

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****CABINET****DATE:** 24 September 2019**LEAD MEMBER:** Mr Saj Hussain, Vice Chairman of the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee and Chairman of the Fire Transformation Working Group**SUBJECT:** Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Transformation Working Group Final Report**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

A Fire Transformation Working Group was formally established by the Environment Select Committee at its meeting on 22 February 2019 with a specific remit to scrutinise and review the details of the 'Making Surrey Safer- Our Community Safety Plan' to ensure the plan and proposals are fit for purpose and support the needs of Surrey residents. It was agreed that following the conclusion of its scrutiny, the Working Group would make recommendations to the Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet approve the 'Making Surrey Safer – Our Plan' 2020-23 subject to the following recommendations of the Fire Transformation Working Group:

- i. By 1 April 2020, the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Fire and Resilience to ensure that the new proposed crew and vehicle placement model as detailed within the 'Making Surrey Safer-Our Community Safety Plan' is resourced at full establishment firefighter (including on-call) staffing levels and for staffing levels to be closely monitored by the service to ensure these do not fall below establishment levels.
- ii. Emergency response times are closely monitored and scrutinised by the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee on a quarterly basis to ensure that response times which do not meet current and future Surrey response standards can be addressed by further appropriate scrutiny.
- iii. If the 'Making Surrey Safer-Our Community Safety Plan' is approved by Cabinet, that Senior Managers continue to engage with staff to discuss the impact of the changes on working patterns and give staff the opportunity to comment and shape the design of the service.
- iv. The service must aim to recover costs from incidents which do not fall within the services statutory obligations. By 1 April 2020, a detailed schedule of charging for

incident attendances is drafted to recover costs from incidents which do not meet the services statutory obligations especially in cases of persistent false fire alarms.

- v. The Surrey Fire and Rescue Service statement of assurance is scrutinised by the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee in 2020 so the Committee can be confident that the service has the appropriate arrangements in place to deliver services safely and effectively.
- vi. All future public consultations and any associated documents are made accessible in a variety of formats to a wide range of people with differing needs including those with mental health support needs, learning difficulties and physical, sensory or cognitive impairments. It is recommended that the council works closely with organisations and groups that represent disabled people to pilot the accessibility of documents before any future public consultations are launched.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee considered the Fire Transformation Working Groups report and recommendations at a formal meeting on 19 September 2019.

The recommendations agreed by the Working Group are based on the key themes raised by witnesses and the frequency with which these were reported throughout witness sessions. These recommendations are also those that meet the SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, and realistic, timebound) criteria and will help deliver assurance to residents and stakeholders on the proposed changes to the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service.

Members were in support of the recommendations and were confident that the recommendations would help strengthen the 'Making Surrey Safer- Our Community Safety Plan' and would also give residents the assurance that the proposed plan will be closely monitored and scrutinised by the Select Committee.

Report Contact:

Mr Saj Hussain, Vice Chairman of the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee and Chairman of the Fire Transformation Working Group

saj.hussain@surreycc.gov.uk

020 8213 2725

Annexes:

Fire Transformation Working Group- Final Report

Sources/background papers:

Fire Transformation Working Group Terms of Reference
