

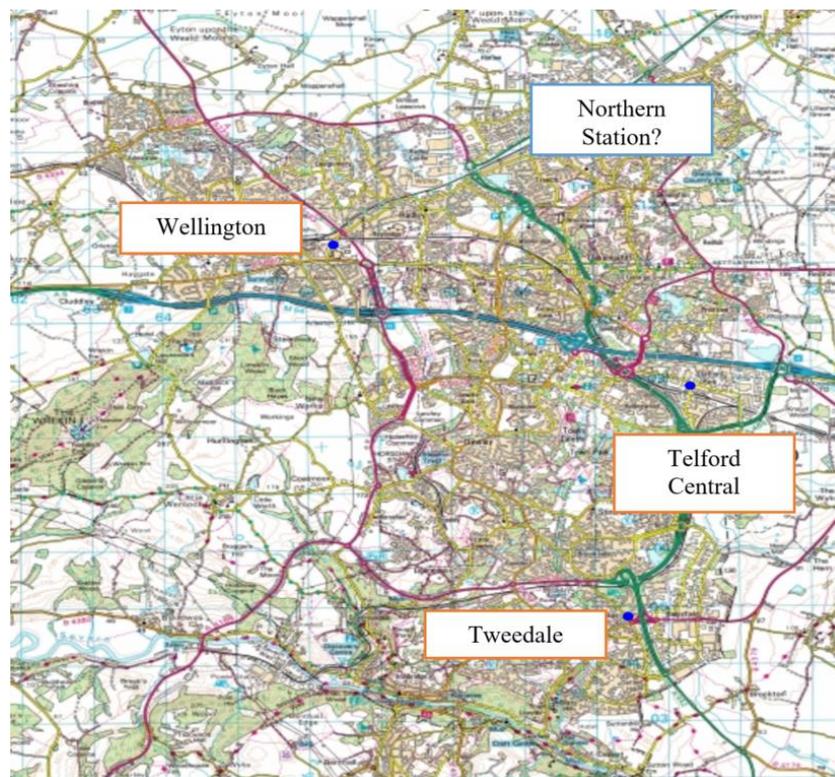
Are our resources in the right place in the Telford area?

Telford Central Fire Station was opened on 31 October 1980. It was located in the middle of what was, at the time, a rather empty Stafford Park, due to the planned development of that particular industrial estate and also the Town Centre complex; both of which were considered 'high risk' areas under the old Standards of Fire Cover that were in place at the time.

Although all of that development (and more) did occur, in 2004 it was recognised nationally that the risk from fire is much lower in these types of premises, due to the fire safety measures they have installed in line with the requirements of the Building Regulations. The risk is actually higher in dwellings. This resulted in the National Standards of Fire Cover being removed in favour of local Life Risk Response Standards, which each Fire Authority put in place.

Telford Central is in the middle of the Telford conurbation, which makes it ideally located for responding to several housing estates in Telford, such as Brookside, Stirchley, Priorslee, St Georges, Ketley Bank, Oakengates; and even those outside of Telford in Shifnal. Analysis of Telford and Wrekin's Local Plan 2011-31 also indicates that some significant additional housing development is likely to occur within the station's current turnout area (e.g. Nedge Hill and Priorslee).

However, there is also additional planned housing development in the north-eastern part of Telford. From a practical point of view, this raises a question as to whether response times could possibly be improved, across Telford as a whole, if one of the two fire engines, currently located at Telford Central, was relocated up to the north-eastern parts of Telford. The map below, tries to demonstrate how having a station in this area might reasonably be expected to improve on the current position.



As part of its IRMP 2020 process, the Service therefore undertook a Fire Cover Review of its resources in the Telford area, specifically looking at this issue.

This work was undertaken by an independent company that specialises in this type of analysis (Process Evolutions). They specifically looked at moving one of the Telford Central fire engines up to a newly built station in the Muxton/Donnington area, which was identified as potentially the optimum location for a northern station, if one was to be put in. The study also explored the method of crewing the appliance (as this is the most expensive part of our response model), to ascertain whether the change would improve our performance, against the Service's Response Standards, and whether the cost savings could be used to off-set the potential costs likely to be incurred if we were to build such a station. If the fire engine was to be crewed by either Retained Duty System staff or Day Crew Plus (DCP) staff, this would result in significant reductions in the costs of crewing the fire engine.

Results from the analysis

The results from the analysis are shown overleaf, with the tables comparing the current performance against that predicted for these two options. The results show that, rather than improving on current performance, there would actually be a slight reduction in our ability to meet our Life Risk Response standards in the Telford area.

Conclusion

The Service therefore concluded that there is no business case for investing in a new station in another part of Telford.

With this being the case, the Service is keen to make sure it makes best use of any investment its puts into the current Telford site.

Base Case – Current performance

Overall performance for Life Risk incidents

Measure	Central	North	South	West	Total
In target	260	26	26	42	354
Attended	293	39	59	53	444
% performance	89.0%	67.1%	44.3%	78.2%	79.8%

Performance for Life Risk incidents by first & second appliance

Measure	Urban		Town & Fringe		Rural		Total	
	First appliance	Second appliance						
In target	267	246	34	23	112	97	413	366
Attended	293	293	37	37	114	114	444	444
% performance	91.1%	84.0%	91.1%	62.2%	98.7%	85.2%	93.0%	82.5%

Retained fire engine in the Donnington/Muxton area

Overall performance for Life Risk incidents

Measure	Central	North	South	West	Total
In target	249	26	26	41	342
Attended	293	39	59	53	444
% performance	85.0%	67.6%	43.6%	77.2%	77.0%

Performance for Life Risk incidents by first & second appliance

Measure	Urban		Town & Fringe		Rural		Total	
	First appliance	Second appliance						
In target	261	235	34	22	112	98	407	355
Attended	293	293	37	37	114	114	444	444
% performance	88.9%	80.3%	93.0%	58.4%	98.9%	86.4%	91.8%	80.0%

Day Crew Plus fire engine in the Donnington/Muxton area

Overall performance for Life Risk incidents

Measure	Central	North	South	West	Total
In target	257	26	25	42	349
Attended	293	39	59	53	444
% performance	87.7%	65.8%	41.4%	79.5%	78.6%

Performance for Life Risk incidents by first & second appliance

Measure	Urban		Town & Fringe		Rural		Total	
	First appliance	Second appliance						
In target	263	244	34	22	112	97	410	363
Attended	293	293	37	37	114	114	444	444
% performance	89.6%	83.2%	92.4%	58.9%	98.9%	85.2%	92.3%	81.7%