

CABINET RESPONSE TO FIRE SERVICE PETITION

“Keep both of our fire stations open in Spelthorne”

Presented on behalf of ‘Save our Services in Surrey’

RESPONSE

The consultation undertaken by Surrey Fire and Rescue Service provided valuable information with regard to the views of the people who responded to the surveys or who attended the meetings. Having considered the comments Surrey Fire and Rescue Service has considered and put forward another option in order to address the concerns expressed by Spelthorne residents and local leaders and which is now referred to as option 5 in the paper placed before the Communities Select Committee.

Option 5 suggests a new centrally located fire station with two fire engines, one 24/7 whole-time crewed fire engine and one 24/7 fire engine staffed by people who are on-call (part-time staff who are available on a pager system from their home, a place of work or from within a certain time of the fire station) from the local community and who are trained to the same standards as whole-time staff. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service already operate this type of duty system in other parts of the county, for example, at Walton and Guildford. Under this option 18 new, local jobs would be created and would be recruited from within a 4-5 minute response footprint of the new location. As part time workers they would then commit to being available at least 54 hours each week.

This option provides the community with two fire engines which will support the provision of fire cover across the county not just the borough of Spelthorne. It will also provide the communities of Spelthorne with an opportunity to work with the Fire Service to continue to reduce the risk from fire and other incidents through community fire prevention work which is a key role of today’s Fire Service.

Mrs Helyn Clack
Cabinet Member for Community Services
4 February 2014