
Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access & Performance)

Report to North West (Outer) Area Committee

Date: 5th November 2012

Subject: West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service (WYFRS) – Proposals for Changes to Emergency Cover in West Yorkshire

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Adel & Wharfedale, Guiseley & Rawdon, Horsforth and Otley & Yeadon		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

The report outlines the proposed changes to West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service particularly to the fire stations of Cookridge and Moortown.

Recommendations

The Area Committee are requested to note the report, consider the proposals and the reasons for making them and make comments.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of the Area Committee the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Services' consultation document which provides outline proposals for addressing the challenges of a reducing budget and the realignment of resources following a dramatic reduction in risk and demand over the past 10 years.

2 Background information

- 2.1 In the past five years there has been a dramatic reduction in the number of fires and associated deaths and injuries in West Yorkshire. There has also been a similar reduction in the number of other emergencies the Fire Service responds to, for example road traffic collisions. By the end of 2010/11, the total number of emergency incidents attended in one year had reduced by over 29% from its 2006/07 figure.
- 2.2 The consultation document attached provides details on proposals to continue to provide an efficient and effective fire and rescue service whilst acknowledging the challenges posed by fundamental changes to public sector funding.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The current proposal affecting the Outer North West area is Proposal 9, Cookridge and Moortown.
- 3.2 Details for the proposed changes for these fire stations are detailed in the attached document.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 In June 2011, the Authority approved a communication and engagement strategy to support the major changes that are necessary to modernise West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service in the face of reduced risk and demand and significant reductions in funding.
- 4.1.2 The strategy recognises that there will be public concern about changes to emergency cover in an area and therefore intends to provide as much information as is reasonable and practical and the process follows recommended best practice. The Government recently revised its guidance on public consultation and the strategy has been reviewed in light of this latest guidance and it remains appropriate. The approach used by the Authority to develop its strategy can be summarised as follows:
- Detailed consideration of the effect each proposed action could have on the community and its aspirations
 - Identification of those individuals and organisations likely to be significantly affected
 - Tailored communication and engagement activity to ensure key stakeholders are

informed, involved and consulted when appropriate

- 4.1.3 In order to capture a full range of opinions and interact with communities, formal public consultation will take place over a 12 week period from 7 September until 30 November 2012.
- 4.1.4 Open dialogue with individuals or organisations affected by these proposals will be encouraged to provide the opportunity for views to be expressed and proposals will be published on the website and in print.
- 4.1.5 The Authority will have sight of the consultation responses at their meeting in December 2012 before it makes any decisions on the proposals.
- 4.1.6 You are therefore asked to consider these proposals and the reasons for them. If you want to share your views, it is requested that you do this in writing by 30 November 2012 via email or post, by contacting:

Hannah Stoneman
Consultation Coordinator
West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters
Oakroyd Hall, Bradford Road, Birkenshaw
West Yorkshire
BD11 2DY
Email: consultation@westyorksfire.gov.uk
Further information regarding consultation is available by contacting:
Tel 01274 655 717

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 Statutory partners are committed to equality and cohesion and all projects they are involved with will have considered these issues.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The Area Committee Functions and Priority Advisory Functions were approved by the Executive Board in June 2009. This approval was rolled forward to 2010/11 and is also being rolled forward to 2011/12 with amendments to the environmental delegation. The Area Functions are included in the Council's Constitution (Part 3, section 3c).
- 4.3.2 The Area Support Team's work programme contributes at a local level to the themes contained in the Vision for Leeds; the Leeds Strategic Plan; the Health and Well-being City Priorities Plan; the Safer and Stronger Communities Plan and the Regeneration City Priority Plan.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

- 4.4.1 The approach to modernisation of the Service which is being followed by the Authority is simple and supports the on-going ambition of "Making West Yorkshire Safer"; it centres on four pillars:

- **Optimal resource allocation and deployment** - Ensuring resources are in the locations that will have the greatest impact.
- **Changing the way that services are delivered** - The implementation of innovative duty systems, the introduction of new equipment and vehicles, and the changing of working practices.
- **Value for money** - Do the best that can be done with the resources that are available but ensuring a high quality not a cheap service.
- **Public and Firefighter safety** – Continuing to deliver community safety initiatives and ensuring firefighters have the best equipment and training to do their job.

4.4.2 The proposals in this consultation document have been developed using this approach and the impact of the changes has been assessed, measured against the planning assumptions for emergency response (how quickly the fire service gets to emergencies) which have been approved by the Authority. This provides evidence that, relative to risk, the changes ensure that fire engines are in the right places to respond to emergencies across the County.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 All decisions taken by the Area Committee in relation to the delegated functions from Executive Board are not eligible for Call In.
- 4.5.2 There are no key or major decisions being made that would be eligible for Call In.
- 4.5.3 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 No risks identified.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 The Area Committee are requested to note the report, consider the proposals and the reasons for making them and make comments

6 Background documents

None

The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.