

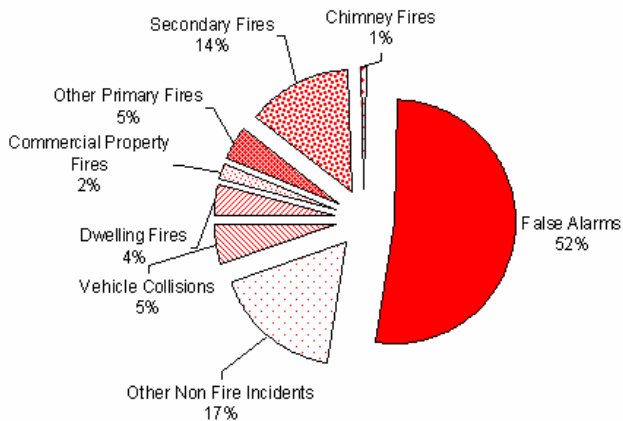


## What does this mean for Woking Borough?

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 Woking Fire Station but they are not resources dedicated to the Borough. This means that these fire engines will respond to incidents outside Woking Borough 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 fire at the Focus Do-it-All in 2004, which saw more than 20 fire engines responding.

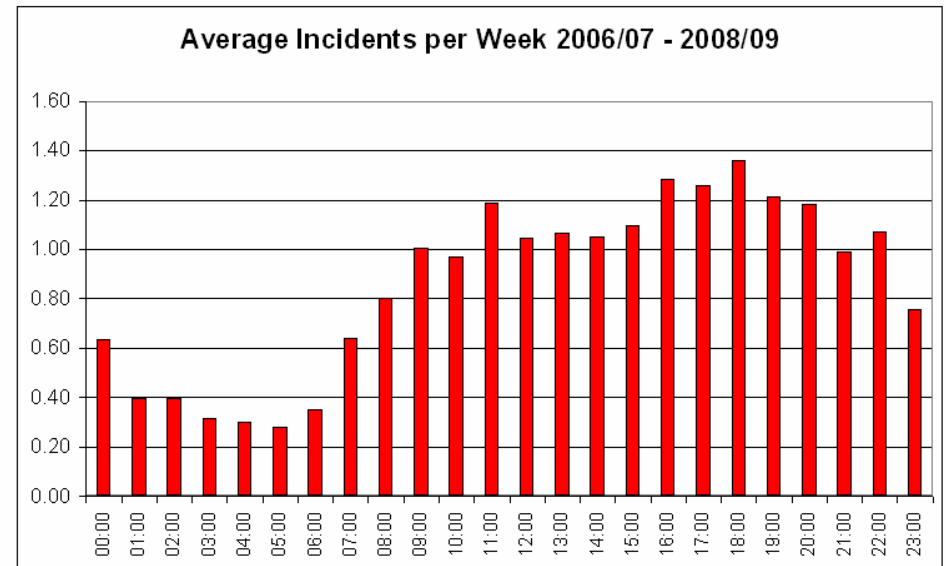
### An average week in Woking Borough



If there was such a thing as an average week for Woking Borough in 2008/9, we would have about 18 incidents, about nine of which would be false alarms. There would be about one fire in a dwelling, one in other property and 2½ non-property fires (secondary), such as rubbish or grass alight. We would need to deal with one vehicle collision and about three other incidents (special services), which could be flooding or animals trapped, etc. The fire

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In 2008/9 there were a total of 558 incidents during the day (7am to 7pm); during the evening and overnight (7pm to 7am) there were 365 incidents. The spread of incidents across the 24-hour period in Woking 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 Woking Fire Station. That is current practice and it will not change under the proposals put forward for consultation.



## What does this mean for Woking Borough?

If the proposals are implemented, there would be a change in the number of fire engines based at Woking Fire Station. The two fire engines currently there are crewed by wholetime<sup>1</sup> staff to provide an immediate response 24 hours a day; it is proposed this reduces to one fire engine with a similar immediate response capability. This will mean that some firefighters currently based at Woking will need to work from other locations within Surrey.

Woking is surrounded by many other Surrey resources based at Camberley, Chertsey, Chobham (potentially night time only), Guildford, and Painshill fire stations. We have modelled<sup>2</sup> the effect of these proposals and identified their potential impact on each of the boroughs and districts. It is predicted that there would be a slight increase in the average response times for the first fire engine to arrive at an incident in Woking if the proposals are implemented. It would also mean that the arrival time of the second fire engine to an incident in Woking is likely to increase, however the average would still be well within the proposed response standard.

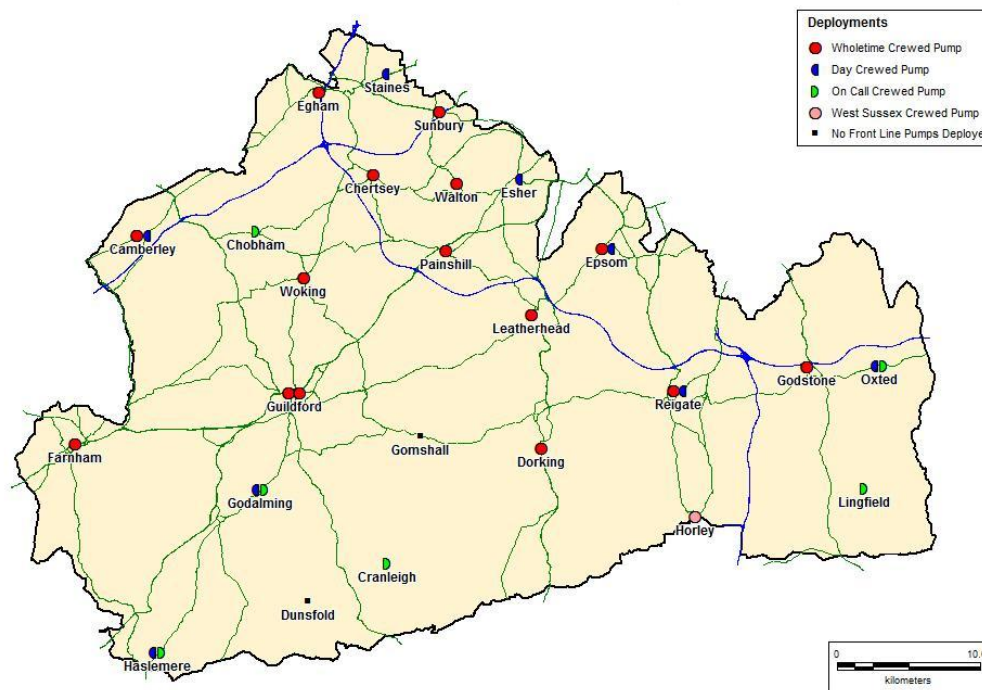
The benefits of the proposals would see a more efficient use of resources across the County as well as within Woking; these are outlined in more detail in the main Public Safety Plan. You would receive one fire engine attending incidents on average in about seven minutes, with five firefighters on board 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 has previously been speculation about moving Woking Fire Station but there are currently no plans to consult on a proposed new location. 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



<sup>1</sup> For an explanation of wholetime, see section 10 of the main plan

<sup>2</sup> For further information on emergency response modelling, see 9.38 of the plan