

North Dudley Area Committee – 24 September 2008

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

West Midlands Fire Service – Consultation on Proposed Changes to the way Fire Services are provided in the Sedgley area of Dudley Metropolitan Borough

Purpose Of Report

1. To consider the proposals by the West Midlands Fire Service for changes to the way that fire services are provided in the Sedgley area of Dudley Metropolitan Borough.

Background

2. The Chief Fire Officer of the West Midlands Fire Service has written to the Council, as part of a formal consultation process, regarding proposals to remove the current fire engine from Sedgley Fire Station and to use instead engines from Dudley Fire Station, which is less than two miles from the Sedgley Fire Station. This forms part of their changeover, in September 2008, to a new command and control system, which will have an impact on how fire engines are mobilised to incidents. Details of the changes are included in the West Midlands Service's consultation document, attached as appendix 1 to this report.
3. The West Midlands Fire Service has advised that consultation will take place from 28 July 2008 to 20 October 2008. At the end of the consultation period all responses will be collated and presented to the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority by November 2008. Following receipt of the responses, the decision of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority will be published in Spring 2009. At that time the Service's three year Corporate Strategy (2009-2012), which will outline the vision for the future, will also be published.
4. Consultation documents setting out the reasons for the changes relating to the Sedgley are also available by following the link below.
["http://www.wmfs.net/Our_Performance/Sedgley_Fire_Station_Consultation/"](http://www.wmfs.net/Our_Performance/Sedgley_Fire_Station_Consultation/)
5. As part of the consultation there will be one or more open days at the Sedgley Station when members of the public and other interested parties will be invited in for an explanation of the reasons for the decision of the Fire and Rescue Authority's Executive Committee.

Finance

6. There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from this report.

Law

7. The terms of reference of Area Committees, as set out in Article 10 of the Council's Constitution, provide for consultation on issues of local relevance.

Equality Impact

8. The issue of emergency fire cover affects all sections of the community. The proposals of the West Midlands Fire Service are based on an analysis and assessment of the impact of the proposed removal of the engine based at Sedgley for the whole of the West Midlands Community. The document concludes that there would still be sufficient fire engines to provide emergency cover in the event that the proposal in the consultation document is implemented.

Recommendation

9. That proposals to remove the fire engine from Sedgley Fire Station be considered and that, if it so wishes, the Committee makes a formal response to the consultation by the West Midlands Fire Service.



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List of Background Papers

Letter from West Midlands Fire Service dated 28 July, 2008 (attached as Appendix 1 to the report)