

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE
DATE: 13 NOVEMBER 2019
REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMISSIONING
AUTHOR: ANDREW LEADBETTER

SUBJECT: PROCESS FOR DEALING WITH
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CONSTITUENT
AUTHORITIES

Purpose of the Report

1. To outline the intended approach to the consideration of motions/recommendations from the constituent authorities.

Recommended: That Members

- [1] Consider the content of the report and provide guidance to officers.

Background

2. All of the constituent authorities have considered motions entitled "Fighting fire in our borough". The motions are similar, but not identical.
3. An extract from the minutes of Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council's meeting on the 18th July 2019 is contained in Appendix 1 to this report. In accordance with the minute, a letter has been received from the Leader of the Council.
4. The Notice of Motion considered by Halton Borough Council at its meeting on 16th October 2019 is contained in Appendix 2 to this report. The motion was passed.
5. The Notice of Motion considered by Cheshire East Borough Council at its meeting on 17th October 2019 is contained in Appendix 3 to this report. The motion was passed.
6. The Notice of Motion considered by Warrington Borough Council at its meeting on 4th November 2019 is contained in Appendix 4 to this report.

Information

7. At the time of writing this report the Chief Fire Officer was only in receipt of one letter from a Council Leader. However, it is assumed that the other Leaders will write to the Chief Fire Officer in due course.

8. The constituent authorities ask that the Fire Authority considers a number of recommendations. These are summarised below.

1) Application of the '10 minute target time for fire engines to respond to dwelling fires' to the following types of buildings:

- historic buildings
- office buildings
- industrial sites
- schools
- hospitals
- other public buildings

Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council
Halton Borough Council
Cheshire East Borough Council
Warrington Borough Council

2) Inclusion of other incident types 'within the Cheshire 10 minute standard':

- flooding
- water rescue
- rescue from height
- incidents involving hazardous materials

Halton Borough Council
Cheshire East Borough Council
Warrington Borough Council

3) Reporting of the '10 minute standard' to be inclusive of the call handling time.

Halton Borough Council
Cheshire East Borough Council
Warrington Borough Council

4) The design and build of future fire stations adopt the aspiration of [our borough's/our towns] climate change emergency motion.

Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council
Cheshire East Borough Council

The design and build of future fire stations take account of the Climate Change Emergency.

Warrington Borough Council

- 5) The Fire Authority considers passing its own Climate Change Emergency motion.

Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council
Halton Borough Council
Cheshire East Borough Council
Warrington Borough Council

9. Officers intend to create two reports for Members to consider. One report will cover the issues raised in 1), 2) and 3) which are all essentially concerned with the 10 minute response standard.

The current description of that standard is, “a blanket 10 minute response standard to all life-risk incidents (dwelling fires and road traffic collisions) on 80% of occasions”. The report will explain the rationale for the current standard. The report will go on to consider the two suggestions to expand the standard, i.e. to particular building types and for particular incident types. Finally, it will explain the reporting arrangements that currently exist so that Members can consider whether a change of approach is necessary.

10. The second report will cover the issues in 4) and 5) which are concerned with climate change/the environment.

The report will consider climate change at a strategic level and ask the Fire Authority to acknowledge that a climate emergency exists that the Fire Authority and Fire and Rescue Service need to respond to. It is anticipated that Members will encourage officers to prepare more detailed reports for consideration by the Estates and Property Committee and the Fire Authority, e.g. a new Environmental Strategy will be produced. The report will also touch on the question of sustainable building. A more detailed report on environmental building standards is already being prepared for the Estates and Property Committee to inform the approach to the proposed fire station in Crewe.

11. As there is no protocol for handling recommendations from the constituent authorities, officers felt that it was worth checking that Members were comfortable with the approach outlined in this report.

Financial Implications

12. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

13. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Equality and Diversity Implications

14. There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

Environmental Implications

15. There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report. However, there will be when future reports are considered by Members.

BACKGROUND PAPERS: