



Consultation On Changes To Fire Engine Deployment In The Borough Of Spelthorne

What does this mean for Spelthorne?

**The Issue:** Surrey Fire and Rescue Service's Public Safety Plan<sup>1</sup> proposed a change to the way the fire stations in Spelthorne are crewed. Currently there are two fire stations in Spelthorne, at Sunbury and Staines. Each of these stations has one Wholetime fire engine, providing 24 hour emergency response cover. The Plan indicated the longer term intention to rationalise the fire stations in the borough of Spelthorne. To continue to provide an effective service within the resources available, the Service now needs to consider the provision of one fire engine in Spelthorne located more centrally within the Borough.

We value your opinions and would appreciate your views on this proposal. We will provide you with as much information as we can and will listen to your opinions before a decision is made as to whether to implement this proposal.

**The Proposal:** If implemented, there would be a change to the number of fire engines based in Spelthorne. Currently there are two fire engines crewed by staff to provide an immediate response 24 hours a day. Our proposal is to close the two existing stations and base one fire engine at a new, modern fire station located in the Ashford Common area, providing 24 hour emergency response cover. This will mean that some firefighters currently based at Staines or Sunbury will need to work from other locations within Surrey.

**Why are we proposing this change?** 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 we described in our Public Safety Plan. The savings generated by the station rationalisation will enable us to continue to provide a balanced equitable service across the county without the need for a reduction in the response standard.

**Emergency Response:** We have modelled<sup>2</sup> the effects of our proposals and identified their potential impact. In Spelthorne, on average, the first fire engine will attend incidents in less than seven minutes (quicker than the Surrey average) and well within the Surrey response standard of ten minutes. This is sufficient to deal with the emergency safely and effectively in the majority of cases.

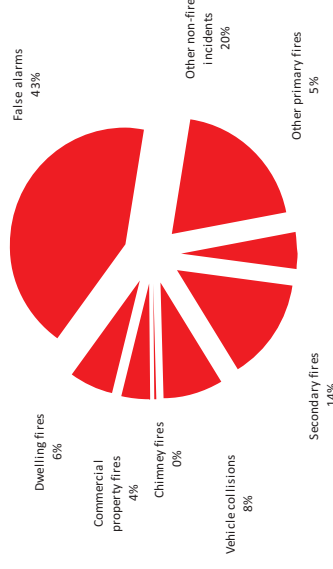
For life and property risk incidents, additional resources will be on their way to provide the required support for the first crew attending. On average this second fire engine will arrive in less than eleven minutes, which is also well within our fire service emergency response standard of 15 minutes.

**Predicted response standard for Spelthorne**

	1 <sup>st</sup> fire engine attendance (average)	% attended in 10 mins	2 <sup>nd</sup> fire engine attendance (average)	% attended in 15 mins
<b>Current</b>	5 min 44 secs	97.0	9 min 13 secs	98.2
<b>Proposal</b>	6 min 42 secs	91.4	10 min 24 secs	94.5
<b>Surrey Average</b>	7 min 28 secs	80.8	10 min 27 secs	86.7

**An average week in Spelthorne:**

Whilst the demand for emergency response is unpredictable, we are able to identify trends and to recognise the periods that are busier for us. This assists with planning resources and analysing the potential impact of proposals such as this one. Between 2009 and 2013 there was an average of 16 incidents per week in Spelthorne. If there had been such a thing as an average week about 7 of these incidents would have been false alarms. There would have been about one fire in a dwelling, about one in other property and about three non-property (secondary) fires, such as rubbish or grass alight. We would have needed to deal with about one vehicle collision and 3 other incidents (special services), which could be flooding or animals trapped, etc. The fire engines would also have been used as required to standby at other locations to maintain emergency response cover across the county.



<sup>1</sup> Available at [www.surrey-fire.gov.uk/psp](http://www.surrey-fire.gov.uk/psp)

<sup>2</sup> For further information on emergency response modelling, visit [www.surrey-fire.gov.uk/psp](http://www.surrey-fire.gov.uk/psp)



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**How we respond to emergencies:** We provide emergency response cover across the county 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 in Spelthorne but they are not resources solely dedicated to the Borough. This means that these fire engines will respond to incidents outside of the Spelthorne area. Similarly we can use resources from across the county to deal effectively with emergencies in the Borough, as we did in January 2013 when more than four fire engines attended the fire at the Ashford Cafe.

As stated in our fire service response standard, we will send the quickest appropriate response to an emergency and for you that may not be a fire engine from the fire station in Spelthorne. This current practice will not change under the proposals put forward for consultation.

Spelthorne is surrounded by Surrey fire stations in Egham, Chertsey, Walton and Esher plus others based in London. London Fire Brigade have recently published their proposals to make changes to the disposition of fire engines in London, but none of the stations along the border with Surrey are affected by these proposals.

**Making a decision:** After the consultation has closed we will review our proposal in light of the feedback received. We will then present a final proposal for the provision of emergency response cover in Spelthorne to Surrey County Council's Cabinet, as the Fire and Rescue Authority, for decision. If the proposal is supported we will commence implementation during 2014.

**Have your say:** We encourage residents to have their say on how fire and rescue services are provided. These proposals, along with further information, are detailed in an [online questionnaire](#) which is open until 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013. Please contact us if you would like to receive a postal questionnaire.

If you would like this information in large print, Braille, on tape or in another language please contact us.

Map showing current stations and indicative position of proposed station



How can I take part in the consultation process?

- By completing the online questionnaire at [www.surrey-fire.gov.uk/psp](http://www.surrey-fire.gov.uk/psp)
- By emailing comments to [psp@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:psp@surreycc.gov.uk)
- By writing to: PSP Team, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, Croydon Road, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 0EJ
- By telephone: 03456 009 009
- By fax: 01737 222857
- SMS: 07527 182 861
- Minicom: 020 8541 9698