

EXECUTIVE – 28 MARCH 2019

RESPONSE TO SURREY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE'S 'MAKING SURREY SAFER PLAN 2020-2023' CONSULTATION

Executive Summary

This report contains a recommended response to Surrey County Council's public consultation on Surrey's Fire and Rescue Service.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:

RESOLVE That

the Council's response to Surrey County Council's public consultation on Surrey's Fire and Rescue Service be in the terms set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

Reasons for Decision

Reason: To determine the Council's response to Surrey County Council's public consultation on Surrey's Fire and Rescue Service.

The Executive has the authority to determine the recommendation(s) set out above.

Background Papers:	None.
Reporting Person:	Peter Bryant, Head of Democratic and Legal Services Email: peter.bryant@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3030
Contact Person:	Peter Bryant, Head of Democratic and Legal Services Email: peter.bryant@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3030
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Mrs Beryl Hunwicks Email: cllrberyl.hunwicks@woking.gov.uk
Shadow Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Ann-Marie Barker Email: cllrann-marie.barker@woking.gov.uk
Date Published:	22 March 2019

EXE19-037

**Response to Surrey Fire And Rescue Service's 'Making Surrey Safer Plan 2020-2023'
Consultation**

Response to Surrey Fire And Rescue Service's 'Making Surrey Safer Plan 2020-2023' Consultation

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Surrey County Council, the fire and rescue authority for Surrey, is consulting on their Community Safety Plan. This is called "Making Surrey Safer – Our Community Safety Plan". A copy of the document is appended to this report.
- 1.2 The Plan outlines three proposals for changes in the way the Fire and Rescue Service will operate. These are:-
 - Spending more time on community and business safety to help prevent emergencies occurring in the first place;
 - Maintaining the number of fire stations in Surrey and changing how some of them are crewed;
 - Recovering costs from some non-emergencies to reinvest in the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service.
- 1.3 The main impact on Woking will be the proposed changes to crew levels at Woking fire station.

2.0 Proposed Crew and Vehicle Placement at Woking Fire Station

- 2.1 The Plan proposes that "crewing and vehicle placement across the County would change in order to ensure the right resources are in the right place when we need to respond to emergencies. This will allow us to re-focus some resources to life saving community prevention activity instead."
- 2.2 The current crewing level at Woking fire station is two "whole-time crews", i.e. two crews are located at the fire station, ready to respond on a 24/7 basis. The proposal is to change this to one "whole-time crew" and one "day crew", i.e. one of the crews would only be based at the fire station during the day. There would also be reductions in crewing at Camberley and Guildford fire stations, both of which might respond to a serious incident in Woking.
- 2.3 The Plan states that a detailed risk analysis, using a range of information, has been undertaken to work out the fire and rescue cover in Surrey. However, this has not been provided with the consultation document, so it is difficult to make an informed judgement on the proposed reduction in crew levels at Woking.

3.0 Proposed Response

- 3.1 The consultation document invites responses by 26 May 2019. These can be given in writing, or by completing an online survey. The online survey is tailored towards responses from private individuals, not corporate bodies.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Council's response includes the following points:-
 - The need for a review of how Surrey's fire and rescue service operates is acknowledged;
 - The Council's primary concerns are for (i) the safety of inhabitants of Woking and (ii) the protection of property in Woking.
 - It is important that Woking fire station (and fire stations in surrounding areas) are adequately crewed;

Response to Surrey Fire And Rescue Service's 'Making Surrey Safer Plan 2020-2023' Consultation

- On the basis of the information contained in the consultation document, it has not been possible to determine whether the proposed crew levels would be sufficient to address the Council's primary concerns. Surrey County Council should, therefore, satisfy itself that the proposed crew levels are sufficient before making any changes.

4.0 Implications

Financial

4.1 None.

Human Resource/Training and Development

4.2 None.

Community Safety

4.3 None, directly arising from this report.

Risk Management

4.4 None.

Sustainability

4.5 None.

Equalities

4.6 None.

Safeguarding

4.7 None.

5.0 Consultations

5.1 None.

REPORT ENDS