

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

DATE: 2nd September 2013

LEAD OFFICER: Russell Pearson, Chief Fire Officer



SUBJECT: Consultation on changes to fire engine deployment in the Borough of Spelthorne

DIVISION: All Elmbridge, Runnymede, Spelthorne divisions

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To consult on the proposed changes to create a new single fire engine fire station in the borough of Spelthorne to replace the two existing single fire engine fire stations at Sunbury and Staines.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to:

- (i) Note that consultation on this proposal is taking place in Spelthorne and neighbouring areas.
- (ii) Provide advisory feedback on the proposal.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

This consultation is about how Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) propose to close the two existing fire stations in Spelthorne and replace them with a fire station in a more central location within the borough. This fire station would have one 24 hour immediate response fire engine. The Surrey Fire and Rescue Authority has statutory duties to provide a fire and rescue service for the county with the resources available. This proposal is part of a transformation programme for the Service, designed to meet the challenges described in the Public Safety Plan 2011-20 (Annex 1). The savings generated by the station rationalisation will enable the continued provision of an equitable service across the county whilst maintaining the Surrey Response Standard.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The Public Safety Plan (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.
- 1.2 Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) currently base one 24 hour fire engine at both Sunbury and Staines Fire Stations, which provide most of the initial response cover for the Spelthorne Borough area.
- 1.3 This proposal seeks to support the provision of more balanced service provision across the county, in order to be better positioned to achieve the

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Surrey Response standard whilst remaining within the available budget for the Service.

- 1.4 To achieve this, the Service has reviewed emergency response cover across the county and identified an area where the provision of a new location would enable the more effective use of resources.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 We have considered a range of options, which included doing nothing, closing one of the two fire stations in the borough, changing the crewing systems at the existing stations and finding a new location.
- 2.2 We evaluated each option in relation to its impact on emergency response performance, cost, achievability within time, resource constraints and conformity with the principles agreed under the Surrey PSP. This option analysis, linked with our understanding of the risk profile and from our experience of providing a fire and rescue service, helps to shape our professional opinion on the most appropriate course of action.
- 2.3 Consideration has also been given to the risk profile in and adjacent to Spelthorne and any potential developments in the area.
- 2.4 Our preferred option is to create a new single fire engine fire station in the borough of Spelthorne.
- 2.5 Proposal: To build a new fire station in the Ashford area and deploy one wholetime immediate response fire engine on a 24/7 basis at this location. Once this fire station is operational, close the fire stations at Sunbury and Staines.
- 2.6 This proposal is in accordance with the PSP principles and public opinion is being gauged through this consultation process.
- 2.7 The proposal enables a reduction in the number of fire fighter posts required with the associated revenue savings.
- 2.8 The benefits of the proposals would create a more efficient use of resources across the County. Spelthorne residents would receive one fire engine attending incidents on average in less than seven minutes 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.
- 2.9 To support the decision making process the same emergency cover modelling process that was used for the Public Safety Plan has been used. To date the model has been accurate in its prediction of performance and provides support to officers making a professional judgement as to the most appropriate option to deploy.

2.10 For Elmbridge there is a minimal change to predicted performance.

Predicted response times to emergency incidents:

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

Surrey Response Standard			
Incident Type	Response	Within	Target
Critical Incidents	1 st fire engine	10 minutes	80% of occasions
	2 nd fire engine	15 minutes	80% of occasions
All Other Emergencies	1 fire engine	16 minutes	95% of occasions

3. OPTIONS:

3.1 See section 2 above.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

4.1 A 13 week consultation period with residents, businesses, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service staff and unions, commenced on 5th August 2013 and will run until 4th November 2013.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 This proposal is one element of SFRS' plans to meet the requirements established in the medium term financial plan.

5.2 The costs have been identified within the council's medium term financial planning process and the funding is established as part of the development of the solution.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 At the start of the project, an initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening was undertaken to identify the potential impact on people with protected characteristics and high risk groups (i.e. age, mental health, disability), which also informed the consultation plan.
- 6.2 During the project, the options will be assessed further on their impact on people with protected characteristics and a final EIA will be submitted to Cabinet alongside the final report.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 The public consultation allows all residents and businesses to input their views from a local perspective.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 9.1 SFRS proposes to create a new single fire engine fire station in the borough of Spelthorne. This means:
- i) Procuring a suitable site in the Ashford area and building a new fire station.
 - ii) Deploying one fire engine at this new station with a target date of April 2015.
 - iii) Closing Sunbury and Staines fire stations once the new station is operational.
- 9.2 The Local Committee is asked to consider the proposal and provide a response to the contact officer by 4th November 2013.
- 9.3 The Local Committee is also asked to where possible encourage constituents to get involved in the consultation.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 10.1 Consultation will continue until 4th November 2013. A full consultation report accessible to the public will be available on 14th November.
- 10.2 An interim report, based on initial analysis of consultation feedback, will be drafted and shared with Cabinet Members and key stakeholders at the end of October 2013.
- 10.3 The proposal, shaped by consultation feedback, will be presented to Surrey County Council Cabinet on 26th November 2013.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Public Consultation commenced on 4th August

Annexes:

No of annexes: 2
Public Safety Plan 2011-20 (summary version)
Consultation plan Version No. 2 Date: 14/08/13 Time: 12:30 Initials: GW

Sources/background papers:

- n/a
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