

# APPENDIX BB

## WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE - 14 FEBRUARY 2011

---

#### Title:

**URGENT REPORT**  
**SURREY FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY DRAFT PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2011  
– 2020 PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Carole King]**

**[Wards Affected: N/A]**

---

#### Summary and purpose:

Surrey's Fire & Rescue Authority has published proposals for significant changes to the fire service in Waverley, in response to the need to make budget cuts of £2.7 million.

The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive attended a presentation of these proposals by the Chief Fire Officer on 9 February, as a result of which, the Leader felt it necessary to bring the details of the plans for Waverley to the attention of the Executive.

Representatives from the fire service will be present at the meeting to introduce the proposals and respond to Councillors' questions.

---

#### **How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:**

This report relates to Waverley Borough Council's democratic responsibility to act as a leader of its local community, and to give voice to the issues, priorities and concerns of our community. The fire service's proposals are of potentially grave concern to our residents, as they could impact considerably on the ability of the fire service to respond adequately to emergencies within our Borough.

The proposals are open for consultation until 4 March 2011, and it is the responsibility of this Council to input any concerns that our Executive members may have.

#### **Equality and Diversity Implications:**

Waverley is a truly rural Borough, unlike most of its Surrey neighbours. The fire service's proposals would seem to have a disproportionate impact on the level of service availability in this rural area, when compared to the more urban north Surrey boroughs.

#### **Resource/Value for Money implications:**

It is recognised that all public services are facing severe financial strains in the current economic climate. However, it is important that budget reductions are achieved without disproportionate harm to front-line public services. This is an issue that the fire service must address in finalising its ten-year service plan.

### **Legal Implications:**

There are no legal implications for Waverley.

---

### **Background:**

- 1 The draft 'public safety plan' for the Surrey Fire & Rescue Authority, which will run from 2011 to 2020, is currently out for public consultation. The Authority is required to find £2.7 million savings between 2011 and 2014, and their draft plan is a response to these budget pressures.
- 2 The detailed proposals for Waverley's fire service are described in Annexe 1. In summary, it is proposed that Waverley will lose the retained one pump fire station at Dunsfold, and that the four retained fire appliances currently stationed at Godalming (1), Cranleigh (2) and Haslemere (1) will be discontinued during the daytime hours of 7am – 7pm. During the night (7pm – 7am) one retained fire appliance will be available at Cranleigh. There is no change to the single appliance at Farnham. The fire service is also proposing changes to the staffing of fire appliances, in particular by putting five firefighters on each appliance, rather than four, and by amending the terms of the retained duty system.
- 3 These proposals are a major change to the current service availability, and there are real concerns that, with these reductions in service coverage, the service will not be able to provide adequate resilience in our rural Borough, especially in the Cranleigh area during the day. In particular, the service's target response times of a fire appliance attending 80% of incidents within 10 minutes if the appliances are required to attend from outside Waverley seems wholly unrealistic. Moreover, this plan, although claiming to be deliverable from within Surrey's own resources, will undoubtedly rely on an increased level of coverage for our Borough from both Hampshire and West Sussex services. Surrey has no control over service levels in these counties – therefore there would seem to be a real risk that Waverley's residents will be vulnerable under this plan.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Executive consider the proposals contained in the Surrey Fire & Rescue Authority's draft public safety plan, and agree representations to be included in the Council's response.

---

### **Background Papers**

Surrey Fire & Rescue Authority draft public safety plan 2011 – 2020.

---

### **CONTACT OFFICER:**

**Name:** Mary Orton

**Telephone:** 01483 523208

**E-mail:** [mary.orton@waverley.gov.uk](mailto:mary.orton@waverley.gov.uk)