

# Integrated Risk Management 2020 Process

## Report of the Chief Fire Officer

For further information about this report please contact John Redmond, Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260201 or Andy Johnson, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260204.

### 1 Purpose of Report

To inform Members of the outcomes from Phase 2 of the Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) 2020 Process and to seek a decision on which proposals should go forward for full consultation in Phase 3

### 2 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- a) Note the proposals, which officers will be taking forward for implementation within the IRMP 2020 Plan;
- b) Note the feedback received from Phase 2 of the IRMP 2020 Process at Appendix 1;
- c) Note the information contained within the impact assessments at Appendix 2; and
- d) Consider and, if appropriate, approve the recommendations from the Strategic Risk and Planning Group, contained in section 9.

### 3 Background

As discussed earlier on this Committee's agenda (see report 6), following changes to the forecast Service budget deficit likely to arise by 2020, the Fire Authority needs to plan for between £0.9m and £1.7m worth of reductions in its current revenue budget by 2020.

The purpose of the Fire Authority's IRMP 2020 Process is therefore to ensure:

1. It has appropriate plans in place to deal with a potential shortfall in the Service's budget going forward to 2020; and
2. The Service's resources continue to be used to best effect to reduce risk within the County.

During Phase 1 of the process, officers undertook an initial, internally focussed, impact assessment on approximately 50 different options for change, which could be used to support reductions in the Service's current revenue budget. The information gathered from this process was considered by the Fire Authority at its meeting on 25 September 2013, which resulted in the Fire Authority deciding on the following actions:

- Members of the Strategic Risk and Planning (StRaP) Group were to lead the Phase 2 Impact Assessment process, providing due consideration to the options presented in Table 1 below;
- Officers were to lead on the internal impact assessments and implement (as appropriate) the options presented in Table 2 below; and
- The Fire Authority should receive, from the Strategy and Resources Committee in February 2014, refined proposals for consideration for formal consultation during Phase 3 of the IRMP 2020 process.

Option	Description
1	Close up to 4 'Low Risk' fire stations The stations under consideration are Baschurch, Clun, Hodnet and Prees.
2	Remove one full-time fire engine from the Shrewsbury or Telford area
3	Merge the Fire Control function with Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service
4	Explore changes to the current Wholetime shift system
5	Explore changes to the current Fire Control shift system

*Table 1  
Options to be explored by members of StRaP during the  
IRMP 2020 Phase 2 process*

This report summarises all of the feedback received during the Phase 2 process and asks Members to consider which options they would like to take into Phase 3 of the process, which will involve formal consultation on those options.

## 4 The Phase 2 Officer-Led Process

Officers considered various proposals during Phase 2 and identified a number of them, which did not require any further impact assessment in order to be included in the IRMP 2020 Plan. These proposals amounted to £360k of changes, which would be planned for, and implemented at an appropriate stage, in order to assist in meeting the forecast deficit in the Service's budget between 2015 and 2020.

The remaining proposals underwent further impact assessment during Phase 2 and, after due consideration, the Chief Fire Officer has approved those options for change listed in table 2 below. The total budget reduction from the Service's annual revenue budget, as a consequence of these changes, will amount to £450k.

Option	Code
1	Reduce the budgeted contributions to Capital Reserve, for items purchased from Reserve
2	Reduce the Ill-Health Retirement Contribution budget
3	Reduce the support staff pay budget
4	Reduce the Occupational Health Budget
5	Review the current Hydrant Maintenance contract
6	Reduce the recruitment advertising budget
7	Reduce the Medical Reports budget
8	Reduce the non-specialist work costs in Workshops
9	Remove 13.5 ladders from half of the fleet
10	Convert all grey book posts, in Business Fire Safety, into green book posts
11	Utilise Retained Duty Staff to cover short to medium term Wholetime vacancies

*Table 2  
Officer-led changes to be included in the IRMP 2020 Plan*

These changes will be included in the final IRMP 2020 Plan, along with any further changes, required by the Fire Authority following Phase 3 of the IRMP 2020 Process, with appropriate dates included in that Plan for their implementation.

## **5 The Phase 2 Member-Led Process**

Appendix 1 summarises the feedback received by the Fire Authority during the Phase 2 process. With 2,415 responses received from the public and 189 from staff, via the two 'Online Feedback Tools', this has been the largest response that the Fire Authority has received during any of the numerous consultation processes, which it has undertaken since Integrated Risk Management Planning was introduced in 2003.

Although the preference was for responses to be fed into the process via the online tools, several hundred letters and emails were also received from concerned residents across the Service area, as a direct result of local campaigns set up in the affected station areas. The Service has ensured that all of this feedback has been captured within the Feedback Tool, through appropriate interpretation and entry of the responses contained in the letters by Service staff, and includes responses from facilities put in place by the Service to allow people without access to online facilities to make a response. The results summarised in Appendix 1 are, therefore, a complete reflection of all of the feedback received.

In addition to the feedback returned via the Feedback Tools, members of StRaP also gained significant first-hand experience of what people think about the proposals being explored, through attendance at numerous meetings with staff and local councillors across the County. Many of these meetings were also attended by the Members of Parliament for the local areas. The MP's recognised the financial challenges, which the Fire Authority faces going forward, but also stated their preference that the Fire Authority did not close any of the four On-call fire stations as a consequence of those challenges. The MP's supported the Fire Authority, and its efforts to overcome the financial challenges, by arranging and attending a meeting with the Government's Fire Minister (Brandon Lewis MP), along with the Chair of the Fire Authority, several other Fire Authority Members and the Chief Fire Officer.

In addition to the feedback received from individual members of the public and Service staff, a number of letters were also received from organisations, wishing to comment on the options being explored. Copies of these letters have been included in Appendix 3.

Philip Dunne (MP for Clun) also undertook a survey of his constituents, in relation to the potential closure of Clun fire station. This survey attracted a significant response (829 responses) within a relatively short time, with the overwhelming majority of people wishing to see the station remain. A copy of the letter sent to the Chair of the Fire Authority, along with the results from this survey, are included in Appendix 3 for Members' reference.

## **6 Summary of the Phase 2 feedback**

This section summarises the feedback received on each of the five options being explored during Phase 2. More detailed information is provided in Appendix 1.

### **Option 1 - Close up to four 'Low Risk' fire stations (public and staff)**

Of the three options being explored with the public, this proposal has been the most contentious and has drawn a significant number of responses, especially from those people living near to the stations under threat.

The results for each of the four stations demonstrates that the level of support for keeping these stations open is significant.

Although the feelings against closing each of these four stations are not as pronounced amongst the Service's own staff, in no case is the average response, from any group of staff, a positive one.

### **Option 2 - Remove a full-time fire engine from the Shrewsbury or Telford area (public and staff)**

Although the overall strength of feeling against the loss of a fire engine from either Shrewsbury or Telford is not as strong as it is for the previous proposal, the average response from the public is still a negative one. As would be expected, the greatest levels of concern about each of the fire engines in the two areas, comes from each respective area.

It is evident, however, that there is more positive support for losing a fire engine from the Telford area, especially amongst the Service's staff, than there is for losing one from Shrewsbury.

### **Option 3 - Merge Shropshire's Fire Control function with Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (public and staff)**

The general feeling amongst members of the public towards this proposal is fairly well balanced, with the overall average being neither supportive nor unsupportive.

Apart from the Service's Fire Control staff, who would obviously be directly impacted by any such move towards this proposal and who are, therefore, relatively unsupportive, there is also a relatively balanced level of opinion amongst other members of staff.

### **Option 4 - Changes to the Wholetime shift system (staff only)**

The contrast between the responses from those staff, who would be affected (Wholetime), and those, who would not (all other), results in the overall staff result being a balanced one. It may be worthy of note, however, that of the 48 Wholetime staff, who did respond to the survey, 11 of them (approximately 23%) do appear to support the suggestion.

This is echoed in the responses to the three 'example' shift systems that were discussed during this process. With only approximately 14 staff being required to convert across to any possible new shift system, it is possible that there would be sufficient volunteers to make such a change, if it were to be explored further.

### **Option 5 - Changes to the Fire Control shift system (Staff only)**

Although only 7 of a total of 17 Fire Control staff responded to this proposal (a notably higher response rate than was achieved from station-based personnel), the response was largely negative.

In considering the two 'example' shift systems explored during this phase, again the response was largely negative, with only one response supportive of the 'self-roster' system. Unlike the systems explored with the Wholetime staff, the 'self-roster' system would require all Control staff to convert from their current shift system.

## 7 Proposal Impact Assessments

In responding to the Online Feedback Tool, members of the public and Service staff were asked to state what issues they thought the Fire Authority should consider, when making its final decisions on the options being explored.

The five documents in appendices 2a to 2e constitute the final impact assessments for each option being explored by Members. They include a summary of all of the issues highlighted by respondents to the Feedback Tools, as well as evidence relating to each of those issues, where quantifiable evidence can be provided.

Members are asked to note and reflect on these impact assessments, whilst deliberating the recommendations contained in this report.

## 8 Outcomes of the Phase 1 and 2 processes: StRaP discussion

### a) *The closure of up to four of the 'Low Risk' fire stations*

StRaP was impressed by the commitment to the public and to the Fire and Rescue Service, demonstrated by the On-call staff at Baschurch, Clun, Hodnet and Prees. During the Phase 2 consultation process all four stations had put forward cases to keep their stations open in a very professional, constructive and reasoned manner, explaining in detail the types of incidents, in which they were involved, and the life risks associated with their areas.

StRaP believes that the outcomes of phases 1 and 2 indicate that the savings likely to arise from the closure of up to four of the 'Low Risk' fire stations (a total of approximately £391k) is outweighed by the potential negative impacts on service delivery likely to arise from such a change. Of particular relevance is:

- The impact on response times to incidents in these station areas
- The impact on the overall resilience of the service during busy periods; and
- The level of public concern that has been seen.

In considering this matter, StRaP also noted that the Service has already reduced its fleet of fire engines by 15% in 2004 (a reduction of five fire engines), which resulted in the current complement of 5 fulltime and 23 On-call fire engines spread across the Service area.

StRaP also considered the work carried out by these stations, including their support to other station areas and the contribution to local and national resilience, the difficulty of the topography, especially in the Clun area, and the time it would take for fire engines from other stations to reach an incident, should the stations be closed. Members were also concerned about the impact that any closures would have on the local communities in these areas. As a result, StRaP agreed to remove this option from any further stages of the IRMP 2020 process.

However, StRaP also felt that, if the Fire Authority were to maintain these stations, there would be a need for the Service to ensure it is making best use of all of its On-call staff by way of a review into this matter, which would need to form part of the 2020 implementation plan.

Throughout the numerous meetings attended by members of StRaP, during the Phase 2 process, it became clear that the communities served by the Service are concerned about the terminology used in the Fire Authority's IRMP Response Standards, particularly the term 'Low Risk'. There was a general feeling that this did not reflect the potential risk from any emergency incident in these areas. The terminology used in the IRMP Response Standards will need to be reviewed to take account of this.

**b) *Remove one of the fulltime fire engines from the Shrewsbury or Telford area; and Explore changes to the current Wholetime shift system***

StRaP was impressed by the constructive approach taken by wholetime staff, at the numerous feedback sessions they attended during Phase 2. Members commented that staff had a good understanding and appreciation of the challenges facing the Service into the future and also demonstrated that they are prepared to play their part in helping the Service to meet these challenges, with ideas for alternative shift systems being put forward throughout the process.

The outcomes from Phase 2 have led to the conclusion that, despite the significant reductions in budget that could accrue if either of these options were to be fully implemented (up to a maximum of £900k), an appropriate balance between cost and benefit might not be achieved without some form of alternative fire cover being put in place.

The main urban areas of Shropshire (Telford and Shrewsbury) have seen a significant reduction in calls, with a fall in the number of incidents of approximately 26%, since 2003.

It is noted that both areas have experienced a growth in population and buildings during the same periods and still experience a significant number of calls. The possibility for simultaneous calls, in these areas, therefore, needs to be fully explored before any such change is made.

StRaP agreed that the reduction of one fulltime fire engine from the Shrewsbury or Telford areas, could produce significant savings and did warrant further consideration during Phase 3. They were clear, however, that any proposal that is taken forward must be informed by full risk assessments. A number of possible options should be considered and then refined further before going out to public consultation.

StRaP noted that the work, which the Service has procured, from an independent company specialising in risk assessment, will provide detailed analysis of the workload distribution, resulting from various changes to the current number of fulltime fire engines. Officers are confident that the results from this risk analysis will be capable of evidencing the impact from a number of alternative options for providing fire cover in the Shrewsbury and/or Telford areas.

The options being explored are:

- i. The complete removal of one of the five fulltime fire engines, with no alternative cover being put in place;
- ii. Reducing the cover on at least one of the fulltime fire engines, so that it only covers the busiest periods of each day, possibly with some call-back arrangement in place for the remaining hours of the day (requiring shift system changes for a number of staff);
- iii. The replacement of one of the fulltime fire crews with an On-call crew, who would be based in an alternative location where the target response time (10 minutes in these towns) is currently difficult to achieve, and which will be guided by the outcomes of the risks assessment from the independent company.

Members are aware that the option outlined in (iii) above, would require the Fire Authority to invest in the building of a new fire station in the most appropriate area.

Members agreed that the results from this risk analysis could form the basis of a number of options, all based on the reduction in the current level of fulltime resources available in the Service, that could then be consulted on during Phase 3. StRaP would seek approval from the Fire Authority to delegate responsibility to StRaP for deciding on which options should be taken out to formal consultation.

Members noted that, depending on the option that is eventually implemented, the full £900k savings may not be fully realised. The Service would however, be able to continue to deliver a good, perhaps even slightly improved, level of service in these areas.

**c) *Merge the Fire Control function with Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service; and Explore changes to the current Fire Control shift system***

StRaP did have concerns about this option, including the potential loss of resilience and local knowledge.

Members noted the ongoing project that the Service is involved in with Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (H&WFRS) and Cleveland Fire Brigade. This project is looking at improving the resilience of each service's Command and Control facilities and could lead to opportunities for efficiencies to be made. StRaP also noted the Police Improvement Fund project led by West Mercia Police (WMP) in collaboration with Warwickshire Police, which had recently received approval from central government. This involves the building of a new joint customer contact and command and mobilising centre for the two services. The three fire and rescue services that are co-terminus with these police services, including Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, have stated their intent, as part of the project, to explore the opportunity that may arise for a joint police and fire control centre.



Members noted that these discussions were at an early stage and need to be fully explored before the Fire Authority would be able to make any final decisions on its Fire Control function. However, Members thought it would be prudent to consult with all relevant stakeholders, on the possible merger of this function, as part of Phase 3 of the IRMP 2020 process, so that the Fire Authority will be in a position to be able to make a final decision on the matter, if a merge option was to arise out of the projects.

## 9 Recommendations

Having considered all of the information available, StRaP makes the following recommendations in relation to the five options explored during the Phase 2 process, and with particular regard to those matters that should be formally consulted on as part of the Phase 3 process.

1. The closure of the four 'Low Risk' fire stations should not progress through to Phase 3.
2. The removal of one of the fulltime fire engines, from either the Shrewsbury or Telford areas, should go through to Phase 3.
3. StRaP should consider the results from the risk analysis work and identify at least two options for how fire cover in these areas could be changed. One of these options could involve some form of change to the current wholetime shift system.
4. The possible merger of the Service's Fire Control function, with that of at least one other service, should be included in Phase 3.
5. Specific consultation on changes to the current shift systems, operated in Fire Control, should not be included in Phase 3, but may be required at a later date, if an option for change to the function does arise.
6. StRaP should consider possible changes to the terminology used in the Fire Authority's current IRMP Response Standards, and should consult on those changes, as part of the Phase 3 process.
7. The Fire Authority should delegate responsibility to StRaP, for developing and implementing a consultation process capable of exploring the issues identified above, and report the results back to the October meeting of Fire Authority.

It is not possible to predict the outcome from the consultation process. However, in combination with the £450k worth of 'officer led' changes (highlighted in section 4), if the recommendations listed above were to be subsequently implemented, this could generate up to a maximum of £1.65m of the potential budget reductions required by 2020.

In the event that any of these potential reductions are not taken forward, and the assumptions around budget reductions prove to be accurate or over-optimistic, then the Chief Fire Officer would be required to look to drive out further efficiencies from existing budgets over the 5-year period to 2020, in order to ensure a balanced budget is achieved.

## 10 Financial Implications

If the recommendations contained within this report are accepted and go on to be fully implemented, there is the potential for the Service's annual revenue budget to be reduced by up to a maximum of £1.65m per year, by 2020.

## **11 Legal Comment**

Section 21 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 provides the statutory authority for the Fire Service National Framework and requires fire authorities to have regard to the Framework in carrying out their functions. The Framework sets out requirements to produce an IRMP and any considered budget cuts must take the Framework and IRMP into full account.

## **12 Initial Impact Assessment**

Contained within Appendices 2a to 2e

## **13 Appendices**

### **Appendix 1**

Collation of the Results from the Online Feedback Tools

### **Appendix 2a**

Impact Assessment on Option 1

### **Appendix 2b**

Impact Assessment on Option 2

### **Appendix 2c**

Impact Assessment on Option 3

### **Appendix 2d**

Impact Assessment on Option 4

### **Appendix 2e**

Impact Assessment on Option 5

### **Appendix 3**

Correspondence from organisations

## **14 Background Papers**

### **Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority**

25 September 2013, Report 10 – IRMP 2020 Planning Process:  
Phase One Impact Assessment Summary Outcomes

## Collation of the Results from the Online Feedback Tools

This documents summarises the responses received from the public and the Service's staff via the two online Feedback Tools that were available between October and 31 December 2013. The tools outlined the various proposals being explored at this time and then provided the people with the opportunity to tell the Fire Authority:

1. What level of support they would have, if such an idea were implemented; and
2. What the issues are that they believe the Fire Authority should consider when making its decision on each individual proposal.

The five options being explored as part of this Phase of the process were:

1. The closure of up to four of the 'Low Risk' fire stations
2. The removal of one of our fulltime fire engines
3. The merging of Shropshire's Fire Control with Hereford and Worcester's Fire Control
4. Changes to the current Wholetime shift systems
5. Changes to the current Fire Control shift systems

In addition to the high-level summary figures being provided for each option, information has also been provided that attempts to quantify the results from particular sub-groups of either the public or staff, who may have a specific interest in that particular proposal. An example would be where a particular station is being considered for closure, as well as summarising the overall responses received from all members of the public, officers have also included a summary of the results from the people, who live in that particular area – the people most likely to be impacted.

Whilst this document does include a list of the most common areas of concern that respondents feel should be considered when making a decision on each matter, a full list of those issues, and the evidence available to quantify those issues, is provided in the Impact Assessment documents for each option.

The table below shows the total number of people that responded to the Online Tool.

Nearest fire station	Number of responses
Albrighton	9
Baschurch	216
Bishops Castle	36
Bridgnorth	10
Church Stretton	6
Cleobury Mortimer	4
Clun	506
Craven Arms	6
Ellesmere	37
Hodnet	293
Ludlow	7
Market Drayton	39
Minsterley	13
Much Wenlock	2

Nearest fire station	Number of responses
Newport	24
Oswestry	23
Prees	824
Shrewsbury	125
Telford Central , Stafford Park	27
Tweedale, Cuckoo Oak	10
Wellington	34
Wem	83
Whitchurch	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>2415</b>

The Fire Authority has had cause to consult on many occasions since Integrated Risk Management Planning was introduced in 2003. The number of responses received during this process is, by far, the most significant number during any of these consultations. This demonstrates the level of feeling the public has on the matters being explored, especially the potential closure of the four On-call fire stations.

The following table shows the number of responses received from the Service's own staff, through the internal version of the Online Feedback Tool. This is approximately 31% of all staff in the Service, which would normally be considered a fairly high rate of return for an online survey. However, with a total of only 102 responses coming from our 'operational' or station based personnel (approximately 21% of the total), this limited response is a little surprising and somewhat disappointing in view of the significance of the matters under consideration.

Department	Number of responses
Area Command - Officers	9
Area Command - RDS	30
Area Command - WT	35
Control	12
Corporate Support	5
Development	5
Executive Officers	1
Finance	1
Fire Safety - Business	10
Fire Safety - Community	7
Health and Safety	1
Human Resources	3
ICT	3
Operational Response	37
Other	7
Performance Information Office	5
Resources	2
Training	14
Workshops	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>189</b>

## Option 1 – The closure of up to four of the ‘Low Risk’ fire stations

The four stations under consideration are:

- Baschurch
- Clun
- Hodnet
- Prees

The tables on the following pages summarise the feedback received from the online feedback tool. Separate feedback is summarised for each of the four stations being considered, as part of this proposal. The sub-groups for which summary information has been provided, for this option, are:

- Those members of the public, who live inside and outside of the affected station area; and
- Those staff, who are directly involved in responding to incidents (i.e. operational staff) and those who are not.

Of the three options being explored with the public, this proposal has been the most contentious and has drawn a significant number of responses, especially from those people living near to the stations under threat.

As can be seen from the separate results for each of the four stations, the levels of support for keeping these stations open is significant. Although the feelings against closing each of these four stations is not as pronounced amongst the Service’s own staff, in no case is the average response, from any group of staff, a positive one.

The main issues that the public think Members should consider, in making their decision on this matter are:

- The Increase in response times, to all emergencies, and the potentially increased risk to the public and firefighters
- That there is life risk in these areas - schools, nursing homes , elderly population etc.
- The loss of local/diverse knowledge, including road network and how to deal with rural incidents
- The knock-on impact on support to neighbouring station areas

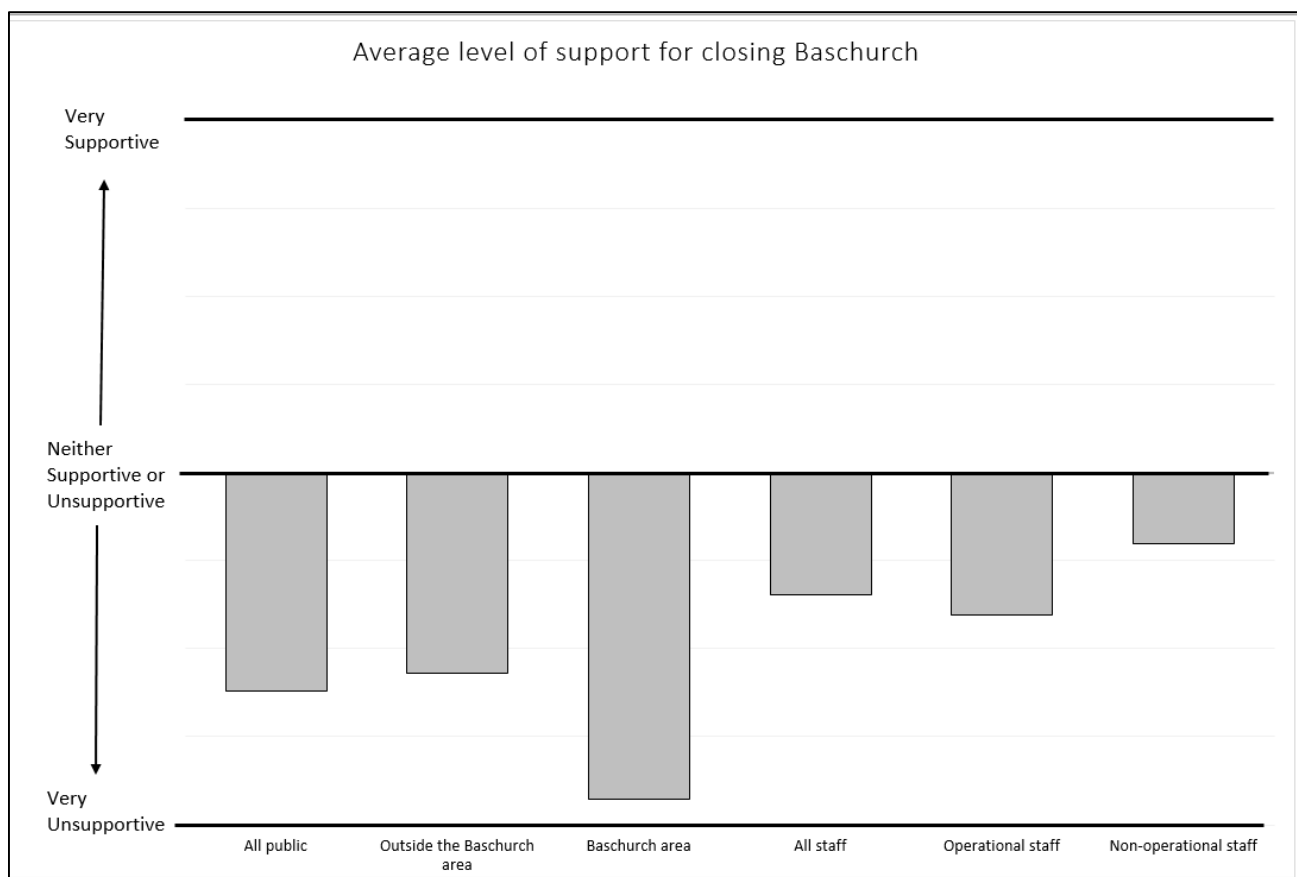
Similarly, the main issues that our staff think members should focus on, are:

- The increase in response times for the initial and supporting appliances - increased risk to public and firefighters
- The impact on the community and economy in each station area
- The impact on the remaining crews' primary employment due to more incidents and longer without reliefs
- The loss/reduction in resilience locally and nationally

Evidence relating to these matters and all other areas of concern, raised by the public and staff, are provided in the impact assessment document relating to this proposal.

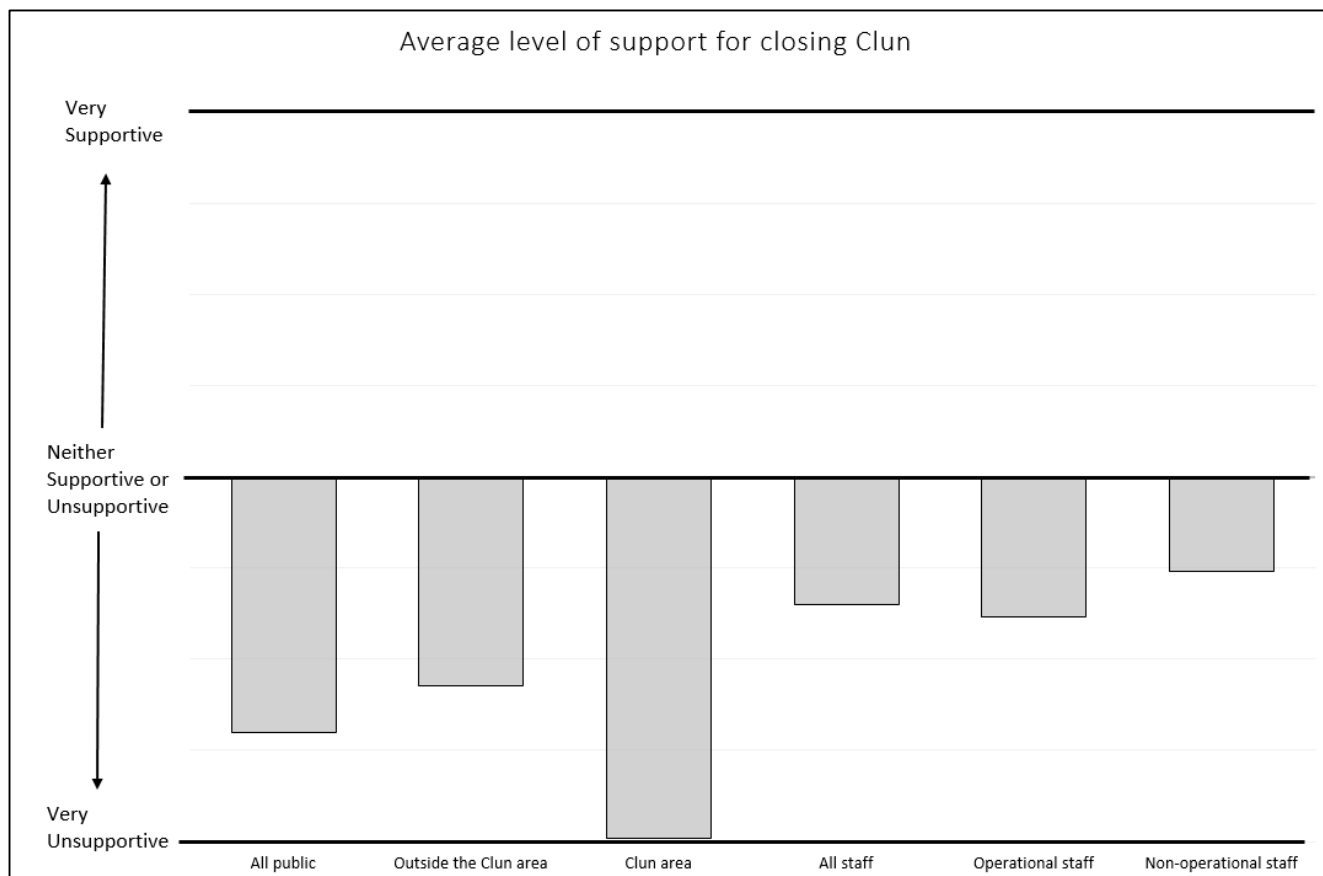
## Feedback received on the potential closure of Baschurch fire station

Support for closing Baschurch	All public responses	Responses from outside the Baschurch area	Responses from the Baschurch area	All staff responses	Responses from operational staff	Responses from non-operational staff
Very Unsupportive	692	513	179	34	29	5
Unsupportive	380	374	6	23	15	8
Undecided	145	144	1	15	9	6
Supportive	53	53	0	13	9	4
Very Supportive	42	37	5	7	5	2
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>1312</b>	<b>1121</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>25</b>



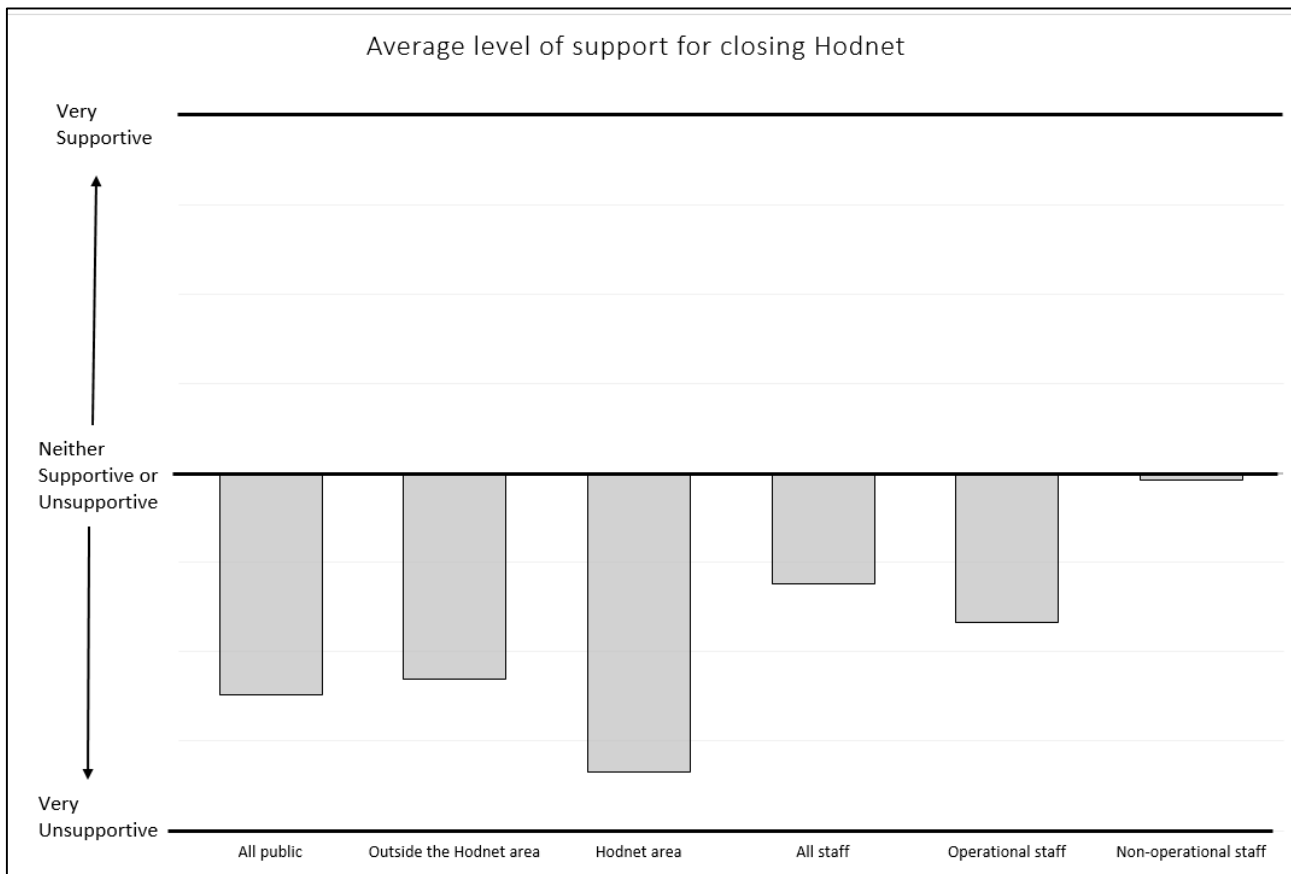
## Feedback received on the potential closure of Clun fire station

Support for closing Clun	All public responses	Responses from outside the Clun area	Responses from the Clun area	All staff responses	Responses from operational staff	Responses from non-operational staff
Very Unsupportive	955	486	469	34	28	6
Unsupportive	358	356	2	24	15	9
Undecided	160	159	1	10	6	4
Supportive	36	36	0	15	11	4
Very Supportive	34	33	1	7	5	2
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>1543</b>	<b>1070</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>25</b>



## Feedback received on the potential closure of Hodnet fire station

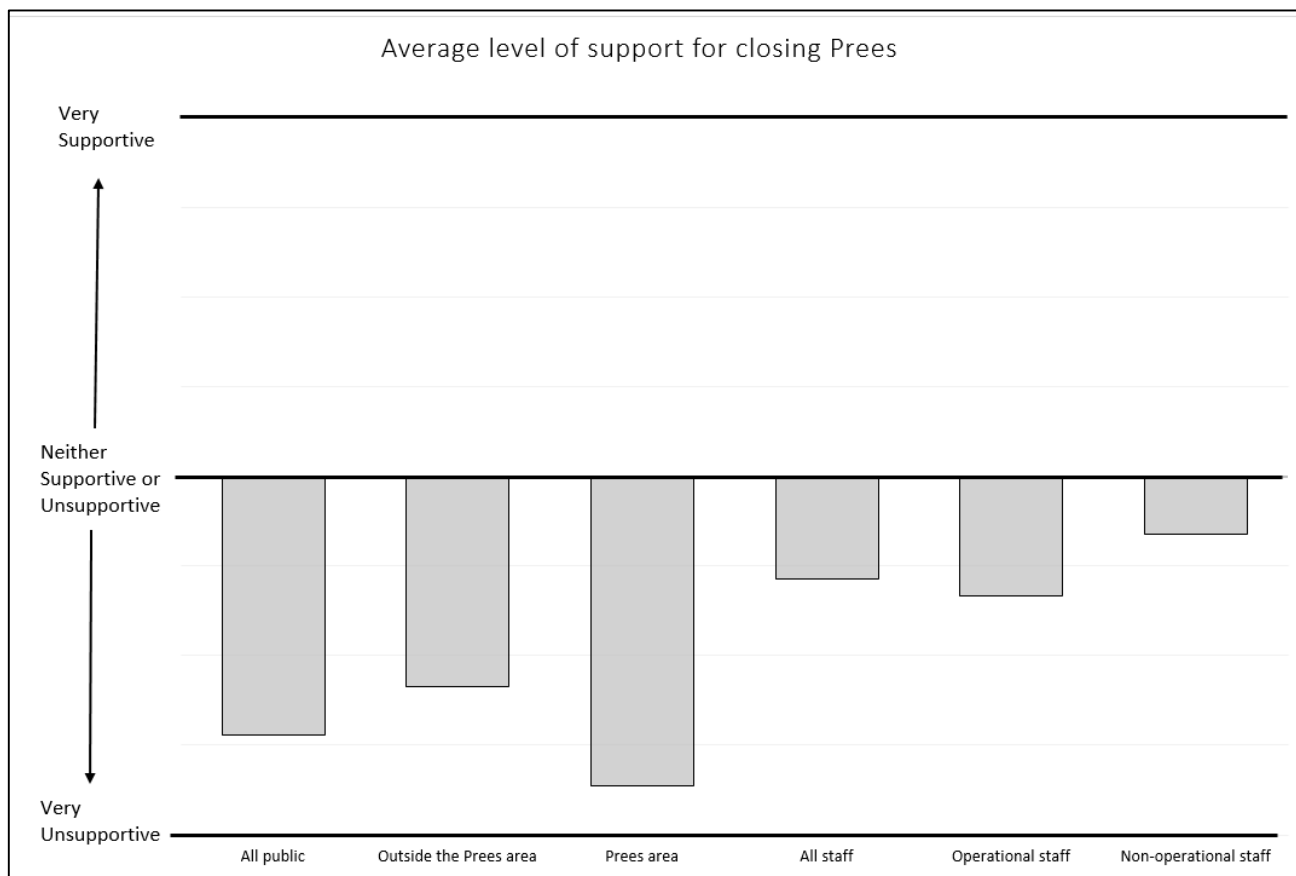
Support for closing Hodnet	All public responses	Responses from outside the Hodnet area	Responses from the Hodnet area	All staff responses	Responses from operational staff	Responses from non-operational staff
Very Unsupportive	717	519	198	33	29	4
Unsupportive	344	338	6	21	15	6
Undecided	121	120	1	12	8	4
Supportive	51	51	0	17	10	7
Very Supportive	60	44	16	7	4	3
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>1293</b>	<b>1072</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>24</b>





## Feedback received on the potential closure of Prees fire station

Support for closing Prees	All public responses	Responses from outside the Prees area	Responses from the Prees area	All staff responses	Responses from operational staff	Responses from non-operational staff
Very Unsupportive	1046	411	635	30	25	5
Unsupportive	168	156	12	23	15	8
Undecided	103	103	0	14	10	4
Supportive	38	37	1	17	11	6
Very Supportive	78	35	43	7	5	2
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>1433</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>25</b>



## Option 2 – The removal of one of our fulltime fire engines

The two areas of the county under consideration are:

- Shrewsbury
- Telford

The tables on the following pages summarise the feedback received from the online feedback tool. Separate feedback is summarised for each of the two station areas being considered, as part of this proposal. The sub-groups for which summary information has been provided, for this option, are:

- Those members of the public, who live inside and outside of the affected station area; and
- Those staff, who are directly involved in responding to incidents (i.e. operational staff) and those who are not.

Although the overall strength of feelings against the loss of a fire engine from either Shrewsbury or Telford is not as strong as it is for the previous proposal, the average response from the public is still a negative one. As would be expected, the greatest levels of concern about each of the fire engines in the two areas, comes from each respective area. It is evident, however, that there is more positive support for losing a fire engine from the Telford area, especially amongst the Service's staff, than there is for losing one from Shrewsbury.

The main issues that the public think Members should consider, in making their decision on this matter are:

- Reduction in the resilience of the service
- Lives more important than money
- Higher risk levels in these areas, e.g. buildings, population, risk profile types, environmental
- Increase in response times to all emergency incidents

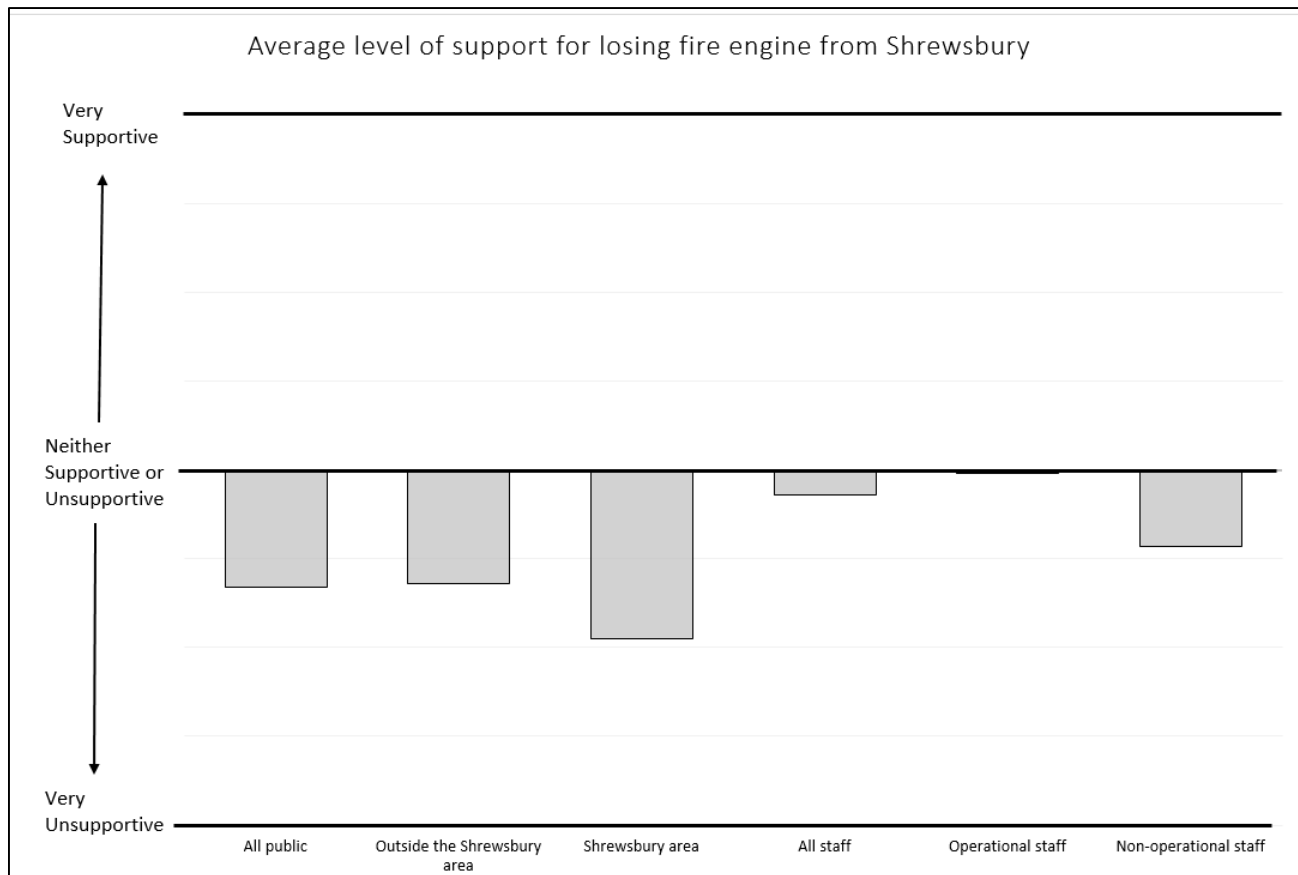
Similarly, the main issues that staff think Members should focus on, are:

- Increase in response times leading to increased risk to the public and firefighters
- Reduction in the overall resilience of the service
- Increasing risk profiles due to increase in housing, businesses and population in these urban areas
- Impact on remaining RDS stations due to additional turnouts

Evidence relating to these matters and all other areas of concern (as appropriate), raised by the public and staff, is provided in the impact assessment document relating to this proposal.

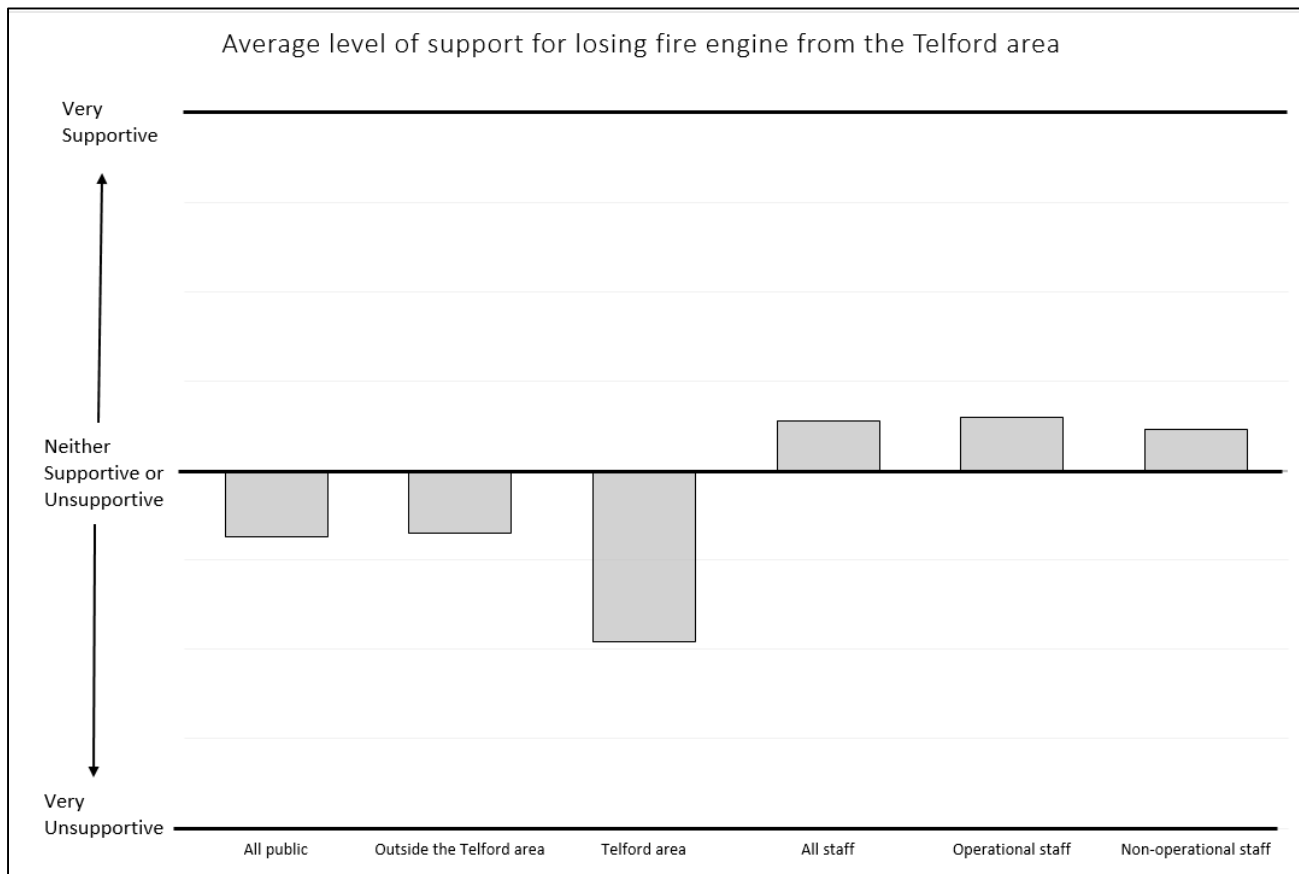
## Feedback received on the potential loss of a fulltime fire engine from Shrewsbury

Support for losing a fulltime fire engine from Shrewsbury	All public responses	Responses from outside the Shrewsbury area	Responses from the Shrewsbury area	All staff responses	Responses from operational staff	Responses from non-operational staff
Very Unsupportive	365	331	34	21	15	6
Unsupportive	100	95	5	23	11	12
Undecided	117	110	7	10	8	2
Supportive	149	143	6	26	22	4
Very Supportive	74	68	6	13	9	4
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>28</b>



## Feedback received on the potential loss of a fulltime fire engine from the Telford area

Support for losing a fulltime fire engine from Telford	All public responses	Responses from outside the Telford area	Responses from the Telford area	All staff responses	Responses from operational staff	Responses from non-operational staff
Very Unsupportive	293	265	28	14	11	3
Unsupportive	80	75	5	13	9	4
Undecided	125	123	2	12	7	5
Supportive	174	169	5	34	22	12
Very Supportive	98	92	6	16	14	2
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>26</b>



### **Option 3 – The merging of Shropshire’s Fire Control with Hereford and Worcester’s Fire Control**

The tables on the following pages summarise the feedback received from the online feedback tool. With this potentially impacting across all station areas similarly, there is no sub-grouping of the public responses. However, the staff responses have also been broken down into responses from:

- Control staff
- Operational staff
- All other staff

The general feeling amongst members of the public towards this proposal is fairly well balanced, with the overall average being neither supportive nor unsupportive.

Apart from the Service’s Fire Control staff, who would obviously be directly impacted by any such move towards this proposal and are, therefore, relatively unsupportive, there is also a relatively balanced level of opinion amongst other members of staff.

The main issues that the public think Members should consider, in making their decision on this matter, are:

- Loss of local knowledge, which could lead to increased response times
- Too large and rural an area to cover
- Other services have tried it and had issues
- Increased Risk level

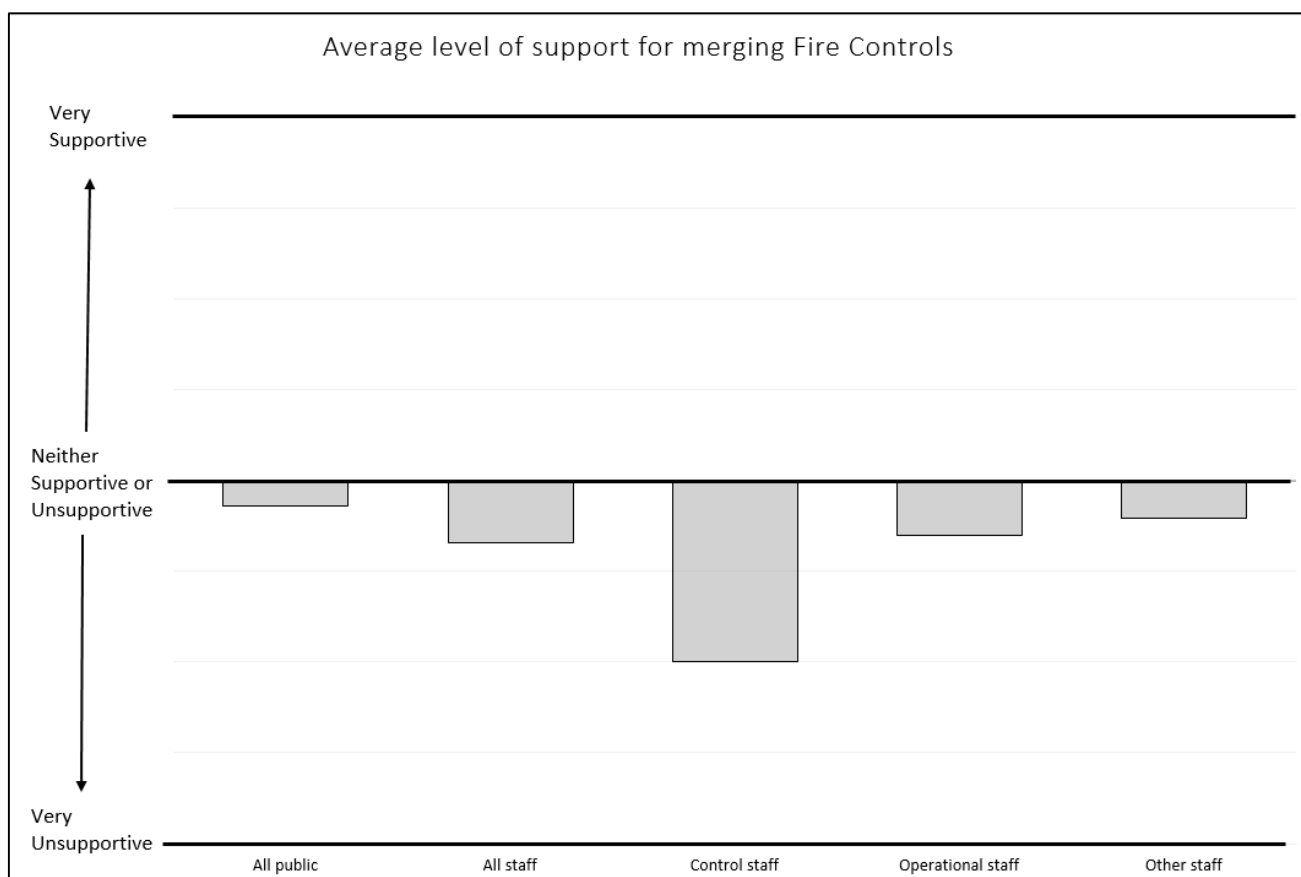
Similarly, the main issues that our staff think Members should focus on, are:

- Loss of local knowledge could impact on response times and, therefore, increase risk to the public and firefighters
- Reduced resilience, especially when technology fails
- Impact on remaining staff in terms of morale, health, well-being and family life
- Technical issues already exist with MoU project and would be increased

Evidence relating to these matters and all other areas of concern (as appropriate), raised by the public and staff, is provided in the impact assessment document relating to this proposal.

## Feedback received on the potential merging of Fire Controls

Support for merging the of Fire Controls	All public responses	All staff responses	Responses from Control staff	Responses from Operational staff	Responses from other staff
Very Unsupportive	253	21	4	12	5
Unsupportive	94	20	2	12	6
Undecided	98	16	1	10	5
Supportive	185	16	0	11	5
Very Supportive	153	9	1	5	3
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>24</b>



## Option 4 – Changes to the current Wholetime shift systems

Feedback was only sought from our own staff on this proposal.

Three outline shift systems were explored as part of this proposal:

- “Full pump” shift system – Staff work 24 hour shifts, including some periods where they are on-call from a facility located adjacent to the station.
- “Resilience pump” shift system – Staff work 12 hour shifts and are also on-call, from any location within an agreed return time, to staff the fire engine, if the Service is busy.
- “Half pump” shift system – Staff work 12 hour shifts with no on-call requirement, resulting in the fire engine only being available for half of each day.

The tables on the following pages summarise the feedback received from the online feedback tool. With this potentially impacting on the wholetime staff more than others, staff responses have also been broken down into responses from:

- Wholetime staff
- All other staff

The contrast between the responses from those staff who would be affected (Wholetime) and those that would not (all other) results in the overall staff result being a balanced one. It may be worthy of note, however, that of the 48 Wholetime staff, who did respond to the survey, 11 of them (approximately 23%) do appear to support the suggestion.

This is echoed in the responses to the three ‘example’ shift systems that were discussed during this process. With only approximately 14 staff being required to convert across to any possible new shift system, it is possible that there would be sufficient volunteers to make such a change, if it were to be explored further.

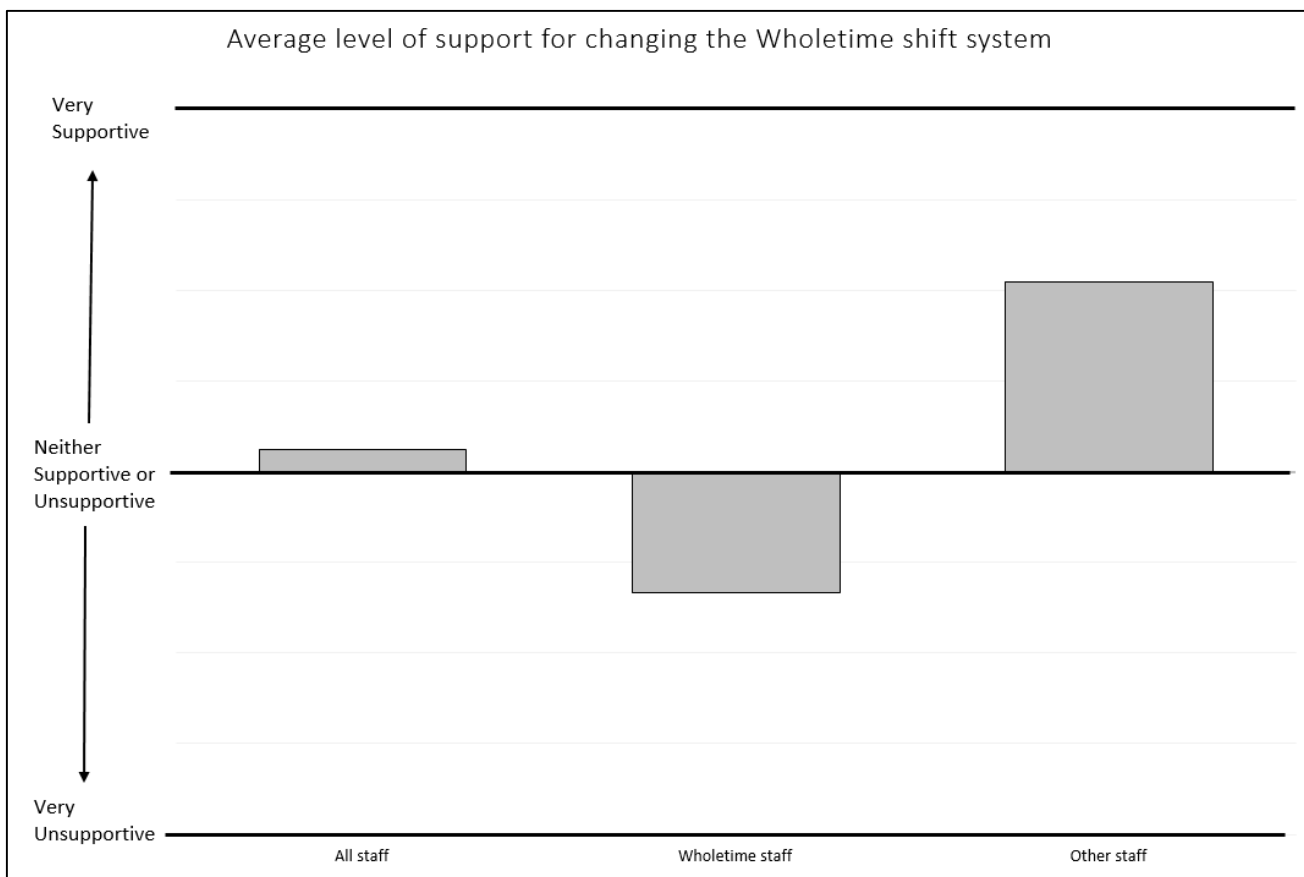
The main issues that our staff think Members should consider, in making their decision on this matter are:

- Impacts on family due to non-family friendly shifts, e.g. additional childcare costs etc.
- Impact on response times of the initial and supporting appliances
- Negative impacts and stress on remaining staff and morale
- The Fire Authority should not be asking firefighters to do more work for less money, to cover the funding gap

Evidence relating to these matters and all other areas of concern (as appropriate), raised by the public and staff, is provided in the impact assessment document relating to this proposal.

## Feedback received on changes to the current Wholetime shift system

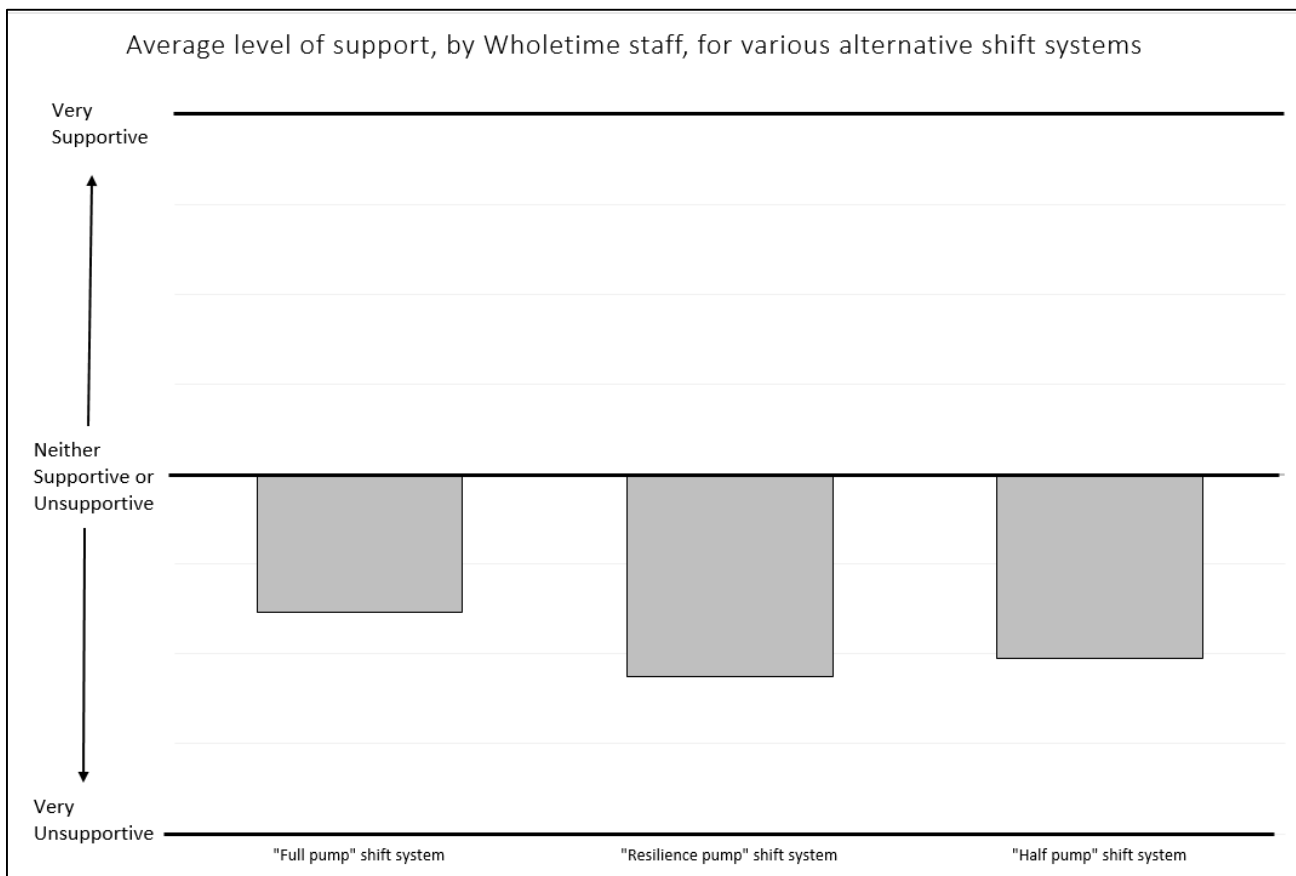
Support for changes to the current Wholetime shift system	All staff responses	Responses from Wholetime staff	Responses from other staff
Very Unsupportive	18	17	1
Unsupportive	16	11	5
Undecided	11	9	2
Supportive	25	9	16
Very Supportive	19	2	17
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>41</b>





## Feedback received, from Wholetime staff, on the outline shift systems

Support for various shift systems, by Wholetime staff	"Full pump" shift system	"Resilience pump" shift system	"Half pump" shift system
Very Unsupportive	24	27	25
Unsupportive	7	8	8
Undecided	5	6	8
Supportive	6	6	5
Very Supportive	6	1	2
Total responses	48	48	48



## Option 5 – Changes to the current Fire Control shift systems

Feedback was only sought from our own staff on this proposal.

Two types of shift systems were explored as part of this proposal:

- “4/3” shift system – Where the number of staff on each of the four watches is reduced to 3 (currently 4 per watch).
- “Self-roster” shift system – Where all staff are in a single pool (rather than on fixed Watches) and they work a more flexible rota.

The tables on the following pages summarise the feedback received from the online feedback tool. With this potentially impacting on the Fire Control staff more than others, staff responses have also been broken down into responses from:

- Control staff
- All other staff

Although only seven of a total of 17 Fire Control staff responded to this proposal (a notably higher response rate than was achieved from station based personnel), the response was largely negative.

In considering the two ‘example’ shift systems explored during this phase, again the response was largely negative with only one response supportive of the ‘self-roster’ system. It should be noted that, unlike the systems explored with the Wholetime staff, the ‘self-roster’ system would require all Control staff to convert from their current shift system.

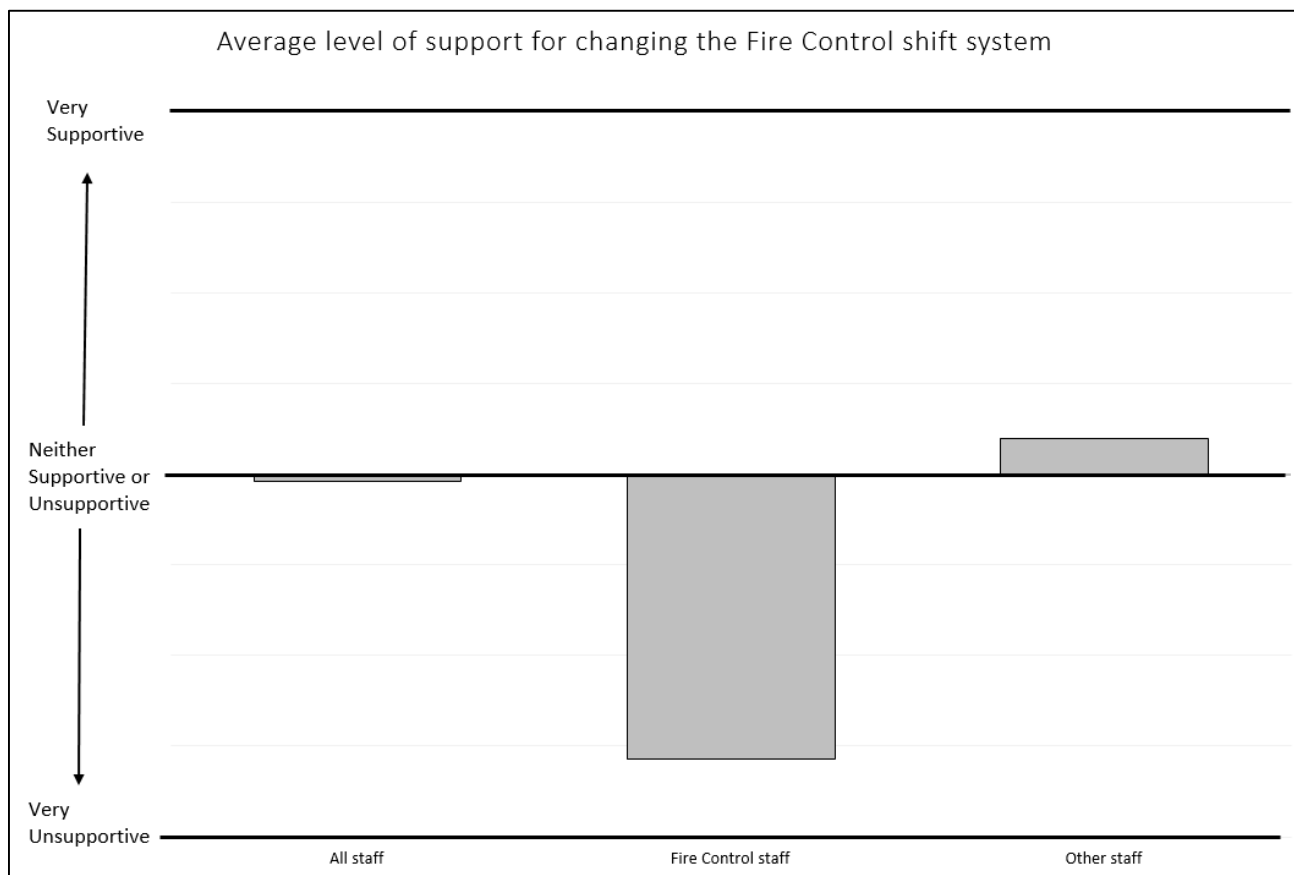
The main issues that our staff think Members should consider, in making their decision on this matter are:

- 4/3 shift system - difficulties include problems with maintaining JO cover, staffing numbers insufficient and increased O/T costs
- Self-roster shift system - difficulties include that it is open to abuse, not family friendly, lack of team cohesion, development and needs full support of all
- Control carry out lots of additional work, which somebody else will need to do
- Impact on staff, e.g. stress and increased sickness, family life etc.

Evidence relating to these matters and all other areas of concern (as appropriate), raised by the public and staff, is provided in the impact assessment document relating to this proposal.

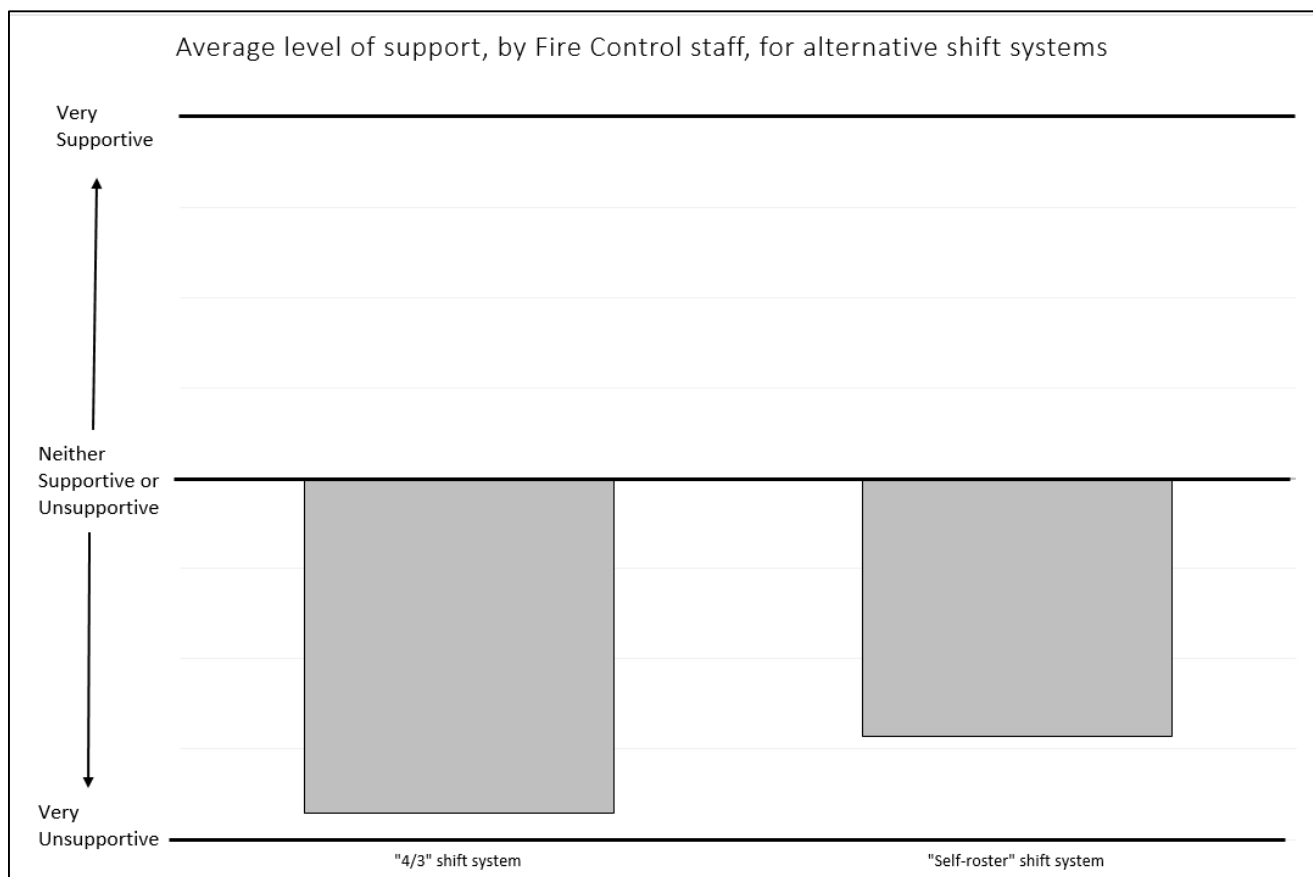
## Feedback received on changes to the current Fire Control shift system

Support for changes to the current Fire Control shift system	All staff responses	Responses from Fire Control staff	Responses from other staff
Very Unsupportive	10	5	5
Unsupportive	8	1	7
Undecided	13	1	12
Supportive	16	0	16
Very Supportive	5	0	5
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>45</b>



## Feedback received, from Fire Control staff, on the outline shift systems

Support for various shift systems, by Fire Control staff	"4/3" shift system	"Self-roster" shift system
Very Unsupportive	6	6
Unsupportive	1	0
Undecided	0	0
Supportive	0	0
Very Supportive	0	1
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>



## **Impact Assessment**

### **Option 1 – Close up to four ‘Low Risk’ RDS stations**

The following tables show the areas of concern that members of the public, and our staff, think that Fire Authority Members should consider when making their decision on this proposal.

Issues of concern to the public (in order of frequency of comment)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in response times, to all emergencies, and the increased risk to the public and firefighters</li> <li>• Life risk still exists in these areas - schools, nursing homes , elderly population etc.</li> <li>• Loss of local/diverse knowledge, including road network and how to deal with rural incidents</li> <li>• Impact on support to neighbouring station areas</li> <li>• Rural areas pay the same for their Fire Service as the urban areas</li> <li>• Saving people’s lives is more important than money and statistics</li> <li>• Impact on local unemployment, economy, community and environment</li> <li>• Loss of well trained, dedicated and valued personnel</li> <li>• Risk is increasing due to increase in local housing and businesses into the future</li> <li>• Station resources and personnel used in national incidents - costs of relocating and retraining required</li> <li>• Impact on resilience of the Service during busy periods</li> <li>• Impacts that weather have on incidents and response times in these rural areas</li> <li>• Impact on community fire safety work in the rural areas</li> <li>• Loss of the training facilities on these stations</li> <li>• Loss of support that these stations give to their communities, e.g. medical support and charitable work</li> <li>• Impact on the families of these RDS firefighters and those in neighbouring stations, who would be called out more often</li> <li>• Increased insurance costs for local homes and businesses</li> </ul>

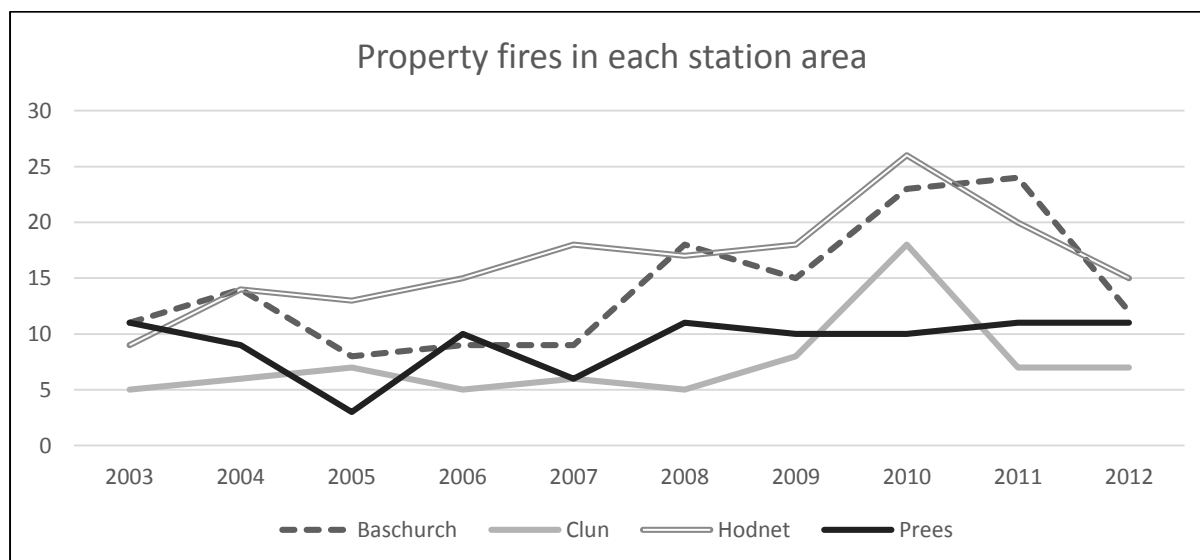
Issues of concern to our staff (in order of frequency of comment)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in response times for the initial and supporting appliances - increased risk to public and firefighters</li> <li>• Impact on the community and economy in station area</li> <li>• Impact on the remaining crews' primary employment due to more incidents and longer time without reliefs</li> <li>• Loss/reduction in resilience locally and nationally</li> <li>• Increased risk levels to schools, flight paths, roads etc.</li> <li>• RDS are good value for money</li> <li>• Loss of local knowledge</li> <li>• Reduced cover</li> <li>• Retraining other crews on national assets/ water first responder</li> <li>• Concerns over RTC's including the ‘Golden Hour’</li> <li>• Once an RDS station is closed, it will be gone forever</li> <li>• Impact on the RDS families - reduced income</li> <li>• These stations provide excellent 24/7 cover</li> <li>• Costs incurred by re-housing and retraining on national resilience assets</li> <li>• Reduced number of trained personnel within SFRS</li> <li>• Loss of diversity in fire crews (especially female firefighters)</li> <li>• With the rescue tender taking longer, need crews equipment and experience as quickly as possible</li> </ul>

Whilst it is not possible to provide quantifiable evidence against all of the issues highlighted above, the following pages provide the information on those matters, where such evidence is available.

## Projected savings

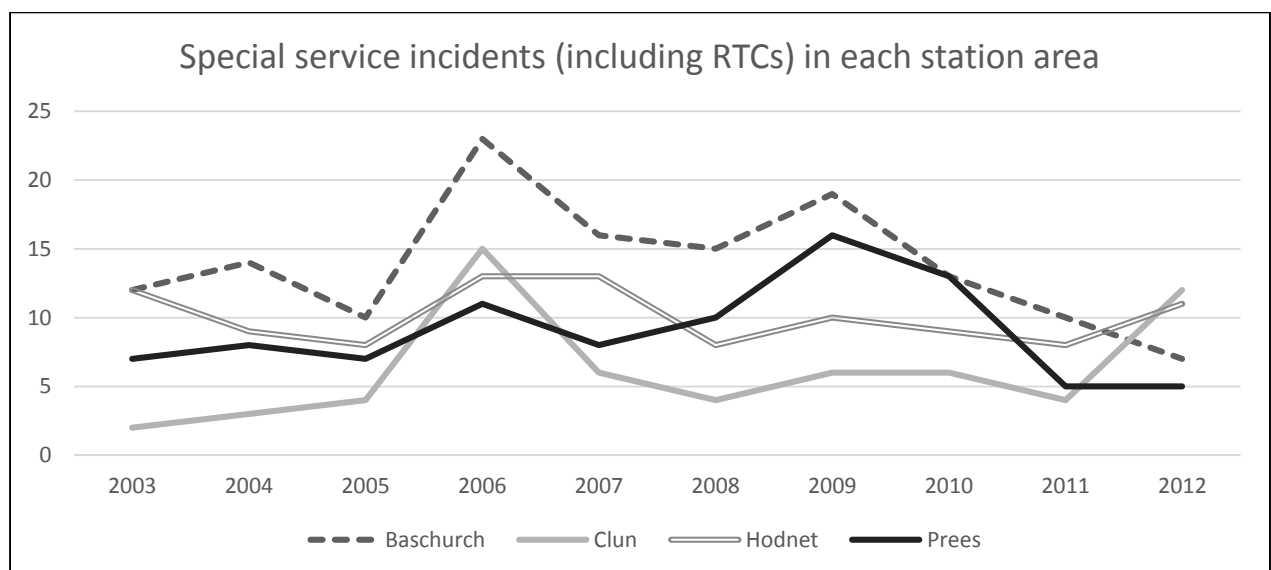
	<b>Baschurch</b>	<b>Clun</b>	<b>Hodnet</b>	<b>Prees</b>
<b>Cost description</b>	<b>12/13 Actual (£)</b>	<b>12/13 Actual (£)</b>	<b>12/13 Actual (£)</b>	<b>12/13 Actual (£)</b>
Retaining fee	40,182.97	38,138.16	32,142.62	41,721.46
Drills	16,640.53	14,585.56	16,171.32	16,297.22
Additional hours, excluding incidents	17,144.15	10,947.49	4,576.58	15,466.19
National Insurance	1,956.98	1,051.78	449.21	1,606.06
Holiday pay	6,223.39	4,648.85	4,315.28	6,058.07
Employers pension contributions	7,999.33	6,936.53	3,916.00	5,026.23
Loss of earnings	6,237.41	4,031.72	4,682.10	7,369.38
Electricity	3,919.91	3,646.13	2,474.22	2,405.85
Petrol	24.19	0	90.31	58.92
Fuel - oil	547.36	660.84	4,064.69	5,060.63
Rates	5,737.50	3,125.10	6,525.00	6,525.00
Telephone rental	142.35	139.61	139.85	140.26
Water charges	897.64	3,250.47	4,445.33	518.05
<b>Station total</b>	<b>107,653.71</b>	<b>91,162.24</b>	<b>83,992.51</b>	<b>108,253.32</b>
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>391,061.78</b>			

## Total incidents over the last 10 years



Station/Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	% change in 3 year averages *	
Albrighton	181	81	89	159	118	72	73	74	77	61	39.6	% reduction
Baschurch	84	64	41	69	56	97	61	65	68	52	2.1	% reduction
Bishop's Castle	45	52	35	54	32	42	52	55	46	32	0.8	% increase
Bridgnorth	236	230	162	191	228	193	220	228	219	189	1.3	% increase
Church Stretton	85	64	64	70	81	43	88	77	67	61	3.8	% reduction
Cleobury Mortimer	76	55	48	57	46	71	55	61	78	57	9.5	% increase
Clun	28	22	28	31	28	22	16	33	22	27	5.1	% increase
Craven Arms	61	49	45	63	66	69	70	59	65	51	12.9	% increase
Ellesmere	46	31	56	95	57	72	48	35	47	40	8.3	% reduction
Hodnet	44	75	52	48	48	50	34	43	42	34	30.4	% reduction
Ludlow	154	124	120	170	143	140	118	147	134	123	1.5	% increase
Market Drayton	125	128	129	128	110	108	148	112	129	113	7.3	% reduction
Minsterley	53	56	33	45	50	60	57	56	55	50	13.4	% increase
Much Wenlock	78	75	101	143	156	55	67	67	85	75	10.6	% reduction
Newport	135	124	370	471	349	94	78	96	120	100	49.8	% reduction
Oswestry	301	265	495	706	580	292	272	254	290	259	24.3	% reduction
Prees	37	35	65	129	166	39	34	40	28	26	31.4	% reduction
Shrewsbury	1462	1328	918	1098	1043	1082	1078	969	944	801	26.8	% reduction
Telford Central	1447	1189	662	792	677	508	580	612	637	402	49.9	% reduction
Tweeddale	256	203	448	653	616	725	682	638	672	468	96.0	% increase
Wellington	1558	1195	643	745	773	845	771	783	809	599	35.5	% reduction
Wem	55	59	61	94	89	55	58	48	75	50	1.1	% reduction
Whitchurch	122	103	85	77	96	84	105	121	104	88	1.0	% increase
<b>Total annual count of incidents</b>	<b>6669</b>	<b>5607</b>	<b>4750</b>	<b>6088</b>	<b>5608</b>	<b>4818</b>	<b>4765</b>	<b>4673</b>	<b>4813</b>	<b>3758</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>% reduction</b>

\*This figure represents the change in the average of the first three years (2003-05) and final three years (2010-12) of the 10 year period shown in this table. It has been presented in this way to try and overcome some of the variability that exists in the number of incidents fire and rescue services respond to each year.



### Impact on incident response time

Station	Current response time to centre of village (minutes)	Response time if station closed (minutes)	Increase (minutes)	Nearest alternative station
<b>Baschurch</b>	8.1	20.8	12.7	Shrewsbury
<b>Clun</b>	8.1	16.6	8.6	Bishops Castle
<b>Hodnet</b>	7.8	20.0	12.2	Market Drayton
<b>Prees</b>	7.7	16.5	8.8	Whitchurch

### Impact on the Fire Authority's 15 minute response target

Scenario	Addresses covered in 15 minutes	% of all Shropshire addresses	Additional properties not covered	% change
Current stations	181,425	83.59		
If Baschurch fire station were closed	179,606	82.75	1,819	0.84
If Clun fire station were closed	180,785	83.29	640	0.30
If Hodnet fire station were closed	180,646	83.23	779	0.36
If Prees fire station were closed	180,187	83.02	1,238	0.57
If all 4 'Low Risk' fire stations were closed	176,904	81.51	4,521	2.08

### Non-domestic life risk properties

Station area	C09	C10	C11	C12	C13	C14	C15	C16	C17	C18	Total count
Baschurch	5	0	13	0	1	0	0	28	6	0	53
Clun	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	23	0	0	29
Hodnet	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	11
Prees	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	9
<b>Total properties in Service area</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1073</b>
C09	Nursing Homes				C14	Houses Multi Occupation- Hostels					
C10	Hospitals				C15	Houses Multi Occupation- Flatlets					
C11	Boarding Schools				C16	Other Sleeping Accommodation					
C12	Penal Establishments				C17	Children's Homes					
C13	Flats (s72 Building Act 1984)				C18	Child Care Independent Schools					

### Other areas affected by these stations closing

Station	Other station areas supported by this station	Other FRS's supported by this station
Baschurch	Ellesmere, Oswestry, Shrewsbury, Wem,	
Clun	Bishops Castle, Church Stretton, Craven Arms, Ludlow	Hereford and Worcester Mid and West Wales
Hodnet	Market Drayton, Newport, Prees, Wellington, Wem	
Prees	Ellesmere, Hodnet, Market Drayton, Wem, Whitchurch	Cheshire



## Impact on personnel

Station	Personnel made redundant	Number of females at each station	Number of BME at each station
Baschurch	13	1	0
Clun	14	1	0
Hodnet	14	3	0
Prees	12	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
Service total	334 On-call 183 WT	16	4

## Impact on the local economy

Station	Money taken out of local economy (pay element of cost savings)
Baschurch	£96,980
Clun	£79,556
Hodnet	£71,981
Prees	£95,453

## Impact on national resilience assets

Current allocation of resources:

Station	Re-robe Units: Primary	Re-robe Units: Back up	High Volume Pumping Unit (HVPU): Primary	Heavy Volume Pumping Unit (HVPU): Back up
Baschurch				X
Clun				
Hodnet		X		
Prees	X		X	

The costs to relocate the appliances/equipment and to train other personnel would be:

National Resilience Asset	Approximate costs to train 2 replacement stations	Approximate costs to relocate appliances /equipment
Re-robe Unit	£3,500	£5,000
HVPU	£14,000	

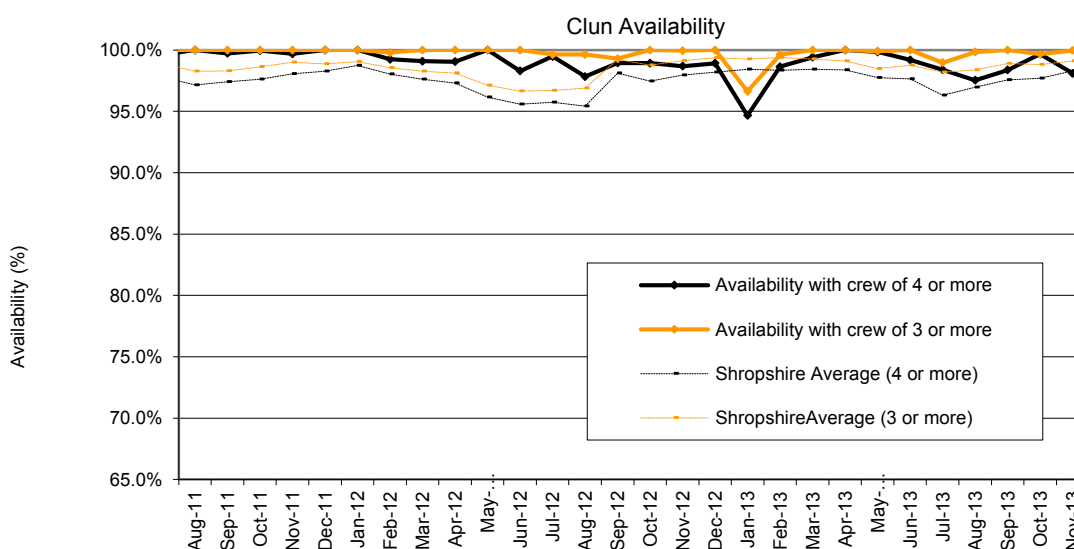
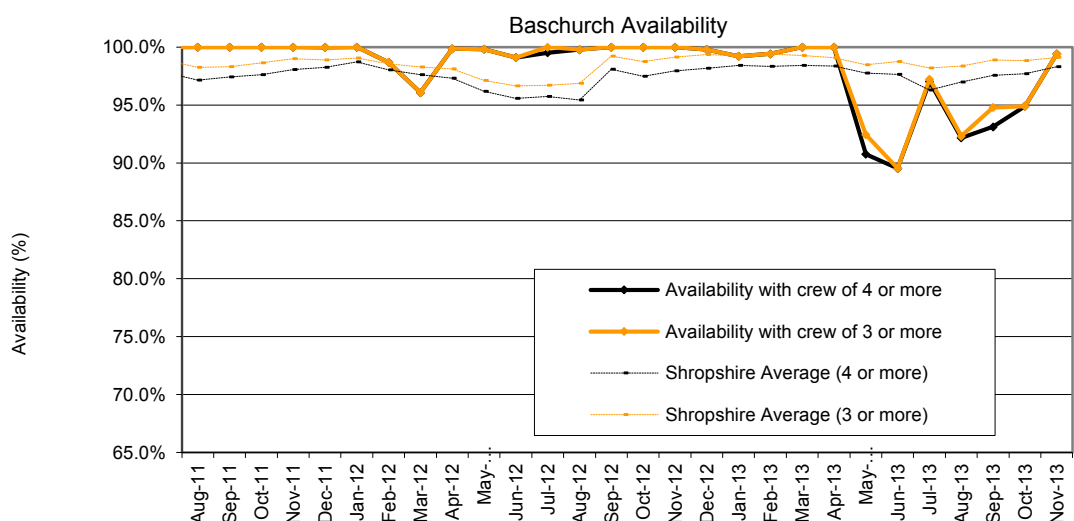
## Impact on Service training facilities

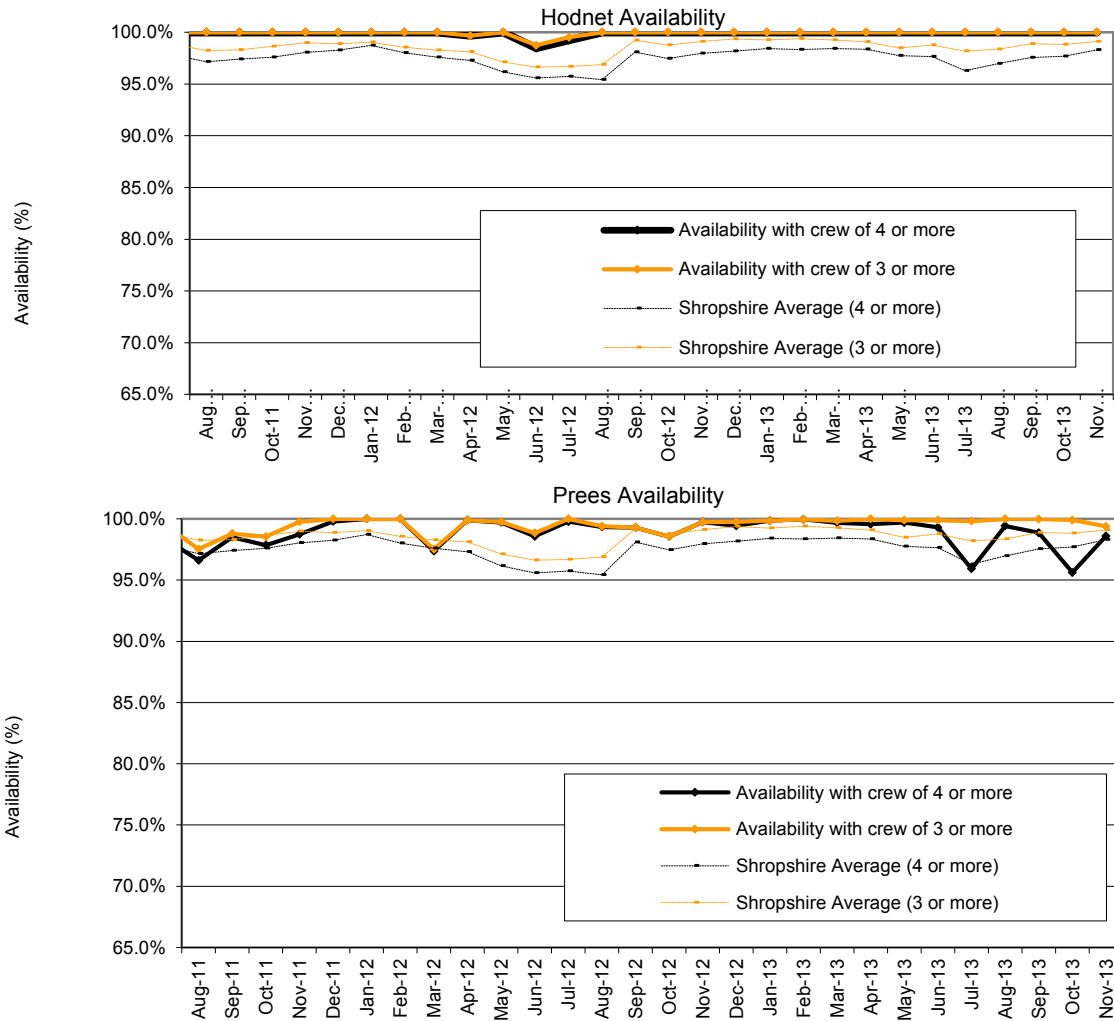
Station	Training Facility - Tower	BA Building	RTC	Line Safety
Baschurch	X		X	
Clun			X	
Hodnet	X			
Prees		X	X	X

## Community fire safety activities April to December 2013

Station	Successful visits	Refits	Total visits inc. unsuccessful	CFS hours inc fetes
Baschurch	110	28	152	218
Clun	5	6	14	14
Hodnet	0	0	0	0
Prees	4	0	4	5.5

## Availability figures in comparison to other on-call stations





### Planned building growth in each area

Shropshire Council is in the latter stages of developing the final plan for the period 2006-26. This highlights a requirement for 27,500 new homes, across Shropshire, for that period. Although not formally agreed at this stage, and therefore susceptible to change, the current figures for the planned requirements of new homes and additional employment land, for each of the four areas being explored within this proposal, are as follows:

- **Baschurch**  
150 – 200 homes + no additional employment land
- **Prees**  
100 homes + no additional employment land but existing could expand slightly
- **Hodnet**  
80 homes + no additional employment land
- **Clun**  
70 homes + no additional employment land

### Impact on insurance premiums

No short/medium-term impact on domestic or commercial insurance premiums, however long-term historical data is used within the underwriting process and this information could influence premiums, depending on fire incidences, actually experienced into the future

## Potential impact on business rates (2012)

Station area	Up to £100K	£100K to £250K	£250K to £500K	500K to 1m	£1m or above	Total Properties in area
Baschurch	7	0	0	0	0	3,149
Clun	1	0	0	0	0	1,751
Hodnet	2	2	0	0	0	1,689
Prees	1	1	0	0	0	1,833
<b>Total properties in Service area</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>216,302</b>

## Commercial property fire risk rating

Station area	Very high	High	Medium	Low	Very low	Total properties assessed
Baschurch	0	2	83	58	15	158
Clun	0	0	56	18	1	75
Hodnet	0	0	34	21	0	55
Prees	0	1	57	16	0	74
<b>Total properties in Service area</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>7,824</b>	<b>3,428</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>11,658</b>

## **Impact Assessment**

### **Option 2 – Remove one of the fulltime fire engines in the Shrewsbury or Telford areas**

The following tables show the areas of concern that members of the public and our staff thought that Fire Authority Members should consider when making their decision on this proposal.

Issues of concern to the public
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduction in the resilience of the service</li> <li>2. Lives more important than money</li> <li>3. Higher risk levels in these areas - e.g. buildings, population, risk profile types, environmental</li> <li>4. Increase in response times to all emergency incidents</li> <li>5. Wholetime have specialist knowledge and skills and are always available</li> <li>6. Shrewsbury has historical heritage and also covers a large rural area outside the town</li> <li>7. Telford is a big area which is increasing in size</li> <li>8. Loss of jobs and its impact on the economy</li> <li>9. Impact on support provided to neighbouring stations</li> <li>10. Reduction in community and business fire safety activities</li> <li>11. Increased demands on RDS staff</li> </ol>

Issues of concern to our staff
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase in response times leading to increased risk to the public and firefighters</li> <li>2. Reduction in the overall resilience of the service</li> <li>3. Increasing risk profiles due to increase in housing, businesses and population in these urban areas</li> <li>4. Impact on remaining RDS stations due to additional turnouts</li> <li>5. Impact on Wholetime ability to cover specialist appliances/teams e.g. FAST, ALP, RT, Boat</li> <li>6. Reduction in the ability for Wholetime staff to support the RDS training programme</li> <li>7. Wholetime give guaranteed 24/7 cover</li> <li>8. Reduction in CFS/BFS/7.2.d output</li> <li>9. Impact on ability for Wholetime to be used as reliefs due to fire cover reduction in urban areas</li> <li>10. Shrewsbury has a lot of heritage property</li> <li>11. Loss of experience and skills in Wholetime firefighters</li> <li>12. Increased costs of RDS to cover incidents</li> <li>13. The new switch crewing arrangements of the Rescue Tender at Wellington would be impacted by the loss of a Telford pump</li> <li>14. Shrewsbury's supporting appliances are a long distance away</li> </ol>

Whilst it is not possible to provide quantifiable evidence against all of the issues highlighted above, the following pages provide the information on those matters where such evidence is available.

## Projected savings

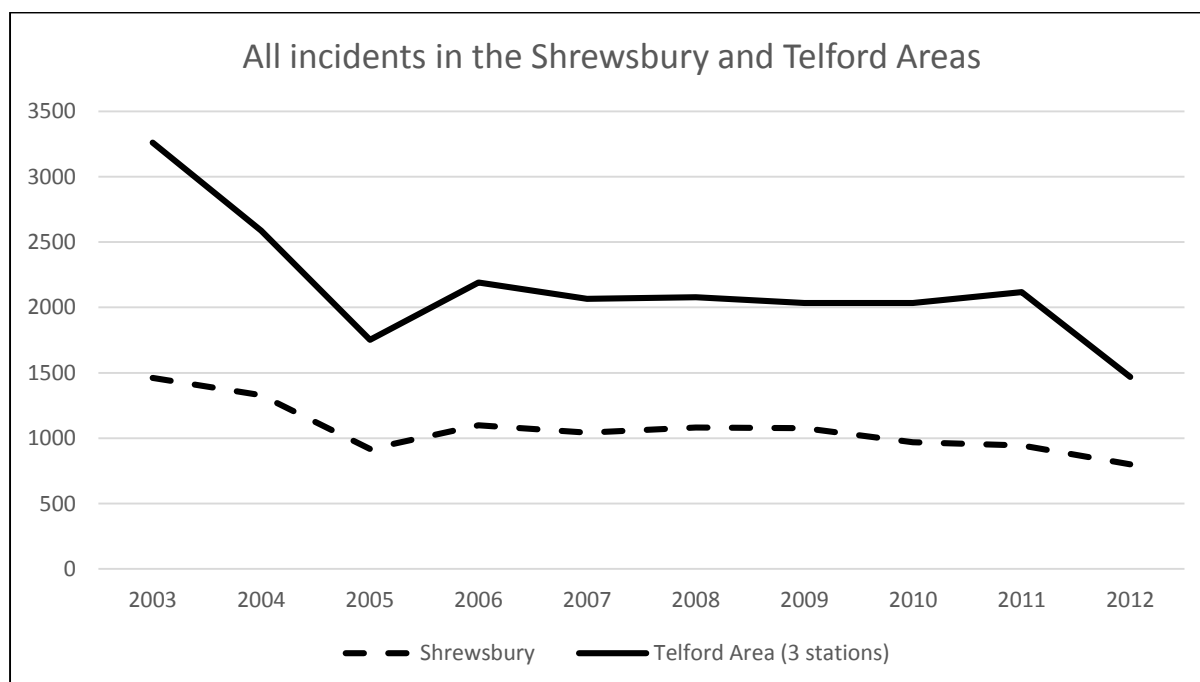
There is the potential for approximately 28 Wholetime staff to retire by 2020. Including on-costs, if all of this reduction in staffing were realised through effective planning, this could result in a reduction of approximately £900k in the Service's annual revenue budget.

Any alternative fire cover, introduced to overcome any concerns about reduction in levels of service, would reduce this figure.

## Current fire service resources at each station

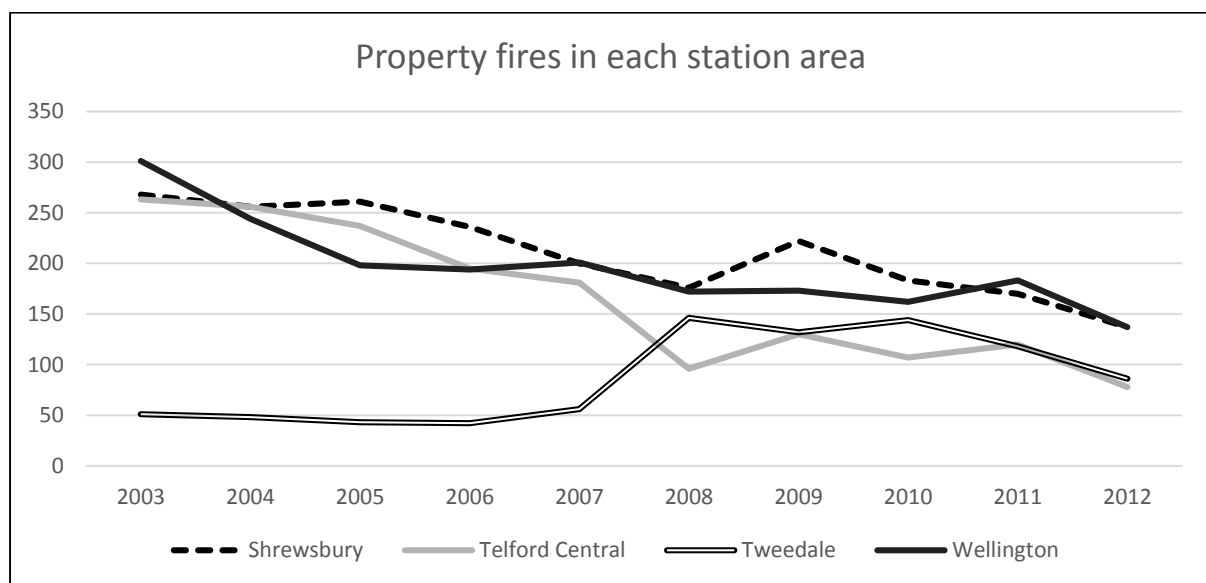
Station	Fire Appliances
Shrewsbury	2 x Wholetime fire engines 1 x On-call fire engine Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) – switch crewed by the Wholetime pump crews Boat – switch crewed by the Wholetime pump crews Light Pumping Unit – crewed by On-call staff
Wellington	1 x Wholetime fire engine 1 x On-call fire engine Rescue Tender – switch crewed by the Wholetime pump crew
Telford Central	2 x Wholetime fire engines Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) – switch crewed by the Wholetime pump crews <b>Note:</b> One of the fire engines moves to Tweedale each night to provide fire cover in the south Telford area
Tweedale	1 x On-call fire engine Environmental Unit – crewed by On-call staff Foam Unit – crewed by On-call staff <b>Note:</b> One of the fire engines from Telford Central provide fire cover from Tweedale each night.

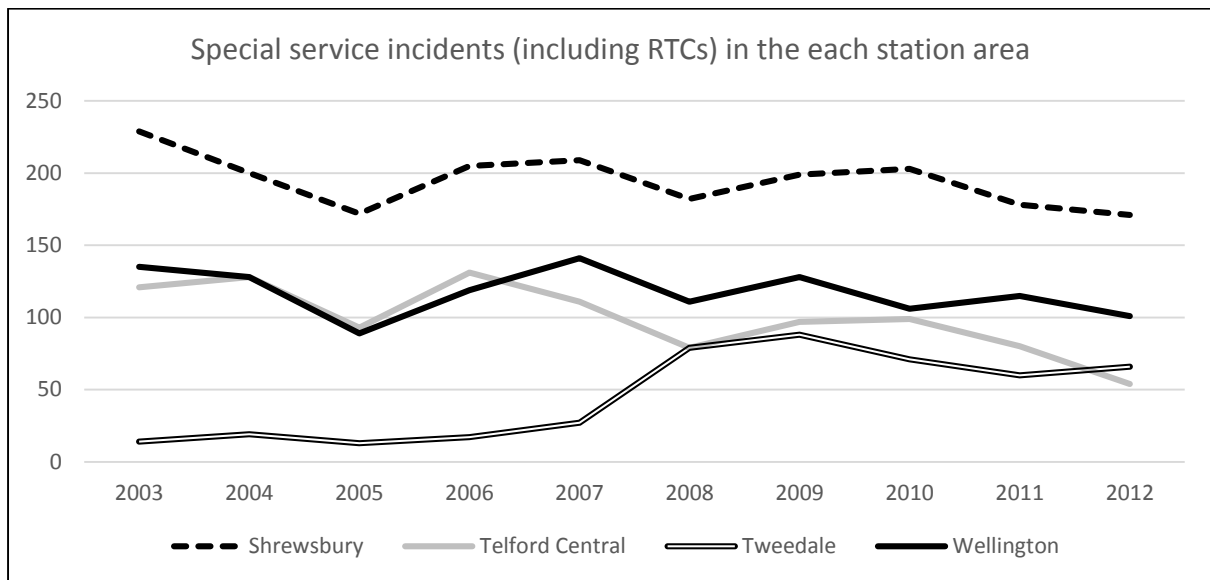
## Incident trend over the last 10 years



Station/Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	% change in 3 year averages*	
Albrighton	181	81	89	159	118	72	73	74	77	61	39.6	% reduction
Baschurch	84	64	41	69	56	97	61	65	68	52	2.1	% reduction
Bishop's Castle	45	52	35	54	32	42	52	55	46	32	0.8	% increase
Bridgnorth	236	230	162	191	228	193	220	228	219	189	1.3	% increase
Church Stretton	85	64	64	70	81	43	88	77	67	61	3.8	% reduction
Cleobury Mortimer	76	55	48	57	46	71	55	61	78	57	9.5	% increase
Clun	28	22	28	31	28	22	16	33	22	27	5.1	% increase
Craven Arms	61	49	45	63	66	69	70	59	65	51	12.9	% increase
Ellesmere	46	31	56	95	57	72	48	35	47	40	8.3	% reduction
Hodnet	44	75	52	48	48	50	34	43	42	34	30.4	% reduction
Ludlow	154	124	120	170	143	140	118	147	134	123	1.5	% increase
Market Drayton	125	128	129	128	110	108	148	112	129	113	7.3	% reduction
Minsterley	53	56	33	45	50	60	57	56	55	50	13.4	% increase
Much Wenlock	78	75	101	143	156	55	67	67	85	75	10.6	% reduction
Newport	135	124	370	471	349	94	78	96	120	100	49.8	% reduction
Oswestry	301	265	495	706	580	292	272	254	290	259	24.3	% reduction
Prees	37	35	65	129	166	39	34	40	28	26	31.4	% reduction
Shrewsbury	1462	1328	918	1098	1043	1082	1078	969	944	801	26.8	% reduction
Telford Central	1447	1189	662	792	677	508	580	612	637	402	49.9	% reduction
Tweeddale	256	203	448	653	616	725	682	638	672	468	96.0	% increase
Wellington	1558	1195	643	745	773	845	771	783	809	599	35.5	% reduction
Wem	55	59	61	94	89	55	58	48	75	50	1.1	% reduction
Whitchurch	122	103	85	77	96	84	105	121	104	88	1.0	% increase
<b>Total annual count of incidents</b>	<b>6669</b>	<b>5607</b>	<b>4750</b>	<b>6088</b>	<b>5608</b>	<b>4818</b>	<b>4765</b>	<b>4673</b>	<b>4813</b>	<b>3758</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>% reduction</b>

\*This figure represents the change in the average of the first three years (2003-05) and final three years (2010-12) of the 10 year period shown in this table. It has been presented in this way to try and overcome some of the variability that exists in the number of incidents fire and rescue services respond to each year.





### Impact on incident response times

Whilst there will be some impact on response times on those occasions when the other fire engine is dealing with simultaneous incidents, the main impact is likely to be when two fire engines are required at the same incident, e.g. house fires, and a delay would be incurred due to having to wait for another, alternative, 2<sup>nd</sup> fire engine to come from other stations.

The project currently being undertaken by Process Evolutions will provide evidence to quantify what level of impact this could be.

### Properties outside 15 minute

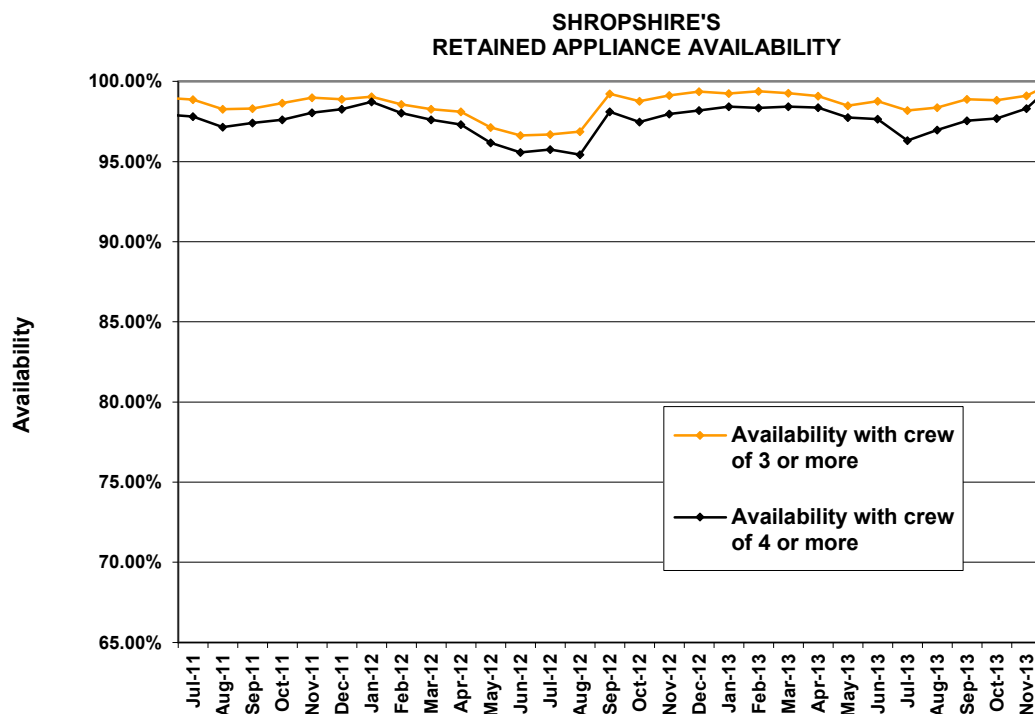
The Service is unable to quantify this at this time, however, depending on any alternative fire cover that could eventually be put in place, there could either be:

- a reduction in our ability to reach incidents in the 15 minute strategic target, e.g. due to simultaneous calls utilising the other fire engines; or
- an increase in our ability to reach incidents in the 15 minute strategic target, e.g. if an alternative On-call station is added to our current resources

The project currently being undertaken by Process Evolutions will provide evidence to quantify what level of impact this could be.



## Availability of On-call appliances as an alternative



## Life risk property types and counts

Station	C09	C10	C11	C12	C13	C14	C15	C16	C17	C18	Total count
Shrewsbury	66	17	39	1	26	6	32	66	24	0	277
Telford Central	15	0	0	0	7	1	8	40	2	1	74
Tweedale	32	0	0	0	7	1	5	26	9	0	80
Wellington	35	3	11	0	16	8	7	44	10	0	134
<b>Total properties in Service area</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1073</b>

C09 Nursing Homes

C10 Hospitals

C11 Boarding Schools

C12 Penal Establishments

C13 Flats (S 72 Building Act 1984)

C14 Houses Multi Occupation- Hostels

C15 Houses Multi Occupation- Flatlets

C16 Other Sleeping Accommodation

C17 Children's Homes

C18 Child Care Independent Schools

## List of Station areas where each station provides 2<sup>nd</sup> pump cover

Station	2 <sup>nd</sup> pump cover may be provided to the following station areas	Other Fire & Rescue Service's that may be supported by this station
Shrewsbury	Baschurch, Church Stretton, Minsterley, Much Wenlock, Wellington, Wem	Mid and West Wales
Telford Central	Albrighton, Bridgnorth, Much Wenlock, Newport, Tweeddale, Wellington	Staffordshire
Tweeddale	Albrighton, Bridgnorth, Much Wenlock, Telford Central, Wellington	
Wellington	Hodnet, Newport, Much Wenlock, Shrewsbury, Telford Central, Tweeddale	

## List of skills that WT currently have that RDS don't

Station	Positive Pressure Ventilation	Breathing Apparatus Guidelines	Firefighter Assistance and Safety Teams	Aerial Ladder Platform	Hi-Ab on Rescue Tender	Animal Rescue Team	Incident Response Unit- Drivers and Fork Lift	Swift Water Technicians and Boat Operators
Shrewsbury	x	x	x	x				x
Telford Central	x	x	x	x			x	
Tweeddale	x	x	x	x				
Wellington	x	x			x	x		

## List of specialist appliances currently switch crewed by Wholetime staff and incidents attended

Station	Specialist Appliance	2011	2012	2013	Average
Shrewsbury	ALP	16	46	42	35
	Boat	20	39	29	29
Telford Central	ALP	-	1	8	5
	IRU	-	2	1	2
Wellington	RT	81	291	289	220

## Planned building growth in each area

Shropshire Council is in the latter stages of developing the final plan for the period 2006 to 2026. This highlights a requirement for 27,500 new homes for that period. In terms of the new homes and additional employment land proposed for the Shrewsbury area, these are 6,500 new homes and 90 hectares of additional employment land.

Telford & Wrekin Council is currently focusing on a new 'Shaping Places Local Plan', which will provide the development strategy and policies to take the Borough forward and help deliver growth over the plan period to 2031. The Service will keep abreast of the outcomes from this work, as it plans any changes.

## Community Fire Safety Activities

Station	Current number of successful Home Safety Visits (HSV) per year	Projected number of successful HSV if 1 fire engine is removed	Reduction
Total for WT stations	2400	1920	20% (480 less visits)

The above figures do not include HSV's that arise as a consequence of unplanned demand.

## Business Fire Safety Activities

Station	Current number of Fire Safety Audits (FSA) per year	Projected number of FSA's if 1 fire engine is removed	Reduction
Total for WT stations	1120	920	18% (200 less audits)

## **Impact Assessment**

### **Option 3 – Merge of the Fire Control function with Hereford and Worcestershire Fire and Rescue Service**

The following tables show the areas of concern that members of the public and our staff thought that Fire Authority Members should consider when making their decision on this proposal.

Issues of concern to the public
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Loss of local knowledge which could lead to increased response times</li><li>• Too large and rural an area to cover</li><li>• Other services have tried it and had issues</li><li>• Increased risk level</li><li>• Cannot rely on technology</li><li>• Loss of jobs and its impact on the economy</li><li>• Reduced resilience during busy periods</li><li>• Bigger is not always better. Lose local flexible approach</li><li>• A reduction in the number of staff would impact on their ability to carry out training and other duties, plus cover breaks etc.</li><li>• Money being put before lives</li><li>• Impact on work/life balance of staff</li><li>• Lose the close working relationship between control operators and officers</li><li>• Reduced staff could lead to reduced quality of service</li><li>• Expensive to set up</li></ul>

Issues of concern to our staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Loss of local knowledge could impact on response times and, therefore, increase risk to the public and firefighters</li><li>• Reduced resilience, especially when technology fails</li><li>• Impact on remaining staff in terms of morale, health, well-being and family life</li><li>• Technical issues already exist with MoU project and would be increased</li><li>• Loss of jobs/redundancies</li><li>• Need evidence of other mergers working</li><li>• Impacts on the other functions/tasks that Control do</li><li>• Different procedures within each FRS</li><li>• Difficulties involved in management of 2 sites by 1 supervisor</li><li>• Lose ability to make local changes quickly</li><li>• Increased airwave costs for both FRS's</li><li>• Ability for stations to visit Control for training will be lost</li></ul>

Whilst it is not possible to provide quantifiable evidence against all of the issues highlighted above, the following page provides the information on those matters, where such evidence is available.

## Projected savings

It is not possible to predict accurately the potential reduction in costs likely to arise from any option, involving the merger of the Fire Control function with another Service. It will depend on the nature and detail of any specific merger, which would be explored as part of any proposal for change. The Service estimates, however, that staffing costs could potentially be reduced by up to approximately 50%. If such savings were achieved, this would equate to approximately £300k per annum on the Service's current annual revenue budget.

## Assessment of additional costs likely to be incurred due to other duties carried out within Fire Control

Many non-fire call related administrative tasks and functions are also undertaken by Shropshire's Fire Control. In the event that the Control function were to move elsewhere, detailed analysis would need to be undertaken, as part of any such project, in order to quantify accurately the additional cost and resources required to accommodate these tasks elsewhere in the Service.

## Total incident count trend over 10 years

Station/Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	% change in 3 year averages*	
Total annual count of incidents	6669	5607	4750	6088	5608	4818	4765	4673	4813	3758	22.2	% reduction

\*This figure represents the change in the average of the first three years (2003-05) and final three years (2010-12) of the 10 year period shown in this table. It has been presented in this way to try and overcome some of the variability that exists in the number of incidents fire and rescue services respond to each year.

It should be noted that a simple count of the number of the incidents, which the Service attends each year, is not a true reflection of Fire Control workloads, as each incident type involves different actions by Fire Control operators, e.g. varying number of fire engines, specialist appliances and officers, as well as contacting other agencies etc.

Fire Control are also an integral part of the Service's procedures to reduce false alarms, through effective call challenge. The number of incidents not attended, due to this policy are not included in the above table.

The table presented above is, therefore, an over-simplification of the change in demand in relation to the Fire Control function.

## How large would the new Service area be?

Service areas	Total area (km2)
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin (current)	3,487
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, Herefordshire and Worcestershire (West Mercia area)	7,408
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire (Tri-service area)	9,383

## IT/Technical systems

It is not possible to quantify the reliability of any technical solution into the future. This would be dependent on many factors, including the type of system used etc.

## Impact Assessment

### Option 4 – Changes to the current Wholetime shift systems

The following tables show the areas of concern that members of the public and our staff thought that Fire Authority Members should consider when making their decision on this proposal.

Issues of concern to our staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Impacts on family due to non-family friendly shifts, e.g. additional child care costs etc.</li><li>• Impact on response times of the initial and supporting appliances</li><li>• Negative impacts and stress on remaining staff and morale</li><li>• The Fire Authority should not be asking firefighters to do more work for less money, to cover the funding gap</li><li>• Set-up costs, including accommodation etc. will impact on projected savings</li><li>• Impacts on resilience due to a reduced number of appliances</li><li>• Any new system would require staff to be willing to work it</li><li>• Other shifts are also worth considering, e.g. 24 on, 48 off</li><li>• Staff may choose to leave the Service</li><li>• Difficult for different shifts to work with such a small number of staff</li><li>• Will put additional pressure on remaining Wholetime and RDS personnel, e.g. primary employers and families etc.</li><li>• Impact that the Working Time Directive could have on any new shift system</li><li>• Different pay rates amongst wholetime staff could reduce movement of staff within organisation</li><li>• Potential for staff skills gap due to lack of recruitment</li><li>• Impacts on ability for staff to switch crew special appliances</li></ul>

Whilst it is not possible to provide quantifiable evidence against all of the issues highlighted above, the following pages provide the information on those matters where such evidence is available.

#### Projected savings

There is the potential for approximately 28 Wholetime staff to retire by 2020. Including on-costs, if all of this reduction in staffing were realised through effective planning, this could result in a reduction of approximately £900k in the Service's annual revenue budget.

Any alternative fire cover, introduced to overcome concerns about reduction in levels of service, would reduce this figure.

#### Impact on response times

The impact on the amount of time that the current fire engines are crewed by wholetime firefighters will be very dependent on what change is introduced. This could be minimal, if something like the 'full pump' shift system is introduced, and more significant if one of the 'half pump' shift systems were introduced, especially during those times when the fire engine is not crewed. This could have a knock-on impact to response times, especially on those occasions when the other fire engines in the area are already dealing with incidents and the next nearest fire engine has to come from outside the immediate area.

The project currently being undertaken by Process Evolutions will provide evidence to quantify what level of impact this will be with each of the various systems being explored.

## Impact Assessment

### Option 5 – Changes to the current Fire Control shift systems

The following tables show the areas of concern that members of the public and our staff thought that Fire Authority Members should consider when making their decision on this proposal.

Issues of concern to our staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4/3 shift system - difficulties include problems with maintaining JO cover, staffing numbers insufficient and increased O/T costs</li><li>• Self-roster shift system - difficulties include that it is open to abuse, not family friendly, lack of team cohesion, development and needs full support of all</li><li>• Control carry out lots of additional work, which somebody else will need to do</li><li>• Impact on staff, e.g. stress and increased sickness, family life etc.</li><li>• Lack of local knowledge leading to increase in response times, increasing risk to the public and firefighters</li><li>• Increased workload on remaining staff, especially during breaks etc.</li><li>• Single operators in both FRS's will be unable to assist other FRS, impacting on resilience</li><li>• Feasibility of remote Fire Control not workable</li><li>• Lack of call management</li></ul>

Whilst it is not possible to provide quantifiable evidence against all of the issues highlighted above, information on those matters is provided below, where such evidence is available.

#### Projected savings

This proposal looks at the potential impacts from reducing staffing in Fire Control by up to 25% of the current levels, or a total of 4 staff. If achieved, this could produce savings totalling approximately £120k per year in the Service's current annual revenue budget.

#### Assessment of additional costs likely to be incurred due to a reduction in the capacity for other duties to be carried out within Fire Control

Many non-fire call related administrative tasks and functions are also undertaken by Shropshire's Fire Control staff. A reduction in the number of staff on duty at any one time would have some impact on the capacity for the Team to do these additional tasks, resulting in the possibility that some of them may have to move elsewhere. Detailed analysis would need to be undertaken, as part of any proposal going forward for full implementation, in order to quantify accurately the additional cost and resources required to accommodate these tasks elsewhere in the Service.

#### Increases in sickness absence

Whilst it is possible that there could be a correlation between staff morale, welfare and the levels of staff sickness absence experienced within any organisation, it is not possible to quantify the impact that these factors could have, if some form of change were implemented.

#### Supervision and management

There could be a potential increase in the need for Operational Officers to support Fire Control operators, if the levels of supervision and management, within Fire Control were reduced. The impact this would have is difficult to quantify.

## **Correspondence from Organisations**

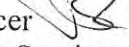


14/6/13



11 June 2013

AT/ELI

Chief Fire Officer   
Fire and Rescue Services HQ  
St Michaels Street  
Shrewsbury  
SY1 2HJ

Dear Sir or Madam

**RE: CLOSURE OF BASCHURCH FIRE STATION**

On behalf of the College I would like to register my concern about proposals to close Baschurch Fire Station.

At our Walford Campus we have some 700 students and staff on site at any one time, with around 90 students and staff living on-site.

I am concerned that closure of our local fire station could increase the time taken to respond to an emergency, with potentially fatal consequences.

I would urge this issue to be given very careful scrutiny and would welcome further consultation before a firm decision is made.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Tyley  
Principal and Chief Executive

cc C Jones, D Candlin, P McGuinness, A Howls

E-mail: [enquiries@wnsc.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@wnsc.ac.uk) • Website: [www.wnsc.ac.uk](http://www.wnsc.ac.uk)

Principal/Chief Executive: Andrew Tyley MBA, BA(Hons), CPFA

**Lynn Ince**

---

**Subject:** FW: Closure of Baschurch Fire Station

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**From:** Anne Chalkley [mailto:parishclerkgnln@gmail.com]

**Sent:** 17 June 2013 14:43

**To:** Enquiries

**Subject:** Closure of Baschurch Fire Station

Good afternoon

Great Ness and Little Ness Parish Council have received word that Baschurch Fire Station is to be closed. The Council would like to see the report from Shropshire Fire and Rescue Services showing the reasons for closing Baschurch Fire Station. As you can imagine the Parish Councils and residents in the surrounding area are extremely concerned and worried that this Fire Station will be closed and they will be discussing this issue at their next meeting on the 11 July.

For the Council to discuss this in further, they will need the necessary detail showing the reasons behind the closure of this Fire Station.

We look forward to this report by return.

Many thanks.

Kind regards

*Anne*

**Anne Chalkley**

**Parish Clerk**

**Great Ness and Little Ness Parish Council**

31 Cornwall Drive

Bayston Hill

Shrewsbury

SY3 0EP

Tel: 01743 872126

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# BASCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk: Mrs Anne Howls  
The Newlands - Crosscut Lane - Stanwardine-in-the-Fields - Baschurch -  
Shropshire - SY4 2DD  
Telephone: 01939 260442 - email: ellesmerepc@supanet.com

18<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Mr. P. Raymond  
Chief Fire Officer  
Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service  
Brigade Headquarters,  
St Michael's Street,  
Shrewsbury,  
Shropshire,  
SY1 2HJ



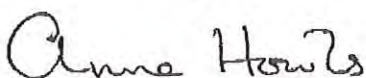
Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Baschurch Parish Council I formally write to you regarding the possible closure of our fire station. Whilst we understand the enormous pressures that your Service is under from the Government in relation to the most severe cutbacks in spending, we ask that you give full and careful consideration to the options available to you in making savings within the county.

I feel sure that in writing to you as a fire officer whose main concern is the saving of life, that you must surely be aware that the closure of our station will not only immensely increase fire damage to property due to the increased travel time of fire appliances responding from distant fire stations to an incident, but the risk of loss of life will likewise increase, not only at fires, but also at road accidents and other special service calls where life is in danger.

As concern is growing amongst our population and, indeed, amongst adjoining parishes served by our fire station, we intend to take any course in order to retain our fire station. The Parish Council will, at some stage, hold a public meeting regarding this situation, and will accordingly invite yourself to attend, in order that you have a fair opportunity to explain the reasons behind any decision to close the fire station as part of these cutbacks.

Yours faithfully,



**Anne Howls**  
*(Clerk to the Parish Council)*





*Reply sent 21 June.  
16:15-13th.*

**Packwood Haugh School**  
Ruyton XI Towns  
Shrewsbury  
Shropshire SY4 1HX

Telephone 01939 260217  
Fax 01939 262077

[www.packwood-haugh.co.uk](http://www.packwood-haugh.co.uk)  
[enquiries@packwood-haugh.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@packwood-haugh.co.uk)

20<sup>th</sup> June 2013,

Dear Sir,

### Baschurch Fire Station

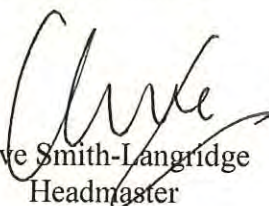
I have not yet had the opportunity to make your acquaintance since I became the Headmaster of Packwood Haugh School, Ruyton XI Towns.

And I'm sorry that my first communication with you is concerning such a grave matter. It has come to my attention that the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service are considering the closure of our nearest fire station, Baschurch. I cannot bear to think how devastating the implications of this could be for the children (and staff) at my school. We have approximately 250 children at Packwood and many are boarders. In my first year as Head we have had reason to call on the Baschurch fire station team a few times to investigate incidents during the hours of night time. All, thank goodness, so far have been false alarms, but one day....

As a teacher I have benefited from a great deal of fire training from various fire services over the years and have always been made fully aware of the importance of a rapid response to a real life fire situation. If Baschurch were to close our nearest response teams would come from Oswestry or Shrewsbury and those many extra minutes it would take engines to arrive could cost many young lives.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to use your powers to stop any talk of the closure of Baschurch fire station. If I can be of any further assistance in achieving this goal please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

  
Clive Smith-Langridge  
Headmaster

# BASCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk: Mrs Anne Howls  
The Newlands - Crosscut Lane - Stanwardine-in-the-Fields - Baschurch -  
Shropshire - SY4 2DD  
Telephone: 01939 260442 - email: ellesmerepc@supanet.com



31<sup>st</sup> July 2013

Mr. P. Raymond  
Chief Fire Officer  
Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service  
Brigade Headquarters,  
St Michael's Street,  
Shrewsbury,  
Shropshire,  
SY1 2HJ

Dear Sir,

I enclose a copy of a letter which has been sent to the Rt. Hon. Owen Paterson MP today from Baschurch Parish Council concerning the possible closure of Baschurch Fire Station for your information.

Yours faithfully,

**Anne Howls**  
*(Clerk to the Parish Council)*

# BASCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk: Mrs Anne Howls  
The Newlands - Crosscut Lane - Stanwardine-in-the-Fields - Baschurch -  
Shropshire - SY4 2DD  
Telephone: 01939 260442 - email: ellesmerepc@supanet.com

## COPY

31<sup>st</sup> July 2013

Rt. Hon. Owen Paterson MP,  
House of Commons,  
London,  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr. Paterson,

Since the last letter sent to you by this Parish Council regarding the proposed closure of Baschurch fire station, we believe that you have been made more than aware of the deep concern of the residents of the Baschurch area with regard to this matter. This Parish Council believes that it is our duty to inform the residents and businesses within our area of the repercussions of such action, and we have, therefore, held meetings with our adjacent Parish Councils, whose areas will be affected by the proposed closure. All of these Councils share our amazement and anxiety that such a decision, if carried out, would drastically increase attendance times of fire appliances to this area, and would obviously increase fire damage to property and the greater possibility of death to the residents of this area.

As such, I have been asked to write formally to you, to invite you to attend a meeting, on a date of your choice, whereby you can have the opportunity to explain the reason and necessity of such a proposal, to our Parish Council and all other adjacent Councils. We fully understand the predicament of the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, in relation to the enforced cut-backs placed upon it by the Government, and feel sure that you, as our elected Member, will fully understand our concerns and will no doubt assure your constituents that any such proposal will be vigorously opposed by yourself.

We look forward to an early and positive reply to this letter.

Yours sincerely

**Anne Howls**  
*(Clerk to the Parish Council)*



Web Site - [www.baschurchpc.org.uk](http://www.baschurchpc.org.uk)



# MYDDLE AND BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Web site: [www.myddleandbroughton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.myddleandbroughton-pc.gov.uk)

6, Primrose Drive,  
Sutton Park,  
Shrewsbury,  
SY3 7TP  
01743 236810

Email: [myddlebroughtonclerk@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:myddlebroughtonclerk@tiscali.co.uk)

August 2<sup>nd</sup>. 2013

Mr. S. West,  
Chair, Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority,  
St. Michael's Street,  
Shrewsbury,  
SY1 2HJ

Dear Mr. West,

## **Baschurch Fire Station.**

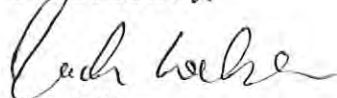
Parish Council Members have been provided with a copy of a letter dated 4 July 2013, which was sent to all Shropshire Councillors and which has generated considerable concern amongst Members of this Council.

Members are aware that at this stage the closure of Baschurch Fire Station is one of a number of possible options in the impact assessment exercise being carried out by the Fire and Rescue Authority. However Members are very concerned that this could well be a suggestion that becomes decision.

As committed Councillors, Members feel it is important for them to declare their total opposition to such a development which, if activated, would increase the attendance times of fire appliances attending incidents in the Parish and increase the risk to residents and property.

Over the consultation period Members will watch developments with interest and concern and ensure that the public they serve are made aware of the discussions that are taking place and the possible affect it will have on their community.

Yours sincerely,



Jack Wilson,  
Parish Clerk

Copy to Chairman and Vice Chairman.

# BASCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk: Mrs Anne Howls  
The Newlands - Crosscut Lane - Stanwardine-in-the-Fields - Baschurch -  
Shropshire - SY4 2DD  
Telephone: 01939 260442 - email: ellesmerepc@supanet.com

5<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Dear Councillor,

I have been asked by all the members of Baschurch Parish Council, to write to you with regard to the proposed closure of Baschurch fire station.

As you are no doubt aware, from radio and press reports, the residents and Council members of Baschurch are deeply concerned about the effects which will result, if such action is approved. At present we, and a number of adjacent parishes, are served by the firefighters of our fire station. If the fire station is to close, then the whole of this rural population will rely on the services of fire stations at Shrewsbury or Oswestry. A look at the county map will make you understand the lengthy journey that fire appliances from either of these fire stations will have to make, in order to attend any emergency incident in this area.

The fulltime fire station at Shrewsbury is always busy with call-outs, and often requires the attendance of the Baschurch appliance to cover the town, as all its' appliances are committed to emergency incidents. If our fire station is closed, we will regularly have no fire cover from Shrewsbury, due to them attending incidents within their own area. The fire station at Oswestry is the busiest part time fire station in the county. Again, if the appliances from this station are committed to incidents, then we will not get any response from this fire station. There are also times when Oswestry are unable to provide crews for incidents. This will also negate attendance to our area. Another look at the county map will make you realize where the next nearest fire stations are, and how far they will have to travel to reach our area.

In any case, attendance times to parts of our area will more than double. This will mean that there will be more chance of deaths from fire, as well as deaths in road accidents and other emergency situations. Damage to property, both domestic and commercial, will escalate as fire will take a firm hold before the nearest fire appliances will arrive.

Before you make any decision regarding the above we would ask you to fully consider what impact your decision will have on our community, if you agree to the closure of our fire station.

Yours faithfully,

**Anne Howls**  
**(Clerk to the Parish Council)**







HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr John Redmond,  
Shropshire Chief Fire Officer  
Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service,  
Brigade Headquarters,  
St Michael's Street,  
Shrewsbury,  
SY1 2HJ



2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013

I understand we are in throes of arranging a meeting for you to come to London and meet the Fire Minister in order to discuss the efficiency savings you have worked hard to secure in Shropshire as well as discussing future settlements.

In advance of that meeting however, I wanted to outline some of the concerns I have about the importance of fire stations that serve Shrewsbury owing to the unique makeup of our town in Shropshire. You are aware of the problem of rural sparsity that affects large areas of our county, with my constituency being a real example of where the widely spaced residential areas mean extended call out times.

To add to this, Shrewsbury town has over 600 listed historic buildings. These form a crucial attraction for the 2.6 million visitors that Shrewsbury hosts every year. Should they be damaged by fire, it would be of real detriment to this industry which is worth £137m a year to our economy. It is paramount therefore that should any of these buildings need to be attended by Shropshire Fire and Rescue, it is done so as swiftly as possible to limit fire and smoke damage.

I would be grateful there if you would confirm the above elements have been taken account of in relation to the proposed station closures, and I look forward to the meeting we are due to have with the Minister.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and especially for the hard work of you and all the Shropshire Fire and Rescue fire fighters.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Kawczynski MP  
Shrewsbury & Atcham

**Lynn Ince**

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**Subject:** FW: closure baschurch fire station

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**From:** Lynda McCormack [mailto:clerkloppingtonpc@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 08, 2013 03:23 PM GMT Standard Time  
**To:** Chris Mellings  
**Cc:** Stuart West; David Minnery; Peter M Adams; Keith Barrow; Martin Bennett; Peter Cherrington; Nigel Hartin; John Hurst-Knight; Jean E Jones; Malcolm Price  
**Subject:** closure baschurch fire station

Dear Councillors,

Loppington Parish Council writes to express its concern regarding the closure of Baschurch Fire Station. Currently the nearest fire service to Loppington Village is Wem. Loppington is in a rural area within North Shropshire and adjoining Baschurch with dwellings in remote locations. Burlton to the south west of the Parish is adjacent to the Baschurch area and as such Baschurch Fire Station is the nearest to the south of Loppington Parish.

The closure of Baschurch Station together with a proposed reduction in service from Shrewsbury by removal of fire engines leaves a considerable gap in coverage of a large rural area in the North West of the County.

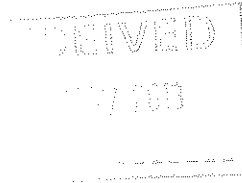
Loppington Parish Council strongly supports Baschurch in its endeavours to retain a station in the area Loppington PC is concerned that there will be an adverse impact and increased risk as a result of the cost cutting exercise and the subsequent requirement to reduce front line services in Shropshire.

Clerk to Loppington Parish Council

on behalf of Loppington PC

\*\*\*\*\*  
If you are not the intended recipient of this email please do not send it on to others, open any attachments or file the email locally.  
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For more information, please refer to <http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/privacy.nsf>  
\*\*\*\*\*

The Chief Fire Officer  
Fire and Rescue Service Shropshire  
St Michael's Street  
Shrewsbury



08/11/2014

Dear Mr Redman

I am writing to you on behalf of Bomere Heath Parish Council in order to defend the retention of Baschurch Fire Service. I attended the meeting early in October at Weston Lullingfields where you explained the situation regarding the extra cuts of £1 million which you have to make in the coming year. I appreciate that in all probability 4 out of the 22 retained Fire Services will be lost and that 1 of the five appliances on the Shrewsbury-Telford axis will also be cut. If, as you explained, each of these solutions would save approximately £500 000, it may well be that both solutions will be implemented. Both of these would have serious implications for Bomere Heath especially the loss of Baschurch Services, should this be considered for closure.

Geographically, Bomere Heath is in an interesting if not unique position inasmuch as it has Shrewsbury to the south and open country to the north serviced by the Baschurch Station. Battlefield and Albrighton in our parish are within comparatively easy access to Shrewsbury Fire Station, whilst Grafton, Walford Heath and Old Woods are much closer to Baschurch. Such hamlets would be completely lost without Baschurch Station, as Wem and Ellesmere would be too far away.

Bomere Heath itself is a growing village; it has been designated a hub of development in the SamDev programme; a development of some thirty houses to the south of the village is in the pipeline and the building of 12 affordable houses has just been passed, on appeal, to take place to the north of the village. Other houses are to be built in the outlying hamlets at Grafton, Mytton, Walford Heath and Little Woods – all of which are served by Baschurch Station and which are too far for the wholtime firefighters of Shrewsbury to reach in reasonable time particularly if they were to lose one machine at the same time.

In Bomere Heath we have a thriving school and a number of commercial and retail premises. There is an above-average percentage of social housing and we have three children's homes which receive children with educational and social difficulties. We also have a significant population of senior

citizens. All of these represent a marginally heightened risk factor and although our calls of Fire Services have so far been minimal, this does not mitigate future risk.

I was interested to learn that the Baschurch Service covers a stretch of the A5 trunk road where, as on the B5067 from Leaton to Baschurch which passes through our parish, there is always a high risk of accidents since cars regularly exceed the speed limits and, unlike motorways and dual carriageways, there is no separation or barrier between cars travelling in opposite directions.

I do not know whether the current status and condition of the different retained fire services will weigh in your decision but I must say I was impressed by the presence of such a young, dynamic and enthusiastic group of firefighters at Baschurch and they appear to be led by knowledgeable and experienced leaders. I do not know what the position is at Wem and Press, Whitchurch, Ellesmere and Oswestry but I do know it would be a serious loss that could not be easily reversed at a later date, should economic conditions ever improve.

You have a difficult decision to make and I wish you well in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

Eric Barker



## PREES PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk  
Mrs L Rumney

Tel No. 01939 236059  
Email [lesley.rumney@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.rumney@btinternet.com)

Mr Redman  
Chief Fire Officer  
Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service  
Sent via email

The Fields  
Quina Brook  
WEM  
Shropshire  
SY4 5RJ

25<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Dear Mr. Redman

### **Re Proposed Fire Service Cuts**

On behalf of Prees Parish Council, thank you for attending the meeting at Prees on 8th November 2013. The Parish Council agreed that the meeting was of great benefit to it and hope that the Fire Service benefited in the same way. Following on from this the Parish Council is holding a public meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November to inform the local residents of the issues facing Prees Fire Station and the budget cuts that are being considered.

I have been asked by the Parish Council to request from you, information under the Freedom of Information Act, with regard to Prees fire station. You have stated that the annual cost of providing this fire station is in the region of £150,000. In order to gain a better understanding of how this amount is calculated please will you provide me with the following information:

1. The annual cost of building repairs and maintenance.
2. The annual cost of building services i.e. water, heating, lighting and electricity.
3. The annual cost of the fire appliance with regard to fuel, servicing and depreciation.
4. The annual cost of Retaining Fees to Prees personnel.
5. The annual cost of Drill Night and Training Fees for Prees personnel.
6. The annual cost of replacement equipment and uniform.
7. The additional cost of sending Fire Fighters to alternative venues for BA training in the event of the closure of Prees Fire Station.

Thank you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely



Lesley Rumney  
Clerk to Prees Parish Council.

# WROCKWARDINE WOOD & TRENCH PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman:  
Cllr. Les Brayne,  
Tel: 01952 616363

Vice Chairman:  
Cllr. Karen Hanmer,  
Tel: 07904 421173

Clerk:  
Mrs. Y. Taylor,  
The Parish Council Centre,  
Church Road,  
Wrockwardine Wood,  
Telford.  
TF2 7AH  
Tel: 01952 61636

Email: [parishcouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:parishcouncil@btconnect.com)  
Web Site: [www.wwtpc.org.uk](http://www.wwtpc.org.uk)



12<sup>th</sup> December 2013

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service,  
Brigade Headquarters,  
St Michael's Street,  
Shrewsbury,  
Shropshire,  
SY1 2HJ

Dear Sirs,

The Parish Council strongly object to any cuts being made to the fire service budget because of the potential consequences to the residents of our area and indeed the whole of the County.

It is a serious concern of the Council that rural areas will be severely affected by the closure of fire stations which will undoubtedly cause an increase in response times and put people's lives at risk.

We object in the strongest possible terms to the removal of a full time engine from either Shrewsbury or Telford. Telford & Wrekin Council is promoting the growth of housing in accordance with Government Policy. If the current provision of 800 new homes per year is maintained to increase Telford's population from 174,000 to over 200,000 then funding will need to be increased rather than decreased.

Yours faithfully,

Yvonne Taylor,  
Clerk to the Parish Council



Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service  
Brigade Headquarters  
St Michael's Street  
Shrewsbury  
Shropshire  
SY1 2HJ

Your ref:  
Our ref:  
Email: Helen.cork@nfu.org.uk  
Direct line: 01952 409238  
Date: 16 December 2013

Dear Sir

### **Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service - Budget Reductions Consultation**

I am writing on behalf of the National Farmers' Union, West Midlands Region about the current consultation on Budget Reductions. The NFU is a professional body which represents the interests of 75% of all farmers and growers. In Shropshire we represent a wide range of farmers, growers and rural businesses. The future provision of Fire and Rescue services in the county is a key concern for our members as the majority of them are located within rural areas.

Our members are particularly concerned about the proposal to close four Fire Stations; at Baschurch, Clun, Hodnet and Prees. We note that your consultation paper indicates that closure would result in a number of negative impacts. The farming community is extremely concerned that these closures will inevitably result in dramatically increased response times in rural areas and the loss of valuable local knowledge. Therefore we urge you to look again at the impact of these closures on rural communities, farms and businesses.

Your firefighters (whole-time and retained) who are based in rural stations are highly valued by our members. They have excellent local knowledge, this includes knowing the land and often who to contact when rural incidents occur. This has proved invaluable when tackling isolated field fires.

Many rural incidents, for example a fire in an isolated stack of straw, occur very rapidly. Unless a crew can attend quickly it will often be too late to take action. We have consulted with our members on this issue and they have told us that when fires occur on farms it is often the local crew who attend first, even where full time crews are close by. This could be a reflection of the rural knowledge of retained firefighters. Shropshire already has the second slowest response time (nine minutes) for firefighters attending an incident; this will be slowed by a further nine-12 minutes with the budget cut proposals. Response times in urban areas are within three minutes. With funding for rural services at £17.52/head compared to £28.89/head in urban areas, the cuts in Shropshire will reduce this figure in rural areas even more. We appreciate that SF&R has taken measures to reduce the impacts of the budget cuts, but do not think that closing stations will be a suitable way forward.

It is also important to add that retained firefighters tend to live and work in the countryside and often have a good understanding of farming. When tackling a farm fire it is important that crews know how to assess farm fires and what actions are safe on a farm. For example this could include livestock management skills (assessing whether a field of cattle is safe to enter, people

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who are not familiar with farm animals may be over cautious), knowledge of fertilisers and agro-chemicals.

I hope that you find our contribution to the consultation useful. If you require further information or clarification of any of the points raised in the response please do not hesitate to contact me at the West Midlands Regional Office.

Yours sincerely



Helen Cork  
Shropshire County Adviser



Monday, December 16th, 2013



John Redmond  
The Chief Fire Officer  
Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service  
St Michael Street  
Shrewsbury SY1 2HJ

**Subject: Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service Budget Options**

Dear Mr Redmond

I am strongly opposed to the proposed closure of Clun Fire Station.

The geographical area covered by Clun Fire Station is unique in Shropshire, covering almost 100 square miles, with the area to the west and south of Clun rising to 1600 ft. The only road to the west of Clun is a 'B' road with lanes leading off it.

The time taken to reach an incident in these areas would be greatly increased for fire engines from Bishop's Castle and/or Craven Arms.

Water supplies west of Newcastle-on-Clun are very poor with no hydrants available. Therefore if there was say, a farm fire west of Clun and either Craven Arms or Bishop's Castle were unavailable, where would the second or third fire engine come from and what time would it take to reach the incident?

I own and run the newsagent shop in Clun. The 14th Century building is one of the oldest in the town and graded a two star building so if a fire occurred, time would be of the essence.

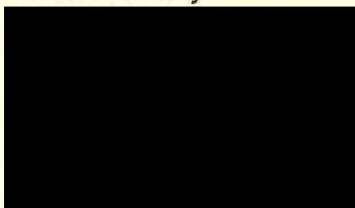
Clun is a growing town with a planning application for 50 houses opposite the Fire Station. Also, only 100 yards away from the Fire Station is the Clun Garage with all its fuel and vehicle repairs.

You will be aware of all the schools, bus depots, pubs, holiday complexes etc. in the Clun area so I would ask those who are going to make the decision on Clun's Fire Station to come to Clun and then travel the hills and lanes and see how long it takes and what it might be like in winter to travel in the area. I reckon it would be quite an eye opener to them.

I urge you all not to waste the money spent on the training of Clun fire-fighters and not to put on extra time to reach incidents.

Please do not close Clun Fire Stations.

Yours sincerely



cc. Philip Dunne  
Nigel Hartin  
Shropshire Council

# HODNET PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk : Mrs Maryjayne Rees

Tel : 01630 685745  
email : [clerk@hodnet.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hodnet.org.uk)

Rhagfyr  
35 Peplow  
Market Drayton  
Shropshire  
TF9 3JY

Shropshire Fire Authority  
Brigade Headquarters  
St Michaels Street  
Shrewsbury  
Shropshire  
SY12HJ



18 December 2013

Dear Sirs

Chief Fire Officer John Redmond  
Assistant Chief Fire Officer Andy Johnson  
Councillor D Minnery  
Councillor M Price

## Meeting at Hodnet Lyon Hall 6<sup>th</sup> December 2013

The Parish Council wishes to thank you for the meeting on the financial issues facing the Fire Service Authority and the various operational decisions which may have to be taken as a result, including the potential closure of the Hodnet Fire Station. We in turn wanted to express our support for our retained fire crew and the valuable local service they provide.

There were a number of concerns expressed which followed the comprehensive presentation by the Fire Authority. The "Low Risk" categorisation for our area which, while linked to a population base, raised the question as to the importance or not of the rural community. This categorisation needs some further clarification on the website. The population base of course does not address our mobile population with the major trunk roads in the Hodnet area e.g. A49, A53, A41 and A442. You will be well aware of the incidents on those roads. The other major concern was the delay of the second engine in the event of a fire which required rescue e.g. two nursing homes in the absence of the Hodnet engine as the first responder.

We are encouraging our parishioners and those of adjoining parishes to respond to your website. We believe firmly that the Hodnet fire crew provide both a professional and cost-effective service to our community.

Yours faithfully

Mrs M Rees  
Hodnet Parish Clerk



Whitchurch Business Park  
Shakespeare Way  
Whitchurch  
Shropshire  
SY13 1LJ  
Telephone 01948 668219  
Facsimile 01948 664246

CLr Stuart West  
The Chairman Shropshire Fire & Rescue Authority  
St Michaels Street  
Shrewsbury  
SY1 2HJ

23<sup>rd</sup> December 2013

Dear *Stuart*.

I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Company by Ray, David and Linda Grocott to the Fire Authority's current consultation on the closure of Prees Fire Station.

Our first concern is around the increase in attendance times for fire appliances, at our Prees sites (Higher Heath, Brades Road, Brookdale) and our Whitchurch site at Shakespeare Way. While we are aware that the primary cover for Whitchurch is not directly affected, it is evident that this has the potential to have a significant impact on our business. Any reduction of fire cover in the area will have consequences especially in the event of busy periods or a major incident. There will inevitably be greater travelling and attendance times for supporting appliances, and consequently a corresponding increase the severity of any fire before significant and appropriate resources can be brought to bear. This will additionally significantly increase the potential fire loss of any incident, a point of which I am sure you are aware, as the Association of British Insurers are also concerned with, and raising the issue on a National scale.

This takes me to my second point, the lack resilience that the closure of Prees Fire Station (and others in the area) will have for the North East of the County.

Grocontinental are one of the significant employers in the area and make significant contributions both to the Local and National economy. In 2013 alone the Company has invested over £18 million and provided additional employment opportunities for the local community in these hard economic times. We do not see the reduction in our local emergency services as being sympathetic with this and future investment plans.

In closing, Ray Grocott the Company Chairman who incidentally is also a resident of Prees would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in person and discuss the matter further. He would also like to offer you and other members of the Fire Authority an opportunity to visit the premises at a mutually convenient date and time.

Best Regards and have a wonderful Christmas,



*Joe Whelan*

**Grocontinental Limited**  
Temperature Controlled Storage & Distribution

Shakespeare Way, Whitchurch Business Park  
Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 1LJ

Tel: 01948 666600  
Email: [info@grocontinental.co.uk](mailto:info@grocontinental.co.uk) [www.grocontinental.co.uk](http://www.grocontinental.co.uk)  
Co. Reg. No. 01550927



# Fire Brigades Union Shropshire



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The Fire Brigades Union Office, Telford Central Fire Station,  
Stafford Park 1, Telford, Shropshire, TF3 3BW.

Brigade Secretary: Matt Lamb  
Office: 01952 201135  
Mobile: 07919 327690  
E-Mail: Matt.Lamb@fbu.org.uk

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30<sup>th</sup> December 2013

To ACFO Johnson

cc CFO Redmond

Dear Andy,

## **20:20 Phase 2 consultation**

Since the inception of IRMP and repeal of National Standards of Fire Cover, the FBU across the country has fully engaged in consultations and negotiations arising from changes brought to the Fire Service through Risk Management Planning. As you know, on each occasion in Shropshire this has started with our comprehensive response to the Service's IRMP, both strategic and action plan and in the case of "Public Value" we provided an interim report also.

Our intention is of course to fully respond to 20:20 when it reaches its final draft in the spring of 2014. The 20:20 process is designed as a three part process, the second of which ends on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013. We had not intended to make a response to this part of the process, but now feel it is worth outlining some initial thoughts here.

Ironically, as SFRS has moved from annual IRMP to longer term plans and now with "Public Value" and "20:20" to 5 year plans, funding to the Fire Service has changed from 3 year settlements to annual cuts. How any Service is able to make long term plans based on Risk Management whilst swathes of funding is cut on an annual basis without any indication of the long term forecast is preposterous.

We set out in both our responses to Public Value, that the cuts that it brought to the Service by 2015 would leave SFRS at a level below a minimum rescue service. Any further cut, which includes 20:20, will further erode SFRS below that minimum standard.

We appreciate that if the funding is not available then resources are unaffordable. This is contrary to Risk Management Planning where the risk or need should generate the funding and not vice versa. However it is clear to us that alternate crewing of specialist appliances brought about by Public Value has detrimentally compromised the level of fire cover in Shropshire to a substandard level.

Indeed, many of the changes made by Public value were not efficiencies but cuts to Service. If Shropshire is to be afforded a properly funded fire and rescue service many of those changes implemented by Public Value will need to be reversed.

The FBU in Shropshire has used simple risk assessment tools to evaluate the minimum levels of resources required for the risk in Shropshire. In our Interim review of Public Value, we have demonstrated how those tools work and how we applied them to Shropshire. Our point of view has not changed and will not until the risks faced by our members or the method by which we deal with those risks change.

Therefore as the proposals contained within 20:20 are undoubtedly further cuts rather than efficiencies we have to oppose these proposals. This is because these proposals represent a fundamental and pernicious cut to Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service that will ultimately lead to more severe injuries both to the public and Firefighters, greater damage to property and businesses and at some point avoidable deaths.

Before making any comment on the actual proposals, we believe that it is the duty of SFRS in its IRMP to present the proposals in realistic terms. The Service is beyond “doing more with less.” Any such attempt to dress these cuts as ways of working more effectively must be removed from the IRMP.

Interestingly other Services are not backward in publicising the effect cuts will have on their service. Chief Constables are often blunt about the effects of cuts to Police, and Britain’s most senior military officer General Sir Nick Houghton has described cuts to the defence budget leaving a “hollow force” and the Royal Navy reaching “critical mass.” It is incumbent on the 20:20 IRMP to be blunt to the people of Shropshire that their fire and rescue service will be inadequate in comparison to the risk.

This will be difficult to achieve in the case of the proposals to cut Fire Control as these will not be fully understood by the general public. Headlines of shared resources and mergers sound common sense to the general public and so it will be more important to demonstrate the folly of reducing levels of staff and resources in Fire Control. Ultimately, Fire Control is the hub of the Service. Without it nothing works. Ceding Fire Control to another Service will undoubtedly lead to the rest of the Service being controlled by that outside body whoever it may be.

Closing RDS stations will be higher profile and more controversial. The public will understand fire engines responding from further away will affect their safety. However it is important also to stress that surrounding areas as well as the rest of Shropshire will be impacted by these closures. All fire stations and their appliances are part of a network that supports each other. Removal of any of these appliances will affect the network and its ability to deal with incidents.

This is clearly the same with a wholetime appliance but without the headline of a fire station closure. Again this obviously represents a critical cut to Shropshire’s emergency response. However, when there is not the funding to afford a proper operational response, the public of Shropshire need to be made aware of what those consequences will be.

Changing shift patterns is included as an alternative to removing a wholetime pump, but this is not a credible alternative. Day Crewing Plus has been introduced in other counties where the number of staff is much higher and the number of calls at some of their stations is much

lower. This is not a viable option in Shropshire where the nucleus of staff we will end up with in 2014 is already too small to accommodate an alternative shift system.

Clearly we will respond more fully during the final IRMP stage as we always have, but I hope it is helpful to the Service to give the outline as we have above at this stage of the process.

Yours sincerely,

*Matt Lamb*

Brigade Secretary  
FBU Shropshire

**Lynn Ince**

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**To:** rosemarie@rourke.org.uk  
**Subject:** FW: Fire and Rescue contact us form from the public site  
**Attachments:** Covering letter to go out with IRMP 2020 website info and survey.pdf; IRMP 2020 Fire Service public survey v2.pdf; Budget reductions written website copy.pdf

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**From:** [web.manager@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:web.manager@shropshire.gov.uk)  
**Sent:** 12 December 2013 12:26:06 (UTC) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London  
**To:** IRMP TEAM  
**Subject:** Fire and Rescue contact us form from the public site

Contents of the form:

**Name:**

[REDACTED]

**Email address:**

[REDACTED]

**Organisation:**

Hazelhurst Close Tenants Association

**Are you...:**

Public

**Message:**

Hazelhurst Close Tenants Association

We submit this letter in full support of maintaining the fire station in Clun town. Its closure means lives at risk and that is an unacceptable hazard to expect Clun residents to agree to.

With the ambulance services already cut back in our area, our first line of defence is our Fire brigade and while we fully accept that this situation is not the fault of or the problem for our Shropshire Fire services, we ask that this is taken into account. We have a healthy tourist industry which means more traffic on the roads in summer months. Our fire station in Clun has consistently been there to deal with RTA's, without them the extra time it would take to arrive is unthinkable.

As the fire service itself is at pain to remind us, fire can spread in a household in minutes. The roads leading to Clun are narrow and bending and often to overtake farm or heavy machinery we have to rely on those drivers to find a safe place to pull over. The minutes wasted will mean the difference between life and death for anyone trapped in their homes, or even someone trapped in a RTA. That anyone considers this to be 'acceptable risk' is beyond comprehension.

We understand from our Chairperson who attended the meeting held in Clun by the Shropshire Fire services (in her role of Town Councillor for Clun) that other neighbouring brigades are also facing cuts; Powys which shares our boards to have to consider their own funding policy with possible cuts. This could well mean fire services at Knighton might be disrupted. This would be catastrophic for residents on both areas and we believe that future consultation with Powys is needed before any considered closures.

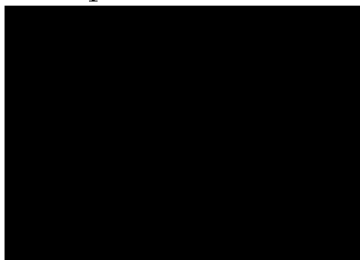
With this in mind we as a tenants association will further our concerns to the MP for South Shropshire in the hope that he can at least voice our concerns regarding the new funding system's that have caused these cuts in the first place.

On a more emotive note, the fire station here at Clun is an intricate part of the town's make up and infrastructure. Their services are called upon in emergency situations but also to support the town

during festivals and celebrations. They have given us their time, free of charge, for many charitable works and we are all eternally grateful to them.

n.b Many of the residents of Hazelhurst Close are elderly or disabled. It has come to light that they are all very concerned that without having access to the internet their views cannot be aired. This is an issue we suspect is happening country wide. While we are in firm favour of modern technology we must remain very aware that for now there is at least 50% of the population that do not. Many of these live in rural areas and do not have library or public space access. Survey Monkey is a very good and useful tool to collect information cheaply, but it sadly will not reflect at present the views of the majority of people.

Hazelhurst close Tenants Association  
Chairperson and contact



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**Lynn Ince**

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**To:** Sandra Trevor  
**Subject:** RE: Reference - IMPORTANT: Fire Service Response Times Could Increase in Your Area

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**From:** Sandra Trevor [mailto:s.trevor@oswestry-tc.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 17 December 2013 17:05  
**To:** Andy Johnson  
**Subject:** Reference - IMPORTANT: Fire Service Response Times Could Increase in Your Area

Dear Mr Johnson

I write further to your email dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2013 and also the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013 attended by certain Councillors from this Authority.

The Town Council is against the closure of any local fire stations.

We have particular concerns over the implications for Oswestry if Baschurch fire station should close. This on the basis that Oswestry will have no cover for any major incident (currently provided by Baschurch) and will have to rely on Shrewsbury. Equally, if there are any incidents in Baschurch then Oswestry will have to attend, leaving Oswestry itself vulnerable should anything happen in the town in the meantime.

We also note that Ryton XI Towns, Molverley, Kinnerley and Nescliffe are currently covered by Baschurch and in the absence of that station, coverage will have to be provided by Oswestry.

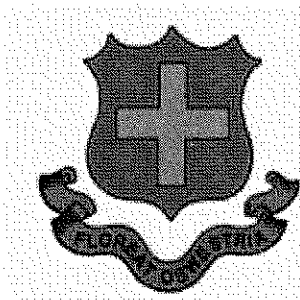
You will of course be aware that Oswestry is the busiest station in this area with retained firefighters. If that personnel is required to take on Baschurch work and cover approximately 100 incidents a year then this will have an implication as staff will have to ask their employers for considerably more time off than they do now which would then put the staffing service at risk.

It is hoped that these comments will be taken into consideration in your decision making.

Kind Regards

**David J Preston**  
**Town Clerk**

 01691 680222  
[www.oswestry-tc.gov.uk](http://www.oswestry-tc.gov.uk)  
Follow us on Twitter @OswestryTC



The views expressed in this email are personal and may not necessarily reflect those of Oswestry Town Council, unless explicitly stated otherwise

**Lynn Ince**

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**To:** townclerk@bishopscastle.co.uk  
**Subject:** Fire and Rescue contact us form from the public site

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**From:** web.manager@shropshire.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 19 December 2013 14:30:41 (UTC) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London  
**To:** IRMP TEAM  
**Subject:** Fire and Rescue contact us form from the public site

Contents of the form:

**Name:**  
Diane Malley  
**Email address:**  
[townclerk@bishopscastle.co.uk](mailto:townclerk@bishopscastle.co.uk)  
**Organisation:**  
Bishop's Castle Town Council  
**Are you...:**  
Business

**Message:**  
Bishop's Castle Town Council wish to register opposition to any proposal to close Clun Fire Station. This part of Shropshire is very rural and therefore these smaller fire-stations have to cover a larger geographical area. This will often mean response times can be longer. If Clun Fire Station were to close then this will put added pressure on the remaining stations such as Bishop's Castle, that will then need to cover larger areas; response times will suffer.

In addition previously in the case of large incidences units from both Bishop's Castle and Clun have attended. With one of the stations being removed then there will be additional risk put on members of the public and fire officers.

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From Commander Phil Morris Royal Navy Retired  
*Clerk to Llanfair Waterdine Parish Council*

To: Nigel Hartin - [nigel.hartin@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.hartin@shropshire.gov.uk)

Copied:

John Redmond - [John.redmond@shropshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:John.redmond@shropshirefire.gov.uk)

Trevor Williams - [Trevor.williams@shropshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:Trevor.williams@shropshirefire.gov.uk)

Andy Johnson - [Andy.Johnson@shropshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:Andy.Johnson@shropshirefire.gov.uk)

29 December 2013

*Dear Cllr Harting,*

This letter is sent on behalf of the Llanfair Waterdine Parish Council following the reports received from Trevor Williams via the LJC and also in conjunction with fallout from the recent meeting at Clun Memorial Hall.

The Parish Council is very concerned about the threat of closure to Clun Fire Station.

Our Parish is right at the edge of Shropshire, and the Parish Council believes that response times will increase way beyond the set targets if this station is closed. We have a large amount of unclassified roads providing access the remote dwellings, farms and businesses in our Parish. Many dwellings are heated with wood fires and the Council also believes that good local knowledge is paramount in locating incidents, especially during winter months when the roads can be hazardous and satellite navigation often causes problems.

As a Council we are very firmly of the opinion that the essential support, local knowledge and fast response times provided by Clun Fire Station are something we simply cannot afford to lose.

In our Parish we have already seen and experienced problems caused by the centralisation of the Ambulance Service.

We understand and appreciate the dilemma for the Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service with regard to budgetary reductions but as a Council we would vigorously implore that Shropshire Council in conjunction with the Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service to find a way to keep this vital local service in place.

Yours sincerely

*Phil Morris*

PHILIP DUNNE MP  
(LUDLOW)



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Stuart West  
Chairman  
Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service HQ  
St. Michaels Street  
Shrewsbury  
Shropshire SY1 2HJ

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014  
Our ref: JB/22.01.2014/

Dear Stuart

Further to my letter last week, I enclose a copy of the results from the survey I have undertaken this month of those likely to be affected by the closure of Clun Fire Station.

You will see from the enclosed that within a short time 829 people have already responded to the survey, totalling 27% of those contacted, and I am receiving more responses each day. This level of feedback is clearly indicative of the strength of feeling local people have on this issue. You will not be surprised to learn that 98% of those who have responded do not want Clun Fire Station to close, with two thirds advocating the use of Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service's reserves to maintain the retained station in Clun.

As I expressed in my earlier letter, the potential loss of the station is of particular concern to local residents due to the remote rural nature of the area served by Clun Fire Station, and its distance from other stations within Shropshire and neighbouring counties. You will see that more than half of the respondents fear that should Clun Fire Station be closed, the nearest alternative appliance would take more than 20 minutes to arrive.

A large proportion (85%) of those who responded to my survey have had some experience of the fire service operated from Clun in one way or another, whether in responding to an incident or the exemplary charitable work done by your officers in the local community. Many people also took the time to write additional notes extolling the service of the fire-fighters based in Clun and their importance to the local community, not only in fighting fires but in providing fire safety advice, helping fit alarms and their considerable charity work.

I hope you will consider carefully the feedback from those who have responded to this survey, and make use of the information to inform your Board's discussions about the future of Clun Fire Station. It would clearly be reassuring to the local community if you were able to rule out closure of the retained stations, including Clun, as part of your further deliberations on achieving the savings you are seeking.

Yours sincerely

Philip Dunne  
MP for Ludlow

From the Constituency Office at:

54 Broad Street, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1GP

Tel: 01584 872187 Fax: 01584 876345

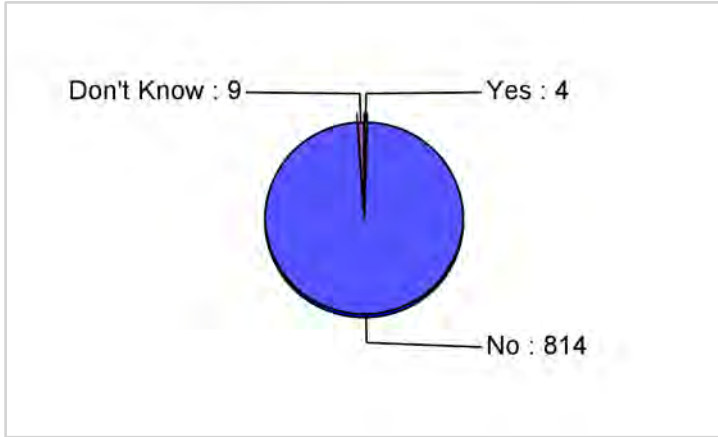
Email: gibsonja@parliament.uk Website: www.philipdunne.com

### Clun Fire Survey [LUDL]

Survey Date: 16 Jan 2014

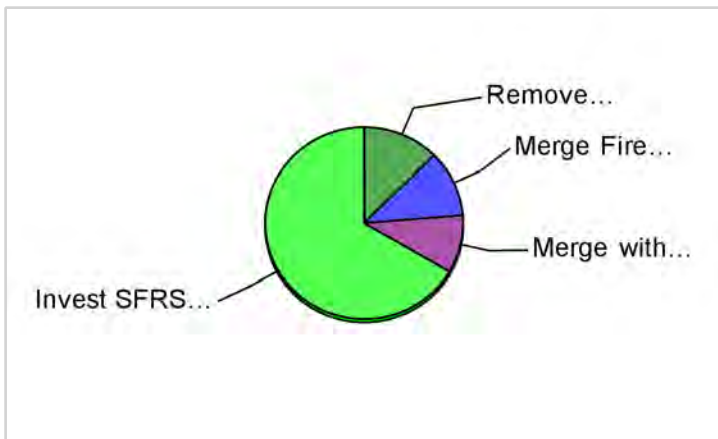
Audience Size: 3063      Respondents: 829      % Responded: 27%

**1** Should SFR close Clun Fire Station [Question Analysis](#)



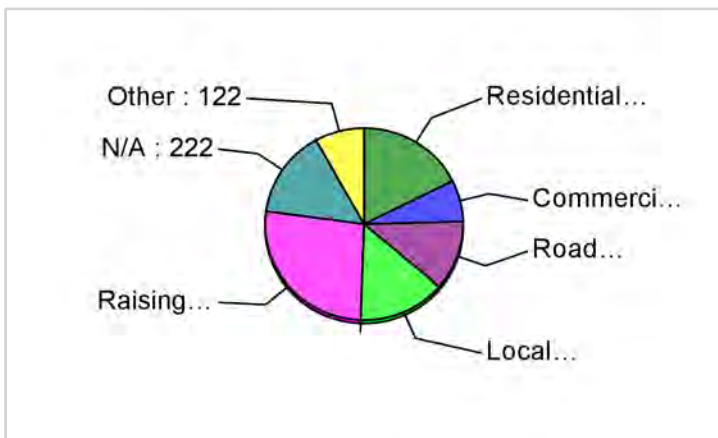
Option	Respondents	Linked VI	Linked Flags
Yes	4	0%	- 0
No	814	98%	- 0
Don't Know	9	1%	- 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>827</b>		

**2** Which other option would you choose [Question Analysis](#)



Option	Responses	Linked VI	Linked Flags
Remove Engine from Sh	124	13%	- 0
Merge Fire Control with	111	11%	- 0
Merge with neighbourin	97	10%	- 0
Invest SFRS Reserves	660	67%	- 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>992</b>		

**3** Have you experienced Fire Service from Clun [Question Analysis](#)

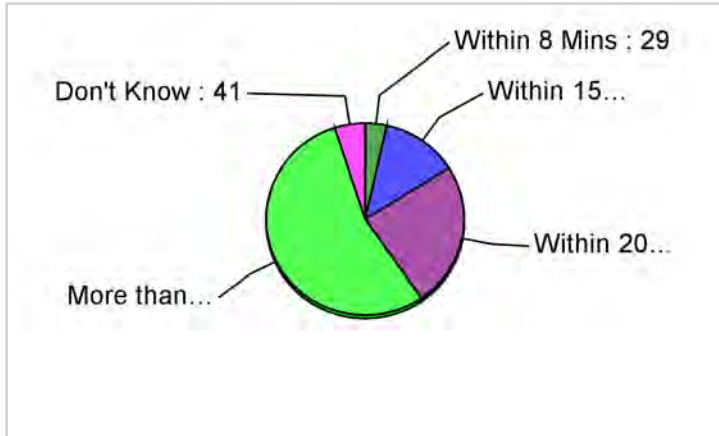


Option	Responses	Linked VI	Linked Flags
Residential Property Fire	264	18%	- 0
Commercial Property Fir	106	7%	- 0
Road Traffic Collision	177	12%	- 0
Local Flooding	214	14%	- 0
Raising funds for Charit	400	27%	- 0
N/A	222	15%	- 0
Other	122	8%	- 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1505</b>		

Clun Fire Survey [LUDL]

4 Nearest alternative appliance to reach you?

[Question Analysis](#)



Option	Respondents	Linked VI	Linked Flags
Within 8 Mins	29	4%	- 0
Within 15 Mins	103	13%	- 0
Within 20 Mins	200	24%	- 0
More than 20 Mins	449	55%	- 0
Don't Know	41	5%	- 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>822</b>		