



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**  
**Fire & Rescue Service**  
*Creating Safer Communities*

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham  
Fire and Rescue Authority  
Policy and Strategy Committee

# **CONSULTATION ON REDUCTIONS IN THE OPERATIONAL FLEET**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

**Date:** 25 April 2014

**Purpose of Report:**

To present to Members the draft consultation document for consideration and agreement.

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

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Assistant Chief Fire Officer

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Following the Fire Authority meeting of 28 February 2014, the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) was tasked with developing a consultation document on budget proposals which require public consultation.
- 1.2 Integrated risk management planning (IRMP) had initially been supported with guidance notes on what Fire and Rescue Services should be expected to reasonably consult upon with communities. This included proposed changes to the delivery or number of response appliances and locations. The Fire Authority has maintained the application of that initial good practice.
- 1.3 The Fire Authority previously agreed and implemented a consultation framework following extensive work between elected Members and Officers. The Framework provides a range of approaches for inclusion in any future consultation activity.
- 1.4 To ensure the Authority delivers a robust consultation process it has and continues to work in partnership with Opinion Research Services (ORS) who have extensive experience of consultation across the public sector.

## **2. REPORT**

- 2.1 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) has engaged in regular public consultation for some years and with the adoption of the consultation framework provides a clear structure for Officers to apply.
- 2.2 The attached appendix is a draft consultation document which will be the visible element in public circulation. As always this is only one aspect of consultation and it is proposed that the activities below will also be part of the wider consultation process:
  - Media awareness and engagement
  - Deliberative focus groups – directly affected stakeholders
  - On street/market place public engagement
  - Visits to business
  - Meetings and briefings with staff and their representatives.
- 2.3 ORS has been commissioned to facilitate the deliberative sessions (focus groups/forums) and will be closely supported by NFRS Officers. All other events will be Officer led and any information collated will be passed to ORS for their inclusion in the final report to Members.
- 2.4 Consultation processes would normally run for a twelve week period and the start date for this will be dependent upon the agreement of Policy and Strategy Committee on the attached draft document. Results of the consultation process will be reported back to the Fire Authority meeting in September and

allow Members to consider any outcomes and influence future decision making within the budget setting process.

- 2.5 Targeted consultation events will take account of those areas directly affected by the budget proposal report and indirect activity will seek to publicise and communicate proposals to the wider community.
- 2.6 Corporate Services will be maintaining a single consultation register of all activity that will be presented in the Fire Authority update report, highlighting the level of engagement that has been achieved throughout the process.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Corporate Services are working with ORS in the development of key consultation events and these will be reported back to Authority, however, ORS continue to offer preferential rates via the long standing arrangement from the Fire Services Consultation Association (FSCA).
- 3.2 Consultation budgets have been agreed and these are considered to be proportionate to the scale of consultation required on the external budget proposals. At this stage the cost of external support is estimated to be circa £20-25k, though this will be clarified by ORS once agreed and Members will be updated within a later report.
- 3.3 The 'Balancing the Budget in Future Years' report presented to the Fire Authority on 28 February 2014 identified the need to save £2.4 million over the next three years. Future decisions around operational resources are key to addressing those issues.

### **4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 This report highlights the proposed consultation approach for elected Members' consideration and does not in itself present any additional human resources and learning and development implications at this stage.
- 4.2 Following completion of the consultation process, implications will be identified and NFRS has a suite of agreed policies and procedures that it will apply as appropriate – this will also include ensuring Members are updated of implications.

### **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken because this report seeks to provide a recommended approach to consultation. Officers are developing a consultation approach to ensure that all communities and stakeholders are part of an inclusive process.

## **6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

By applying the principles of the CFA Consultation Framework to this next phase of public consultation the Authority will adhere to existing good practice and reduce the risk of wider challenge over its approach to community inclusion, for example judicial review over future decisions made regarding response resources.

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 By continuing to apply the established approach through the consultation framework, the Authority will be best placed to manage any potential challenge to the actual consultation process when making future decisions based upon its results.
- 8.2 NFRS has been recognised for consultation good practice nationally and the proposed draft will continue to hold the image and reputation of the organisation in good light with those affected communities in which services are delivered.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 9.1 Consider the draft consultation approach and document, and support the Chief Fire Officer to implement the consultation process.
- 9.2 Task the Chief Fire Officer with presenting a report to the Fire Authority meeting in September 2014 identifying options for reductions in operational resources.

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)**

None.

John Buckley  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**  
**Fire & Rescue Service**  
*Creating Safer Communities*

# Balancing the budget

## 2014



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# Background

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service protects and serves the communities of the county 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

The ways in which we do that have changed over the years and it may surprise some to find that the majority of our time is taken up by helping to prevent fires and other incidents, and educate people at home and work about fire safety.

This work has led to a dramatic fall in emergency call outs and our firefighters now attend 35 per cent fewer incidents than they did 10 years ago.

We are very proud of our successes during these challenging times.

However, when people need us

most, we continue to provide a first class emergency response and do our best to protect people's lives and properties.

Despite this success, there is still more we need to do. In 2010, we reviewed where and how we use our crews and equipment to see how we could best serve the community through a Fire Cover Review – we recognised in our Service Plan for 2010 to 2013 the need to target resources appropriately to the changing environment.

We continue to face financial challenges of a £2.4million shortfall between 2015 and 2017 and this means we must review services and make savings while continuing to keep people safe.

Changes have already been

made to achieve savings in recent years – the numbers of managers has been reduced by 25 per cent and changes have been made to the way we crew some stations with fire engines being reduced from 36 to 32.

We have been able to do this and will be able to do more because our staff, crews and equipment are there to serve the whole county, not just one small area and can be moved around to make sure our resources are in the right place at the right time.

On average, we have six crews responding to emergency calls at any one time and this leaves more than 20 crews around the rest of the county to respond to incidents.

At a meeting in February 2014, the Fire Authority committed

to finding some of the £2.4m deficit by looking once more at the Fire Cover Review and at the areas where we can further streamline.

These are challenging times and there are difficult decisions to make, but we are confident that the proposals we put before you represent a positive way forward in responding to changes in the environment we work in and the financial pressure we continue to face.

This is your service and you have a voice. The Fire Authority is seeking your views – whether as an individual resident, a business or as part of one of our partner organisations through this consultation.

**Please read through the document and let us know what you think.**

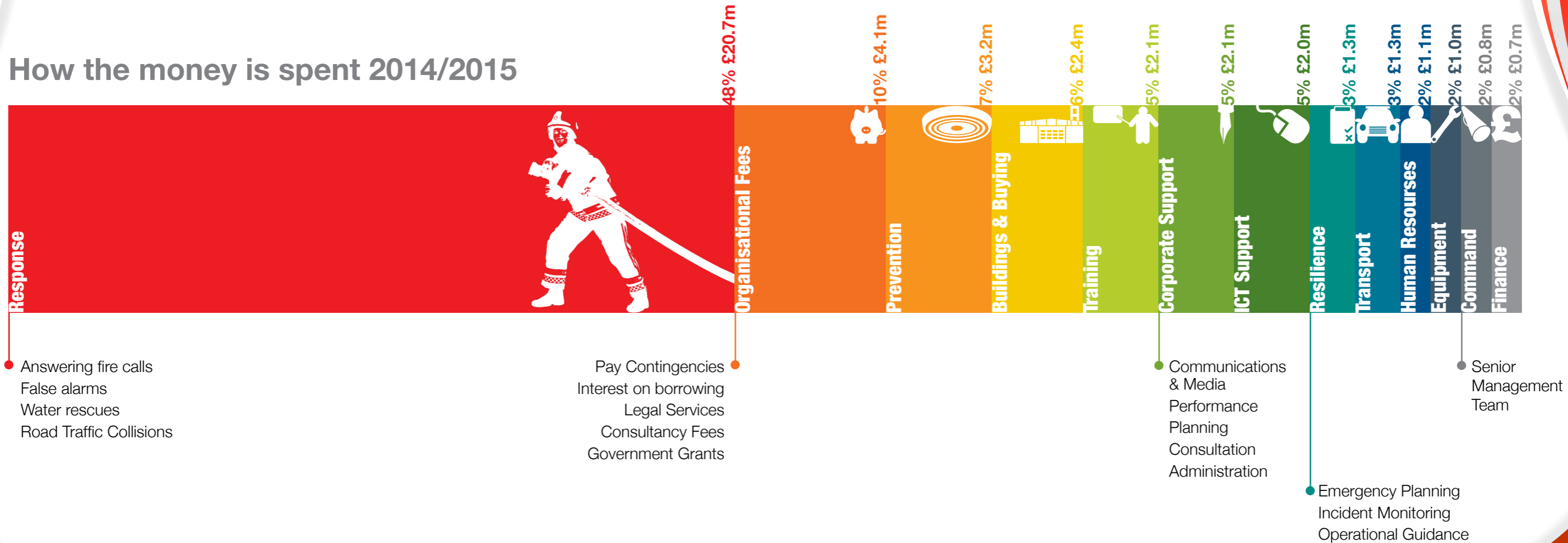


John Buckley  
Chief Fire Officer



Cllr Darrell Pulk  
Chair of Nottinghamshire and City  
of Nottingham Fire Authority

# How the money is spent 2014/2015







## Proposals

**A number of proposals are made in this document – please be clear that the Fire Authority is not suggesting that all engines should be removed but that a £1million saving could be made from this area.**

Wholetime Duty System – Fire engines crewed by wholetime firefighters who respond immediately to incidents. Wholetime firefighters are available 24 hours day, 365 days a year.

Retained Duty System – Fire engines crewed by on-call firefighters, who respond to fire calls as and when required. On call firefighters are summoned to their local fire station by radio pager, and then proceed to the incident.

# Proposal A - Central

## Two Fire Engines - wholtime duty system

### What:

Remove Fire Engine Two from Central Fire Station.

### How:

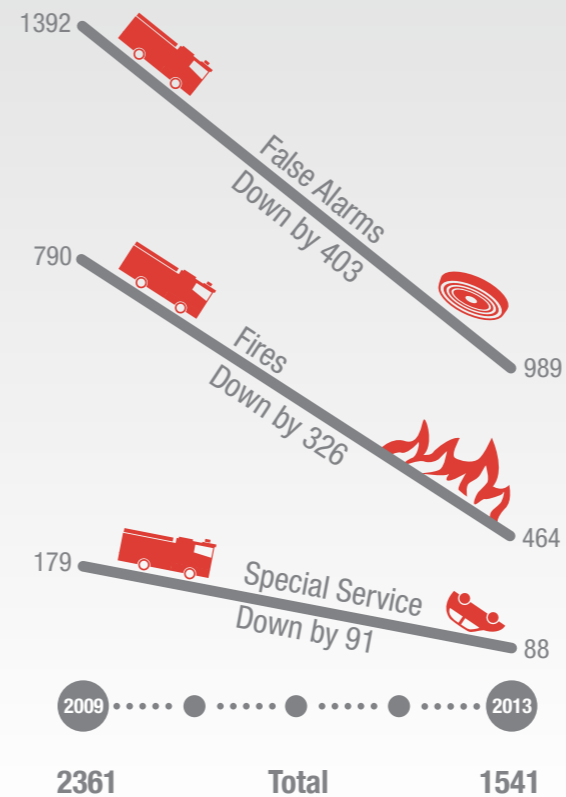
Remove Fire Engine Two leaving one existing wholtime fire engine crewed 24 hours a day, every day. This would continue to be supported by other wholtime fire engines from the surrounding areas with an immediate response.

### Saving:

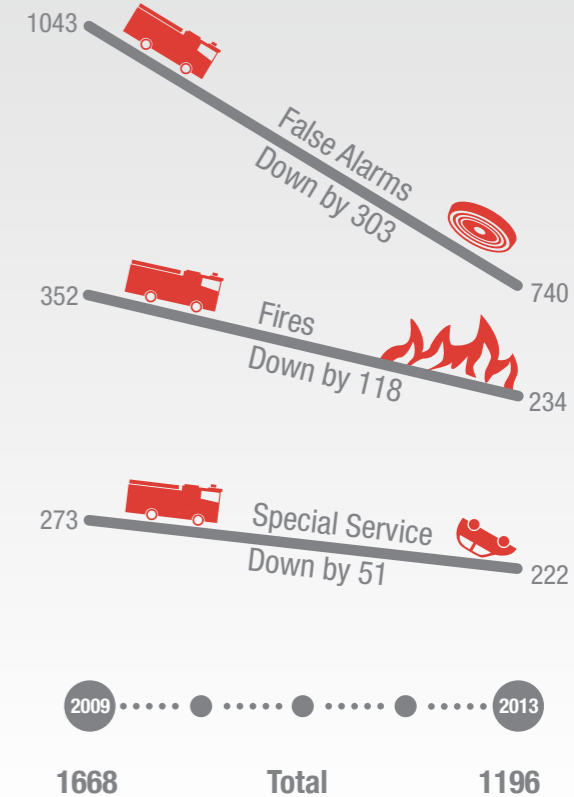
£780k - this is an estimated saving based on salary and fire engine costs.



## Fire Engine One



## Fire Engine Two



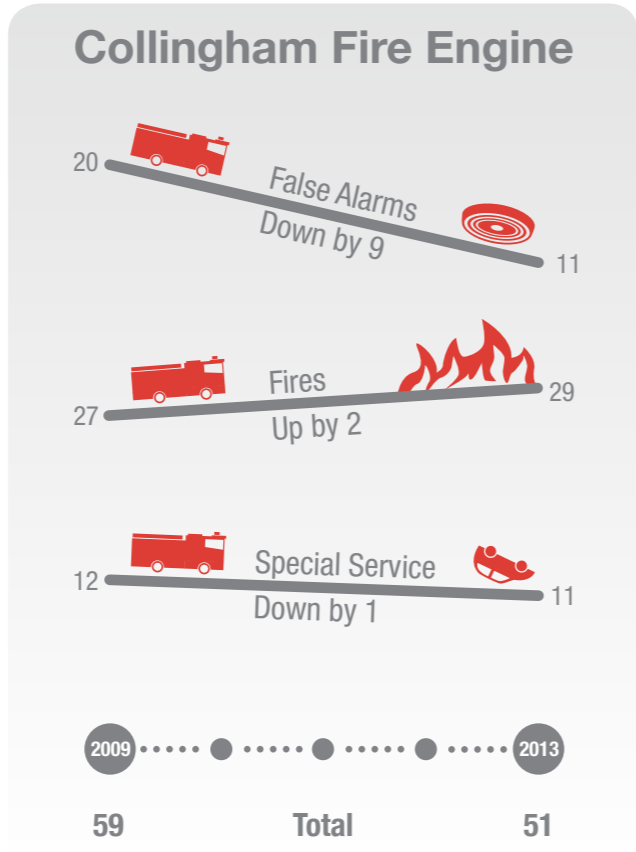
# Proposal B - Collingham

## One Fire Engine - retained duty system

**What:**  
Close Collingham retained Fire Station, which is currently crewed by on call firefighters.

**How:**  
The station will be closed and incidents in the Collingham area will be attended by fire engines from the surrounding areas.

**Saving:**  
£135k - this is an estimated saving based on salary, fire engine and fire station running costs.



# Proposal C - Highfields

## Two Fire Engines - wholtime duty system

### What:

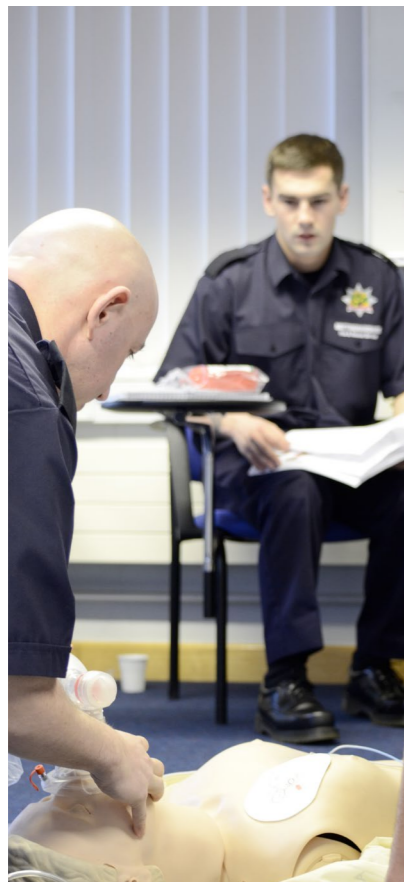
Remove Fire Engine Two from Highfields Fire Station.

### How:

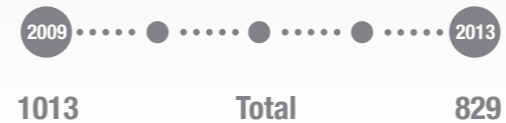
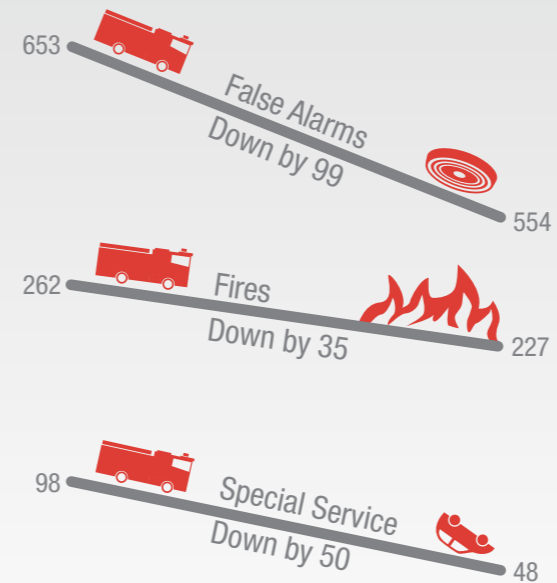
Remove Fire Engine Two leaving one existing wholtime fire engine crewed 24 hours a day, every day. This would continue to be supported by other fire engines from the surrounding areas.

### Saving:

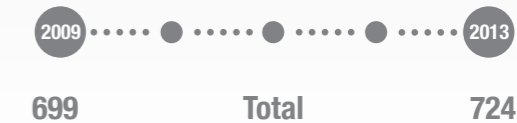
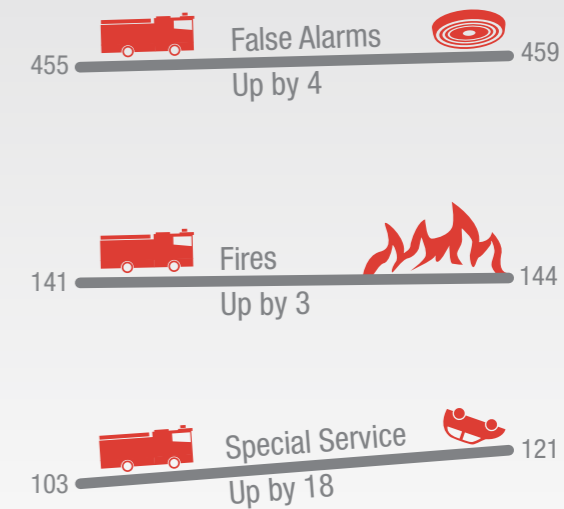
£780k - this is an estimated saving based on salary and fire engine costs.



## Fire Engine One



## Fire Engine Two



# Proposal D - Mansfield

## Two Fire Engines – One wholtime duty system / one retained duty system

### What:

Remove the retained fire engine crewed by on call firefighters from Mansfield Fire Station, leaving the existing wholtime fire engine crewed 24 hours a day, every day.

### How:

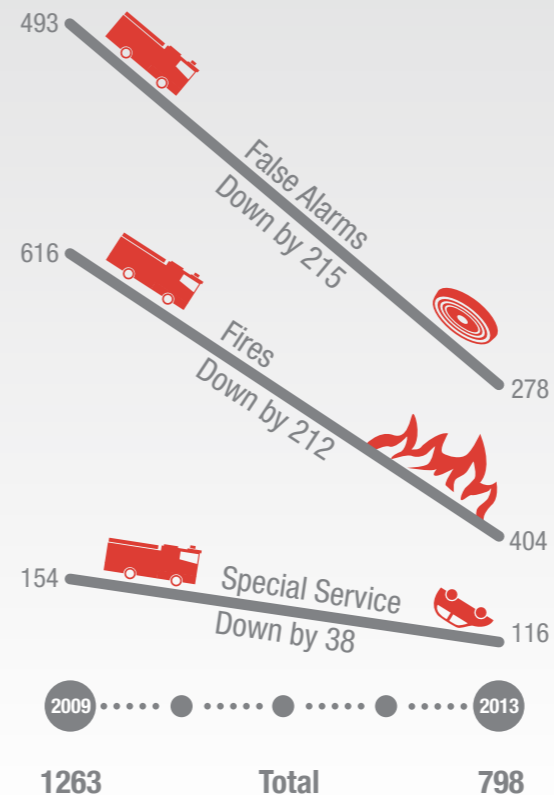
The retained fire engine at Mansfield would be removed, and the area served by one wholtime fire engine. This would be supported by other fire engines from the surrounding areas with an immediate response.

### Saving:

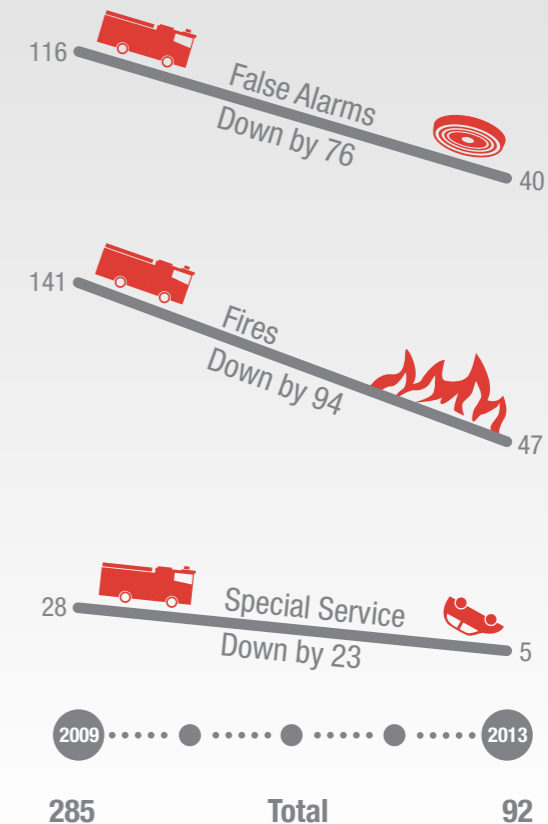
£125k - this is an estimated saving based on salary and fire engine costs.



## Fire Engine One



## Fire Engine Two



# Proposal E - Stockhill

## Two Fire Engines - wholetime duty system

### What:

Remove Fire Engine Two from Stockhill Fire Station.

### How:

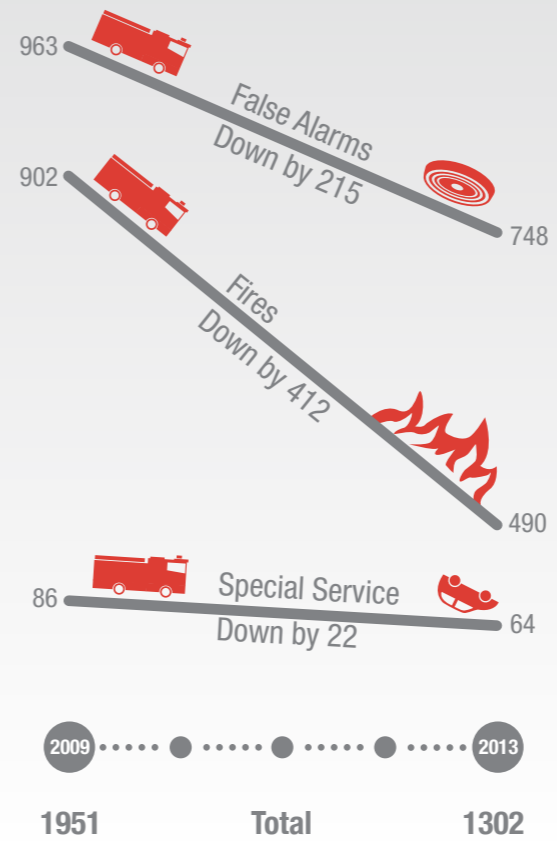
Remove Fire Engine Two leaving one existing whole-time fire engine crewed 24 hours a day, every day. This would continue to be supported by other fire engines from the surrounding areas.

### Saving:

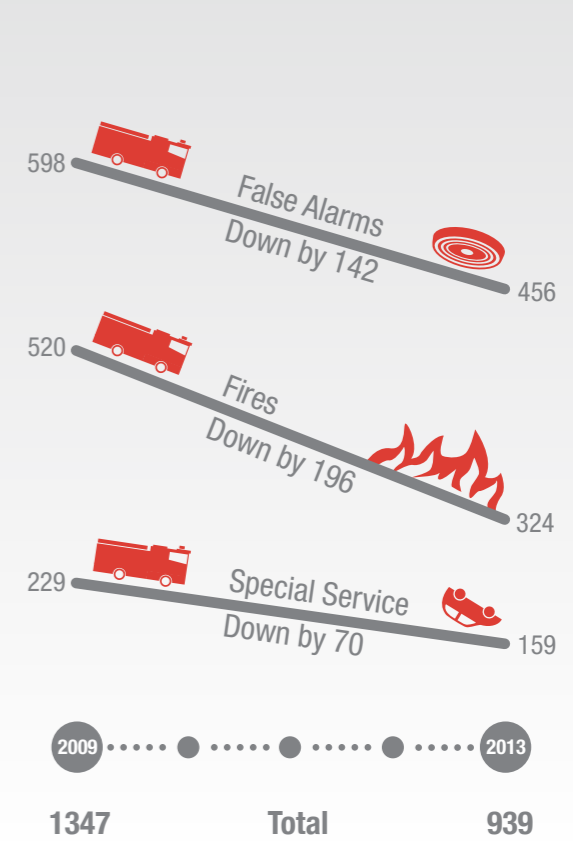
£780k - this is an estimated saving based on salary and fire engine costs.



## Fire Engine One



## Fire Engine Two



# Proposal F - Warsop

## One Fire Engine - retained duty system

### What:

Close Warsop retained Fire Station, which is currently crewed by on call firefighters.

### How:

The station will be closed and incidents in the Warsop area will be attended by the fire engines from the surrounding areas.

### Saving:

£175 - this is an estimated saving based on salary, fire engine and fire station running costs.

## Warsop Fire Engine





## Summary

The budget deficit we face is a daunting prospect and these are challenging times. We are confident that what's outlined in this consultation document, represents a positive way in which we can continue keeping you safe while reducing our costs.

We find ourselves in a situation where there is not enough funding to provide the service in the same way we currently do. This has led us to look again at reducing resources in areas of lowest risk while ensuring we still provide a first class emergency response for everyone in the county.

With numbers of incidents reducing significantly in the last 10 years your community is safer than ever and we're proud of that success.

Community safety activities and work with businesses has contributed to this, we will continue our efforts to reduce incident numbers even further to create a safer Nottinghamshire for all who live, work and travel through our county.

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service is keen to make sure that the decisions it takes do not have an adverse impact on different groups of people within our communities. In order to do this we will be carrying out an equality impact assessment (EIA) of these proposals and we will use the results of this consultation to inform the EIA, which will be used as part of the decision-making process.

By positioning our resources relevant to risk, we will be able to continue providing a professional and effective response to incidents, while working within the financial constraints imposed upon us.

By responding to our consultation you will be helping decide on the future of Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service for the benefit of the whole county.

Please either complete the back page of this document, detach and return it in the FREEPOST envelope or complete it online at <http://www.opinionresearch.co.uk/nfrs>

## Contact Us



### Telephone

0115 967 0880



### Website

[www.notts-fire.gov.uk](http://www.notts-fire.gov.uk)



### Write a letter

Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 8PD.



### E-mail

[enquiries@notts-fire.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@notts-fire.gov.uk)



### Minicom

0115 967 5951.  
(Standard charges apply)



### Fax

0115 926 1081.  
(Standard charges apply)



## Talk2us, We're Listening...

**Please complete the questionnaire opposite and detach and return it in the FREEPOST envelope provided or complete online at <http://www.opinionresearch.co.uk/nfrs>**

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) has appointed Opinion Research Services (ORS), an independent social research organisation, to survey your opinions about its draft proposals for the way its services are developed in the future.

This is an important survey that concerns local residents, the business community, public and voluntary agencies, and NFRS staff – so we welcome your views on the proposals, even if they do not specifically affect areas in which you live or work. Everyone aged 16 or over may take part.

Your responses will be processed confidentially by ORS and no-one will be identified in ORS' independent report to Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority. (Where a response is given on behalf of an organisation it will be attributed to the organisation, but not to the individual respondent.)

If you have any questions about the survey in general or require further copies of the Consultation Document, please telephone 0115 967 0880 or email [talk2us@notts-fire.gov.uk](mailto:talk2us@notts-fire.gov.uk)

Our consultation runs from XXXXXX to XXXXXX 2014. Please return the questionnaire or complete it online by the same date at <http://www.opinionresearch.co.uk/nfrs>





## Our Proposals

### Proposal A – Central

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal of removing the second wholetime fire engine from Central Fire Station?

Strongly Agree  Tend to Agree  Neither Agree nor Disagree  Tend to Disagree  Strongly Disagree

### Proposal B – Collingham

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Collingham Fire Station?

Strongly Agree  Tend to Agree  Neither Agree nor Disagree  Tend to Disagree  Strongly Disagree

### Proposal C – Highfields

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal of removing the second wholetime fire engine from Highfields Fire Station?

Strongly Agree  Tend to Agree  Neither Agree nor Disagree  Tend to Disagree  Strongly Disagree

### Proposal D – Mansfield

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal of the retained fire engine crewed by on-call firefighters from Mansfield Fire Station?

Strongly Agree  Tend to Agree  Neither Agree nor Disagree  Tend to Disagree  Strongly Disagree

### Proposal E – Stockhill

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal of removing the second wholetime fire engine from Stockhill Fire Station?

Strongly Agree  Tend to Agree  Neither Agree nor Disagree  Tend to Disagree  Strongly Disagree

### Proposal F - Warsop

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Warsop Fire Station?

Strongly Agree  Tend to Agree  Neither Agree nor Disagree  Tend to Disagree  Strongly Disagree

# Profiling Questions

We are keen to provide a fair service to all members of society. We ask the following questions for monitoring purposes only. Your details will be treated confidentially and will not be used for any other purpose.

Are you...?

*Please cross **one** box only*

- Male       Female

What was your age on your last birthday?

*Please cross **one** box only*

- 16 to 24       25 to 34  
 35 to 44       45 to 54  
 55 or over

Do you have any long-standing illness or disability? Long-standing means anything that has troubled you over a period of time or that is likely to affect you over a period of time?

*Please cross **one** box only*

- Yes       No  
 Prefer not to say

What is your ethnic group?

*Please cross **one** box only*

- White British  
 White Irish  
 Other White background  
 White & Black Caribbean  
 White & Black African  
 White & Asian  
 Other Mixed  
 Indian  
 Pakistani  
 Bangladeshi  
 Other Asian  
 Black or Black British Caribbean  
 African  
 Other Black  
 Chinese  
 Other ethnic group

What is your religion/belief?

*Please cross **one** box only*

- Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)  
 Jewish       Sikh  
 Buddhist       Muslim  
 Hindu       No religion/belief  
 Any other religion/belief  
 Prefer not to say

Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?

*Please cross **one** box only*

- Heterosexual/Straight  
 Bisexual       Gay/Lesbian  
 Other       Prefer not to say

Can you please provide us with the first five characters of your postcode? This is very helpful as it allows us to analyse responses at an appropriate geographic level to help us deliver better and more cost-effective services for the future. You cannot be identified from this level of postcode.

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Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Please return the questionnaire to ORS in the FREEPOST envelope provided to: Opinion Research Services, FREEPOST (SS1018), PO BOX 530, Swansea, SA1 1ZL

