

Service Delivery Consultation: Public FAQ's

Consultation FAQ's

What is this consultation about?

Cleveland Fire Brigade is asking for your views on proposed changes to how fire and rescue services are provided across Cleveland. Before any decisions are made, we want to understand what local people and other interested groups think about the proposals.

Why are changes being considered?

Like many public services, Cleveland Fire Brigade is facing financial pressures. We need to make sure our resources are in the right places to respond to the risks and needs of our communities. The proposals have been developed to help us provide a safe, effective and sustainable service in the future.

Has a decision already been made?

No final decision has been made. This consultation gives people the chance to tell us what they think before any decisions are taken. We will consider all feedback before a final decision is made.

How can I find out more about the proposals?

You can find information about the proposals on our website. This includes:

- Information about the proposed changes.
- The reasons for the proposals.
- Frequently Asked Questions.
- Details of consultation events.
- Information on how to take part.

How can I take part?

There are several ways to take part. You can:

- Complete the online survey.
- Attend a consultation event.
- Join an online session.

Who can take part?

Anyone can take part.

We want to hear from:

- Local residents.
- Businesses.
- Community groups.
- Partner organisations.
- Cleveland Fire Brigade employees.
- Anyone with an interest in the proposals.

Will my response make a difference?

Yes, the purpose of the consultation is to understand what people think about the proposals. We will review all feedback received before making any final decisions.

Can I suggest a different option?

Yes, if you think there is a better way to make the changes, please tell us. You can share your ideas in the survey or at one of our consultation events. We will consider all feedback before a final decision is made.

What should I think about before responding?

We encourage you to read the information provided before completing the survey.

This will help you understand:

- What is being proposed.
- Why the changes are being considered.
- How the proposals may affect local communities.

How long will the consultation be open?

The consultation will be open for 12 weeks. This gives people enough time to read the information, ask questions and share their views.

What happens to the information I provide?

Your feedback will be reviewed alongside all other responses received. We will use this information to help us understand the views of local people and other interested groups. Any personal information will be handled in line with data protection laws.

What happens after the consultation ends?

When the consultation closes, we will:

1. Review all feedback received.
2. Consider any concerns or alternative ideas that have been suggested.
3. Look at any potential impacts on staff, communities and other groups.
4. Develop final proposals for consideration.

When will a decision be made?

A decision will be made after all consultation responses have been reviewed and considered, with any proposed changes to be implemented from April 2027.

How will I find out the outcome?

We will publish the results of the consultation once the process has finished.

We will explain:

- Themes from the consultation.
- How feedback was considered.
- What decision was made.

This information will be available on our website and shared through our communication channels.

How can I ask a question?

If you have a question about the consultation or the proposals, you can contact us at communications@clevelandfire.gov.uk

We will do our best to answer your question and help you understand the proposals.

Proposal FAQ's

Is any fire station closing?

No.

Are fire appliances being removed?

Cleveland Fire Brigade will have the same number of appliances that it currently has. However, the second appliance at Thornaby Station will only operate during daytime hours (times to be confirmed). The other appliance at Thornaby will remain operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Will firefighters lose their jobs?

No - there are no job losses or redundancies proposed. This reduction will be achieved through natural staff turnover.

Is this consultation a decision?

No - the purpose of the consultation is to listen carefully to the views of employees, representative bodies, local communities, partners and other interested parties before recommendations are developed and considered by Cleveland Fire Authority.

Who decides what happens next?

Following the 12-week consultation, Cleveland Fire Authority will review and decide on what happens next.

For info: Cleveland Fire Authority is the governing and decision- making body, made up of elected members from the four local authorities. It is responsible for policy, governance, funding, performance oversight and strategic decisions.

How will emergency response work overnight?

Emergency calls will continue to be managed through Fire Control, which will mobilise the nearest available resources, as they currently do.

Will local people be less safe if the proposed changes go ahead?

The safety of our communities will remain our priority. The proposals have been developed using community risk, incident data and operational information. We are consulting to understand how people feel about the proposals before any decisions are made.

Will a fire engine take longer to arrive if the proposed changes go ahead?

Day crewing Thornaby's second fire appliance is calculated to have the lowest impact on Service-wide response times compared with day crewing any other

second appliance. The proposed changes are expected to increase response times across the Service by 2 seconds.

How will these changes affect my area?

The consultation information document explains the proposed changes and any expected impacts. We encourage everyone to read the information and tell us how they think their community may be affected.

Why are you consulting people outside the affected area?

Changes in one area can sometimes affect neighbouring communities. We want to understand views from everyone who may live and work within the affected areas.

How have you taken deprivation and vulnerable communities into account?

We are carrying out Equality Impact Assessments, which is a structured process designed to evaluate whether a change could have unintended discriminatory effects on people with protected characteristics. Along with targeted engagement activities to help us understand how different communities may be affected.

How much money does the Service need to save and why?

The Service is currently facing a recurring budget shortfall of £1.198 million, from 2027/28. There is a risk this figure could increase as a result of higher than forecast inflation owing to international events. This £1.198 million represents a significant pressure for the Service, particularly as it is reliant on Government funding and contributions from Council Tax.

Were other options considered?

A range of options have been explored and assessed as part of a dedicated project. The methodology of which, can be found in the Consultation document. The consultation provides an opportunity for people to suggest additional options or alternatives.