

## Council – 19 July 2023

### Liberal Democrat Amendment to motion 8a – To Oppose Day Crewing Plans at Sale Fire Station

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) is proposing to move Sale fire station from a ~~wholetime~~ [24-hour station](#) model to a day crewing model, which means that crews would provide an immediate response during station hours (8.30am to 6pm) and up to a four-minute delayed response during on-call hours (6pm to 8.30am).

GMFRS claims that this proposal would save £340,000 per year and allow them to invest in other priority areas.

Sale fire station has low incident levels, with the third-lowest number of night-time life risk incidents and the third-lowest total incidents at night-time in the last three years.

However, Sale fire station is strategically placed to cover a central area of the Trafford borough and extending to Urmston, Flixton, and Partington.

Sale fire station also serves as a backup for other fire stations in Trafford [including Altrincham which covers Timperley and Hale areas](#), and neighbouring boroughs in case of emergencies or major incidents.

The average response time in Sale would increase by 1 minute 10 seconds (from 7 minutes 45 seconds to 8 minutes 55 seconds) and the overall response time across Trafford borough would increase by 20 seconds (from 7 minutes 43 seconds to 8 minutes 3 seconds) if the proposal is implemented.

The ongoing changes to highways to reduce speed limits and accommodate cyclists will add to response times which have not been factored in.

These increased response times could have serious consequences for public safety, especially for vulnerable groups such as elderly people, children, people with disabilities, or people living in high-rise buildings.

[This council](#) ~~We~~ believes:

The proposal to move Sale fire station to a day crewing model is a biased preferred option consultation, that has failed to take into consideration the residents of Partington, [or indeed, the views of firefighters who serve at Sale and across](#)

Trafford. This council Conservatives sees this as unacceptable. Basing the proposal on data from the past three Covid years is incomparable with any other years.

The proposal offers little or no data on the assumption of being able to attend the station from the fire fighters' home within 4 minutes or how this will be monitored. This council understands that several of the assumptions made in the Fire Cover Review are based on modelling, which GMFRS themselves have accepted is flawed.

The consultation does not do enough ensure those most affected have their say, Sale's residents and businesses deserve better.

The proposal flies in the face of the promise made by Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham to avoid cuts to frontline services in Greater Manchester despite raising the precept tax on residents.

This council notes:

The extraordinary meeting of Scrutiny Committee that was held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July and thanks members of the GMFRS and the Fire Brigade Union for their attendance and cooperation with elected members.

That, after initially considering the Chair's call for a 'pause' before reaching a decision, the committee subsequently agreed to support the Liberal Democrats' proposal, calling for a complete rejection of the 'Day Crewing' proposals. The Chair of Scrutiny Committee, then undertook to draft a letter outlining the settled position of the Committee.

This council Resolves to:

~~We the Conservative group of Trafford Council,~~ ask the Labour administration to write to the Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham **calling on him** to uphold his commitment not to cut services and leave residents of Sale at risk from delays to response times, ~~making it clear we~~ **restating the settled and firm view of Scrutiny Committee and this council as a whole that Trafford fully rejects in full** GMFRS's proposal to move Sale fire station to a day crewing model.

**Amended motion 8a to read:**

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) is proposing to move Sale fire station from a 24-hour station to a day crewing model, which means that crews would provide an immediate response during station hours (8.30am to 6pm) and up to a four-minute delayed response during on-call hours (6pm to 8.30am).

GMFRS claims that this proposal would save £340,000 per year and allow them to invest in other priority areas.

Sale fire station has low incident levels, with the third-lowest number of night-time life risk incidents and the third-lowest total incidents at night-time in the last three years.

However, Sale fire station is strategically placed to cover a central area of the Trafford borough and extending to Urmston, Flixton, Partington, and the Timperley/Altrincham area.

Sale fire station also serves as a backup for other fire stations in Trafford and neighbouring boroughs in case of emergencies or major incidents.

The average response time in Sale would increase by 1 minute 10 seconds (from 7 minutes 45 seconds to 8 minutes 55 seconds) and the overall response time across Trafford borough would increase by 20 seconds (from 7 minutes 43 seconds to 8 minutes 3 seconds) if the proposal is implemented.

The ongoing changes to highways to reduce speed limits and accommodate cyclists will add to response times which have not been factored in.

These increased response times could have serious consequences for public safety, especially for vulnerable groups such as elderly people, children, people with disabilities, or people living in high-rise buildings.

This council believes:

The proposal to move Sale fire station to a day crewing model is a biased preferred option consultation, that has failed to take into consideration the residents of Partington, or indeed, the views of firefighters who serve at Sale and across Trafford. This council sees this as unacceptable. Basing the proposal on data from the past three Covid years is incomparable with any other years.

The proposal offers little or no data on the assumption of being able to attend the station from the fire fighters' home within 4 minutes or how this will be monitored.

This council understands that several of the assumptions made in the Fire Cover Review are based on modelling, which GMFRS themselves have accepted is flawed.

The consultation does not do enough ensure those most affected have their say, Sale's residents and businesses deserve better.

The proposal flies in the face of the promise made by Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham to avoid cuts to frontline services in Greater Manchester despite raising the precept tax on residents.

This council notes:

The extraordinary meeting of Scrutiny Committee that was held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July and thanks members of the GMFRS and the Fire Brigade Union for their attendance and cooperation with elected members.

That, after initially considering calling for a 'pause' before reaching a decision, the committee agreed to support a proposal put forward by Councillor Frass, calling for a complete rejection of the 'Day Crewing' proposals. As Chair of Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Acton then undertook to draft a letter outlining the settled position of the Committee.

This council resolves to:

This council, therefore, asks the Labour administration to write to the Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham calling on him to uphold his commitment not to cut services and leave residents of Sale at risk from delays to response times, restating the settled and firm view of Scrutiny Committee and this council as a whole that Trafford fully rejects GMFRS's proposal to move Sale fire station to a day crewing model.