

Our Plan (IRMP 2020-23), Year One Action Plan and Medium Term financial strategy (2020-24)

Consultation Report

1 Methodology

The formal period of public consultation on the draft plan and the financial strategy ran between 13 December and 7 February, a period of 8 weeks.

The draft Plan and financial strategy was accessible through our website. Hard copies were sent to 12 libraries in Derbyshire along with feedback forms. Fire stations also received copies of the documents.

Press releases were sent out for 13 December and there has been extensive social media activity. DFRS has over 21,000 Twitter followers, 17,500 Facebook followers and 2,700 Instagram followers. Updates continued to be posted to social media on a twice weekly basis.

Emails with links to our website were sent to all our stakeholders, including other Fire Services.

There were 4 engagement events during January:

10 January – Swadlincote
17 January – Buxton
24 January – Chesterfield
30 January – Derby

2 Results

2.1 The Survey

90 responses have been received by the end of the consultation period, with another 32 partials (started but not completed and do not form part of the 90 responses).

Analytics from the number of hits on the DFRS website and in particular the 'Have Your Say' page where the consultation papers are, shows that over the period of the consultation, there were 193 visits to the page.

The results are as follows, the full list of comments is available in the appendix:-

Respondents were asked to comment on the content of Our Plan. The comments can be classified into:

- Well written
- Not reducing services
- Looking to collaborate and work more closely with our partners
- Prioritising services especially when major incidents occur

Next they were asked to comment on the Year One Action Plan, again these can be classified into:

- Too little detail/vague – some respondents asked further clarifying questions on areas for investment and changing organisational structures.
- Reasonable/in support of the action plan
- No cuts to operational staff
- Funding from the government not council tax.

Respondents were then asked to prioritise areas for investment as outlined in Our Plan (pages 42-43)

	Yes (No. of returns)	Yes (%)	No (No. of returns)	No (%)
Firefighter safety.	85	98%	2	2%
On-call firefighters	75	87%	11	13%
Training & technology	85	99%	1	1%
Fire safety standards	83	96%	3	4%

These were then prioritised to

Firefighter safety	1st
On-call firefighters	2nd
Fire safety standards	3rd
Training & technology	4th

Respondents were then asked '*If the government increased the precept thresholds (collected through your council tax), would you support an increase of above 1.98% for Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service?*'

Yes (No. of returns)	Yes (%)	No (No. of returns)	No (%)
77	91%	8	9%

Finally, respondents were asked if they thought there were any other areas Derbyshire Fire and Rescue should be looking at. These can be classified as follows:

- Recruitment especially on call
- Retention of personnel and commitment to training
- Increase in prevention activities, school visits, fire station visits, fire and flood safety in new housing developments

- Closer working relationship with partners especially Derby City Council and EMAS
- Investing in new technology to keep an effective service.

In addition, 3 letters were received. *Joined UP Care* were in support of the Plan and said that it aligns to the *Joined Up Care Sustainability and Transformation Strategy*. *Cumbria County Council's* Chief Fire Officer wrote in support of the Plan. Unison offered their support in going forward with the plans to ensure their members were represented.

The FBU sent in a comprehensive response, questioning most aspects of the Plan and asking for more clarification:

“Integrated Risk Management Plans in Derbyshire have become so wide reaching and ‘grey’ in nature that in essence they can often become a consultation document of which fire service stakeholders are almost asked: “Can we do whatever we want to, depending on how much money we have?””

2.2 The Engagement Events

The Engagement Events gave the Service personnel the opportunity to engage and discuss Our Plan with members of the public. These events give the opportunity to engage with the older and vulnerable members of our communities and those who do not have access to the internet. Although numbers cannot be verified, approximately 100 leaflets were given out at each event.

A Community Safety Officer was present at 3 events and there were referrals for Safe and Well visits at all 4 events.

3 Conclusion

The number of responses is extremely low (0.009% of a population of 1 million) and therefore the results can only be used to indicate the direction the Service should take.

Taking into consideration the reach of our Social Media; the use of libraries; the emails sent to our stakeholder database; Officers attendance at external meetings and the engagement events in 4 towns, the Service has more than adequately engaged with the community and stakeholders. In addition, Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council hosted a link on their websites to the consultation which further widened our reach.

4 Profiling of Respondents

Returns	Number	%
An individual	54	62%
An organisation	2	2%
A DFRS employee	30	32%

A relative of a DFRS employee	3	3%
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What best describes your gender?	Number	%
Male	47	51%
Female	35	40%
Prefer not to say	8	9%

Age on last birthday	Number	%
24 and under	4	5%
25-44	25	28%
45-64	47	53%
65 plus	12	14%

Are your day to day activities limited due to a health problem or disability which has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months?		
	Number	%
Yes, limited a lot	7	8%
Yes, limited a little	5	6%
No	70	79%
Prefer not to say	7	8%

What is your ethnic group?	Number	%
White British or Irish	72	83%
Any other white background	2	2%
Mixed/multiple ethnic group	1	1%
Asian/Asian British	2	2%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	-	
Prefer not to say	10	12%