



**DEVON &  
SOMERSET**  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

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Date : 08.04.2021

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### **Ref: Understanding risk in our communities – a request for information**

I'm writing to seek your views and support to help us to understand the current and future risks our communities face.

Like many organisations, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service has a range of statutory responsibilities we need to undertake in order to manage the risk to our communities.

At the same time, we have broadened our offer to partners wherever we can as we recognise that there are some complex issues, such as reducing the impact of mental health, that require leaders to work together to solve some difficult societal problems.

As such, we are undertaking our regular strategic review of the risks that we might face in the future and what the future landscape might look like in terms of infrastructure as well as societal trends.

This will be reflected in a Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), formerly known as an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), which will run from April 2022 until 2027.

Before developing the draft CRMP, we are gathering views from people and partners across Devon and Somerset. These views will give us an understanding of what you and residents feel are local risks that we need to consider as well as perceptions of the fire and rescue service and its role within our counties.

We are capturing this through [an online survey](#). It would be helpful if you could arrange for this to be completed and shared as the higher number of contributions will give more insight to make sure we're aligning our future plans with the communities we serve.

We will ensure that the results of this work are available to you as it may support your own risk planning approach and we also intend to start to build a rich dataset where we can layer data to inform trends (using non-personal data). This will inform future demand and capability mapping.

Once a draft CRMP is produced, we will consult with you and our communities on the content to check whether the understanding we've captured through our engagement work and data mapping has been accurately represented in the plan.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated and will ensure that we can continue to provide an effective and efficient fire and rescue service that remains focused on preventing incidents from happening but also has the right resources in place to respond to an emergency when required.

Yours sincerely

*Lee Howell*

Lee Howell OBE QFSM  
Chief Fire Officer

[www.dsfire.gov.uk](http://www.dsfire.gov.uk)

Acting to Protect & Save