

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service Service Improvements

Dear Councillors

As some of you may be aware, we are currently consulting on a proposal that was presented to the Fire Authority in December, that aims to increase the number of fire engines we have available at weekends in daytime hours. To achieve this, we are proposing to redistribute resources from Sutton, Manea and Kimbolton fire stations.

We would welcome an opportunity to share our proposals with you in a seminar at our Service Headquarters in Huntingdon on 06th March 2024 from 0900hrs until 1200hrs.

Currently we have 10 wholetime (full time) fire engines available during the day Monday to Friday but this drops to 8 at weekends as Ely and St Neots revert to on-call crewed so their availability is not always guaranteed.

Sutton, Manea and Kimbolton are lower risk areas where we struggle to have the fire engine available in daytime hours and where there are a lower number of 999 calls. Moving these resources will enable us to crew Ely and St Neots fire engines at weekends in the day, providing us with two additional fire engines to better meet demand.

The paper attached sets out this proposal in slightly more detail and explains some more benefits of moving this resource to improve the countywide service we provide to the public.

We would like the opportunity to speak with you all too about these plans, explain how the on-call system works and some of the issues and challenges we are facing that have led us to proposing this change. So, although your area may not be directly affected by this proposal, every district either has on-call fire stations or, as in the case of Cambridge City, it is impacted because fire engines are being sent out of the city to attend incidents as the local on-call fire engine is not available.

I am also more than happy to speak to you on an individual basis should you have questions or thoughts before this seminar.

Please note we are currently engaging and consulting with parish and town councils who have asked for us to attend their meetings to explain our proposals in more detail.

If you could please let Caz Lee (caz.lee@cambsfire.gov.uk) know directly if you wish to attend the seminar so we can plan accordingly.

I look forward to hopefully seeing many of you at the seminar.

Many thanks

Stuart Smith

Area Commander Stuart Smith
Operational Response and Fire Protection

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service
Hinchibrooke Cottage
Brampton Road
Huntingdon
PE29 2NA
Mob: 07900267853
Email: stuart.smith@cambsfire.gov.uk