



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY**

# Mere Fire Station

Public consultation event  
Potential station closure



# DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

## Welcome

# Savings and investments already made

## Savings

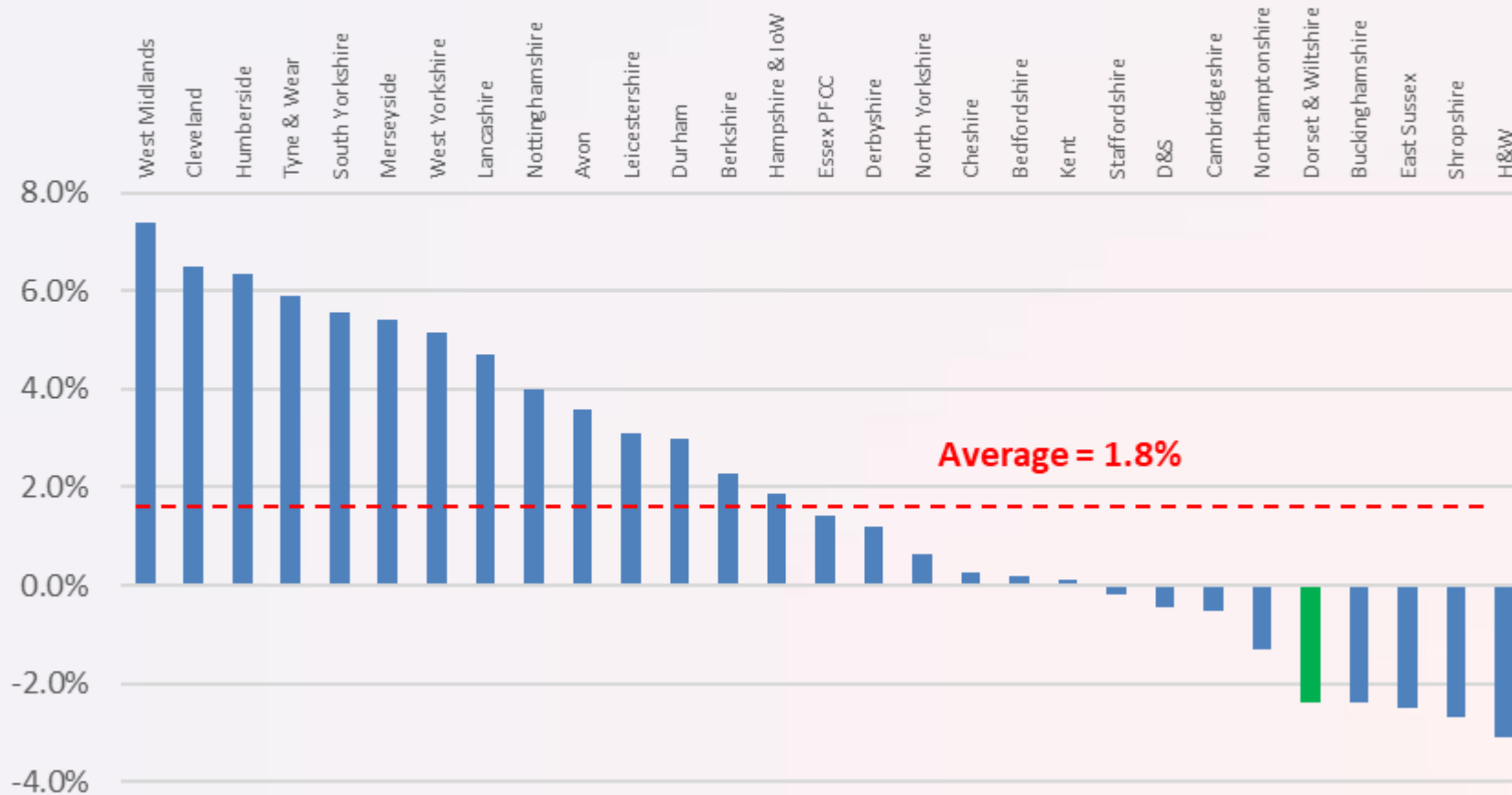
- £15m cumulative annual savings since 2016
- £6.75m of savings delivered since April 2022

## Reinvestment

- £2.2m Wholetime firefighters across the Service

# Historical funding from Central Government

Settlement Funding Assessment Growth 2015-16 – 2025-26



# Current financial position

	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m	2028-29 £m
Total Funding	79.503	82.045	84.506
Estimated net expenditure	80.710	83.515	86.211
<b>Budget Surplus (+) / deficit (-)</b>	<b>-1.207</b>	<b>-1.470</b>	<b>-1.705</b>

- Council tax increase £5 for Band D (per year) - **10p per week**
- Only £12.758m received directly from Government
- Due to reduce to £10.268m in 2028-29
- 19.5% reduction over next 3 years

# Data and information used

Data Period – 2019-2024

## **What's included:**

- Pandemic year
- All incident types – fires, hazardous materials, flooding, RTC's
- When the station is available
- Local plans and risk information

## **What's not included:**

- Cross border incidents
- Standbys on station

# Mere fire station

## About your station



## How often is my station needed?



# Mere fire station

## Current availability and response times



**58.13% availability**  
(mostly weekday  
evenings & weekends)



**48.9% of incidents**  
(where this station was  
closest), occur between  
8am and 6pm



**12mins 12secs**  
calculated average  
response time when  
available



**17mins 7secs**  
calculated average  
response time when the  
station is unavailable

# Mere fire station

## What changes if my station closes?



**4mins 55secs**  
calculated average  
response time increase if  
the station is closed

When the station is unavailable, or if it were to be closed, a fire engine from another station responds. At the moment this happens 41.87% of the time.

## Station costs



**£2,565**  
per mobilisation  
(vs average of £1,831  
for a similar station)



**£211,909**  
annual saving if station  
closed

PASSIONATE ABOUT

**CHANGING & SAVING LIVES**

# Mere

## Current and future risks

### Summary of Known Future Developments

Type of Development	Community Impact	Risk to Service
Critical Infrastructure	N/A	N/A
Non-Critical Infrastructure	N/A	N/A
Housing Developments	+ 1 minute 51 seconds	Minor
Commercial Developments	+ 2 minutes 37 seconds	Minor

# Community Support to Mere

## Continue:

- Community engagement
- Home fire safety checks
- Business fire safety engagement and inspections

**Dial 999 and you will continue to get a fire engine**

# Next steps

- No decision made
- Public consultation - February to May 2026
- Independent analysis of feedback
- Fire Authority decision - June 2026



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# Questions

# Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority – Public Consultation

We know that proposing fire station closures will not be welcome news for many of our communities and staff. No decisions have been made.

The Fire & Rescue Authority has a statutory duty to set a balanced budget. Following a detailed review of service activity, response times, station availability and funding, we are consulting on proposals which include the potential closure of eight fire stations across Dorset and Wiltshire.

We want to hear your views before any decision is taken. Share your views by completing the consultation survey.

Scan the QR code to take part.



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