
REPORT TO:	Housing & Community Services	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	28th November 2013	CATEGORY:
REPORT FROM:	Director of Community & Planning Stuart Batchelor	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Chris Smith Chris.smith@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service Transforming Service Delivery for 2022 and Beyond - Fit to Respond Consultation	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE: *see below HCS07

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 Members to note the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Services proposals for the future document (Transforming Service Delivery for 2022 and Beyond - Fit to Respond Consultation) and to respond to the consultation.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To inform Members about the proposal for the future of the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service (DFRS), raise awareness of the consultation document and highlight the proposed key changes to the service in South Derbyshire.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 At a meeting of the Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Authority (DFRA) on Thursday 26 September 2013, a report was approved to consult with stakeholders on proposals to transform Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service's service delivery for 2022 and beyond.
- 3.1 DFRA are running a consultation from the 1st October for a period of 12 weeks to 23rd December 2013 and want as comprehensive a response as possible to help design an efficient, robust and effective Fire and Rescue Service.

4.0 Detail

4.1 Why the Service must change

Over the last decade the Service has seen a significant reduction in the number of incidents required to attend. Furthermore, since 2010 the fire and rescue service has faced unprecedented financial challenges and has taken significant action to address them. There has been minimal impact to the 'front line' so far.

To meet the most recent government funding announcements DFRS must continue to act decisively to ensure the communities of Derbyshire receive the best possible service. The reality is DFRS will have to deliver 'less with less'.

4.2 What the community has said

In the 2012/13 consultation DFRS asked 'if the Service continues to face restrictions on its budget, would you support the principle of matching the Service's resources to the level of risk in each area?'. The overwhelming majority (80.5%) of respondents were supportive of matching resources to levels of risk, for example locating the fire stations and fire engines where they are needed most, in the areas of high risk and targeting home fire safety checks to those people most at risk from fire.

Faced with continuing reductions in funding DFRS must now target their reduced resources to where they are needed most; to life risk. The proposals within this document are their recommended approach on how to achieve this.

4.3 Less Calls

Performance data for the last 10 years has shown a downwards trend across Derbyshire in all types of incident, despite the fact that the number of households, population and number of vehicles on our roads has increased

DFRS has experienced:

- 50% reduction in the number of incidents attended. These have fallen from 14,777 in 2003/04 to 7,377 in 2012/13.
- 62% reduction in all types of fires attended.

Statistics show there has been a 32% reduction in the likelihood of a fire in the home in Derbyshire today compared to ten years ago. There has been a 20% reduction in Road Traffic Collisions attended over the last 10 years. Of all of the incidents attended in 2012/13 only 8% were classed as life risk – that is 565 incidents.

4.4 Funding Reductions

What has this meant so far?

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Authority have a statutory duty to balance the budget each year and are dependent on central government to provide over 45% of its funding. Since 2010 the Government has announced a series of funding reductions for the Authority. Based on the notifications that have been received from Government to date, the operating budget will reduce by £4.8M over the period 2011/12 to 2014/15 (a 24% reduction in funding).

4.5 What does it mean for the future?

Whilst good progress has been made to date, funding reductions in 2015/16 are estimated to be in the region of 10% (£1.5M) based on information provided from the Government in June 2013. Further cuts of 6.5% are anticipated in 2016/17 and in 2017/18. This could leave DFRS with a deficit in their budget of between £4.4M and £5.1M by 2016/17 and means the Service will have experienced more than a 40% reduction in its funding by 2016/17.

Whether DFRS have to find £4.4M or £5.1M this will require a complete transformation of the way they deliver services to you and a rethink on how they work.

4.6 Approach to the review

In January 2013, the Service established a project group of experienced operational response officers, to fundamentally review the way DFRS deliver their emergency response to you.

They used a 'blank canvas' approach to redesign a Service that is 'fit for Derbyshire communities for 2022 and beyond'. The team had access to the latest technology and mapping software to identify areas of local risk, and to identify how far a fire engine could travel within 10 minutes from different localities

4.7 Local Proposals

DFRS have developed 14 proposals to form a new emergency response model for the county, based on this hybrid model B. The county wide map on page 26 of the consultation document (APP1) attached as Annexe No.1 illustrates all these local proposals and how they link together to provide cover for the whole of Derbyshire.

4.8 Proposal 10 – Impact on South Derbyshire (See Page 130-140 of APP1 for Detail)

The two fire stations at Swadlincote and Melbourne provide an initial emergency response for the geographical areas are depicted on map no 1 (page 131 of APP1). Currently Swadlincote has two fire engines (one whole-time (full-time) and one retained (on-call) and Melbourne has one retained (on-call) fire engine. They are the two fire stations that are currently located in the South Derbyshire district.

4.9 Proposal

It is proposed that the fire station at Melbourne should be closed and a new one opened at Hilton, adjacent to the A5132. This fire station would provide one fire engine and one smaller response vehicle*(SRV). The station would be staffed by 17 retained (on-call) personnel.

As part of the same proposal, the whole-time (full-time) fire engine at Swadlincote would, over-time, be replaced by a SRV staffed by retained (on-call) personnel. It is planned for the whole time fire engine to revert to a day-crewing arrangement as an interim step before moving to a final provision of one retained (on-call) fire engine and one retained (on-call) SRV.

4.10 Financial Information

The estimated staffing savings associated with this proposal are £846,000 per year, with additional savings to running costs estimated to be around £39,000 per year. There will also be an additional cost in vehicle leasing of approximately £3,000 per year. This provides a total saving of £882,000 per year.

The sale of the existing fire station at Melbourne is predicted to raise between £125,000 and £250,000. This would contribute to the estimated cost of £925,000 associated with building a new retained (on-call) fire station at Hilton. Furthermore

should the changes be implemented then the housing stock currently provided for fire fighters at Swadlincote who previously worked on the day staffing system could be sold to contribute to wider capital costs (housing sales are not included in the above figures).

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications to the Council from this report.

6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 To raise awareness of and encourage local response to the proposals by way of completing the consultation survey.

7.0 Community Implications

7.1 There will be implications to members of the community around the District, this proposal would mean that in Swadlincote the initial fire engine to incidents in the area would be slower, as would the response be to incidents in Melbourne. However incidents in the Hilton area would be reached quicker than they currently are.

8.0 Conclusions

8.1 The changes will impact on the service delivered by DFRS in South Derbyshire and therefore it's important to ensure we encourage a local response to the proposals.

Background Papers

9.1 Fit to respond to 2022- An opportunity to shape the future of Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service (The consultation survey is on page 34, and information specifically on the changes in South Derbyshire are on page 130).