position with funding and the impact of recent unplanned events such as covid and Ukraine. Cllr Lee noted his intention to vote to approve the implementation of riding with 4.

Cllr R Bell commented that the option of riding with 4 had been discussed for years, a lot of other services ride with 4 and CDDFRS are currently doing it in practice.

Cllr Shuttleworth reminded members that the CFA had always been a politically balanced committee and all members wanted to do the best for the Service.

A vote by show of hands took place with majority in favour of approving the CRMP for 2023-2026.

Resolved:

- a) The contents of the report were **noted**.
- b) Survey results to be **considered** as part of the decision-making process when assessing Service resources going forward.
- c) CRMP for 2023-2026 was **approved**.

A15 His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service's Update

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Community Risk Management which informed Members of the action plan resulting from County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service inspection by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services and the appointment of a new inspector for the Northern region (for copy see file of minutes).

Members **noted** the contents of the report.

A16 Values and Culture in Fire and Rescue Services Spotlight Report

The Authority received a report of the Director of People and Organisational Development which informed Members of the outcomes of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services Values and Culture report and the

internal review of County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescues Services practices against the recommendations made (for copy see file of minutes).

Members **noted** the contents of the report.

A17 Estates Update

The Authority Received a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which provided an update on the latest position in relation to the Estates Improvement Programme and other matters relating to Service wide Estates (for copy see file of minutes).

Members **noted** the contents of the report.

A18 Any other Business

Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

A19 Exclusion to the Public

That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 2 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the said Act.

Part B

B20 Update on Pay and Industrial Action

The Authority received a report of the Chief Fire Officer which informed members of the latest position in relation to the pay awards for Brigade Managers through the Gold Book pay claim (for copy see file of minutes).

Members **noted** the pay award for Brigade Managers through the Gold Book and the resolution to the outstanding pay awards for 2022 and 2023.

B21 Fire Fatality Presentation

The Authority received a presentation from the Director of Emergency Response regarding a recent fire fatality.

Members discussed and noted the presentation.

B22 Any Other Business

Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

CLOSE OF MEETING

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Current Correspondence: June 2023 – July 2023

No	Release Date	Subject	Summary	Action CFA Report	Action CFA Response	Action Info
1	12/6/23	Fire and Rescue Service Update	Letter from HMICFRS updating the service on the third round of inspections. Appendix A & B			X
2	15/6/23	Protection Uplift Grant Payment	Letter from Home Office to seek acceptance of Protection Uplift Grant Payment for CDDFRA. Appendix C			X
3	26/6/23	Values and Culture Spotlight Report Recommendations	Letter from HMI Roy Wilsher reminding Fire and Rescue Services of the Values and Culture Spotlight Report Recommendations Appendix D			X
4	21/6/23	Letters to Minister and MPs	Copy of the letters sent to Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire and local MPs regarding Funding Challenges Appendix E & F			X

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Promoting improvements
in policing and fire & rescue
services to make everyone safer

23 Stephenson Street
Birmingham B2 4BH
Direct line: 07741 930716
Email: roy.wilsher@hmicfrs.gov.uk

Roy Wilsher OBE QFSM
HM Inspector of Constabulary
HM Inspector of Fire & Rescue Services

Sent by email:

Chief Fire Officers
Chairs of Fire Authorities
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners
Lead Fire Authority Members
Locally elected Mayors
Other FRS interested parties

12 June 2023

Dear colleague,

Fire and Rescue Service Update

Round 3

I write to inform you on progress of our third round of fire and rescue (FRS) inspections.

Inspection activity is now underway for the first 12 services in the programme. A further update to the inspection schedule for round 3 is set out in **Annex A**. This running order may be subject to change, which could be due to several reasons, including changes in performance or risk. Services affected by this will be informed of any planned changes at the earliest opportunity.

Please contact your Chief of Staff, Mick Mason, michael.mason1@hmicfrs.gov.uk or Jo Hayden, jo.hayden1@hmicfrs.gov.uk, in the first instance if you wish to discuss it.

Gross misconduct information and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

HMCI Cooke previously wrote to all Chief Fire Officers to request that information in relation to allegations of gross misconduct are shared on an ongoing basis with HMIs. This included all allegations of gross misconduct currently under investigation or consideration, along with cases of alleged misconduct and other grievances and complaints where the alleged behaviour of individuals calls into question the culture and values of the organisation.

We have received some queries in relation to this and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and specifically whether this request for ongoing dialogue and

information is subject to a formal notice. It is not, at this stage, and we expect FRS' to comply voluntarily with this request.

Voluntary compliance with a request for disclosure of information or evidence the Inspectorate reasonably requires for the purposes of its statutory inspection functions constitutes processing which is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest (i.e. the Inspectorate's inspection task) under Article 6(1)(e) UK GDPR.

Special category personal data, including in relation to criminal record information (as defined in Articles 9(1) and 10(1) UK GDPR, and section 11(2) of the Data Protection Act 2018), may necessarily fall within the scope of the information or evidence requested by the Inspectorate. Similarly, disclosure of such information, whether voluntarily or under the Notification, will satisfy Article 9(2)(j) UK GDPR or Article 10(1) UK GDPR, read with paragraph 6 of Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 2018, because the processing is necessary for the exercise by the Inspectorate of its statutory functions and is in the substantial public interest.

Therefore, the GDPR exemptions relating to personal information do not apply, even in the case of voluntary compliance. Should a FRS be unwilling to comply voluntarily, then His Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) has indicated that a statutory notice will be issued. We very much hope that will not be necessary.

Information provided in response to this ongoing request should be provided directly to your HMI and will be protected in the same manner as other information provided to the inspectorate.

I hope that this assists with more background to our request, and that you agree that ongoing sharing of information such as this, which goes to the heart of public confidence and the efficiency and effectiveness of FRS' is key to an ongoing and positive relationship between the Inspectorate and Services.

Values and culture spotlight report recommendations

On 31 May, HMCI Andy Cooke wrote to you regarding the recommendations in the spotlight report on values and culture in the fire and rescue service that HMICFRS published on 31 March 2023. Within that letter, HMCI Cooke asked you to please implement the recommendations that are aimed at chief fire officers, by the stated deadlines.

HMCI Cooke also explained that to monitor these recommendations, we will use the existing Huddle spaces that services use for their document returns. These should be familiar to service liaison officers, who have access. A specific folder is available for each service within their Huddle workspace, containing a spreadsheet for the specific monitoring of the recommendations, in lieu of the portal. We ask services to provide updates within these spreadsheets, by the relevant deadlines, to include a self-assessment of whether or not they have met each recommendation, and a short narrative of no more than 300 words

per recommendation, if necessary. Please note that it is inappropriate to provide details of specific misconduct allegations, or any personal or sensitive information within these updates. Please notify your HMI directly of information of this nature. If you have any queries about this process, please get in touch with us via hmicfrsfireteam@hmicfrs.gov.uk.

Thank you to those services who have provided updates. However, too many services have not yet submitted an update. As the first official deadline, of 1 June 2023, has now passed I urge every service to please provide us with an update for the relevant recommendations. If you have any concerns about meeting a specific recommendation, please get in touch with your HMI directly.

New inspectors of police and fire service and a new Assistant HMI (His Majesty's Inspector)

I am pleased to advise that, from August 2023, Lee Freeman KPM and Michelle Skeer QPM will both start their dual roles of His Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary in England and Wales and His Majesty's Inspectors of Fire and Rescue in England.

Lee and Michelle were selected following a stringent recruitment process, conducted in accordance with the Governance Code on Public Appointments. His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspectors are then appointed by His Majesty The King on the advice of the Home Secretary and the Prime Minister.

The Inspectorate also welcomed Shantha Dickinson on 15 May 2023. Deputy Chief Fire Officer Shantha Dickinson joins HMICFRS as an Assistant HMI on a secondment from Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service. She will provide additional support across fire and rescue service inspections, and the wider work of the inspectorate.

Finally, I would also like to advise that HMI Matt Parr will be leaving us at the end of this month. Matt was appointed as HM Inspector of Constabulary in August 2016 and HM Inspector of Fire & Rescue Services in July 2017 when our remit was extended to include those services. I would like to thank Matt for his support since I joined the inspectorate. Arrangements are currently in progress to transition those services that Matt is responsible for to other HMI's. More on this over the coming month.

Should you need any further information please contact either me or Alex Hill, FRS portfolio director via alex.hill@hmicfrs.gov.uk

Thank you for your continued support of our inspection programme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RW', written over a light grey dotted grid background.

Roy Wilsher OBE QFSM
HM Inspector of Constabulary
HM Inspector of Fire & Rescue Services

FRS Inspection Schedule

(w/c = week commencing)

Order	Service	Document Request, Self-Assessment & Staff Survey	Inspection Fieldwork starts
1	Bedfordshire	w/c 09-Jan-23	w/c 27-Feb-23
2	Cambridgeshire	w/c 09-Jan-23	w/c 27-Feb-23
3	Cheshire	w/c 09-Jan-23	w/c 06-Mar-23
4	Warwickshire	w/c 06-Feb-23	w/c 27-Mar-23
5	Cornwall	w/c 06-Feb-23	w/c 27-Mar-23
6	Surrey	w/c 06-Feb-23	w/c 27-Mar-23
7	Lincolnshire	w/c 20-Mar-23	w/c 08-May-23
8	Buckinghamshire	w/c 20-Mar-23	w/c 08-May-23
9	Merseyside	w/c 20-Mar-23	w/c 08-May-23
10	Avon	w/c 01-May-23	w/c 19-Jun-23
11	Hereford & Worcester	w/c 01-May-23	w/c 19-Jun-23
12	Northumberland	w/c 01-May-23	w/c 19-Jun-23
13	Greater Manchester	w/c 24-July-23	w/c 11-Sept-23
14	Norfolk	w/c 24-July-23	w/c 11-Sept-23
15	Essex	w/c 24-July-23	w/c 11-Sept-23
16	West Yorkshire	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
17	Gloucestershire	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
18	Northamptonshire	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
19	Oxfordshire	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
20	Nottinghamshire	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
21	Staffordshire	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
22	London	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
23	Tyne & Wear	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
24	Devon & Somerset	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
25	West Sussex	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
26	Shropshire	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
27	Humberside	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
28	Lancashire	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
29	Hertfordshire	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
30	Isles of Scilly	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
31	Suffolk	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
32	Dorset & Wiltshire	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
33	West Midlands	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
34	Hampshire & Isle of Wight	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
35	East Sussex	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
36	South Yorkshire	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
37	North Yorkshire	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
38	Cleveland	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
39	Derbyshire	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
40	County Durham & Darlington	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
41	Cumbria	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
42	Leicestershire	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
43	Royal Berkshire	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
44	Kent	To be confirmed	To be confirmed

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Sarah Gawley
Director of Fire and
Major Events
Home Office

2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

www.gov.uk/home-office

Steve Helps
County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
steve.helps@ddfir.gov.uk

15 June 2023

Dear Steve,

Protection Uplift Grant Payment to County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority

I am writing to seek your acceptance of Protection Uplift grant funding to County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority. The amount of funding to County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority is One hundred four thousand, two hundred one pounds and four pence (£104,201.04).

I can confirm the funding for this year (2023/24) and this letter sets out the arrangements intended to continue to drive significant improvement in the protection function within fire and rescue services and tackling risk in the built environment. The grant conditions are outlined below.

We look forward to supporting your use of the funding and working with you and National Fire Chiefs Council Limited (NFCC) during the lifetime of the arrangement to help make a real difference.

Payment of these monies is subject to your acceptance of this offer and the standard terms and conditions of the Grant Letter.

Protection Uplift Grant Funding

1. Funding purpose

To drive sustainable improvements in the capability and capacity of Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) to deliver their protection function to support a safer built environment and respond to the findings from the HMICFRS State of Fire Reports.

2. Grant Restrictions

The following grant restrictions will apply:

- The grant is ring-fenced to expenditure by FRS in England in discharging fire protection duties as set out in the conditions of expenditure section below.
- Under this grant, pension abatement costs **will not be** deemed acceptable expenditure.
- Funding will be provided in two payment 'runs', with both payments made in arrears. The first 50% will be paid in arrears in September 2023, dependent on evidence of actual and planned spend. The second run will be processed at the end of the 2023/24 financial year, and dependent on evidence of actual and planned spend.
- A final forecast will be required by the end of the financial year to allow for year-end accruals.
- Where a potential risk of payment being made in advance of need is identified, the Home Office reserves the right to carry out additional assurance checks and to withhold or reduce payment in line with the principles of Managing Public Money¹.
- Evidence on the work achieved towards the above, and of grant expenditure applied to the grant, will be required as set out in the requisite reporting templates. This is required on a quarterly basis to cover each three-month period up to 31 March 2024 or until the funds are fully spent, with returns sent to the Home Office via the NFCC– FRSgrants@nfcc.org.uk. **Late reporting returns may result in payment being delayed.**

3. Conditions of Expenditure

Expenditure should be incurred for the purposes of further increasing the capability and capacity within fire protection in order to deliver in line with locally agreed integrated risk management plans and risk-based inspection programmes.

¹ [MPM updates .docx \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

The aim of the grant is to continue to increase capacity and build long-term capability within FRS' protection delivery to cover areas such as:

Workforce

- Increasing protection resource to ensure sufficient resource is in place to address the needs of your integrated risk management plan.
- To further establish and promote career pathways in protection.
- Identify and implement opportunities to improve diversity, inclusion, and talent in the protection workforce.
- Upskilling of operational staff to enable station-based staff to carry out less complex protection activity and enhancing their understanding of the built environment.
- Introducing protection awareness training for all front-line staff to improve the quality of information gathering visits so staff have the ability to identify risks and share these with the protection teams.
- Improving general protection competence of all staff.
- Improving data sharing and feedback loops between prevention and operational teams with protection so that risks are better understood and to aid targeted initiatives.

Technology

- To improve ways of working and efficiency.
- Using an innovative approach to online training.
- Making existing data systems work better including through the development of new data tools.
- Digital platform (protection, prevention and risk).
- Hardware (tablets, bodycams).

Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

4. Financial Reporting

- Sign-off of expenditure by the S151/S112 officer will be required on a quarterly basis to cover each quarterly period up to 31 March 2024.
- First quarterly reporting will be required by 17 July 2023 and quarterly thereafter on 16 October 2023, 22 January 2024, and 15 April 2024. It is important that all quarterly reporting is timely and accurate to ensure good control, governance and quality assurance.
- FRSs will need to submit returns to NFCC: FRSgrants@nfcc.org.uk

5. Monitoring Requirements

- Annual Spending Plan: FRS to provide to the Home Office, via the NFCC, by **30 June 2023**, a return setting out the plan for how you intend to spend the Protection funding and how you will meet the grant agreement requirements to increase protection capability and capacity

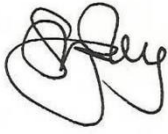
with outputs clearly detailed. This should be submitted through this: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Protection-Uplift-Grant-Spending-Plan-2023-24/>

- The spending plan should account for at least 90% of your available protection grant funding (2023/24 allocation and any unspent funds from previous years of the grant/BRR). **There is a new requirement for FRS to set out: grant funding reserves as at the start of the financial year; spend profile across each quarter; and the timeline to the point where protection grant funding will be exhausted.**
- NFCC will conduct mid-year reviews with each service after Q2 to compare actual to planned spend.
- Quarterly reporting will be required by FRS, covering the period up to 31 March 2024 provided to the Home Office via the NFCC, using a standard template. Returns will need to continue to account for any unspent funds from the Protection Uplift grant and Building Risk Review funding paid out in the previous financial years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 until spent and outputs are known.
- Returns are likely to include data covering the below metrics. Returns should be related to the outputs detailed in the spending plan. Analysis may include (but is not limited to):
 - A. How many staff have been employed
 - B. How many staff trained and to what qualification level
 - C. An increase in number of high-risk buildings audited.
 - D. An increase of engagement (FSO hours).
 - E. What IT solutions have been developed to meet objectives
 - F. What equipment has been purchased (commentary required)
 - G. Investment or capital expenditure (commentary required)
 - H. Diversity and Inclusion data
- FRS will also need to provide protection data, including on the number of audits undertaken, length of audits and outcomes by different building types, using the standard template. It is important that what has been 'added' to the outputs of protection work from this funding is captured to allow for evaluation of grant spend.

To confirm acceptance of this grant funding offer, please sign and return one copy of the Grant Letter to: fireprotection@homeoffice.gov.uk by 30 June 2023. The Grant Letter must be returned with signed approval from your Finance Director in the section overleaf. Please retain a copy of the Grant Letter for your records. Please be aware that no payments will be released until receipt of the signed documentation.

The Grant Sponsor for the Protection funding will be the Home Office's Fire Safety Unit which will be responsible for monitoring delivery. For enquiries on grant reporting and governance, please contact: FRSgrants@nfcc.org.uk. For enquires on grant payments, please contact: fireprotection@homeoffice.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Gawley', with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Sarah Gawley
Director of Fire and Major Events
Public Safety Group
Home Office

Annex A:

Finance Director approval

If you agree to the above grant conditions, please ask your Finance Director to sign here and return.

“I agree the above grant conditions”

Signed Finance Director.....

Name (printed).....

Date:



Promoting improvements
in policing and fire & rescue
services to make everyone safer

23 Stephenson Street
Birmingham B2 4BH
Direct line: 020 3513 0523
Email: roy.wilsher@hmicfrs.gov.uk

HMI Roy Wilsher
His Majesty's Inspector of Fire and
Rescue Services

Chief Fire Officers
Service Liaison Officers

26 June 2023

Dear colleague,

Reminder: Values and Culture Spotlight Report Recommendations

HMCI Andy Cooke wrote to you on 31 May, regarding the recommendations in the [spotlight report on values and culture in the fire and rescue service](#) that HMICFRS published on 31 March 2023. I reiterated HMCI Cooke's messages within my sector update letter of 12 June.

Thank you to those services who have provided updates. However, it is disappointing that too many services have not yet submitted an update. As the first official deadline, of 1 June 2023, has now passed, I feel the need to reiterate our messages. I am therefore writing to remind you to please:

- implement the recommendations that are aimed at chief fire officers, by the stated deadlines; and
- provide us with updates via the process set out below.

The recommendations with deadlines that have already passed, or are due within the next six weeks are listed at Annex A. If you have any concerns about meeting a specific recommendation, please get in touch with your HMI directly.

I am also writing to remind you of how you can provide these updates. As HMCI Cooke and I explained in our letters, to monitor these recommendations, we will use the existing Huddle spaces that services use for their document returns. These should be familiar to service liaison officers, who have access. A specific folder is available for each service within their Huddle workspace, containing a spreadsheet for the specific monitoring of the recommendations, in lieu of the portal. We ask services to provide updates within these

spreadsheets, by the relevant deadlines, to include a self-assessment of whether or not they have met each recommendation, and a short narrative of no more than 300 words per recommendation, if necessary. If you have any queries about this process, please get in touch with us via hmicfrsfireteam@hmicfrs.gov.uk.

Please note that it is inappropriate to provide details of specific misconduct allegations, or any personal or sensitive information within these updates. Please notify your HMI directly of information of this nature.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RW', is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

HMI Roy Wilsher OBE QFSM

His Majesty's Inspector of Fire and Rescue Services

Annex A

The following recommendation deadlines have now passed:

Recommendation 3

By 1 June 2023, chief fire officers should review the support available for those who have raised concerns and take any action needed to make sure these provisions are suitable.

Recommendation 4

By 1 June 2023, chief fire officers should assure themselves that updates on how concerns are being handled are shared with those who have raised them. The updates should be given in an accessible way that encourages trust and confidence in the service response. Consideration should be given to creating a professional standards function to handle conduct concerns in service (or from an external service) to have oversight of cases, to make sure they are conducted in a fair and transparent way and to act as a point of contact for all staff involved.

Recommendation 5

By 1 June 2023, chief fire officers should make sure they provide accessible information for all staff and members of the public on how they can raise concerns and access confidential support (including through external agencies). Chief fire officers should also make sure accessible information is provided on how concerns and allegations will be investigated in a way that ensures confidentiality and is independent of the alleged perpetrator.

Recommendation 17

With immediate effect, chief fire officers should notify HMICFRS of any allegations that have the potential to constitute staff gross misconduct that:

- involve allegations of a criminal nature that have the potential to affect public confidence in FRSS;
- are of a serious nature; or
- relate to assistant chief fire officers or those at equivalent or higher grades.

Recommendation 20

By 1 June 2023, chief fire officers should have plans in place to ensure they meet the Fire Standards Board's leading the service standard and its leading and developing people standard.

Recommendation 21

By 1 June 2023, chief fire officers should make sure there is a full, 360-degree feedback process in place for all senior leaders and managers (assistant chief fire officer equivalent and above) in service.

Recommendation 23

By 1 June 2023, chief fire officers should seek regular feedback from staff about values, culture, fairness and diversity, with due regard to the leading and developing people standard. They should show how they act on this feedback.

Recommendation 27

By 1 June 2023, chief fire officers should make sure their equality impact assessments are fit for purpose and, as a minimum, meet the requirements of the National Fire Chiefs Council equality impact assessment toolkit.

Recommendation 28

By 1 June 2023, chief fire officers should review how they gather and use equality and diversity data to improve their understanding of their staff demographics, including applying and meeting the requirements of the National Fire Chiefs Council equality, diversity and inclusion data toolkit.

Recommendation 32

By 1 June 2023, chief fire officers should, as a priority, specify in succession plans how they intend to improve diversity across all levels of the service. This should include offering increased direct-entry opportunities.

Recommendation 34

With immediate effect, chief fire officers should review their implementation of the Core Code of Ethics and make sure it is being applied across their services.

The following recommendations are due within the next six weeks:

Recommendation 18

By 1 August 2023, chief fire officers should provide assurances to HMICFRS that all parties are supported in relation to ongoing investigations.

Recommendation 33

By 1 August 2023, chief fire officers should develop plans to promote progression paths for existing staff in non-operational roles and put plans in place to reduce any inequalities of opportunity.

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Clerk,
County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority,
County Hall,
Durham DH1 5UL

Safest People, Safest Places

This matter is being dealt with by: Cllr John Shuttleworth, CFO Steve Helps
Ext: 5555
Date: 21 June 2023

Rt Hon Chris Philp MP
Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
Dear Minister,

Funding Challenges

We write to outline our concerns regarding the current funding challenges that we face as a Service.

We welcome the slight increase in grant funding County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) received and the council tax precept flexibility provided for 2023-24. After careful consideration the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) agreed to increase council tax by £5 to minimise the level of cuts to front line services. However, even after considering these welcomed increases the CFA was faced with a shortfall in funding of £821,000 from April 2023, as a direct result of high inflation, high fuel and energy costs and an unfunded pay award for firefighters for 2022-23 and 2023-24.

Following challenging budget settlements for fire over recent years, the service has removed posts, collaborated with others where appropriate, invested in technology, removed waste and duplication, restructured every department and reduced spend. In order to mitigate the funding shortfall for 2023-24 the CFA, following consultation, has agreed to reduce the operational establishment, thus reducing the number of firefighters available to serve our communities in order to balance the budget.

We note the opportunity outlined in the Local Government Settlement for CFAs to increase precept for 2024-25 by 2.99% and 1.99% thereafter. To provide some context a 1% increase in precept provides CDDFRS with an additional £198,000 due to a low council tax base with the vast majority of properties being within council tax bands A & B. Conversely a 1% increase in pay costs CDDFRS £250,000. In previous correspondence between ourselves you refer to the levels of reserves held within Fire and Rescue Services. CDDFRS has the second lowest level of reserves of any English FRS. A general reserve of £1.605M is held as 5% of the service's operating budget, whilst the earmarked reserves at 31-3-2023 were £3.902M and are forecast to reduce to £1.201M by 31-3-2027. Therefore, unlike some FRS, CDDFRS is unable to use reserves to support a shortfall in the revenue budget.

Notwithstanding the fact that CDDFRS is a highly productive, efficient and well-run service with a track record of delivering change against a reducing budget, without further financial support it is inevitable that further reductions to the operational establishment will be necessary, directly leading to a reduction in fire cover, increasing the risk to our communities.

As we have previously outlined to you, CDDFRS is an efficient and effective FRS; the HMICFRS report from Jan 2023 highlights that the service is graded as good across all 3 pillars with 10 out of the 11 diagnostics viewed as good. Our operational staff are highly productive delivering almost four times the amount of fire safety audits and twice as many Home Fire Safety Checks compared to the English average. Furthermore, our fire engines' operational activity is above the English average and when we are required to attend an incident, for example to a fire within a home, we respond faster than the English average and faster than any other predominantly rural FRS in England.

While inflation remains stubbornly high this impacts the costs of the goods we buy and the energy and fuel required to operate vehicles and heat buildings, along with higher wage demands from staff. Therefore we strongly believe that a further increase in government grant and the flexibility for increasing precept to at least 5% or £5 is necessary to avoid the further degradation of CDDFRS. To support this notion, we believe that evidence to identify and support business cases for additional money are currently available, for example the levels of reserves held, the productivity of Whole-Time staff and the HMICFRS reports, which identify and grade services against efficiency and effectiveness, could all assist in decision making.

We would also recommend that capital funding for investment in buildings, new technology, environmentally friendly vehicles and collaboration should be made available to FRS since, being removed in 2014-2015, CDDFRS' funding is approximately £1.3M per year less due to this change. Consequently, to fund items such as fire engines, estates improvements and the essential ICT systems we need to run our Control operations, we are forced to borrow money which in turn is impacted by the increase in interest rates.

In conclusion we have outlined that our ability to raise funding from our local council taxpayers is currently limited for 2024-25 to 2.99%. In addition the demographics within County Durham and Darlington mean that almost 80% of properties in our Service area are in council tax band A or B and as outlined, an increase of 1% on council tax locally raises £198,000 whilst a 1% increase in a pay award costs £250,000. Without additional support from government this is not sustainable, and we recognise that our funding model, of which two thirds relies on council tax, places a disproportionate burden on communities during a cost-of-living crisis. The level of reserves held by other Authorities is not relevant to our funding position and using such data related to the whole sector means that a more equitable approach cannot be achieved.

We would therefore urge you to consider the provision of funding for CDDFRS with a view to increasing the amount available to correct the perceived injustice of the current framework.

We hope that the information set out above illustrates our concerns and as always, we warmly extend an offer for you and your officials to visit staff within CDDFRS to discuss matters further.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr John Shuttleworth
**Chair of County Durham and Darlington
Combined Fire Authority**
Copy to Emma Lawrence



Steve Helps
Chief Fire Officer



Clerk,
County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority,
County Hall,
Durham DH1 5UL

Safest People, Safest Places

This matter is being dealt with by: Cllr John Shuttleworth, CFO Steve Helps

Ext: 5555

Date: 21 June 2023

Dear

Funding challenges

We write to outline our concerns regarding the current funding challenges that we face as a Service.

Following previous correspondence and face to face meetings, you will be aware that the funding position of County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) continues to be precarious and of concern. Following your support and successful lobbying of both the Rt Hon Chris Philp MP Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire and the Rt Hon Lee Rowley MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the Fire and Rescue Sector received a slight uplift in grant funding and a one off precept flexibility of 5% for 2023-24, which after careful consideration the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) approved in February 2023. However, even after considering these welcomed increases the CFA was faced with a shortfall in funding of £821,000 from April 2023, as a direct result of high inflation, high fuel and energy costs and an unfunded pay award for firefighters for 2022-23 and 2023-24.

Following challenging budget settlements for CDDFRS over recent years, the service has removed posts, collaborated with others where appropriate, invested in technology, removed waste and duplication, restructured every department and reduced spend. In order to mitigate the funding shortfall for 2023-24, the CFA, following the Consultation which we shared with your office, has agreed to reduce the operational establishment, reducing the number of firefighters available to serve our communities to balance the budget.

Furthermore, we note the opportunity outlined in the Local Government Settlement for CFAs to increase precept for 2024-25 by 2.99% and 1.99% thereafter, which is likely to result in future shortfalls in the service's budget when considering rising costs for the services we buy and the salary we pay our staff. To provide some context a 1% increase in precept provides CDDFRS with an additional £198,000, due to the low council tax base with most of the home being within band A & B. Conversely a 1% increase in pay costs CDDFRS £250,000.

In previous correspondence we have also provided you with details of the levels of reserves which the service holds. CDDFRS has the second lowest levels of reserves of any English FRS. A general reserve

of £1.605M is held as 5% of the service's operating budget, whilst the earmarked reserves as of 31-3-2023 were £3.902M and are forecast to reduce to £1.201M by 31-3-2027. Therefore, unlike some FRS, CDDFRS is unable to use reserves to support a shortfall in the revenue budget.

Notwithstanding the fact that CDDFRS is a highly productive, efficient, and well-run service with a track record of delivering change against a reducing budget, without further financial support it is inevitable that further reductions to the operational establishment will be necessary, directly leading to a reduction in fire cover, increasing the risk to our communities.

The HMICFRS report from January 2023 highlights that the service is graded as good across all 3 pillars with 10 out of the 11 diagnostics viewed as good. Our operational staff are highly productive delivering almost four times the amount of fire safety audits and twice as many Home Fire Safety Checks against the English average, furthermore our fire engines' operational activity is above the English average. When we are required to attend an incident for example, to a fire within a home, we respond faster than the English average and faster than any other predominantly rural FRS in England.

With inflation remaining stubbornly high this impacts the costs of the goods we buy, the energy and fuel required to operate vehicles and to heat buildings along with higher wage demands from staff. Therefore we strongly believe that a further increase in government grant and the flexibility for CDDFRS increasing precept to at least 5% or £5 is necessary to avoid the further degradation of CDDFRS and we have already written to the Fire Minister outlining this position.

We are therefore asking once again for your support in lobbying officials in anticipation of the Local Government Settlement for 2024-25. To support this notion, we believe that evidence to identify and support business cases for additional money is currently available, for example the levels of reserves held, the productivity of Whole-Time staff and the HMICFRS reports, which identify and grade services against efficiency and effectiveness, will assist in decision making.

Furthermore, we have also written to the Fire Minister asking for the reinstatement of capital funding to be made available to FRSs for investment in buildings, new technology, environmentally friendly vehicles and collaboration since, being removed in 2014-2015, CDDFRS' funding is approximately £1.3M per year less due to this change. Consequently, to afford items such as replacement fire engines, estates improvements and the essential ICT systems we need to run our Control operations, we are forced to borrow funds which in turn is impacted by the increase in interest rates.

In conclusion we have outlined that our ability to raise funding from our local council taxpayers is currently limited for 2024-25 to 2.99%. In addition the demographics within County Durham and Darlington mean that almost 80% of properties in our Service area are in council tax band A or B. An increase of 1% on council tax locally raises £198,000 whilst a 1% increase in a pay award costs £250,000. Without additional support from government this is not sustainable, and we recognise that our funding model, of which two thirds relies on council tax, places a disproportionate burden on communities during a cost-of-living crisis. The level of reserves held by the CFA is limited and earmarked in the main for service improvements.

We therefore ask for your support in lobbying the Fire Minister, Home Office, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Treasury in support of an increase to CDDFRS' grant settlement, the flexibility to increase precept by £5 or 5% for years 2024-25 and 2025-26 and the reintroduction of funding to support capital investment within the service.

We hope that the information set out above illustrates our concerns and as always we welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues further with yourself and those within your office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,
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Cllr John Shuttleworth
**Chair of County Durham and Darlington
Combined Fire Authority**

Steve Helps
Chief Fire Officer

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County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

18 July 2023

Appointment of Committee Membership

Report of the Clerk to the Authority

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to approve the Committee Membership for the Authority for 2023/24.

Background

2. The political membership of the Committees is determined by the overall political balance of the Authority which is agreed in consultation with Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council.
3. The Authority is required to appoint Committee Members to the following:
 - a. Appointments Panel
 - b. Appeals Committee
 - c. Audit and Finance Committee
 - d. Human Resources Committee
 - e. Performance Committee
 - f. Joint Consultative Committee
 - g. Pension Board
 - h. Salary Review Group

Recommendation

4. Members are requested to:

- i. **Approve** the Committee membership for 2023/24 as outlined in appendix A for:
 - a. Appointments Panel
 - b. Appeals Committee
 - c. Audit and Finance Committee
 - d. Human Resources Committee
 - e. Performance Committee
 - f. Joint Consultative Committee
 - g. Pension Board
 - h. Salary Review Group

- ii. **Agree** that the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority and the appropriate Group Leader be authorised to make any changes to the Committees that may arise during 2023/24

Committee	Labour Group Representation	Conservative Group Representation	Liberal Democrat Group Representation	Durham Independent Group Representation	The Durham Group
Appointments Panel (4 Members)	The Chair of the Authority; the Vice-Chair of the Authority; At least one member from each constituent local authority; and a member representing the minority parties unless this is achieved through any of the above Members;				
Appeals (6 Members)	3 seats Cllr Shirley Quinn Cllr Leanne Kennedy Cllr Ian McLean	1 seat Cllr Gerald Lee (Darlington Member)	1 seat Cllr Neville Jones	1 seat between these two Groups CHAIR Cllr John Shuttleworth	
Audit and Finance (6 Members)	3 seats Cllr Alison Batey Cllr Bill Kellett Cllr Andrew Anderson (Darlington Member)	1 seat CHAIR Cllr Richard Bell	1 seat Cllr Neville Jones	1 seat between these two Groups Cllr Jan Blakey	
Human Resources (6 Members)	3 seats Cllr Carl Marshall Cllr Alison Batey Cllr David Ray (Darlington Member)	1 seat Cllr Joe Quinn	1 seat CHAIR Cllr Craig Martin	1 seat between these two Groups Cllr Julie Cairns	

Performance (6 members)	3 seats Cllr Carl Marshall Cllr Richard Manchester Cllr Shirley Quinn	1 seat Cllr Gerald Lee (Darlington Member)	1 seat Cllr Kathryn Rooney	1 seat between these two Groups CHAIR Cllr Jan Blakey	
Joint Consultative Committee (7 Members)	3 seats CHAIR Cllr Ian McLean Cllr Carole Hampson Cllr David Ray (Darlington Member)	1 seat Cllr George Richardson	1 seat Cllr Neville Jones	1 seat Cllr John Shuttleworth	1 seat Cllr Sam Zair
Pension Board (2 Members)	1 seat CHAIR Cllr Jim Atkinson	1 seat Cllr Gerald Lee (Darlington Member)			
Salary Review Group (3 Members)	Under the Authority's Constitution the Panel consists of the Chair of the Authority; the Vice Chair of the Authority; A Darlington Member				

Notes to Appendix A

All Committees must have a Member from Darlington and a Member from Durham.

The political balance for each Committee is as follows:

Appointments Panel	Under the Authority's Constitution the Panel consists of The Chair of the Authority; the Vice-Chair of the Authority; At least one member from each constituent local authority; and a member representing the minority parties unless this is achieved through any of the above Members;
Appeals	6 seats: 3 Lab; 1 Cons; 1 Lib Dem; 1 seat between The Durham Group and the Durham County Council Independent Group;
Audit & Finance	6 seats: 3 Lab; 1 Cons; 1 Lib Dem; 1 seat between The Durham Group and the Durham County Council Independent Group;
Human Resources	6 seats: 6 seats: 3 Lab; 1 Cons; 1 Lib Dem; 1 seat between The Durham Group and the Durham County Council Independent Group;
Performance	6 seats: 6 seats: 3 Lab; 1 Cons; 1 Lib Dem; 1 seat between The Durham Group and the Durham County Council Independent Group;;
JCC	7 seats: 3 Lab; 1 Cons; 1 Lib Dem; 1 Durham Group, 1 Durham County Council Independent Group;
Pension Board	2 seats: 1 Lab; 1 Cons
Salary Review Group	3 Seats – under the Authority's Constitution the Panel consists of the Chair of the Authority; the Vice Chair of the Authority; A Darlington Member

A committee member who is Darlington Conservative would fulfil the requirement for both Conservative Group and Darlington Group representative.

A committee member who is Darlington Labour would fulfil the requirement for both Labour Group and Darlington Group representative.

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Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

18 July 2023

Member Champions

Report of the Director of Corporate Services

Purpose of Report

1. To provide details of Officer contacts for each Member Champion role.

Background

2. As part of the approach to developing the Authority's services and engaging with stakeholders, the Authority has endeavoured to 'champion' particular areas of work through a CFA Member Champion role.
3. Member Champions provide the Service with an opportunity to work closely with individual Members to help to develop services and to engage with local communities, staff, councillors and other stakeholders through a closely aligned officer and member relationship.
4. Members will be appointed for a period of 2 years in this role.

Proposed Member Champions for 2023/24

5. Officers from the Service Leadership Team will work alongside and assist Members that are appointed to Member Champion roles.
6. The attached list (Appendix A) details the Member Champions and vacant posts for the forthcoming year together with their Officer contact.

Recommendation

7. Members are requested to **approve** the attached list of Member Champions.

Keith Lazzari, Director of Corporate Services, 0191 375 5580

COUNTY DURHAM AND DARLINGTON FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

MEMBER CHAMPIONS 2023/24

Area	Member Champion	Officer
Community Safety and Arson Reduction	Cllr Richard Manchester	Keith Carruthers Director of Community Risk Management
Business Fire Safety	Cllr Jan Blakey	Keith Carruthers Director of Community Risk Management
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion		Sarah Nattrass Director of Emergency Response
Health, Safety & Wellbeing	Cllr Shirley Quinn	Keith Lazzari Director of Corporate Resources
Retained Duty System	Cllr John Shuttleworth	Sarah Nattrass Director of Emergency Response
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS)		Keith Carruthers Director of Community Risk Management

County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

18 July 2023

Notes of the Performance Committee: 30 June 2023

Report of the Chair of Performance Committee

Members Present:

Cllr J Blakey in the Chair

Cllr C Marshall, G Lee, S Quinn and R Manchester

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the discussions and recommendations of the Performance Committee held on 30 June 2023.

Performance Report Quarter 4 2022/23

2. The Committee were updated on the operational and corporate performance indicators for quarter four of 2022/23 which showed 43% of the strategic PIs met or exceeded their target level, while 61% of the strategic PIs either maintained or improved when compared to performance last year. Indicators were discussed in turn noting where performance was strong or where additional work is being undertaken to secure improvement.

A copy of the report is attached at appendix A.

The Committee **noted** and **commented** on the report.

Cllr S Quinn thanked County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service CDDFRS staff for their hard work undertaken, in particular the excellent prevention initiatives put in place to support the vulnerable within our communities.

Change in Response to Automatic Fire Alarms

3. The Committee were presented with a report informing them of an updated approach from 1 November 2023 to CDDFRS's attendance policy to calls for assistance from Automatic Fire Alarms (AFAs) in non-residential premises.

The report highlighted that over the last three years, 98.5% of all mobilisations to AFA calls were false alarms with only 0.2% requiring the use of a portable extinguisher, hose reel or greater to extinguish the fire.

The new approach extends the hours to 08:00 and 18:00 hours, seven days of the week with several exemptions for premises listed in the report. It is estimated that the introduction of the new approach will reduce mobilisations by between 250 to 300 per year, saving 1,200 hours (50 days) of lost productivity per year.

Additionally, it will realise the following benefits:

- Increased appliance availability to respond to life risk incidents;
- Reduced road risk to the public and staff due to less blue light emergency response journeys;
- An increase of time available for risk critical training;
- An increase of time available for community safety and arson reduction activities;
- An increase of time available for business fire safety activities;
- An increase of time available for operational crews to gather statutory risk critical operational information;
- Reduce the Service's environmental impact by minimising blue light journeys.

The Committee **noted** and **commented** on the report.

Cllr C Marshall commented on the implementation date.

Presentation on Target Setting for 2023/2024

4. The Committee received a presentation on the 2023/24 Target Setting Methodology covering incidents, home fire safety visits and deliberate fire reductions within the Service.

The Committee **noted** the contents of the presentation.

Letters of Appreciation

5. The Committee considered letters of appreciation that had been submitted to the Service. In total 8 letters had been received for the quarter four period.

The Committee **noted** the report.

PART B

Presentation on Response to Non Domestic Fires

6. The Committee received a presentation on non-domestic fires attended within 9 minutes, predominantly focusing on analysis of incidents that have failed to meet the response standards.

The Committee **noted** the report.

Formal Complaints

7. A total of 4 formal complaints had been received by the Service in the reporting period. No complaints had been upheld and no complaints had been forwarded to the Local Government Ombudsman.

The Committee **noted** the report.

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Safest People, Safest Places

Performance Committee

30 June 2023

Performance Report – Quarter Four 2022/23

Report of Director of Community Risk Management

Purpose of report

1. This report presents a summary of organisational performance at the end of the fourth quarter of the 2022/23 financial year.

Background

2. Both operational and corporate performance is monitored and managed internally via the monthly Performance Board and Service Leadership Team (SLT) forums. Members of the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) consider performance on a quarterly basis at meetings of the Performance Committee and the full CFA.
3. A comprehensive suite of performance indicators (PIs) is employed to measure both operational and corporate performance. Targets are set on an annual basis against SMART criteria and take account of longer-term trends and the potential for spikes in performance.
4. This robust approach to performance management enables action to be taken at an early stage if performance is not meeting expectations and provides assurance that resources are being directed towards the areas of greatest risk.
5. In addition to setting a target level for relevant PIs, the Service also employs a system of tolerance limit triggers that allow under or over performance to be highlighted to the Performance Board when the PI goes beyond set tolerances, which vary depending on the indicator. Each PI has a total of four tolerance limit triggers, two each for both under and over performance.
6. Performance is presented from two perspectives, by comparison against the annual target levels, and by comparison with performance at the same point last year.

Overview of performance across all indicator categories

7. An overview across both operational and corporate key PIs at the end of quarter four for 2022/23 shows 43% of the strategic PIs met or exceeded their target level, while 61% of the strategic PIs either maintained or improved when compared to performance last year.

Performance reporting by exception

8. The following sections of the report present details of specific operational and corporate indicators. An explanatory narrative is provided for each PI group along with information about how performance compares to the annual target and the previous year.
9. It is worth noting that when comparing performance to the previous year, many indicators were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions that were in place to manage the spread of the virus. In some cases, this resulted in lower than average figures during 2021/22 which can make comparison against current performance unhelpful, this is particularly noticeable in the 'Response' data which compared number of incident types attended this year to the previous year.

Prevention

Performance Indicator	Objective	Q4 2022/23 Actual	Q4 Target	Actual vs Target	Q4 2021/22 Actual	Actual vs Previous Year
PI 01 - Deaths Arising from Accidental Fires in Dwellings	Down	1	0	100%	1	0%
PI 03 – Number of Accidental Dwelling Fires	Down	204	192	-6.3%	208	1.9%
PI 04 - Injuries Arising from Accidental Dwelling Fires	Down	9	14	35.7%	16	43.8%
PI 05 - Total Secondary Fires	Down	3730	2538	-47.0%	3110	-19.9%
PI 07 – Number of Home Fire Safety Visits	Up	18390	17243	6.7%	18844	-2.4%
PI 42 - Proportion of Home Fire Safety Visits to High-Risk People/Properties	Up	83.6%	80%	4.5%	85.2%	-1.9%

PI01 – In 2022/23 we had one fatality, an elderly female in poor health and living in extreme hoarding conditions, passed away following a dwelling fire in Newton Aycliffe. Female deaths account for 37% of the 70 fire fatalities recorded since 2002. Deaths as a result of a fire in a hoarding environment are termed as 'Human Behaviour' and are often associated to some form of mental health issue. 29 of the 70 fatal fires, (41%), since 2002 are attributed to 'Human Behaviour'. 38% of fatal fire victims are recorded as having a known mental health issue. However, 45% are not recorded as the evidence was declined or not available, this does not indicate the absence of a mental health issue, but that the information was not available or withheld by the family of the deceased.

PI03 – This year there has been 204 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs) against a target of 192 resulting in the indicator performing at 6.3% over its target, although this is improved performance in comparison to 2021/22 and is the lowest number of ADFs on record.

Kitchen fires continue to be an area of focus for our targeted Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) as 45% of incidents are recorded as starting in this room. Lone occupiers and lone parent account for

49% of all incidents and the 'Eyes Wide Open' programme is engaging with agencies who interact with these occupier groups to try and increase referrals for HFSVs.

See Appendix A, chart 1 for number of ADFs by room of origin and chart 2 for number of ADFs by occupier type.

PI04 – This indicator shows really positive performance with only nine injuries compared to a target of 14. Additionally, this is 43.8% improved performance compared to 2021/22. There were four injuries in quarter four which were all in February. Three of these were due to breathing difficulties from smoke inhalation and the other was minor burns.

PI05 – The indicator is 47% over its target with 3,730 incidents against a target of 2,538. However, quarter four has displayed a downward curve compared to the 2020/21 statistics. March 2023 stands out as the wettest March in 40 years, which was reflected in the dramatic 64% drop for this month. 90% of all secondary fires were recorded as deliberate. Peak times of the day for secondary fires are 17:00 to 21:00 hours.

Overall, Peterlee and Darlington are the highest output station areas, with repeated anti-social behaviour (ASB) and secondary fires. During quarter four, there has been an increase in secondary fires within the Brandon area which has had an impact on Durham's reported fires. Secondary fires are still a question of accessibility to flammable materials, (including bins, containers and grass / scrub land). Research started in February with Northumbria University and Seaham High School to understand the motivational factors that lead to Young People setting fires.

The Community Safety and Arson Reduction (CS&AR) Team have been delivering Phoenix Fire Champions in schools and working with named young people via the CURVE Project to address fire setting behaviours.

A PCC funded project was finalised between the Woodland Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), (DCC), and Darlington Young Offenders Team, (DBC), to run a 10-week program of Developing Resilience in young people. This will be presented by the CS&AR Team and assisted by a volunteer firefighter. The project went live the week commencing 17 April 2023.

See Appendix A, chart 3 for secondary fires by motive and chart 4 for secondary fires by property type.

PI07 – The Service has completed 18,390 HFSVs, which is 6.6% above the target. This high number of visits is above the fire sector average and should continue to make the residents of County Durham and Darlington safer from fire.

PI42 – 83.6% of all HFSVs delivered in 2022/23 were to high-risk properties or residents. The 'Eyes Wide Open' programme and national risk methodology will support us to continue targeting the most vulnerable in our communities.

Protection

Performance Indicator	Objective	Q4 2022/23 Actual	Q4 Target	Actual vs Target	Q4 2021/22 Actual	Actual vs Previous Year
PI 10a - Primary Fires in Non-Domestic Premises	Down	135	95	-42.1%	93	-45.2%
PI 14 - False Alarms Caused by Automatic Fire Detection Equipment	Down	806	677	-19.1%	763	-5.6%
PI 17 – Number of Fire Safety Audits	Up	1928	2124	-9.2%	2103	-8.3%

PI10a – There has been 135 primary fires in non-domestic premises which is 40 over the target and 42 more incidents compared to 2021/22. 41.4% of these incidents were deliberate fires, compared to 34.4% in the previous year. This year there has been 29 incidents in prisons compared to only 9 in 2021/22, with 90% of incidents deliberately set. Prisons as Crown Premises do not come under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 legislation that the Service enforce. The Divisional Management Team have met with the Governor of Deerbolt which is the worst offending prison and a series of actions have been agreed to assist in the reduction of deliberate primary fires at Deerbolt. These include:

- Exploring the opportunity to 'second' a member of staff to Deerbolt one day per week for four weeks to deliver some training and education.
- The delivery of level 1 fire investigation to some of Deerbolt's staff
- The internal fire report to be sent to the Divisional Manager (DM) following each fire to increase understanding of each incident.
- The commencement of regular debrief with the inclusion of fire crews.
- The revision of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- The agreement to conduct regular familiarisation visits with the crews.
- The agreement to conduct an annual exercise.

The Business Fire Safety Team conduct post fire reviews of these incidents and combined with our high levels of fire safety audits this aims to improve the performance of this indicator.

PI14 – Performance of this indicator has continued to improve over quarter four. There has been 806 incidents over the year, which is 19.1% over the target and 5.6% worse than last year's performance.

Scrutiny of data identifies the main premises types are education premises (18.9%), retail (13.1%), residential homes (12.1%) and industrial (11.3%). The central Fire Safety Team will continue to engage with these premises. 31.6% of all false alarms are caused by human intervention.

A project has identified an improved approach for the Service's response to automatic fire alarms which is on the agenda for this meeting.

The Service continues to invoice premises for cost recovery when they incur three chargeable callouts in a rolling 12-month period. This year, the Service has invoiced businesses £46,814 through this approach.

PI17 – 1,928 Fire Safety Audits have been delivered this year which is under the target of 2,124. Positively 33.5% of audits have been unsatisfactory showing that the Service is targeting the correct premises. The central team have been going through a transition period during 2022/23, with many staff attending development courses following unexpected resignations of several staff at the start of this reporting year. Looking forward to 2023/24, should see newly qualified staff who will be able to improve performance. Public complaints regarding fire safety issues, building and license regulation consultations have all increased this year, reducing the ability of the Level 4 qualified staff to deliver the same number of audits as in previous years. Emergency Response crews continue to deliver high numbers of audits which continues to be significantly higher performance than the average across all fire and rescue services, more than three times higher per 100 known premises.

Response

Performance Indicator	Objective	Q4 2022/23 Actual	Q4 Target	Actual vs Target	Q4 2021/22 Actual	Actual vs Previous Year
Total Emergency Calls Received	N/A	19369	N/A	N/A	18009	-7.6%
Total Incidents	N/A	8833	N/A	N/A	8079	-9.3%
Total Road Traffic Collisions	N/A	299	N/A	N/A	317	5.7%
PI 02 – Total Primary Fires	Down	1003	920	-9.0%	974	-3.0%
PI 06a Dwelling Fires Attended within 8 Minutes	Up	68.7%	70%	-1.8%	N/A	N/A
PI 06b Non Domestic Fires Attended within 9 Minutes	Up	63.3%	70%	-9.5%	N/A	N/A
PI 06c Road Traffic Collisions Attended within 10 Minutes	Up	69.3%	70%	-1.0%	N/A	N/A

See Appendix A, chart 5 for total incidents.

PI02 – Primary fires are continuing with the steady downward trend seen through quarter three. Overall performance for the year is 9% over target with 1,003 incidents against a target of 920.

Attacks on cars within the Peterlee station area are still an issue with car fires in this area three times higher than the next highest, 150 cars compared to 51 cars at Durham. Primary fires in baled materials / farms are an issue, particularly when the rain fall since mid-August 2022 has been high throughout winter. This may suggest trespass into agricultural areas from near-by conurbations. CS&AR Team are developing a project with Firestoppers / Crimestoppers and the Durham Police FarmWatch team to create a risk assessment process to understand when crops, grassland and baled materials are at greater risk, (based on local ASB intelligence and projected weather etc).

See Appendix A, chart 6 for primary fires by motive and chart 7 for primary fires by type.

PI06a – Response time performance when attending ADF's in 8 minutes on 70% of occasions is 68.7%. Performance in quarter four was only 63.2% which has resulted in the response standard just failing to meet its target. Divisional Managers are working with Watch Managers through the monthly performance reporting process to scrutinise and improve performance. Analysis has shown that extended travel distances are the main reasons for failing response times. Emergency Response has worked with Information Services to improve notification of response time failures to Watch Managers which should enable Emergency Response Managers to identify and share any learning.

PI06b – Response time performance when attending non-domestic fires in 9 minutes on 70% of occasions is 63.3%. This indicator has continued to perform poorly in quarter four, mainly driven by incidents at HM Prison Deerbolt. The travel time from Barnard Castle to Deerbolt is 5 minutes without traffic and the response time for Barnard Castle is around 5 minutes putting it just out of reach of achieving the standard unless the on-call staff are on station, e.g. drill night or there is a standby appliance in attendance. There has been 21 incidents at HM Prison Deerbolt in this year, which is a substantial spike compared to a standard year. The Divisional Management Team have met with the Governor of Deerbolt where a series of actions have been agreed to assist in the reduction of deliberate primary fires at Deerbolt as detailed in PI10a.

PI06c – Response time performance when attending road traffic collisions attended within 10 minutes on 70% of occasions is 69.3%. Performance during quarter four was 75.4%, which has increased the performance from 67.7% reported at the end of quarter three, although it has just failed to reach 70% overall. Inaccurate incident addresses provided by the original caller are a significant influencing factor to our challenges in reducing road traffic collision response times. Additionally, road traffic collisions in our rural areas covered by on-call firefighters with turn out times of up to 5 minutes plus often extended travel distances will cause failures to meet the response time. As detailed above, Divisional Managers are working with Watch Managers to increase understanding of the new response standards.

Workforce

Performance Indicator	Objective	Q4 2022/23 Actual	Q4 Target	Actual vs Target	Q4 2021/22 Actual	Actual vs Previous Year
PI 40 - All Staff Sickness	Down	9.63	6	-60.5%	12.03	20.8%
PI 69 – Number of Accidents to Personnel	Down	8	12	33.3%	13	38.5%

PI40 – Although this PI is over target, heavily influenced by long term sickness and Covid short term absence in all categories of staff, performance compared to the previous year has improved by 20.8%. The Human Resources (HR) Team continues to work with managers to ensure correct processes are followed. This indicator is scrutinised in detail by the HR Committee.

PI69 – There has only been eight accidents to personnel this reporting year which is a significant decrease (38.5%) from last year and is 35% under the target of 12. Additionally, this is 65% reduction in accidents to personnel since 2018/19.

Over the last year, the Health and Safety team have increased visibility and focused on staff engagement promoting a positive health and safety culture across the service.

Recommendations

10. Members are requested to:
 - a. **Note** the content of the report;
 - b. **Comment** on the reported performance.

Keith Carruthers, Director Community Risk Management, Ext. 5564

Appendix A

Chart 1 - Number of Accidental Dwelling Fires by Room of Origin

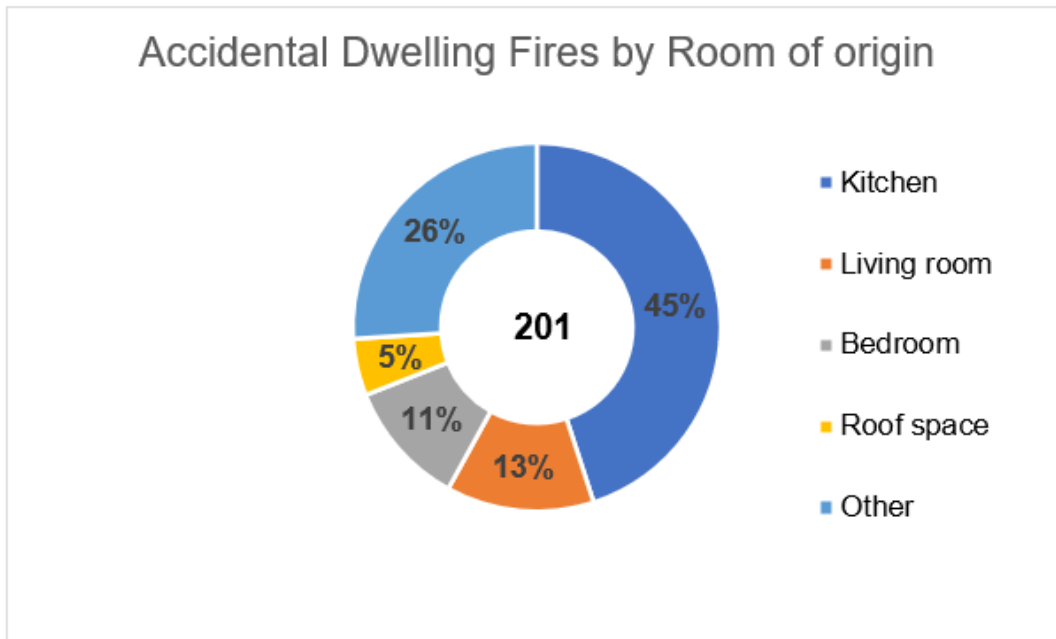


Chart 2 - Number of Accidental Dwelling Fires by Occupier Type

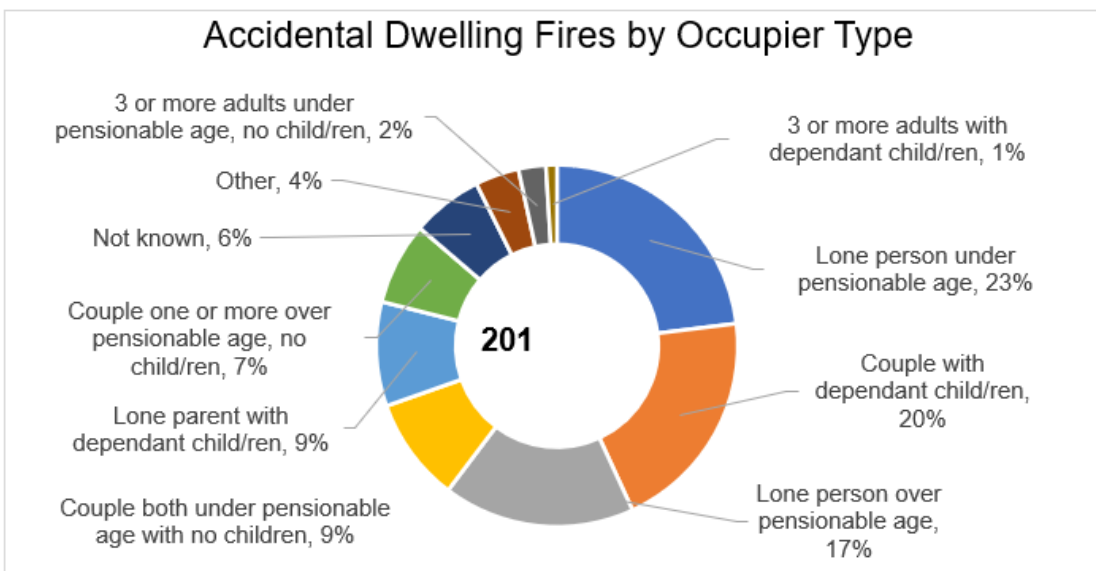


Chart 3 – Secondary Fires by Motive

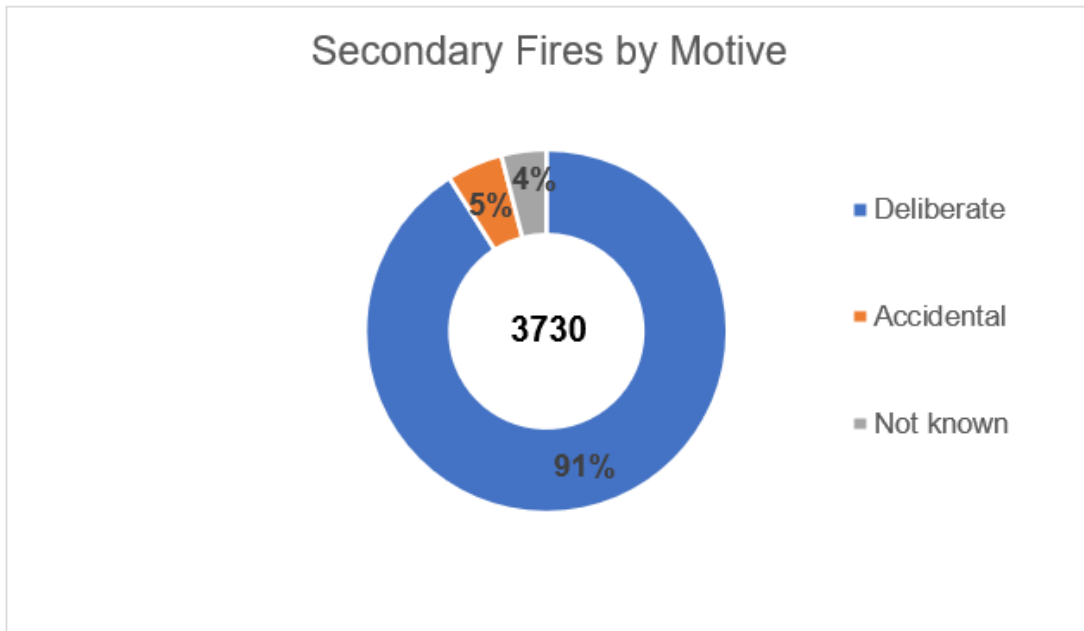


Chart 4 – Secondary Fires by Property Type

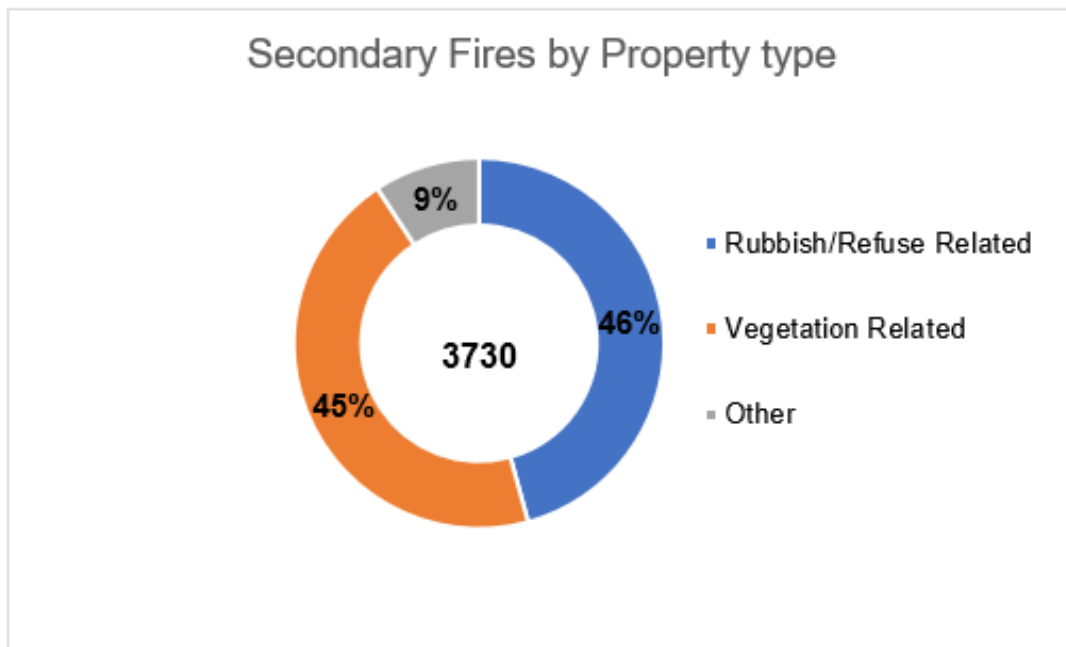


Chart 5 - Total Incidents

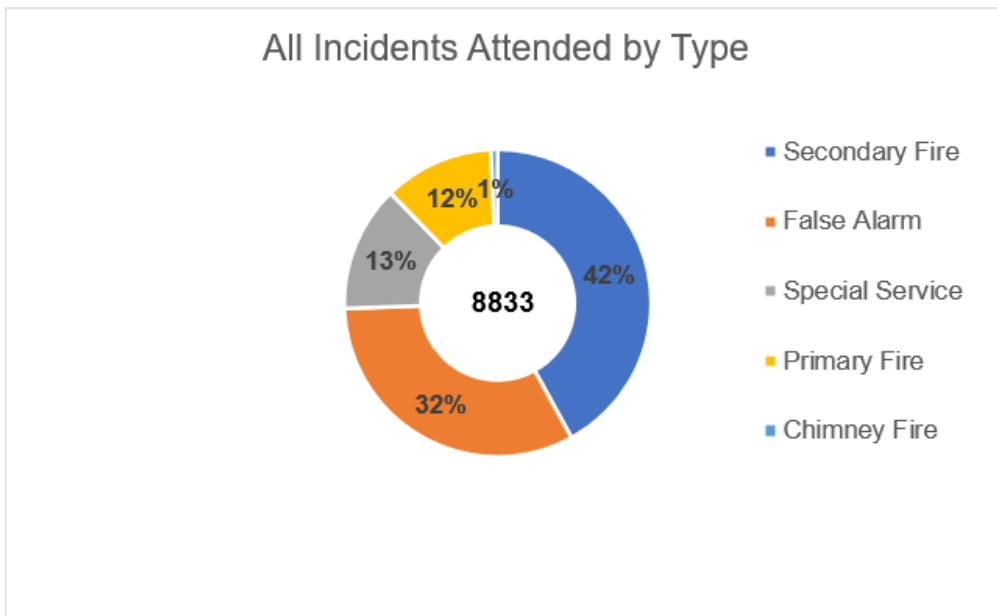


Chart 6 - Primary Fires by Motive

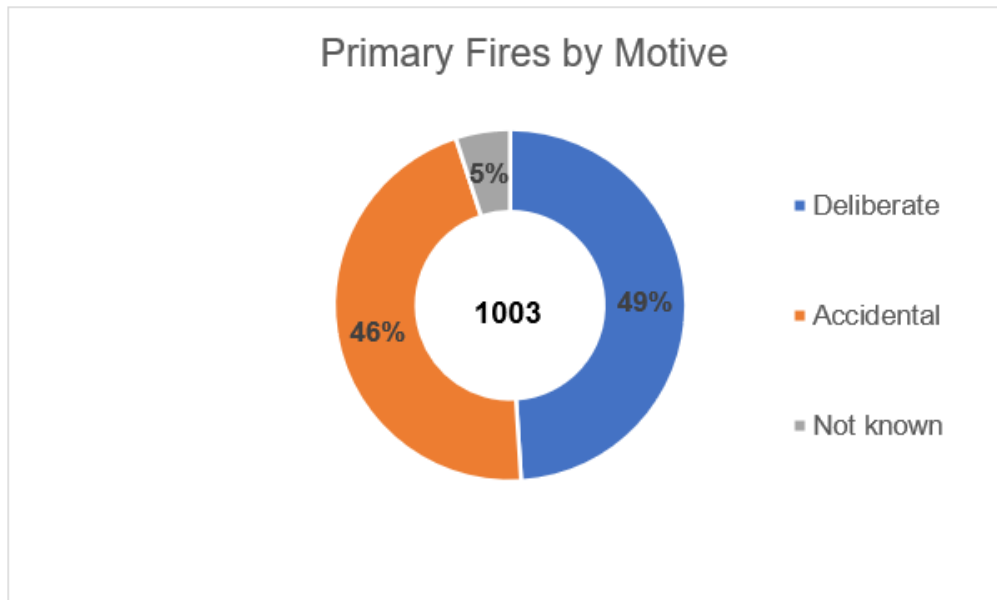
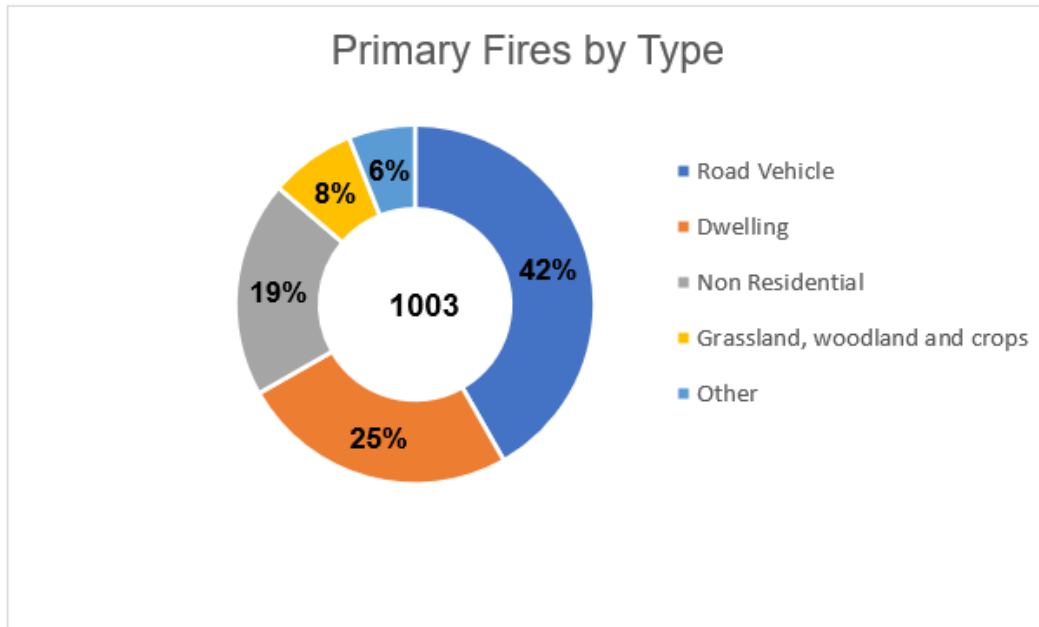


Chart 7 – Primary Fires by Type



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County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

18 July 2023

Community Safety and Arson Reduction

Report of the Community Safety and Arson Reduction Member Champion

Purpose of Report

1. The report is to give members an update of community safety and arson reduction activity during 2022/23.

Section Restructure

2. During the year the Community Safety Team and the Arson Reduction Team were restructured to create a combined Community Safety and Arson Reduction (CS&AR) Team which will provide a holistic approach to all prevention activities with the aim to improve the flexibility and efficiency of the section.
3. As part of this approach a new Young Person Education Co-ordinator role was created to drive the Service's approach to education for children and young people. This role will liaise with key partners such as the Headteachers Forum, coordinate Fire Cadet activity, develop and support delivery of key educational messages for prevention activities under the central Community Safety campaign calendar.

Home Fire Safety

4. A review of the current Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) was conducted in August 2022 to ensure that the Service had fully adopted the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) person centred approach. This showed that the Service was compliant to the NFCC approach.
5. A total of 18,390 HFSVs were completed in the year with 83.6 percent being delivered to high-risk targeted premises, exceeding the Community Risk Management Plan's target of 80 percent. One-in-four residents completed the satisfaction survey with a positive outcome of 98.9 percent.

6. During the year the Service made 745 referrals to partner agencies and in turn, received 1,396 referrals from our partners. We continue to promote the Eyes Wide Open programme to partners to increase referrals of vulnerable persons.
7. The Service attended 204 accidental dwelling fires (ADFs) which is the lowest annual recorded number of incidents on record. There was also the lowest recorded number of casualties from ADFs with only nine injuries. Unfortunately, there was one fatality from an ADF in Newton Aycliffe.

School Education

8. The 2022/23 round of Phoenix Fire Champion (PFC) schools' programs concluded in March with two schools involved in the programme, with a positive impact with the children involved. The children stated they understand the consequences of arson, how to act if there is a fire and dangers involved with fire. Partner feedback was also gathered from the teaching staff and Believe Housing. The sessions worked well in relation to children participation, engagement and overall content.
9. The CS&AR Team will begin a desk top research project to look at deliberate fires and known hot spots around the Service area to identify where developing trends exist with the aim of reaching out via the Head Teacher Forum to schools and book the next cohort of junior schools to participate in the PFC project.
10. This PFC project will restart in September with delivery throughout October to coincide with the Bonfire Strategy commencing on the 25 October through the 7 November.
11. The Young Person Education Co-ordinator has been working with Emergency Response (ER) crews to review their delivery methods and reviewed the resources and materials available for Year 5 and 6 junior schools fire safety talks. This has led to a change in methodology and guidance given to the ER crews to realise the best we can from these critical interactions.
12. A 'Fires within 500m of Schools' PowerBi tool was introduced to allow Watch Managers to look at deliberate fires within a localised range of a school to provide better data for them to form a basis for trend analysis and content when discussing fire safety with children of the school.

Fire Cadets

13. Currently, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) has five operating Fire Cadet schemes, (Stanhope, Consett, Durham, Spennymoor and Peterlee), with the aim for Darlington to come online in September 2023. In recent months the Service has begun to introduce the NFCC Fire Cadet model to our Fire Cadet schemes with the Fire Cadet Manager I.T. System and training programmes for Unit Leaders, (formerly termed Cadet Coordinators), Adult Volunteers and Firefighter Instructors who all have a role to play in how the schemes are run.
14. Each scheme has a maximum of 15 Fire Cadets, led by two Unit Leaders, and assisted by Firefighter Instructors where required for drills etc. The Adult Volunteers have only recently been added to the schemes to assist with administration and assistance to those Fire Cadets with physical, learning, or emotional needs.

15. A review of the PPE, uniform, and costs associated with the Fire Cadet schemes started in November 2022 and a plan to change the existing fire kit, gloves and helmets was instigated. The new gloves and helmets have been issued. The transition from the PBI Gold style of fire kit to the new NFCC National Fire Cadet PPE, (blue fire kit), will go out to tender soon. The uniform is to be simplified to make it more flexible for all Fire Cadets regardless of gender and physical ability.

Arson and Deliberate Fire Reduction

16. New deliberate fire reduction activity targets were introduced for ER crews for 2022/23. The activities monitored were Blue Route patrols, Environmental Visual Audit (EVA) and Fly Tipping report forms to the local authority, with 6,140 activities delivered by the operational crews.
17. Despite this additional activity, deliberate secondary fires were extremely high in 2022/23 heavily influenced by the two heatwaves during the year. Although quarters three and four displayed downward curves compared to the 2020/21 statistics, it is hoped this improved performance continues in to 2023/24.
18. A new approach to understanding the local deliberate fire trends experienced within our station areas has been developed. Problem-solving guidance and boards will be located within the station offices that highlight the problem areas, the partners involved in addressing the issues and a breakdown of the allocated tasks. The aim is to allow the Watch Managers to monitor the problem-solving cycle and the various tasks, actions and outcomes that impact on the initial trend.
19. The aim is that this approach will support local Multi-Agency Problem Solving (MAPS) meetings and any subsequent Time Limited Projects (TLPs) instigated to reduce the fire trend.
20. The CS&AR Team have been working with named young people via the CURVE Project to address fire setting behaviours. Additionally, a PCC funded project was finalised between the Woodland Pupil Referral Unit, and Darlington Young Offenders Team, to run a 10-week program of Developing Resilience in young people. This is presented by the CS&AR Team, assisted by a volunteer firefighter. The project went live the week commencing 17 April 2023.
21. The CS&AR Team are participating in a study in partnership with Northumbria University and Seaham High School to look at two distinct projects under the academic supervision of Dr Faye Horsley. The studies are;
 - MSc study of Young People, (years 7 to 9 of secondary school), and their understanding of 'why young people set deliberate fires'. The young people involved in this project are volunteers and not necessarily involved in deliberate secondary fire setting.
 - PhD study of Young People, (years 7 to 11 of secondary school), This study will look to interview Young People who are active or have been active fire setters. One of the key points in this study is to define the sub-categories of young people who start fires deliberately, (as within the field of study, the definitions are very fluid), for instance when, where and why are the following terms used?
 - **Fire Play:** traditionally a term used for children up to the age of 10, (10 years of age is the age of criminal intent).

- **Firesetter:** a term applied to a young person who starts secondary fires. However, we have known firesetters who can start large and resource intense fires that place firefighter lives at risk. This is far-too wide a reference and takes no cognisance of ACE, (Adverse Childhood Experiences) that lead to the fire starting.
 - **Arsonist:** this term tends to apply to an adult who forms criminal intent as to the reason for their fire. This also is far-too wide a reference and takes no cognisance of other, wider emotional motivational factors and mental health issues.
22. CDDFRS are leading the way in trying to define who and what we are dealing with in terms of fire-related behaviour within our communities so that we better understand what and how we target our resources, educational practice, and interventions.
 23. The Durham Arson Suppression Group (ASG) and Fly Tipping Task Force meetings were combined in quarter three of 2022/23 to look at joint practices and intelligence sharing in relation to organised crime that involved deliberate fire setting and arson and look to understand trends in fly tipping within the Durham area.
 24. The now combined ASG / Fly Tipping Group is chaired by Durham Constabulary with members of Education, Health, Durham City Council, CDDFRS, Police and Housing associations to discuss six thematic areas, with the aim of sharing intelligence and discussing how specific legislation may be applied by the partner agencies to reduce arson and deliberate fire setting. The group meet on a quarterly basis and report directly to the Safe Durham Partnership.
 25. A new Safe Durham Partnership Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy has been developed which includes a partnership commitment to reducing deliberate fires. The CS&AR Manager is working with Darlington Community Safety Partnership to develop specific plans for reducing arson and deliberate fires in Darlington.

Organised Crime Group (OCG) Disruption Panel

26. This panel is formed from a wide range of agencies and at local, regional, and national level to share data and intelligence on named OCG's, operating in County Durham and Darlington. The aim is to target specific gangs and use powers of the various partners to disrupt or interdict the OCG's activities. Some of the OCG's, (particularly those on the East Coast), use arson as a weapon or means of intimidation against other OCG members, and on occasion, against specific individuals.
27. The CS&AR Team, (assisted by the Fire Investigation Team), provide support to both the ASG / Fly Tipping Group and the OCG Panel. In January 2023, SM Jewkes of the Fire Investigation Team, received a Chief Fire Officer's Certificate of Appreciation for three separate investigations that he had conducted, that led to the conviction of four men. Some of the activities of these four men were linked to ASG and OCG joint activities.

Service Campaign Schedule

28. The Service Campaign Schedule focuses on four main areas throughout the year, covering, Easter, Water Safety, Bonfire and Road Safety. Resources are created for use with each of the campaigns to ensure consistency across the Service area and to promote key messaging. Each campaign is evaluated with all parties invited to comment, this ensures continuing improvements and success.

Recommendations

29. Members are requested to:
 - a. **note** the contents of this report;
 - b. **receive** further reports as appropriate.

Keith Carruthers, Director Community Risk Management, 0191 3755564

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County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

18 July 2023

Estates Update

Report of the Director of Corporate Resources

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update members on the latest position in relation to the Estates Improvement Programme (EIP) and other matters relating to Service wide Estates.

Background

2. In recent years, The Authority has supported significant estates projects that aim to modernise the estate so that it is fit for purpose and provides a basis for delivering efficient services in future years.

Estates Improvement Programme

3. The EIP forms part of the overall capital budget which was approved by the Combined Fire Authority in February 2022. The capital scheme at Wheatley Hill was formally handed over on 14 November 2022 to the primary contractor, The Together Group (TTG), and was planned to conclude by the end of June 2023.

Project	Budget	Timescale
Wheatley Hill Station Refurbishment	£0.881M	Est. end June 2023

4. Practical completion took place on Monday 3 July, a few days later than the original estimate. Delays were attributable to construction supplies. Although final budgets are to be calculated, the project is expected to deliver within the assigned budget.

Newton Aycliffe Day Crewing Plus (DCP) Accommodation

5. Since the cessation of the Day Crewing Plus working arrangements at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe, the Service has been seeking a suitable alternative tenant / buyer to take on the accommodation and associated running costs.
6. The following resolution was agreed at the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) meeting on the 15 February 2023:

“it was resolved that the proposed disposals of day crewing plus accommodation would be delegated to the Chief Fire Officer in consultation with Darlington Members.”

7. The accommodation at Newton Aycliffe has been sold to Durham County Council following a full asking price offer of £260,000 and after consultation with Darlington Members.

Recommendation

8. Members are requested to **note** the report.

Keith Lazzari Director of Corporate Resources Ext.5580