

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Motion 5 – Fighting Fire in Our Borough

Proposer: Paul Warburton

Seconder: John Kerr-Brown

Council Notes:

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

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 £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 the campaign in Crewe played in raising awareness amongst members of the public about fire cover in the area. The level of public interest in both this campaign and campaigns in Chester and Ellesmere Port 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.

This council believes that all residents in Warrington and in every village and town across the County, 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 Police and Fire Minister to lobby for:

- An urgent government review of the impact of austerity on fire services and response times
- 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 Service to ask the Fire Authority to consider 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.
- Other Incident types such as Flooding, water rescue, rescue from Height and Incidents involving Hazardous materials are all included within the Cheshire 10 minute standard.

- That the Cheshire Fire and Rescue 10 minute standard is inclusive of the call handling time – as recommended by the Government.
- That the design and build of future fire stations take account of the Climate Change Emergency and that the Fire Authority consider passing its own Climate Change Emergency motion.