

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET****DATE: 4 FEBRUARY 2014****REPORT OF: MRS HELYN CLACK, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY****LEAD OFFICER: DAVE SARGEANT, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND FIRE AND RESCUE****SUBJECT: CHANGES TO FIRE ENGINE DEPLOYMENT IN THE BOROUGH OF SPELTHORNE****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

This report relates to the closure of Staines and Sunbury Fire Stations and the relocation of one fire appliance to a new optimised location to support Phase 2 of Surrey Fire and Rescue Services transformation programme, the Public Safety Plan (PSP) 2011-2020.

Consideration has been given to the provision of an alternative service model in Spelthorne, working collaboratively with the local community and borough leaders and recognises the comments and concerns raised by stakeholders during the public consultation period. The consultation included the boroughs of Spelthorne, Elmbridge and Runnymede. This report now consists of an amended proposal which has arisen as a direct result of the public consultation and consists of a new fire station at an appropriate location with two fire engines, one whole-time and one "On-call", both providing a 24/7 response cover and a waterborne rescue capability.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

1. Cabinet support the amended proposal Option 5 and the commissioning of a new fire station in an appropriate location subject to a further business case setting out the delivery costs of a new station returning to Cabinet in due course. The new fire station will have two fire engines, one 24 hour whole time and one 24 hour "On-call" and a waterborne rescue capability. This retains the same number of fire engines in that part of Surrey and supports improvements in the response standard across Surrey.
2. Cabinet agree to the subsequent closure of Staines and Sunbury fire stations.
3. Cabinet agree to the implementation of Option 4 should the provision of Option 5 and the "On-call" unit not be secured.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The amended proposal Option 5 supports improvements in the provision of a more equitable level of fire service response in support of the Surrey Response Standard and the Public Safety Plan.

The amended proposal has given due consideration to the concerns of local communities and leaders and surrounding borough's by listening to their ideas and by involving residents in the decision making process. Their local knowledge combined with the revised response modelling has influenced the design and delivery of future services in Spelthorne.

DETAILS:

Background

1. The PSP outlines 12 outcomes to be achieved by 2020. These include improving the balance of service provision across Surrey and improving the provision and use of property.
2. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) currently base one 24 hour whole-time fire engine at both Sunbury and Staines Fire Stations, which provide most of the initial response cover for the Borough of Spelthorne, whilst at the same time providing support to other parts of the county. This proposal seeks to support the provision of a more balanced service provision across the county in order to be better positioned to achieve the Surrey Response standard. To secure that objective the Service has reviewed emergency response cover across the county and has identified an area where the provision of a new location would facilitate a more effective strategic use of resources.
3. The PSP established a potential model for emergency response cover in Surrey based upon existing fire station locations. This was termed Phase 1 and included changes to crewing systems at Staines fire station. Phase 2 sought to establish new locations for a number of fire stations to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency response across the county. The areas highlighted for this change included Spelthorne.
4. Spelthorne was identified as an area for consideration in part due to the following factors:
 - Securing a positive impact on the Surrey Response Standard across the county,
 - Changing incident demand in the Spelthorne area over the past decade,
 - Changes already implemented or planned within Surrey,
 - Proximity of fire engines, both from Surrey and from neighbouring fire and rescue services.
5. This led to an options analysis which is outlined below:

Option 1: Do nothing and secure no improvements in terms of service provision across the county or contribution towards the savings required by the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Option 2: Implement the PSP Phase 1 deployment (24 hour cover at Sunbury, 12 hour cover at Staines)

Option 3 (a): Close Sunbury and maintain Staines

Option 3 (b): Close Staines and maintain Sunbury

Option 4: Implement the proposal for a new station at an optimised location within the borough with one 24 hour whole-time (immediately crewed) fire engine.

Option 5 is a new option and has been included following consideration of the feedback from the residents and communities in Spelthorne. This amended option is to “Implement the proposal for a new station at an optimised location within the borough with one fire appliance immediately crewed 24/7 and one 24 hour “On-call” fire appliance”.

6. The modelling for all of these scenarios was conducted on behalf of Surrey Fire and Rescue Service by ORH who have provided bespoke modelling services based on operational research techniques to UK and overseas emergency services for the past 26 years.
7. Each option was considered in relation to its impact on emergency response performance, cost and achievability against the available timescales, resource constraints and conformity with the principles agreed within the PSP. This options analysis, linked with our understanding of community vulnerabilities, hazards and risks and from our experience of providing a fire and rescue service, helped to shape our professional opinion on the most appropriate course of action. Consideration has also been given to the prevailing community vulnerabilities and risk profile in adjacent boroughs and any known potential developments in the area.
8. All things being equal and mindful of the savings target our preferred choice was for consultation was Option 4 - to create a new 24 hour whole-time single fire engine fire station in the borough of Spelthorne. Importantly for the communities of Spelthorne they would continue to receive one fire engine attending incidents on average in less than seven minutes (compared to a national average in 2012-13 of 7.4 minutes) and in almost all cases that would prove to be sufficient resources to deal with the emergency safely and effectively. The Surrey Response standard is as follows;
 - One fire engine in 10 and 2 in 15 minutes for 80% of critical incidents, and
 - All other emergencies - one fire engine in 16 minutes on 95%of occasions

This proposal would deliver the reduction in the number of fire fighter posts required and would maximise the revenue savings for the MTFP. The proposed changes would continue to allow SFRS, while still being located in the borough, to provide and support a county wide service operating a network of dynamically provided resources to deliver efficient and effective responses to incidents.

9. To support the decision making process and to ensure that any comparisons could be validated the Service used the same emergency cover modelling process as for the PSP. The impact of Option 4 on Spelthorne, based on the predicted performance, was an increase of 58 seconds to the first attendance. The predicted average of 6 minutes and 42 seconds (see table 1) remains well within the Surrey Response Standard of a first attendance within 10 minutes (80% of occasions).

Table 1 - Predicted response times to emergency incidents under Option 4:

Response standard		1st response to all 2+ fire engine incidents		2nd response to all 2+ fire engine incidents		1st response to other emergencies
		Average	% in 10mins	Average	% in 10mins	% in 16 mins
Current situation	Surrey	07:28s	80.8	10:27s	86.7	96.8
	Spelthorne	05:44s	97.0	09:13s	98.2	99.8
	Elmbridge	06:45s	89.5	11:01s	95.0	99.5
	Runnymede	08:36s	69.2	10:21s	90.1	97.5
Proposal	Surrey	07:33s	82.5	10:27s	90.5	98.3
	Spelthorne	06:42s	91.4	10:24s	94.5	98.9
	Elmbridge	06:48s	88.6	11.14s	93.0	99.3
	Runnymede	07:18s	82.7	10:35s	92.5	98.8

10. During the public consultation a wide variety of stakeholders in Spelthorne expressed considerable resistance to Option 4. It became clear, as the consultation period progressed, that there was a high degree of concern and opposition with regard to the removal of one fire appliance. Indeed comments and feedback received indicated that while one fire station could be acceptable, the provision of only one fire appliance, not two, was not. This has led to the consideration of a new option which is:

Option 5: Implement the proposal for a new station at an optimised location within the borough with one fire appliance immediately crewed 24/7 and one 24 hour “On-call” fire appliance.

11. The provision of a second “On-call” fire engine compared to one whole-time fire engine improves the average first response time by 8 seconds compared to Option 4 and the second response times by just over 1 minute (see table 1a below).

Table 1a Predicted response times to emergency incidents under Option 5

Response standard		1st response to all 2+ fire engine incidents		2nd response to all 2+ fire engine incidents		1st response to other emergencies
		Average	% in 10mins	Average	% in 10mins	% in 16 mins
Current situation	Surrey	07:28s	80.8	10:27s	86.7	96.8
	Spelthorne	05:44s	97.0	09:13s	98.2	99.8
	Elmbridge	06:45s	89.5	11:01s	95.0	99.5
	Runnymede	08:36s	69.2	10:21s	90.1	97.5
Proposal	Surrey	07:33s	82.5	10:27s	90.5	98.3
	Spelthorne	6.34s	93.2	9.13s	97.5	99.7
	Elmbridge	06:47s	88.7	11.13s	93.1	99.4
	Runnymede	06.34s	88.7	11.13s	93.1	99.4

12. The second appliance would respond to 200 incidents per year, which is more than any of the existing “On-call” appliances in Surrey (Oxted is the next

busiest, with 20 fewer responses per year). The provision of a second fire engine crewed by part-time, On-call staff is dependent on a number of critical factors including the availability of suitable candidates within a suitable On-call response time/distance. In order for this option to succeed there has to be a collaborative approach between Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, local leaders and the community in the Staines and Ashford locality. This would be a new service delivery model for more urbanised communities where in the past the provision of fire cover has been solely reliant on whole-time staff.

13. Sir Ken Knight's recent report into the Fire and Rescue Service in England, "Facing the future", stated that all fire and rescue authorities must consider whether "On-call" fire-fighters could meet their operational requirements and the modelling suggests that, in Spelthorne, they could provide an invaluable, cost-effective service in the reduced demand environment. In other parts of the County "On-call" is an established but increasingly complementary part of the workforce through the introduction of a more diverse range of employment practices which is creating a more agile workforce. "On-call" staff are used to support the delivery of training, the provision of Telecare and also work at whole-time stations when crewing levels necessitate. The continued front-line service provision utilising a different delivery model in Spelthorne would still encompass everything that leads to a reduction in incidents, casualties and injuries and has to include a major focus on community fire prevention and community fire protection activities and wider associated societal risks. This will also provide assurance that while crewing level's change, risks in the area do not increase.
14. Looking ahead, "On-call" staff crewing a second fire engine in stations located in urban areas could not only provide an additional weight of attack but would provide resilience for subsequent calls both in Spelthorne and the rest of Surrey. Both of these points were raised as concerns during the consultation by public and staff groups. The transformation of the staff profile towards more "On-call" will retain the focus on protecting front-line services and supports the County Council's Corporate Strategy. Option 5 when applied to Spelthorne could act as a path finding exercise for locally delivered services for other locations where this type of coverage could be effective. In the longer term this will provide deeper efficiencies through better service configuration, having the right people in the right place, at the right time and providing the right level of response cover. These future On-call staff would be employed on the new "On-call contract" which is designed to secure better availability of On-call staff and fire engines.
15. There are additional business benefits. Through consolidating public sector assets at one location and by continuing to work collaboratively with our Blue Light partners SFRS will be able to generate opportunities for growing and sustaining our own services and creating efficiencies by working with others. In that sense it will be more than "just" a fire station. Surrey Police and South East Coast Ambulance Service have indicated that they would wish to locate to the new premises. This approach, which fits with Surrey's Public Service Transformation programme, will deliver much better value for money, with changes providing significant benefits for Surrey residents. The Emergency Services Collaboration strand will aim to transform the way the emergency services in Surrey work together, with the joint aims of improving performance and responding to the changing pattern of demand and reducing costs by removing overlaps between the three blue light services. It will focus on six key areas: the potential for a single control and dispatch function across the

emergency services; developing a combined Civil Contingencies Unit; combined operational response for certain incident types and in specific areas; joint operational support and back office functions; a joint prevention programme and shared governance.

16. SFRS has had long-standing informal mutual assistance arrangements with its neighbouring fire and rescue services, including London Fire Brigade. Since the introduction of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 discussions have taken place with neighbouring fire and rescue services to enter into formal agreements under Sections 13 and 16. Going forward there is the potential for closer collaboration in terms of cross border mobilisation as more services, including Surrey and London Fire Brigade, consider adopting a system of dynamic mobilising where assets (appliances and officers) are mobilised to incidents using global positioning system (GPS) software installed on vehicles. This system could allow resources to be mobilised by their proximity to an incident rather than by their location within individual station areas which will allow for a more effective and efficient use of operational resources, possibly across administrative boundaries. Associated with the adoption of this type of technology will be increasing interoperability as fire services begin to see “over the border” into other fire authorities areas in order to be request the mobilisation of the “nearest” fire appliance.
17. Option 5 facilitates a “One County, One Team” approach to the design of future services where residents will have more influence and responsibility over how services are designed and provided. This move to greater localism has generated the development of an alternative vision for Spelthorne. It is crucial that we now develop new relationships with the local communities that will need to help deliver an “On-Call” crew into Spelthorne and it creates jobs in the borough. Given that we have recognised that a one size fits all approach is not appropriate in this situation we will need to now secure the public’s and local leaders’ commitment to making it work, and quickly. Option 5 demonstrates our commitment to finding better ways of working and delivering services in ways that are right for our communities. It continues to provide two fire engines in Spelthorne in an innovative way that does not cut frontline services yet still delivers a more effective use of resources and develops more options to generate savings.

CONSULTATION:

18. The consultation was conducted over a 13 week period from August to November 2013 to ensure all local residents’ and Elected Members’ views were heard and considered. A Surrey County Council Equalities and Diversity Policy officer has been involved in ensuring that the consultation plan has been fully inclusive. Consultation activities included a widely publicised on-line survey, postal questionnaires (including Easy Read version), presentations at public meetings, letters and emails to stakeholders from the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector, relevant Local Committees and partner agencies, as well as Surrey Fire and Rescue staff. The consultation process used a mix of quantitative and qualitative research methods, as well as a wide range of communication channels (print, on-line and direct contact) to gather the views of our stakeholders. The consultation was publicised in local GP practices, schools, churches, Post Offices, libraries, Citizens Advice Bureaux, community centres, through local media, Spelthorne Borough Council media and social media. The full consultation report can be found in Annex 1 of this paper.

19. The consultation received feedback from over 1460 individuals and groups, through 556 returned surveys, 271 attendees at staff workshops and public meetings, 122 items of feedback through emails, letters and calls, 518 signatures from two petitions and formal responses from Committees, SFRS staff and Resident Associations. Nearly 1200 responses came from members of the public, which represents around 1% of the Spelthorne population (however, the analysis cannot exclude the possibility of individuals using numerous channels to submit their views, thus being counted multiple times).
20. After collating and analysing the pieces of feedback, the results were as follows:

Table 2 – Consultation results: overall attitude to proposal

	Total items of feedback	Yes	Not sure	No	No opinion
Residents / businesses	1171	4.1%	2.9%	92.7%	0.3%
Councillors	42	4.8%	4.8%	90.5%	0.0%
Community groups	33	6.1%	9.1%	81.8%	3.0%
SFRS Staff	182	21.4%	1.6%	76.4%	0.5%
Partners	5	20.0%	20.0%	60.0%	0.0%
Other	14	14.3%	0.0%	78.6%	7.1%
TOTAL*	1447	6.5%	2.9%	90.2%	0.4%
TOTAL respondents	1467				

**excludes survey respondents that did not leave an answer at Q5a*

21. The greatest opposition came from Spelthorne residents and businesses. Also, the majority of local Councillors and community group representatives opposed the plans, which reflects the feedback received at public meetings and Local Committee meetings. The strongest support for the proposal derived from SFRS staff and SCC staff, probably more aware of the internal pressures on the service that drive this proposal. The key concerns that were raised most frequently were:
- General opposition to the plans and a view that one engine is not enough for Spelthorne (22% of received comments mentioned that point)
 - Increase in response times will risk lives and property (22%)
 - Spelthorne's profile makes it a high risk area (high density population, high level of deprivation, urban built, dangerous stretch of the river Thames, motorways) (18%)
 - Heathrow - the airport might need support for major incidents; the expansion of the airport will add to the risk; timing of consultation could have been better coordinated to coincide with consultation about the expansion (10%)
 - Traffic as a main barrier to moving the engine around or getting support into the area (Sunbury Cross, Thames bridges, level crossing) (10%)

- Reduced resilience in case of a major incident and / or when crew is busy otherwise (9%)
 - Praise and recognition for SFRS (8%)
22. During the consultation process, alternative suggestions were received from the public and other stakeholders. The most often suggested alternative was to keep two fire engines at one location (5% of received comments mentioned that suggestion).
23. Both the Local Committee and Borough Council of Spelthorne rejected the proposal at their formal meetings in September and October 2013. A formal response was submitted by the Local Committee Chairman on behalf of the Local Committee opposing the proposal and raising concerns, which besides the overall reservations about the demographics and urban makeup of Spelthorne, congested roads and future developments (Eco-Park, Heathrow expansion) also included the lack of financial information presented to the Local Committee.
24. Overall, the feedback to the consultation was negative (90% of feedback items opposed the proposal), with major resistance from the residents (and their associations) and councillors of Spelthorne. The high level of opposition is in line with what other consultations on reduction in fire cover in other parts of the country have produced (see consultation report, Annex 1). It also suggests that residents attach value to the Council's services and reductions will cause dissatisfaction. This echoes the findings of Surrey County Councils 2012-13 public budget survey using SIMALTO modelling, where 96% of respondents indicated they would complain to the council, should service levels be scaled back to the most basic level.
25. Their concerns have been fully considered and taken into account when finalising the proposals recommended.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:
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26. The revision to the original Option 4 proposal does not deliver the full Medium Term Financial Plan savings but the gap between the savings target and Option 5 is small enough to suggest that the provision of an "On-Call" team is fully pursued in the first instance. By sharing the responsibility for the future arrangements with the community and their elected representatives we would seek to ensure that SFRA have endeavoured to meet their requirements and that of the Fire Authority but the back-up plan will still need to be the adoption of Option 4 if an "On-call" team cannot be established.
27. There are additional risks associated with Option 5. The viability of Option 5 is dependent upon the demographic profile within the "On-call" response catchment of the proposed new fire station. Our analysis of the population within the various temporal boundaries can be found in table 3 below. It is also inextricably linked to the public's perception of the Fire Service and their desire to want to work for the fire service.

Table 3 Population profile within different response times to the optimum location

Catchment area	Total population	Population aged 18-59	Percentage of Spelthorne's total population (2011 Census, 95,600)
2 minutes	12,858	7,115	7.4%
3 minutes	28,897	16,197	16.9%
4 minutes	48,242	27,517	28.7%
5 minutes	67,439	38,692	40.4%

28. The provision of a second appliance crewed by On-call staff is subject to the current time constraints which govern the response of On-call staff. There is a requirement for On-call staff to be located within an On-call response radius. There is a risk that there may not be sufficient suitable candidates to support the provision of a second fire appliance at the new location.
29. This will need to be supported with a vigorous publicity and marketing campaign in that area beginning in March 2014. The plan would then be:
- to run a selection process in March and April 2014,
 - assignment of probationary staff to a local Fire Station to complete an induction programme from June 2014,
 - leading to a full training course in September 2014, and
 - their deployment to the new fire station when it opens.
30. The creation of a new "On-call" team will produce new part-time employment opportunities and by drawing upon people who live in the locality it would allow the fire service to better reflect its community. It would also provide the model for other locations across the county in order to achieve the required savings.
31. A potential site has been identified, the purchase and build of which will be the subject of a separate cabinet paper. This is subject to all usual due diligence being satisfactory, a suitable and satisfactory planning consent being forthcoming and not too onerous ground conditions being found. If the acquisition is not successful it will impact upon the delivery timescale, with an associated delay in any cost savings. The new building will, as at Salfords, provide a lightweight, low cost, innovative and efficient premises that is fit for purpose.
32. The management of community risk is not solely reliant upon the emergency response capability of the fire service. Whether it is finally Option 4 or 5 which is implemented in Spelthorne, SFRS will continue to work very closely with partner agencies and communities to ensure that community vulnerabilities are identified, prepared and planned for. By changing the method of service

delivery in Spelthorne and given that both Surrey Police and South East Coast Ambulance have indicated that they would wish to consider locating at the new premises it would provide further opportunities to access transformation grant funding (revenue and capital) to consolidate fire stations. This and the new On-call arrangements are key factors going forward. The idea of three blue light services operating collaboratively to secure more effective integration of service for the benefit of the communities of Surrey by using a more varied workforce with different skills would provide Surrey with high performing, class leading service not just in terms of fire service provision but also in terms of health and well-being.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

33. The Council's plan is to balance its budget in 2013/14 and over the medium term of five years through a combination of service transformation mechanisms, implementation of planned budget reductions and efficiencies and use of reserves.
34. The estimated capital cost of acquiring a site and building a new Fire station in Spelthorne, and the associated capital receipts from the disposal of Staines and Sunbury Fire stations, have been allowed for within an overall Fire station rationalisation budget of £10.5m within the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). The final build, design and contract awards will be subject to a separate cabinet paper.
35. Option 4 reduces the required annual crewing costs for SFRS by £1.05m, and this cost saving has been factored into the MTFP. In addition there will also be future revenue cost reductions from the associated reductions in personal protective equipment and training.
36. The reduction from two to one fire appliances would reduce future capital replacement costs, and a reduced fleet size has been factored into the long term vehicle and equipment replacement programme.
37. Option 5 provides a second appliance crewed by an 'On-call' unit at an estimated annual cost of £0.17m. This gives a lower annual reduction in crewing costs of £0.88m There are initial start up costs of creating a new 18 fire fighter "On-call" crew in Spelthorne of around £80,000
38. Option 5 will also require a review of the Vehicle and Equipment replacement programme to allow for the continued provision of a second appliance in Spelthorne.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

39. Current forward financial planning is based on Option 4, which underlies the planning assumptions in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). That was, of course, only a planning assumption prior to consultation. Option 5, as recommended, gives a lower cost saving, and so creates a recurring revenue cost pressure of £170,000. That will need to be taken into account in finalising the overall MTFP for Fire & Rescue, i.e. replacement savings will need to be found. Officers are working on plans to enable that.
40. Capital costs will be increased by the need to accommodate two vehicles rather than one, but this is just one of many variables within the overall

£10.5m budget covering fire station reconfigurations, and is likely to be manageable within the programme. The funding of the Vehicle Replacement Programme will also need to be kept under review, but again this additional vehicle is a small proportion of the fleet and it should prove possible to accommodate the cost within the tolerances of replacement timings.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

41. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service must comply with the core functions identified in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. These include extinguishing fires in its area and protecting life and property in the event of fires in its area. In order to do so the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) must “secure the provision of the personnel, services and equipment necessary to efficiently meet all normal requirements”, each of which must be taken into account.
42. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 places a duty on FRA’s to put in place business continuity management arrangements to ensure that they can continue to exercise their functions in the event of an emergency so far as reasonably practicable. As a result Cabinet must take into account whether the closure of Staines and Sunbury fire stations and the commissioning of a new fire station at an optimised location will result in Surrey Fire and Rescue Service continuing to exercise its functions as a FRA to a satisfactory standard.
43. Section 21 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires FRAs to comply with the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (FRNF) (revised by the Department for Communities and Local Government in July 2012) The FRNF provides an overall strategic direction for fire and rescue authorities which must be complied with by Surrey Fire and Rescue Service. Key priorities for fire and rescue authorities in the new framework include:
 - identifying and assessing the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue related risks their area faces
 - making provision for prevention and protection activities and responding to incidents appropriately
 - working in partnership with their communities and a wide range of partners locally and nationally to deliver their service; and
 - being accountable to communities for the service they provide.
44. To enable these priorities to be met the Framework requires FRAs to produce an integrated risk management plan. In Surrey’s case this is currently the Surrey Fire and Rescue Authority Public Safety Plan 2011-2020 (the “PSP”) which was approved by the Cabinet in June 2011 following consultation. The Plan included an intention to locate a fire engine in an alternative location in Spelthorne. It also set out the Surrey emergency response standards as referred to in this report.
45. Therefore the closure of the Staines and Sunbury fire stations and the alternative service model proposed in this report require careful consideration so that Surrey Fire and Rescue Service will meet the FRNF’s objectives. Whilst there are no specific references in the FRNF to actual timing within

which the FRA must respond to a call, reference is made to the need to “have the necessary capability in place to manage the majority of risks that may face their areas” and “to assess their existing capability and identify any gaps as part of the integrated risk management planning process.

46. FRAs are accountable to their communities for their actions and decision making. They need to have transparent processes in place to deliver this and engage with their communities to provide them with the opportunity to influence their local service. Local accountability is a vital check on the services provided by fire and rescue authorities” The development of the “PSP” referred to in this Report and the recent consultation (see below) have met the requirements of the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (Surrey Fire and Rescue Service’s commitment to the delivery of its duties under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 as a Category 1 responder are also referred to in the PSP).
47. In considering this report, Cabinet should give due regard to the results of the consultation report attached and the feedback referred to in it and take these into account when making its final decision. Option 5 as proposed by this report has been developed based on views expressed in the public consultation; it was not the subject of the consultation but given that it is recommending greater provision than that proposed under Option 4 it is not considered necessary to carry out any further formal consultation.
48. In making their decision Members should also have due regard to its public sector equalities duty and Cabinet needs to take account of the Equalities Impact Assessment attached and refer to the paragraph below relating to Equalities and Diversity.
49. In coming to a decision on this issue the Cabinet needs to take account of all relevant matters and not consider irrelevant matters. The weight to be given to each of the relevant matters is for the Cabinet to decide. Relevant matters in this context will include the statutory requirements and the National Framework, the PSP, the policy considerations, the impacts of the options on service provision, the medium term financial plan, any relevant risks, the results of the consultation and the public sector equality duty.

Equalities and Diversity

50. The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been prepared for Surrey Fire and Rescue Service by the Customers & Communities Directorate Policy and Performance Team. It is contained within Annex 2 and should be considered by the Cabinet in making this decision.
51. The public sector equality duty (Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) applies to the Council’s ongoing implementation of the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Public Safety Plan, and in particular to decisions made by Cabinet in this report. There is a continuing need in providing this service to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity for people with protected characteristics, foster good relations for such groups, and eliminate any unlawful discrimination.
52. At the start of the project, an initial Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken to identify the potential impact on people with one or more of the protected characteristics (as provided for by the Equality Act 2010) and high

risk groups (i.e. age, mental health, disability), which also informed the consultation plan.

53. The full EIA has assessed the impact of the proposals on people with protected characteristics, and in particular the decrease in response rates in Spelthorne to all 2 plus fire engine incidents. There is potential for this to have a negative impact on the vulnerable elderly, those with disabilities, parents with small children and those with caring responsibilities in Spelthorne. As identified in Section 7 of the EIA, the older population, those with mobility difficulties and mental health issues are statistically more likely to be involved in a fire related incident either fatal or injury and similar to those with disabilities or parents with small children they may experience greater difficulty in escaping a fire. The EIA also indicates that there are statistically also more women than men injured or rescued from fires in Surrey, and significantly more men than women injured in road accidents.
54. The consultation identified concerns including the impact of the increased risk on those residents occupying high rise buildings, particularly for those with small children, and residents of care homes with mobility difficulties.
55. Other issues raised in the consultation include the risk of those who turn off their hearing aids at night and the possibility of increased false alarms or call outs from an increasing use of telecare. These are legitimate concerns with regard to fire safety but are not negative impacts directly resulting from this proposal.
56. Any potential increased risk in Spelthorne is mitigated by the response time remaining within the Surrey standard response and is also still below the average for Surrey. A positive impact would be the overall improved percentages of responses within the standard times across Surrey as well as improved response times for Runnymede. Additionally, the negative impacts identified in the EIA are addressed through prevention work that takes place from a range of organisations across Surrey, including Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, Adult Social Care, Emergency Planning and Public Health to mitigate the risk of those groups identified as high risk.
57. Option 4 and 5 will not have a detrimental impact on the preventative work of Surrey Fire and Rescue Service. The reconfiguration of Surrey Fire and Rescue Service will ensure that resources continue to be directed into targeted preventative work with those identified as vulnerable and at risk in Surrey, particularly if emergency service partners as indicated, also relocate to the new fire station premises.

Other Implications:

58. The potential implications for the following council priorities and policy areas have been considered:
 - Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children
 - Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults
 - Public Health
 - Climate change
 - Carbon emissions

59. There are no significant implications arising from this report for any of the assessed areas.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

60. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service will implement the amended plan by procuring a site and build the new fire station. This will result in the closure of Sunbury and Staines fire stations which will be preceded by a target moving in date to the new location of March 2015.
61. Project milestones;
- February 2014; The service will undertake an analysis of the demographics within the On-call response footprint and the service will begin to market the On-call opportunities,
 - The service will begin the recruitment, selection and training process for the On-call staff from March 2014.
 - Monitoring progress against project milestones set will be undertaken in accordance with Surrey Fire and Rescue Services Governance arrangements.
62. The Communities Select Committee will scrutinise progress of the revised plan in conjunction with the Cabinet and associate member.

Contact Officer:

Eddie Roberts, Area Commander (East), Surrey Fire and Rescue Service,
Telephone number: 01737-242444

Consulted:

- Leader, SCC Councillors
- Public in Spelthorne and neighbouring areas
- Neighbourhood Panels in Spelthorne
- Community groups (local Resident Associations, VCFS groups including EEAG, Empowerment Board North)
- Local Committees of Spelthorne, Elmbridge, Runnymede
- Community Select Committee
- Spelthorne Borough Councillors
- Surrey and London Borough of Hounslow, Richmond and Feltham MPs
- Partners (National Health Service, Police, other Fire and Rescue Authorities)
- Businesses
- SFRS staff, Fire Brigades Union
- Internal SCC stakeholders

Annexes:

Annex 1 – Consultation report on changes to fire engine deployment in the borough of Spelthorne

Annex 1 Update - Update to consultation report presented at Communities Select Committee

Annex 2 – Surrey response standard map

Annex 3 – Equalities Impact Assessment

Annex 4 – Spelthorne On-call catchment maps

Sources/background papers:

- Surrey Fire and Rescue Authority Public Safety Plan 2011-20
 - Sir Ken Knight, (2013), "Facing the future; findings from the review of efficiencies and operations in fire and rescue authorities in England", Department for Communities and Local Government.
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