

COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE**Item under consideration: CHANGES TO FIRE ENGINE DEPLOYMENT IN THE BOROUGH OF SPELTHORNE****Date Considered: 15 January 2014****Key points raised:**

1. At its meeting of 15 January 2014 the Communities Select Committee considered a report from the Fire and Rescue Service on the proposed changes to fire engine deployment in the Borough of Spelthorne.
2. Members of the Committee expressed concerns over the resilience of the proposed changes when taking into account the unique characteristics of Spelthorne and the proposed location of the new fire station. The Committee also expressed concern over the viability of recruiting an on-call crew from the local area and the level of cross-border support available.
3. The Committee received evidence on the continuing decrease in number of incidents, the capacity of the new proposals to meet the response standard, and how the changes would enable savings in the Medium Term Financial Plan whilst meeting the need of residents and enabling the service to continue with their preventative work.
4. The Committee were also reassured that highways re-engineering would be considered at the site of the new location to ensure fire engines could reach incidents quickly. The Committee were informed of the high density of people living and working in the catchment area for the on-call crew and an upcoming meeting with the London Fire Brigade to discuss over the boundary cover.
5. The Committee received evidence on why the new option 5 had been developed in response to views expressed during the public consultation.
6. The Committee emphasised the need to prioritise public safety and maintain public confidence in Surrey's Fire and Rescue Service when implementing the Public Safety Plan.
7. The Committee welcomed an apology from the Cabinet Associate for Fire and Police Services for the lack of financial information on the proposed options available during the public consultation and were informed that that the Fire Service would be taking away learning from this process to apply in the future.
8. The recommendation to support the inclusion of option 5 for the report to Cabinet for 4 February 2014 was voted on by the Committee. Option 5 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. The Committee voted 8 to 3 for the recommendation for option 5.

Recommendation

Communities Select Committee recommends the inclusion of option 5 for the Cabinet report for 4 February 2013.

Denise Saliagopoulos
Chairman of the Communities Select Committee

This page is intentionally left blank