

COUNCIL SEMINAR
23rd October, 2013

Present:- Councillor Buckley (in the Chair); Councillors Ahmed, Clark, Ellis, Gosling, Kaye, Roddison and Wootton.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Godfrey, Hoddinott and G. A. Russell.

FIRE AUTHORITY.

Councillor A. Buckley, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council representative to the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority welcomed Deputy Chief Fire Officer Mark Shaw to the Seminar. DCFO Shaw had prepared a presentation informing Elected Members on the areas under consultation for the Authority's revised Operational Plan.

Previous budget savings achieved: -

- Merger of Darnall and Mansfield Road Stations to the Sheffield Parkway;
- Replacement of Mosborough with Birley Moor Station;
- Small incident units;
- Closure of Royston and removal of Edlington on-call crew;
- Management of staffing reductions.

Currently undergoing a thirteen-week consultation period was: -

- Strategic and Operation Plans up to 2017;
 - The Plans maintained the aim to protect initial responses to emergency incidents and whole-time stations.
- Unless a significantly lowered budget was received: -
 - No loss of whole-time stations;
 - No further removal of rescue pumps;
 - No further changes to staffing deployment.
- Across the area, two whole-time pumps were operating on a 24/7 basis, it was proposed that this be reduced to one whole-time pump;
- Two pumps would be retained over-night on a resilience basis.
- It was predicted that the target of getting the first appliance to a dwelling fire within six-minutes would decrease by 4.6%;
- It was projected that a nine-minute response rate would be achieved within 80% of the time, in-line with current performance;
- The South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority proposed to maintain efforts in education on prevention measures;
 - Fire alarms;
 - Fire retardant bedding for bed-bound smokers;
 - Sprinkler systems;
- Proposal to remove the response time target, and change to a risk-

based target, with a shorter time target for attendance in higher-risk areas;

- The Authority proposed to continue reporting and publishing the response time in-line with the six-minute timeframe.

Discussion ensued and the following issues were raised and discussed: -

- Deployment of part-time fire officers – this would be resisted by the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service;
- How did the Authority signpost members of the public to prevention work? – Via each Safer Neighbourhood Team's community safety team;
- Strike arrangements;
- Highway access for pumps during rush hour periods;
- Fire Cadets – opportunity to win young hearts and minds;
- Earmarked and usable reserves of the Authority;
- Terms and conditions relating to night shifts, including access to beds and their replacement with chair beds.

Councillor Buckley thanked DCSO Shaw for his presentation and informative contribution to the discussion.

Resolved: - (1) That the information shared be noted.

(2) That information relating to the risk status of each of Rotherham's wards be distributed to all Elected Members.