



# COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2016-2020

PASSIONATE ABOUT  
CHANGING & SAVING LIVES



DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE

# TOWARDS A SAFER FUTURE



As a fire and rescue service, we never stand still. We're always improving what we do to make Wiltshire and Dorset and Better, healthier and safer place to live. We're always improving what we do to make Wiltshire and Dorset a better healthier, safer place to live.

This document outlines our plans for the future. Yes, it's about saving lives, but it's also about ensuring people don't get into danger in the first place. Prevention, as they say, is better than cure. In this booklet you'll learn about the diverse services we provide and how we plan to improve and deliver them in the next four years.

This is your fire and rescue service and we'd like to know what you think. Find out more at: [www.dwfire.org.uk](http://www.dwfire.org.uk)



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE**

# WHO WE ARE

## WHO WE ARE

We are one of the largest fire and rescue services in England. It's our responsibility to look after the safety of over 1.45 million people living in the areas of Bournemouth, Dorset, Poole, Swindon and Wiltshire.

- 50 fire stations.
- 1,079 fire fighters.
- 73 fire engines.
- Supported by non-station based uniformed staff and corporate staff including over 100 enthusiastic volunteers.

## HOW WE WORK

When you think of fire and rescue, you probably think of our emergency response service. But this is only one part of what we do. There are four key priorities, geared to improving the safety and quality of life for everyone who lives in Dorset and Wiltshire.

## WHAT WE DO

For more information on this go to:  
[www.dwfire.org.uk](http://www.dwfire.org.uk)

## OUR FOUR KEY PRIORITIES



### **Making safer and healthier choices.**

This is about educating people to the dangers around them and preventing risk.



**Protecting you and the environment from harm.** This is our legal obligation to keep buildings and businesses safe for people to use.



### **Being there when you need us.**

Our emergency service responds quickly to people who are in danger or distress.



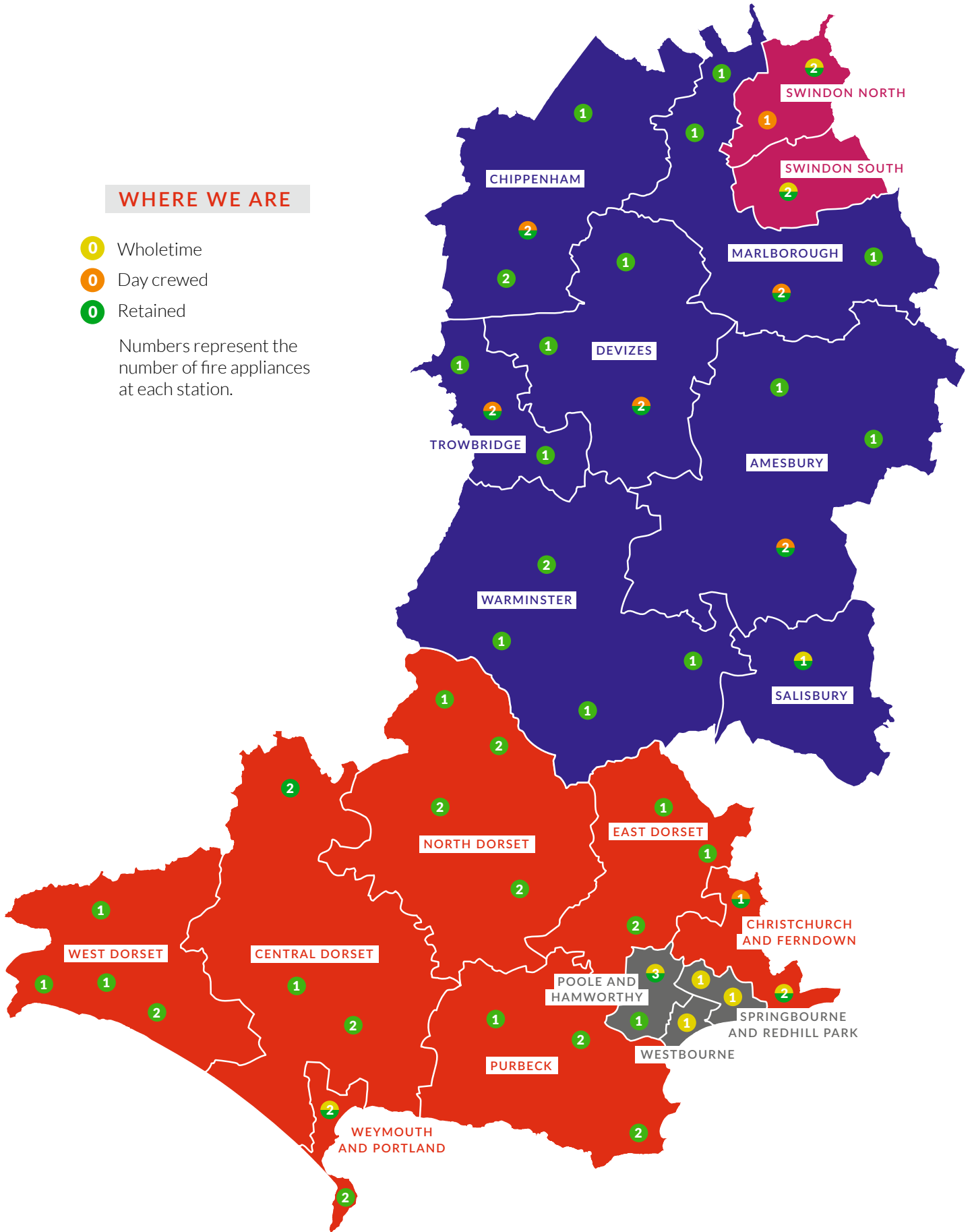
### **Making every penny count.**

It's important we spend our budget wisely, and maximise what we do with it.

**WHERE WE ARE**

- 0 Wholetime
- 0 Day crewed
- 0 Retained

Numbers represent the number of fire appliances at each station.





# MAKING SAFER AND HEALTHIER CHOICES



## SAFETY BEGINS AT HOME

We perform over 14,000 free 'Home Safety Checks' a year, fitting free fire alarms and making people aware of potential risks. This has resulted in a dramatic drop in the number deaths and injuries from accidental fire and hazards in the home. We will improve the wellbeing of vulnerable people in their homes with our 'Safe and Well Checks', which may help them to carry on living independently.



## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

We work closely with other agencies to improve the health and safety for those most at risk. We share information and will, when necessary, refer people on to our colleagues in the NHS or Social Services for the support they need. We also reduce the burden on these services by reducing the number of potential slip, trip and fall hazards in the homes of older and vulnerable people.



## IMPROVING YOUNG LIVES

Through our Engagement Programmes we've been able to reduce anti-social behaviour and traffic incidents involving young people. We work closely with local councils, schools, health and the police – sharing information to identify opportunities where we can help. We also encourage young people into training, education and employment, and have a longstanding relationship with the Prince's Trust.



## OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

We want to expand our services in this area so we can reach more people and improve their lives through education and support. This will involve working with others so we can take a more co-ordinated approach to working with families, children and young adults. We will also expand our network of safety centres and specialist event vehicles, spreading the word to more people about reducing risks and making safer choices.

## THIS WILL RESULT IN:

- Fewer injuries and deaths from accidental fires and preventable fires in the home.
- Fewer road traffic accidents that result in injury and death.
- Less anti-social behaviour and arson, and more young people reaching their potential.
- More protection and support for vulnerable children and adults and those with disabilities, so they can live fulfilling, independent lives.
- Less hospital admissions for vulnerable people.

# BEING THERE WHEN YOU NEED US

## EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH EVERYTHING

Responding to a 999 emergency is a highly sophisticated operation. It's designed to get the right equipment, to the right place as quickly as possible.

It also requires highly trained fire fighters with the latest up-to-date risk information for dealing with the widest variety of incidents.



## TRAINED FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Many of our firefighters are also trained to give frontline medical assistance. This is incredibly important if we're first on the scene. By lending a life-saving hand we take the pressure off paramedics by helping to treat people, as well as transporting them quickly to hospital.

## NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR A BETTER SERVICE

In our line of work, time is always against us. Technology plays a massive role here, helping us to mobilise faster and join up with other organisations, especially neighbouring fire and rescue services. The other benefit is that it can help reduce costs, making our budget go even further.







## OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

We aim to work even closer with the police, ambulance service and neighbouring fire and rescue services for a more joined-up approach to incidents. We will also arrange for more firefighters to provide on-call emergency cover, which is particularly important in rural locations.

We will invest in new technology and more efficient ways of working that improve public safety and firefighter safety. Modernising and replacing our mobile communications system will have a huge impact on this. It's part of a nationally led project involving all emergency service providers.

## THIS WILL RESULT IN:

- Improved emergency response times.
- Fewer injuries and deaths from accidental fires and preventable fires.
- Fewer road traffic accidents that result in injury and death.
- Closer, more joined-up working relationships with other emergency services.
- Fewer deaths and medical serious medical injuries.
- Safer firefighters and staff.

# PROTECTING YOU AND THE ENVIRONMENT FROM HARM



## ENFORCING THE LAWS THAT PROTECT YOU

Fire protection laws are there to keep you safe whenever you enter a public building or business. We're here to make sure those laws are followed, and to prosecute those who flout them, otherwise it could put lives at risk. But rather than resorting to legal threats, we'd rather work with businesses and organisations to help them solve their issues, and make their premises safe for everyone.

## FROM THE GROUND UP

We're involved in the safety of a building even before it's built. We work closely with architects and owners, advising them how to maximise safety for occupants and our fire crews who may be called out to them. We also work with building management companies on existing buildings, helping to reduce everyday risks. By working proactively like this, we can save lives, reduce the number of false alarms and also reduce the huge economic impact on a business when it's affected by fire.



## PROTECTING THE PAST

We're the guardians of local heritage and work hard to protect the valuable buildings of Dorset and Wiltshire's past. We have a unique understanding of historical buildings so we can minimise the damage should fire strike. We also protect our vibrant and beautiful natural history, protecting our wildlife areas from the threat of fire.



## OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The best fire to deal with is the one that never starts. More can be done in our buildings to prevent unnecessary fires. We aim to collaborate with owners and our partners, sharing information so we can better understand potential risks so they can be avoided. This will include encouraging owners, local councils and housing trusts to use more sprinkler systems and other preventative technologies.

We've a great natural and built environment and we want to do even more to protect them by working with those who own or look after them. As flooding becomes more commonplace across our land, we want to develop robust plans to tackle the problem more effectively. We will work with the Environment Agency to help local groups to take preventive action, reducing the damage and misery that flooding causes.

## THIS WILL RESULT IN:

- Fewer preventable fires, deaths and accidents in homes, businesses, public buildings and historical buildings.
- Less damage to our areas of wildlife.
- More support and less disruption for communities and businesses in extreme weather, especially flooding.
- Fewer false alarms and unnecessary call outs.
- More coordinated approach with local authorities and other partners to identify and report possible threats to residents and communities.
- Improved data sharing with partners so that we can better understand the risks we all face and target our efforts.

# MAKING EVERY PENNY COUNT

## WHERE OUR BUDGET GOES WITH EVERYTHING

The majority of our budget comes from Council Tax (70%), while the rest of it comes from the Government. Nearly all of it goes on supporting our people – almost 70% is spent on pay, pensions, training and recruitment. This is compared to the 16% that goes on vehicles, premises and equipment.



## MERGING MAKES SENSE

The joining of Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service was originally prompted by Government cuts. Since coming together as one organisation we have identified considerable savings. These total around £6 million per year and have already been included in future budget plans.

For more information on this go to:  
[www.dwfire.org.uk](http://www.dwfire.org.uk)

## BEING SMART WITH MONEY

We aim to put every penny of our budget to the best use possible. Since our funding has been cut we have had to work even harder, thinking of innovative ways to provide the same high level of service but with less money.

This has worked extremely well for us in recent years. However, as costs continue to rise we may be forced to cut frontline services, although we will do everything in our power to keep these to an absolute minimum.





## OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

We will continually review all aspects of our service to identify ways we can improve efficiency and making our money go even further. This is part of our approach to Integrated Risk Management Planning, which looks at all aspects of our service including:

**Emergency cover** – monitoring how risks are changing so we can adapt our emergency response.

**Duty systems** – looking at ways we can make our wholetime (24-hour) operations even more efficient to benefit the wider service.

**Rural response and community safety** – finding the best way to support and maintain our rural stations.

**Special appliances** – optimising the operation and location of special equipment and crews.

**Firefighter safety** – investigating ways to improve firefighting equipment, appliances and techniques.

Although we are now a larger service covering over nearly 2,500 miles, we have plans in place to reduce non-essential travel. With new technology, staff can work more flexibly, either from the office or on the move. This will save time and money, reducing our carbon footprint and improving efficiency. Maximising the space of our buildings is another way we can cut costs. We already share facilities with the police and Councils and will continue to explore new opportunities for sharing our buildings and generally working more closer.

## THIS WILL RESULT IN:

- A stronger, more financially stable fire and rescue service putting as much money in the frontline as we can.
- Making our budget work harder so we can withstand Government cuts while ensuring financial support goes where it's needed most.
- Maximising usage of buildings and minimising their running costs.
- Being more cost-effective by working closer with other emergency services and local authorities.
- A reduced carbon footprint, fewer unnecessary journeys and more cost savings.

# HOW WE WILL MAKE THIS HAPPEN.

## PUTTING THE PLAN INTO ACTION

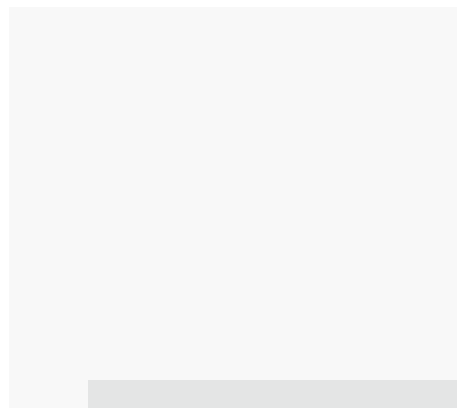
We have a passionate management team responsible for directing and delivering our plans for the future. They work hard with everyone in the Service to get things done and produce regular reports, outlining how they are progressing.

We have a number of key targets to achieve over the next four years to help measure our progress against priorities. These are available if you would like to know more

Also overseeing this plan are our 30 elected councillors from the five council areas that cover fire and rescue service area. They meet in public five times a year, ensuring we are delivering on our promises.



**DARRAN GUNTER**  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**



**CHAIRMAN**



## GET INVOLVED

If you'd like to have your say in the running of our fire and rescue service, we have a number of Local Performance and Scrutiny Committees held around the area. You're welcome to attend these and hear about how we're addressing local issues. They're run by our elected Members and Senior Officers who'd be happy to explain what we're doing and listen to any feedback or ideas you have. This is your fire and rescue service, so please feel free to get involved or find out more.

## CONTACT US

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