

Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service Financial Summary Document

Summary of focus groups

Introduction

The aim of the consultation was to find out what type of information residents wanted to see in the Financial Summary Document.

3 focus groups were held in total in different locations (North Moor Fire Station, Fossway Fire Station and Gateshead Fire Station).

The following is an overall summary of the main themes/issues raised by residents.

What financial information do you want from the Fire and Rescue Service?

There was a mixed response to this question. Some respondents felt more strongly about receiving information on previous years whereas others were more interested in forward looking information. The quotes below provide some examples of this:

*“Financial information should include at least one year for comparative purposes”
“The change from year 1 to year 2 and the reasons for this”
“A forecast to go on the leaflet so we can see what will be happening in the future”
“How much FRS has to spend, how much FRS has and what FRS has spent it on”.*

Some felt that they would like to know about financial cuts and the reasons for this.

*“I’d be more interested to know how much budget is cut each year and what savings are made”.
“Would like to know if the FRS are getting enough money to fund resources and a sufficient response, as this effects the lives of people”.*

Council Tax was also raised by some participants with regards to what the TWFS received and how it was spent:

“Council tax is an issue which effects all people as they all pay this. I would like to know what tax TWFRS are receiving and how they spend it as well as the reasons for any increase in expenditure”.