

Council – 19 July 2023

Labour 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 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 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.

We believe:

- ~~The proposal to move Sale fire station to a day crewing model is a biased preferred option consultation, that has failed to take~~ has not given sufficient into consideration to the residents of Partington. ~~Conservatives see this as unacceptable~~ **The Council is very concerned about the specific impact the plans would have on businesses and residents in the Carrington and Partington areas.** 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.
- **We are very concerned that the proposals will leave Partington with the slowest response times to night-time 999 calls in all of Greater Manchester.**
- **Although the Council acknowledges that the consultation period has been extended and that GMFRS arranged a community meeting in Partington following requests,** the consultation does not do enough ensure those most

affected have their say, Sale's Trafford's residents and businesses deserve better more time to provide feedback.

- Although the overall 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, provides enhanced services in some areas of Greater Manchester, it is of significant concern that Trafford faces two distinct reductions in its fire service cover.

Resolve:

- We the Conservative group of Trafford Council, therefore, ask the Labour administration to write to the Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham to uphold his commitment not to cut services and leave residents of Sale at risk from delays to response times, making it clear we reject in full GMFRS's proposal to move Sale fire station to a day crewing model. acknowledges that the Leader of the Council has written to the Chief Fire Officer to set out the administration's concerns regarding proposals and to urge GMFRS to reconsider.
- This Council condemns the Conservative-led governments that have stripped over £20 million funding from GMFRS since 2010.