



Press Release – 12 December 2023

REMOVAL OF FIRE COVER IN WARWICKSHIRE

Tristan Ashby, Chief Executive of the Fire and Rescue Services Association (FRSA) which represents firefighters in Warwickshire, has expressed profound disappointment at the decision of Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service to press ahead with its planned consultation on reconfiguring fire cover in Warwickshire.

Tristan Ashby said:

‘We are very disappointed that in spite of identifying many flaws in Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service’s proposals to reconfigure emergency resources in the county, they have pressed ahead with their consultation which will strip out fire cover across Warwickshire.

Even according to their own figures, the residents of south Warwickshire will receive a massively reduced service. In the Stratford area the first engine currently arrives within 11 minutes 45 seconds, this will increase to 13 minutes 49 seconds. The second engine will increase from 16 minutes 53 seconds, to a staggering 20 minutes 15 seconds. It is important that local residents now rally round and reject these changes, which on the service’s own admission will not result in cost savings.

This is a significant worsening of service for people in the area, and a vicious attack on the on-call firefighters who devote so much time and effort to protect their local communities. Unless our members accept moving on to new and experimental contracts – which they do not want to do – they will face redundancy.

The Fire and Rescue Service seem determined on getting rid of on-call firefighters at any cost rather than making the current system work. Local people must act now to prevent this senseless proposal going ahead’.

Message End

Note for Editors:

- Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service launched its consultation ‘Resourcing to Risk’ yesterday. The consultation closes at midnight on Sunday 10th March.
- Where stations are effectively closed, in all but name, there will be no service from them at all – these stations are: *Polesworth, Kenilworth, Henley, Bidford, Shipston, Gaydon, and Fenny Compton.*
- The following stations will have no cover between 10 pm and 8 am – *Bedworth, Southam, Wellesbourne and Alcester.* All these stations currently have the capacity to

offer 24-hour emergency fire cover provided by on-call and wholetime firefighters when at full establishment.

- The consultation and opportunities to respond can be found at: <https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/insights-service/wfrs-r2r/>.
- Ticket only consultation events will take place as follows:

Stratford - 17 January 2024 at Stratford-upon-Avon School

Kenilworth - 24 January 2024 - St John the Evangelist Church

Bedworth - 29 January 2024 - Life Church, Bedworth

Atherstone - 8 February 2024 - Memorial Hall

Southam - 27 February 2024 - The Grange Hall