



Press Release – 21 February 2024

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES ASSOCIATION RELEASE NEW PODCAST ON WARWICKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE'S 'RESOURCING TO RISK PROPOSALS'

In a podcast released today, Fire and Rescue Services Association Chief Executive Tristan Ashby and President Mark Palmer, discuss the latest developments regarding the Warwickshire County Council's 'Resourcing to Risk' proposals.

Tristan said after the podcast:

'During the podcast Mark and I reviewed all the information made available by the Fire and Rescue Service regarding the consultation, and incidents since the consultation was launched. Both Mark and I are even more convinced that the consultation is based on flimsy and inadequate evidence, and the proposals represent a significant danger both to the public and other emergency services, especially firefighters.'

Tristan went on to say:

'Mark and I have explored a range of issues connected with the proposals, including the paucity of the data, great concerns over its accuracy and the way it has been used, the appalling impact on response and attendance times across the whole of Warwickshire, the unknown impact on regional and national resilience, and the inoperability of the experimental duty systems proposed.'

'One of the key issues is the fact that the fire service continually talks about 'guaranteed' fire engines. However, the part-time and surge teams are likely to be crewed by wholtime firefighters who will have already been working at the major events they might be called out to supplement. We have no details on how these duty systems would work, as this seems to be 'work in progress'. It is complete nonsense. At least five times in the last six weeks, Warwickshire would have run out of fire engines as it grappled with major incidents.'

'This lack of thinking has been exposed by the service claiming that part-time posts might be 'attractive' to those with caring responsibilities. This has caused widespread anger and disbelief amongst the caring community, who have responded vigorously on social media.'

Tristan said:

'We think that the on-call system and the firefighters they wish to dismiss, are working much better than the fire service alleges – and the data proves this. Before any more

damage is done, Warwickshire County Council should now park the consultation, and work with partners, including ourselves, to address the perceived problems the service faces. In the meantime, we urge people to respond to the consultation, and for leaders in the community to recognise the dangers these pose to the lives and property of those who live in the county, and beyond.'

Message End

Note for Editors:

- Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service launched proposals to alter radically the structure of the fire and rescue service in Warwickshire. If accepted these proposals will dramatically reduce the number of stations and appliances available across Warwickshire.
- Currently there is the potential of 23 engines being available during the day and 21 at night. This will be reduced to 12 during the day and eight at night. Already at least five times in the last six weeks, Warwickshire would have run out of fire engines as it grappled with major incidents.
- There will be no financial savings, and attendance times in many areas will be significantly worse.
- The consultation will remain open until 10 March 2024 and can be found here <https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/>
- Tristan is the Chief Executive of the Fire and Rescue Association which represents firefighters across the United Kingdom. Mark is the President.
- The podcast can be listened to on [Spotify](#) and [Apple](#)