

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)****MEMBER'S QUESTION AND
RESPONSE****17 JUNE 2011****From Mr Robert Knowles**

1. The Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) draft Public Safety Plan (PSP) proposals, included a proposal to increase the full-time day cover at Haslemere from five to seven days per week. The revised plan to be considered by the County Council's Cabinet now only provides weekday (five day) full-time cover at Haslemere. What evidence caused this change to be made in the proposal ?
2. The revised PSP proposals include a line: "a fire engine based in the Milford area. This would impact on the fire engines at Godalming and Haslemere" (paragraph 9.11(d)). Whilst this is an aspiration, are plans to close Haslemere Fire station and cover the town from eight miles away under consideration ?

Response

1. The draft proposal was based upon the Service's experience of the Retained Duty System (RDS) and the intention to radically reform this duty system. Whilst this intention is still paramount, consultation with staff has seen a shift in emphasis regarding the use of RDS or 'on-call' staff. The change to the proposed crewing at Haslemere, which is reflected at Godalming, has seen a move to 5 days a week wholtime cover, with the remaining periods of cover provided by 'on-call' staff. This is what currently happens at Haslemere.

A further revision to the proposals has seen the fire engine at Dunsfold being made available at nights and weekends. This additional fire engine means that at nights and weekends there will be five fire engines available

in Waverley, four of which will be crewed by 'on-call' staff. During the weekday the number of fire engines in the borough will be four, three of which will be crewed by wholetime firefighters which means they are available on an immediate basis.

These proposals are predicated on the Service achieving the reforms required to the RDS, ensuring the availability of staff and increasing the levels of training and development.

2. The statement regarding Milford has been made to provide a clear indication of the intentions of the Service to improve the locations of several of our fire stations. The Milford location is one that we believe would provide improved cover to a number of locations within the surrounding area.

If a suitable location and the required funding were available the subsequent plans for Haslemere and Godalming would be developed through further analysis and consultation. Subject to the analysis and consultation feedback there is a possibility that Haslemere fire station could be considered for closure. It is important to emphasise that this analysis has not been undertaken and any decision would also depend upon potential changes made to emergency response cover provision by both Hampshire and West Sussex Fire and Rescue Services in the areas that adjoin Haslemere.