

The published motions appear below. Members will see that the motion passed at Chester West and Chester followed the presentation of a petition. The entire minute relating to the petition and motion is reproduced.

Cheshire East

COUNCIL – 17 OCTOBER 2019

NOTICES OF MOTION

Submitted to Council in Accordance with paragraph 1.34 of the Council Procedural Rules

2 Fighting fire in our Borough

Proposed by Councillor J Parry and Seconded by Councillor N Mannion

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, everyday, that keeps people safe in their homes, in the place that they work, or whilst they are here visiting our County.

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 subregion 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 every village and town in Cheshire East and 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 Policing 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 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.
- 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 advised by the home office, formerly department for communities and local government.
- That the design and build of future fire stations adopt the aspirations of our towns Climate Change Emergency motion and that the Fire Authority considers passing their own Climate Change Emergency motion.

Cheshire West and Chester

Agenda item

PETITION DEBATE - Two Fire Engines for Chester

The Petition Scheme states the following regarding petition debates at Council meetings:-

When petitions containing signatures of more than 1% of the Borough population have previously been received:-

The petition organiser will be given 5 minutes to present the petition and the petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes.

The Council will decide how to further respond to the petition at this meeting. It may decide to

- take the action the petition requests,
- not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate,
- to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee.
- make recommendations to the Cabinet, where the issue is one on which the Council's Cabinet is required to make the final decision.

Two Fire Engines for Chester

A paper petition containing 6,300 names was received at the meeting of Full Council on 21 May 2019 with the following wording:

“Please listen to the experience and concerns of Chester Retired Firefighters, return Chester’s second fire engine and scrap plans to demolish and rebuild the current Chester Fire Station at a cost of £5m”.

Minutes:

Prior to the debate, the Monitoring Officer reminded Members that part of the petition referred to planning matters which were considered via a separate statutory route and in this case the planning application had already been determined by the Council's Planning Committee.

Tony Jones, a retired Cheshire Fire Fighter, introduced a debate in relation to a petition on behalf of Cheshire Retired Fire Fighters which had been presented to Council at its meeting on 21 May 2019. The petition had 6,300 names and asked for the return of Chester’s second fire engine and the scrapping of plans to demolish and rebuild the current Chester Fire Station at a cost of £5m.

He explained that there was only one fire engine to cover the Chester city centre and this was called out around 900 times a year. This meant Chester was invariably without a fire engine for hours on end which he felt was not acceptable given its unique and medieval city centre heritage. In addition, he explained that Ellesmere Port's second fire engine was currently under review and the area comprised seven top level risk industrial sites with a danger of toxic gas emissions travelling distances of up to 10kms. He called for the Council to do all it could to make sure that the local community was adequately protected from fire and similar emergencies.

A motion was proposed by Councillor Rob Cernik and seconded by Councillor Richard Beacham entitled "Fighting Fire in our Borough".

Members debated the motion and the following was noted:-

- Mr Jones, retired and current firefighters and those who had signed the petition were thanked for taking the time to make and present the petition;
- Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service would be undertaking a comprehensive review in the Autumn where views would be sought, resulting in a new strategic plan for 2020-24 focusing on optimising services through protection, prevention and response;
- The balance between central government austerity measures and local decision making was highlighted during the debate;
- Some Chester Councillors had recognised the strength of feeling of local residents for two fire engines for Chester during recent doorstep election campaigning;
- The challenge of communicating with residents on such difficult decisions to be made was recognised; and
- A separate session where all Councillors could learn more about the Fire Service, fire standards and fire cover provided in their local communities was suggested.

Councillor Michael Baynham proposed an amendment to the motion, seconded by Councillor Mike Jones. At this point, the Monitoring Officer referred to Part B, Section B4, paragraphs 4.18 and 4.19 of the Constitution in relation to amendments and alterations to motions. The amendment was not accepted by the Chairman.

In relation to the motion, a recorded vote took place under The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014. Voting was recorded as follows:

For the proposal (36)

Councillors Bob Rudd, Val Armstrong, Richard Beacham, Rob Bisset, Tommy Blackmore, Paul Bowers, Matt Bryan, Kate Cernik, Robert Cernik, Mandy Clare, Ste Collings, Andrew Cooper, Martyn Delaney, Lisa Denson, Samantha Dixon, Paul Donovan, Mike Edwardson, Carol Gahan, Louise Gittins, Gareth Gould, Brian Jones, Adam Langan, Gina Lewis, Sheila Little, Nicole Meardon, Joanne Moorcroft, Sam

Naylor, Nathan Pardoe, Trish Richards, Diane Roberts, Peter Rooney, Karen Shore, Christine Warner, Gill Watson, Peter Wheeler and Andy Williams.

Against the proposal (23)

Councillors Michael Baynham, Keith Board, Hugo Deynem, Simon Eardley, Charles Fifield, Lynn Gibbon, Graham Heatley, Myles Hogg, Jill Houlbrook, Mike Jones, John Leather, Phil Marshall, Margaret Parker, Patricia Parkes, Lynn Riley, Mark Stocks, Neil Sullivan, Harry Tonge, Helen Treeby, Helen Weltman, Mark Williams, Paul Williams and Rachel Williams.

Abstaining (8)

Councillors Razia Daniels, Gillian Edwards, Malcolm Gaskill, Phil Herbert, Eveleigh Moore Dutton, Stuart Parker, Paul Roberts and Norman Wright.

DECIDED: That

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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.

Halton

To be submitted to the meeting of Full Council to be held on:

16 OCTOBER 2019

in accordance with Standing Order Number 6.

	Name (in capitals)	Signature
Proposer:	Councillor P Lloyd-jones	
Seconder:	Councillor L Cassidy	

Motion: Fighting fire in our Borough

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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 Halton and 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 Policing 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 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.

- 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 advised by the home office, formerly department for communities and local government.
- That the Fire Authority considers passing their own Climate Change Emergency motion

Warrington

Date: 25 October 2019

Meeting of the Council

Monday, 04 November 2019 at the rising of the Extra-ordinary Meeting that is due to start at 6.35pm

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Warrington



Steven Broomhead

Chief Executive

Agenda prepared by Sharon Parker, Democratic Services Manager (Statutory Scrutiny Officer) – Telephone: (01925) 442161, Email: szparker@warrington.gov.uk

Motions

In accordance with Standing Order 15, motions must be delivered to the Head of Democratic and Member Services by **9.30am on Friday 25 October 2019**.

Motion 5 – Fighting Fire in Our Borough

Proposer: Paul Warburton

Seconder: John Kerr-Brown

Council Notes:

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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.