

CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL

Move – Bob Cernik

2nd – Richard Beacham

Cheshire West and Chester Council agreed at the Council Meeting

18/7/19:

Motion: Fighting fire in our Borough

This Council pays tribute to the essential work undertaken by every member of staff at Cheshire Fire and Rescue. We recognise that it is their hard work, every day, that keeps people safe in their homes, in the place that they work, or whilst they are here visiting our borough.

This Council believes that government cuts to fire services in the UK have gone too far. We recognise the pressures faced by Cheshire Fire and Rescue and the Fire Authority, which has had to deal with cuts of over £12 million over the past nine years.

This Council understands the high levels of public concern about fire cuts and the impact that this could have on the community where they live. We acknowledge the role that campaigns in Chester and Crewe have played in raising awareness amongst members of the public about fire cover in these areas. The level of public interest in both of these campaigns serves as a reminder to councils and other public services in the sub-region about the need to be innovative in finding ways to involve and communicate with residents in the decisions we take.

In Cheshire West and Chester, this Council notes the petition from Chester Retired Firefighters and thanks local residents who have taken the time to sign it. This Council agrees that Chester is a unique heritage city, with important historical assets that must be protected.

This Council believes that all residents in every village, town and city in Cheshire West and Chester, need to feel confident about response times and fire cover where they live.

Therefore, this Council resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Policing and Fire Minister to lobby for:

- An urgent government review of the impact of austerity on fire services and response times.
- Increased financial support for fire services in historic cities such as Chester and major industrial areas such as Ellesmere Port.
- Restoration of the cuts to fire service finances over the last nine years.
- A decent pay rise for Cheshire Firefighters and staff.

And to write to the Chief Fire Officer at Cheshire Fire and Rescue to ask that the Fire Authority considers the following recommendations:

- that as part of ongoing fire service reviews, the current 10 minute target time for fire engines to respond to dwelling fires is expanded to include historic buildings, office buildings, industrial sites, schools, hospitals and other public buildings.
- That the design and build of future fire stations adopt the aspirations of our borough's climate change emergency motion and that the Fire Authority considers passing their own Climate Change Emergency motion.