

Update for the Overview Committee meeting of 30 January 2020 on the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service 'Safer Together' proposals and public consultation

Following the recent public consultation, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority has approved recommendations on changes to how the service operates, and which will commence with immediate effect.

Under the original proposals, the following options were set out:

- Option 1: Close Appledore, Ashburton, Budleigh Salterton, Colyton, Kingston, Porlock, Topsham, Woolacombe
- Option 2: Option 1 plus remove 3rd appliances from Bridgwater, Taunton, Torquay and Yeovil
- Option 3: Option 2 plus remove 2nd appliances from Crediton, Lynton, Martock and Totnes
- Option 4: Option 3 plus day crew Barnstaple, Exmouth and Paignton
- Option 5: Option 4 plus move to night cover only on second appliance at Brixham, Chard, Dartmouth, Frome, Honiton, Ilfracombe, Okehampton, Sidmouth, Tavistock, Teignmouth, Tiverton, Wellington, Wells and Williton
- Option 6: Option 5 plus introduce 6 roving appliances

During the consultation, the Fire Service held 27 drop-in sessions, attended by nearly 2,000 people. In total, 3,818 responses were received: 3,232 completed questionnaires, 205 written submissions and 381 email responses. Five petitions were submitted with a total of 43,644 signatures.

Having taken account of the consultation response, and having considered alternative approaches, the Authority approved the following revised recommendations on 10th January 2020:

- a. Defer the decision to implement day crewing at Barnstaple, Exmouth and Paignton subject to a revised 24/7 crewing model being agreed with the Fire Brigades Union, including roving appliances, before the end of the 19/20 financial year.
- b. Close Budleigh Salterton fire station and allow affected firefighters to respond from Exmouth fire station.
- c. Relocate Topsham fire station to Service Headquarters (Clyst St George) and relocate one of the fire engines to Middlemoor fire station (both fire engines to be relocated to Service Headquarters until an on-call crew can be established at Middlemoor).
- d. The third fire engines from Bridgwater, Taunton, Torquay and Yeovil to be replaced with alternative vehicles.

- e. Remove the second fire engines from Crediton, Lynton, Martock and Totnes.
- f. Introduce variable fire engine availability dependent on risk.

Under the revised recommendations Colyton fire station would remain open but will be subject to periodic review. It was also recommended that risk-based availability is initially introduced for second fire appliances at Honiton and Sidmouth.

The full paper from the meeting of the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority meeting held on 10th January is available at

<http://www.dsfire.gov.uk/News/Newsdesk/PressReleaseArticle.cfm?ReleaseID=2277&siteCategoryId=3&T1ID=26&T2ID=36>.