

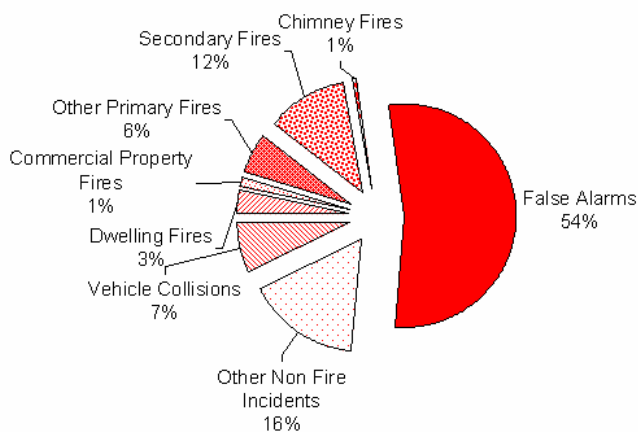


What does this mean for Runnymede?

Surrey Fire and Rescue Services' Public Safety Plan includes proposals to change the way we deliver fire and rescue services on a countywide basis. The proposals are designed to balance resources across the County and further improve efficiencies within the Service.

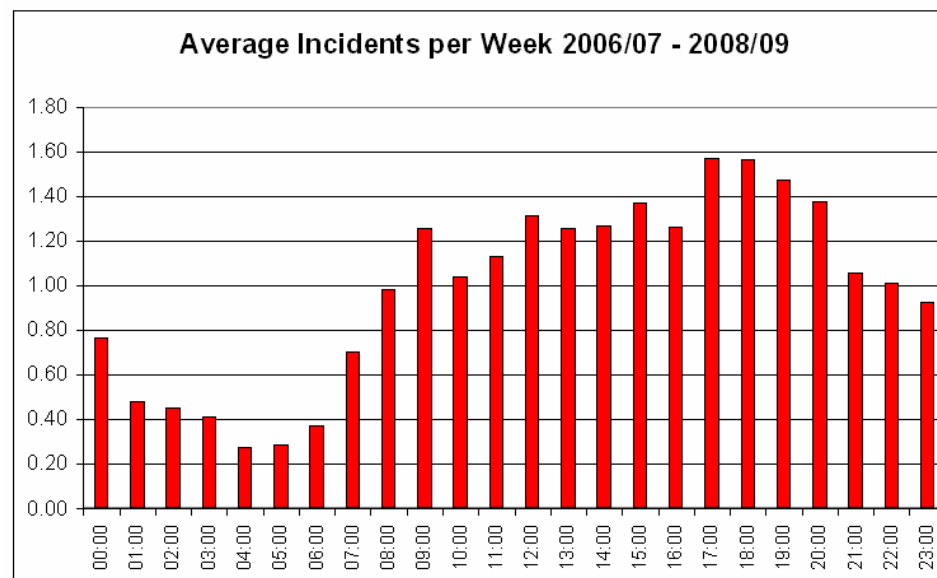
We provide emergency response cover with up to 35 fire engines, which are supported by a range of other specialist resources of our own and neighbouring services. Two of these fire engines are currently based at Chertsey and Egham Fire Stations but they are not resources dedicated to the Borough. This means that these fire engines will respond to incidents outside Runnymede but similarly we can use resources from across the County to deal with emergencies in the Borough effectively. An example of this would be the warehouse fire in Thorpe in 2008, which saw more than 16 fire engines responding.

An average week in Runnymede



If there was such a thing as an average week for Runnymede in 2008/9, we would have about 17 incidents, nine of which would be false alarms. There would be half a fire in a dwelling, about 1½ in other property and about two non-property (secondary) fires, such as rubbish or grass alight. We would need to deal with about one vehicle collision and about three other incidents (special services), which could be flooding or animals trapped, etc. The fire engines will also be used as

required to standby at other locations to maintain emergency response cover across the County as required.



In 2008/9 there were a total of 534 incidents during the day (7am to 7pm); during the evening and overnight (7pm to 7am) there were 334 incidents. The spread of incidents across the 24-hour period in Runnymede is similar to the Surrey trend and on average about 62% of incidents occurring during the day.

As we have stated in our response standard, we will send the quickest appropriate response to an emergency and for you that may not be a fire engine from a fire station in the Borough. That is current practice and it will not change under the proposals put forward for consultation.



What does this mean for Runnymede?

If the proposals are implemented, there would not be a change to the availability of the fire engines based in Runnymede. The two fire engines currently there are crewed by wholetime¹ staff to provide an immediate response 24 hours a day. The proposals would see a change to the availability of fire engines elsewhere in Surrey; especially during the night when there is less demand. As we provide a countywide service, this is likely to mean that fire engines based in Runnymede will more often be required to support emergencies elsewhere.

Runnymede is surrounded by many other fire service resources based at Staines (potentially day time only), Sunbury, Walton, Painshill, Woking and Chobham (potentially night time only) fire stations from Surrey, plus those based in Royal Berkshire. We have modelled² the effect of these proposals and identified their potential impact on each of the boroughs and districts. It is predicted that the average response times for the first and second fire engines to arrive at an incident in Runnymede would not change significantly if the proposals are implemented. This would be well within the proposed response standard.

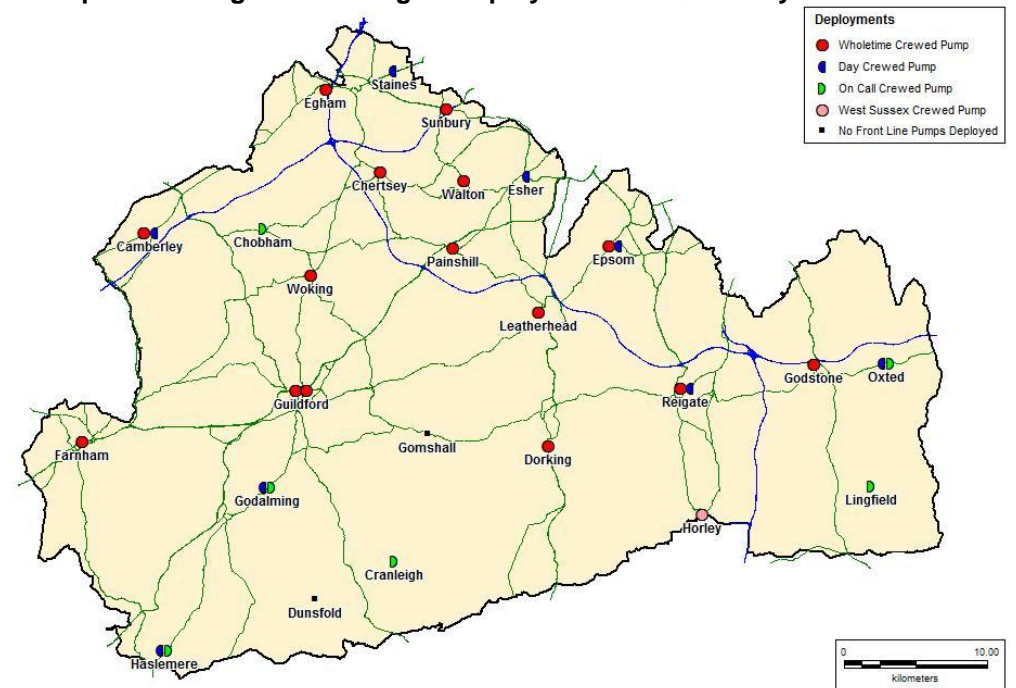
The benefits of the proposals would see a more efficient use of resources across the County as well as within Runnymede; these are outlined in more detail in the main Public Safety Plan. You would receive one fire engine attending incidents on average in about six and a half minutes, with five firefighters on board and in many cases that will be sufficient resources to deal with the emergency safely and effectively. For life and property risk incidents, additional resources will be on their way to provide the required support for the first crew attending. The first fire crew on scene will assess the scale of the incident and can request more resources should they be required.

The proposed changes would release what could be characterised as under utilised staff resources from across the Service (mainly from the

night shift) who will be used to undertake training and other essential work. They will also be able to improve community safety through our prevention and protection work whilst being capable of supporting emergency response to deal with unexpected increases in demand or pre-planned events.

There are currently no plans to consult on changing the location of fire stations in Runnymede. However, if a suitable site becomes available and there are clear benefits, then consultation on changing the location would be undertaken. This would include consideration of the impact on emergency response cover in the area.

Proposed changes to fire engine deployment across Surrey



¹ For an explanation of wholetime, see section 10 of the main plan

² For further information on emergency response modelling, see 9.38 of the plan