IRMP REVIEW OF THE OPERATIONAL RESPONSE MODEL

Appendices to Fire Authority report 21st January 2014

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Creating the Safest Community
www.twfire.gov.uk

Contents

Appendix A: Extract from Authority report of October 2013

4 CURRENT RESOURCES

4.1 TWFRA has 17 community fire stations, of which 15 are whole-time, 1 retained and 1 staffed using the Day Crewing Close Call (DCCC) system. It is planned that a second station will adopt DCCC in 2014.

4.2 30 frontline appliances (pumps) are based at these stations. 26 of these operate from thirteen 2-pump stations; the remaining four stations have 1 pump each. Appendix A shows the current deployment of pumps.

4.3 The service operates a 4 watch system, and 119 firefighters are on duty at any one time comprising Firefighters, Crew Managers and Watch Managers. The total operational frontline establishment at the time of the review is:

Firefighters	470
Crew Managers	113
Watch Managers	62
Total	645

4.4 These staff undertake a wide range of duties covering the areas of Prevention (Home Safety Checks etc), Protection, Response and Resilience. Firefighters also dual staff specialist appliances such as Aerial Ladder Platforms, i.e. if these appliances are required they will be staffed by firefighters from a frontline pump, which will be taken off the run until the crew are available again. Firefighters are also trained in particular specialisms such as Rope Rescue, Urban Search and Rescue or Swift Water Rescue.

5 THE COMMUNITY RISK

5.1 The review was carried out based on community risk and incident data. It should be noted that incident numbers and community risk are not the same thing: Incidents could be seen as what happens when community risk is not mitigated, whereas the community risk is inherent in the community because of its makeup.

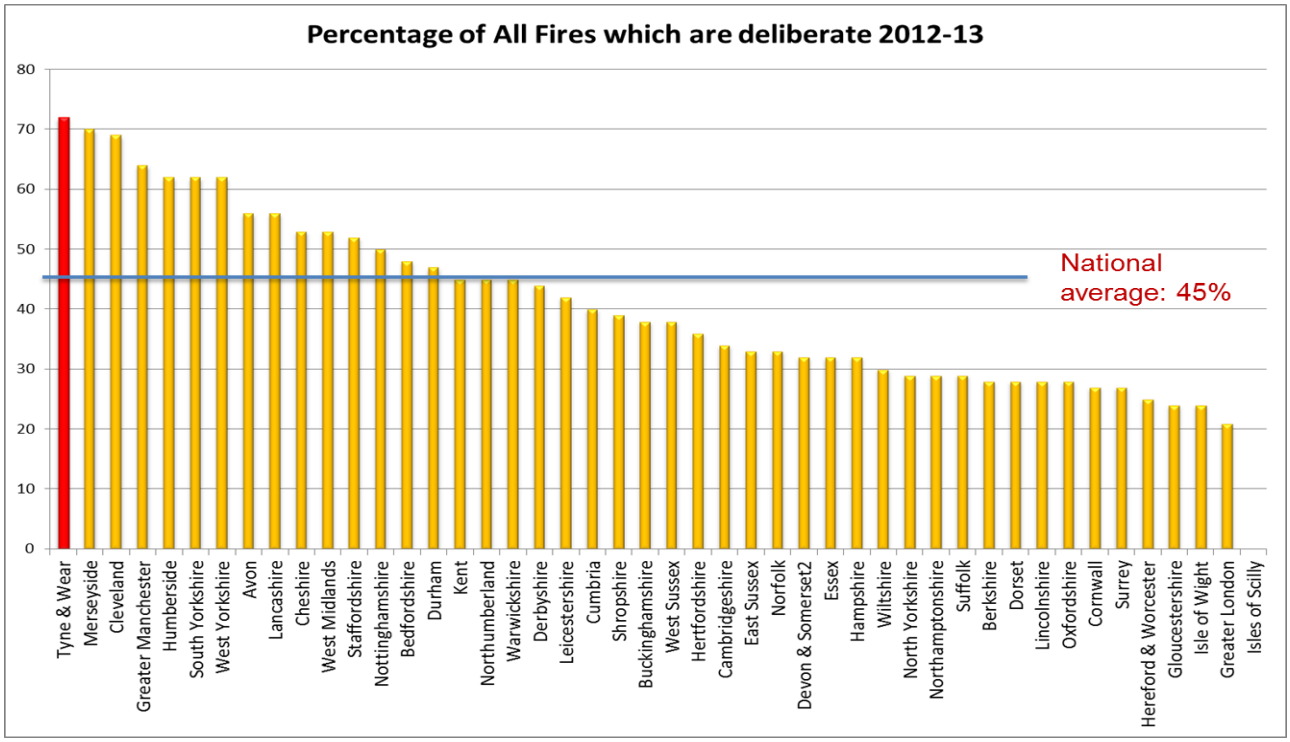
5.2 Tyne and Wear, like other Metropolitan areas, is a high risk based on local demographics. CLG research[1] indicates that there is a clear link between risk of **accidental dwelling fires and injuries** and socio-demographic factors such as deprivation, disability, being single and unemployment. Tyne and Wear carries a higher level of this risk than most other areas, as shown below[2]:

[1] *Analysis of Fire and Rescue Service Performance and Outcomes with reference to Population Socio-demographics.* CLG Fire Research Series 9/2008

[2] Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010

Regional Average Rank		Average IMD Rank
Tyne and Wear	***Most Deprived***	12324
North East		12943
London		13045
North West		13699
West Midlands		14325
Yorkshire and Humberside		14455
England		16242
East Midlands		17055
South West		18141
East of England		19743
South East	***Least Deprived***	20723

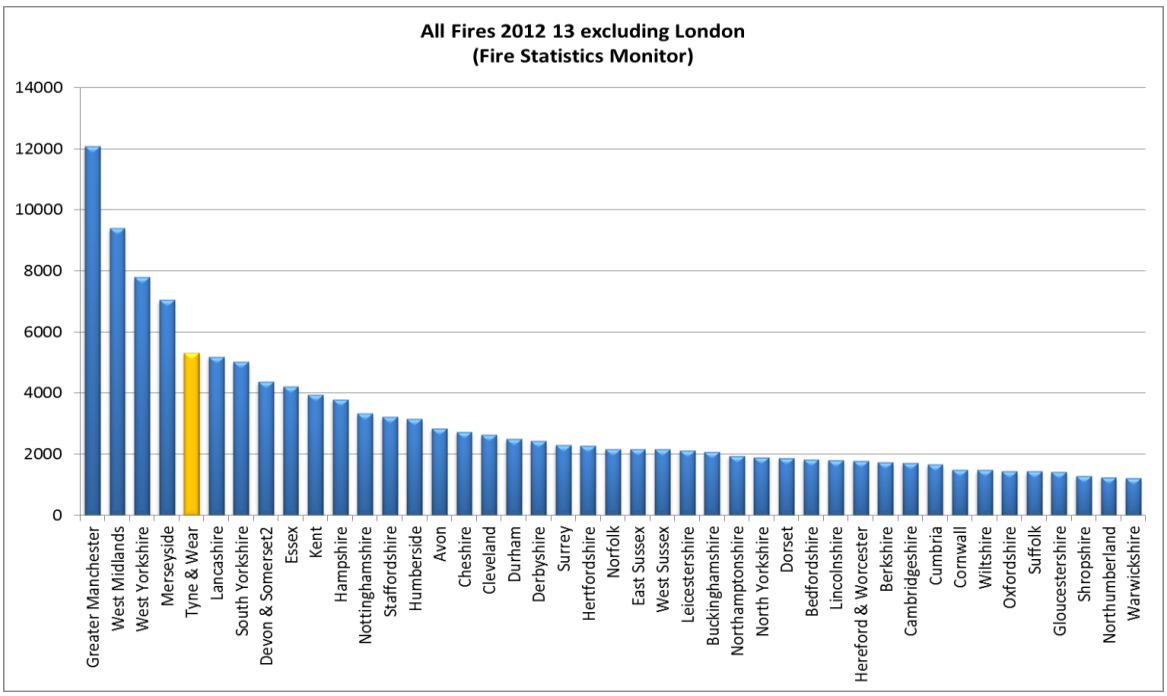
5.3 In terms of **deliberate fires**, there is also a statistical correlation between incidence of these and deprivation. This is reflected in the proportion of deliberate fires to all fires in Tyne and Wear; in 2012-13[3], Tyne and Wear had the highest proportion of deliberate fires in the country, again reflecting risk (the same pattern is present in police ASB statistics[4]):

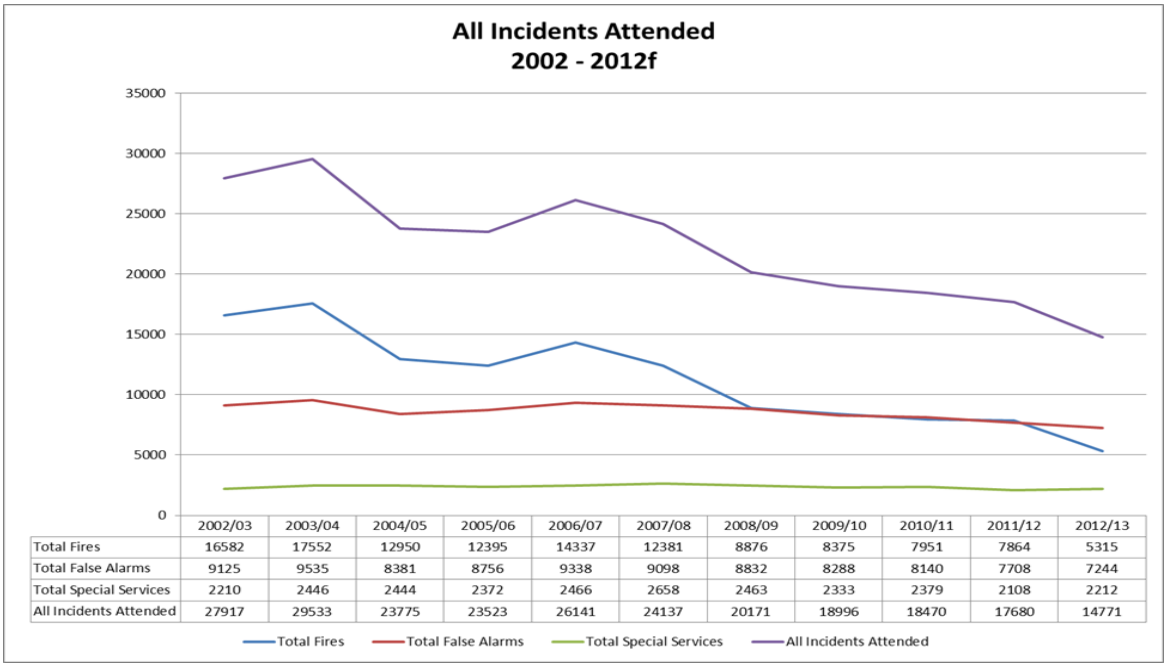


[3] *Fire Statistics Monitor 2012-13*: CLG June 2013

[4] See *Review of Diversionary Activities*, TWFRA September 2013

5.4 The level of risk in Tyne and Wear means that the area still experiences a higher number of fires than most parts of the country. This is despite excellent reductions in fires over the last ten years, as a result of our concentrated focus on Prevention and Protection. The charts below show the current level of fires in Tyne and Wear compared with the rest of the country, and then the overall reduction in incidents we have brought about in Tyne and Wear.





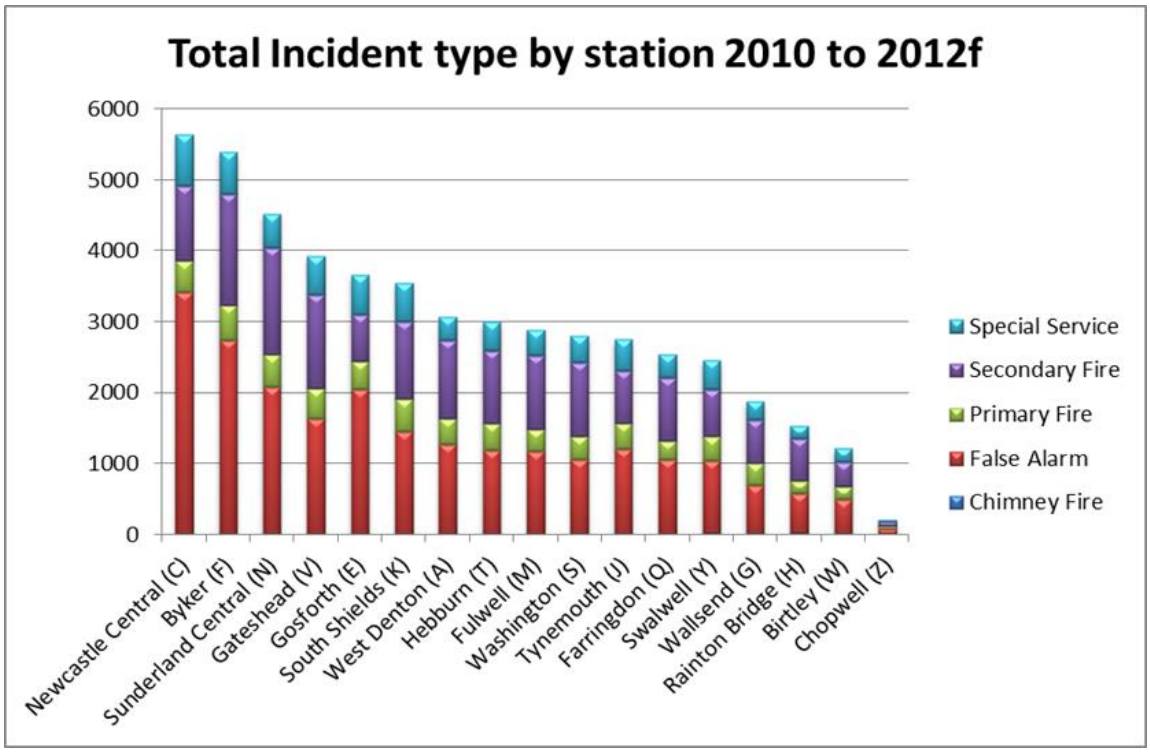
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Total Fires	16582	17552	12950	12395	14337	12381	8876	8375	7951	7864	5315
Total False Alarms	9125	9535	8381	8756	9338	9098	8832	8288	8140	7708	7244
Total Special Services	2210	2446	2444	2372	2466	2658	2463	2333	2379	2108	2212
All Incidents Attended	27917	29533	23775	23523	26141	24137	20171	18996	18470	17680	14771

6 INCIDENTS

6.1 The review used incident data from the last three years to generate and test options for change. The total number of incidents 2010-13 was 51,024, giving an average of 1.9 incidents per hour (equal to 46.5 in a 24 hour period).

6.2 Different numbers of appliances are mobilised to incidents depending on Pre-Determined Attendance levels (PDAs); however the average number of appliances sent to an incident is two. 1,607 (3%) of the incidents were large incidents with more than 4 appliances attending. Each appliance spent on average 3% of its time at incidents, with the remainder of firefighter time being focused on Prevention, Protection, training, risk intelligence gathering and other activities.

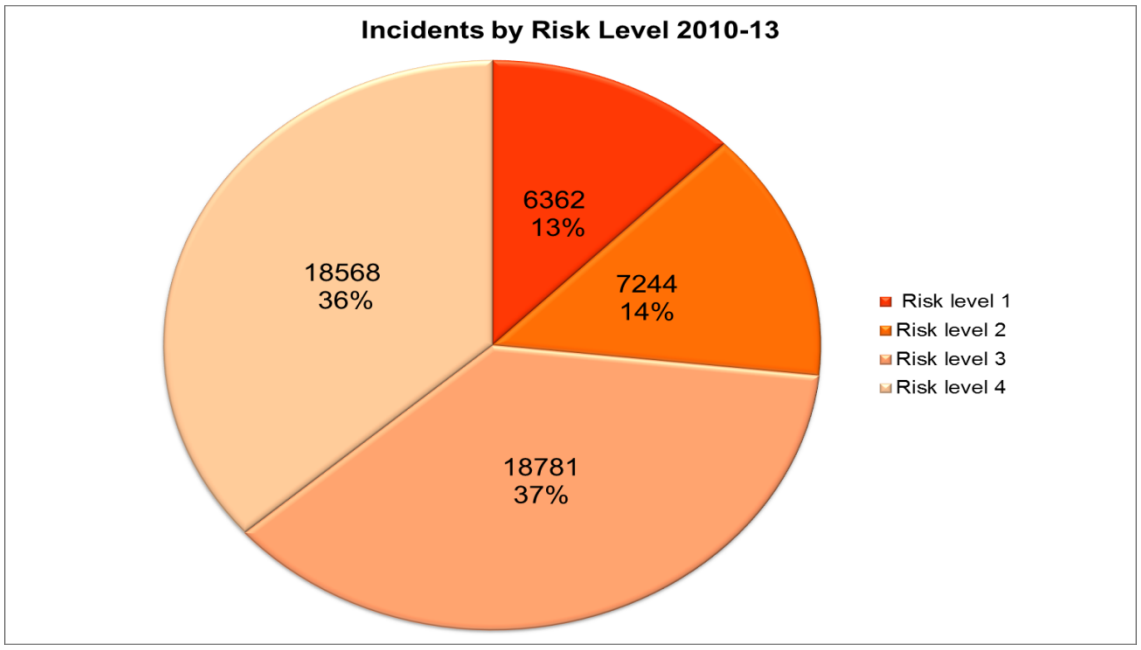
6.3 Different parts of Tyne and Wear have different numbers of incidents, and this is illustrated in the chart below showing incidents per station. The number of false alarms is still high and one of the review recommendations is to determine what further action can be taken to improve this.

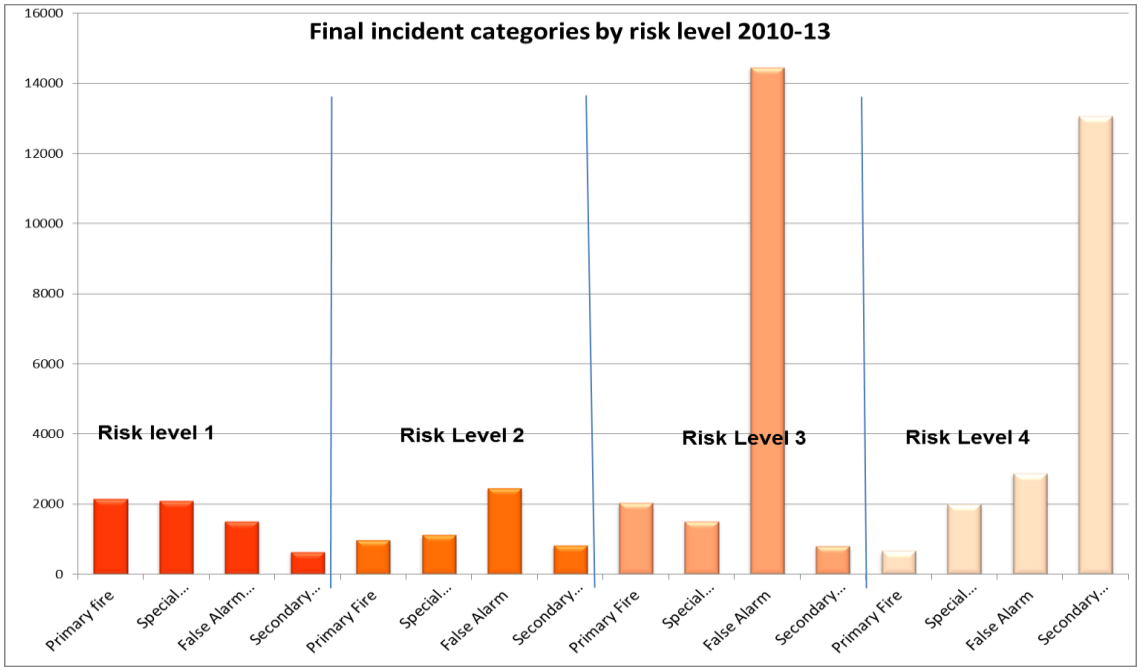


Risk at the time of response

6.4 As well as categorising incidents geographically, they can also be assessed by type and risk level. FRSs already report incidents at the national level under a number of categories; the review team took these, combined with professional judgement of life and property risk, and categorised them into 4 risk levels (1-4 with 1 the highest, representing significant life and/or property risk).

6.5 When incidents are categorised in this way, three year incident data shows the following breakdown. The upper chart shows mobilisations[5] and the lower chart shows the final category assigned to the incidents.

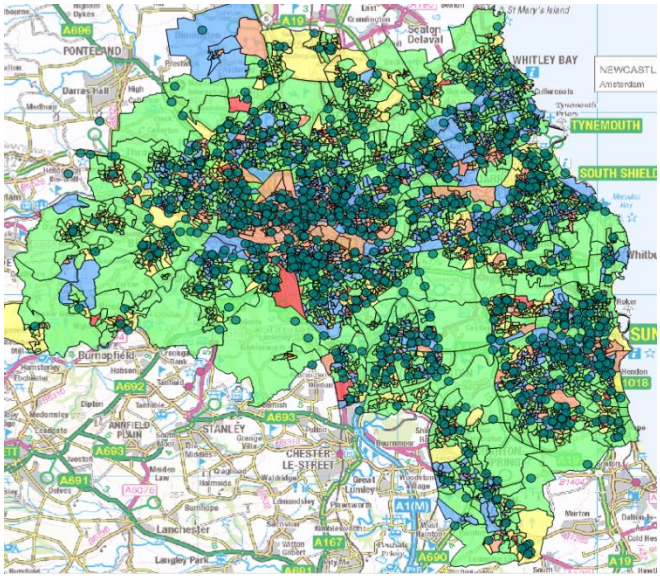




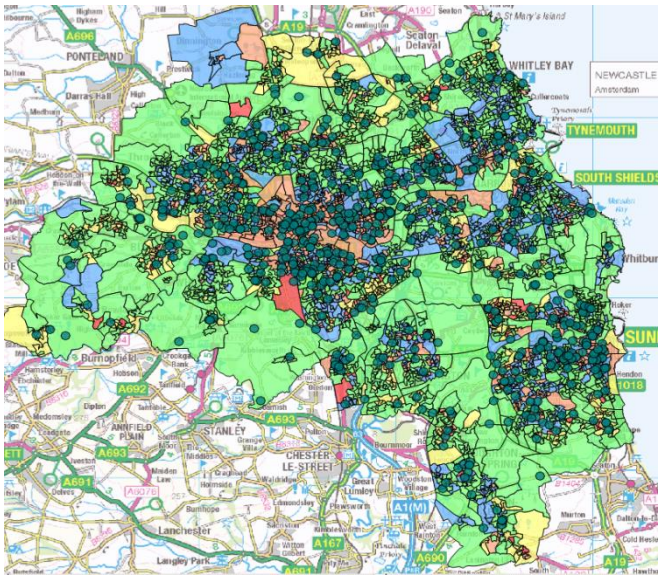
[5] When an appliance is mobilised and sent to an incident by Control, this is based on all the available information Control is able to glean about the incident to know what should be sent. Occasionally, the incident turns out to be something different- eg a false alarm- or develops into something larger. This is why figures for mobilisations can be different to those by which incidents are categorised once they are over.

6.6 When these incident levels are broken down by station, the distribution largely reflects the total number of incidents per station as shown in 6.3. Clearly a “high risk” incident e.g. persons reported, can happen anywhere, although it is more ***likely*** to happen in areas of higher vulnerability and deprivation.

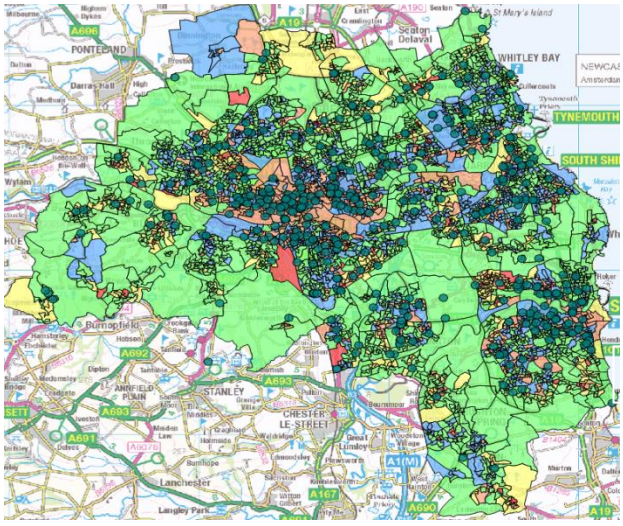
6.7 This is illustrated by the risk maps below, showing highest risk incidents (level 1) for 2012-13 across Tyne and Wear at different times of day. The colours in the background are Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) risk categories factoring in population, deprivation etc; red is highest risk, followed by orange, yellow, green and blue. Most incidents are clustered in the areas that might be “expected”, although some higher risk incidents still occur in green and blue areas.



09:00- 18:00

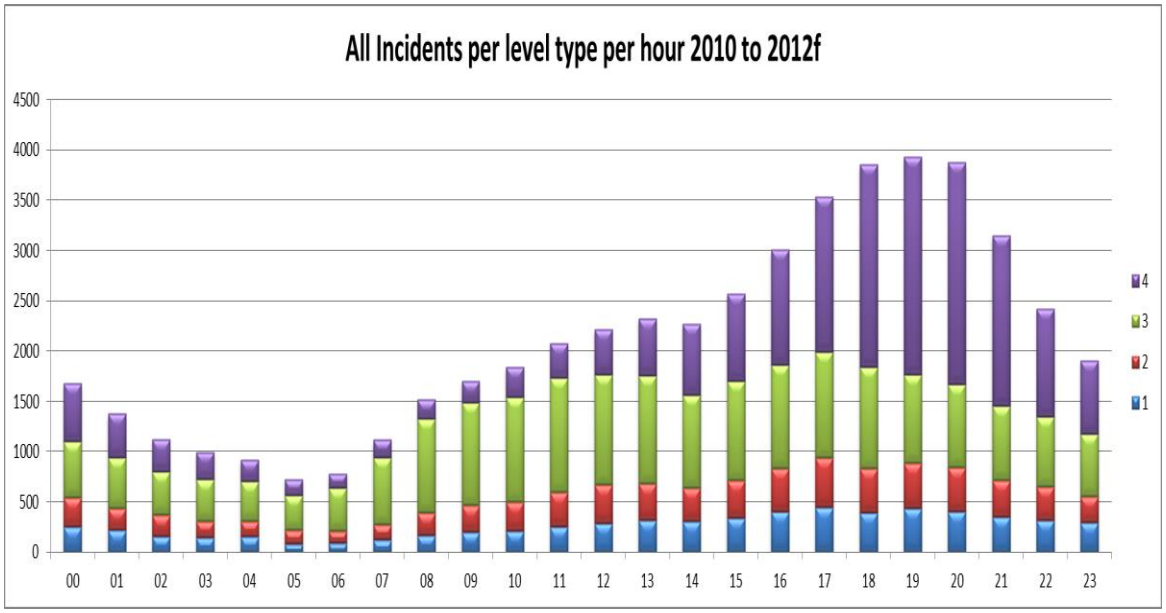


18:00- 00:00



00:00 – 09:00

6.8 The chart below takes three years "time of day" data, and shows this by risk category:



6.9 It is well established that the peak time for all incidents is the early evening. Higher risk incidents have less peaks and troughs but still follow this pattern.

6.10 Our data confirms that 69% of incidents occur between 11:00 and 23:00 hrs.

6.11 In terms of lower risk incidents; level 3 incidents (including most of the false alarms) have a dual peak in mid-morning and early evening; and level 4 incidents (including most secondary fires, often associated with anti-social behaviour. peak from 17:00 to 21:00 hrs. We know that there are seasonal peaks in these incidents, with the Bonfire Period and Lighter Nights period both showing increases.

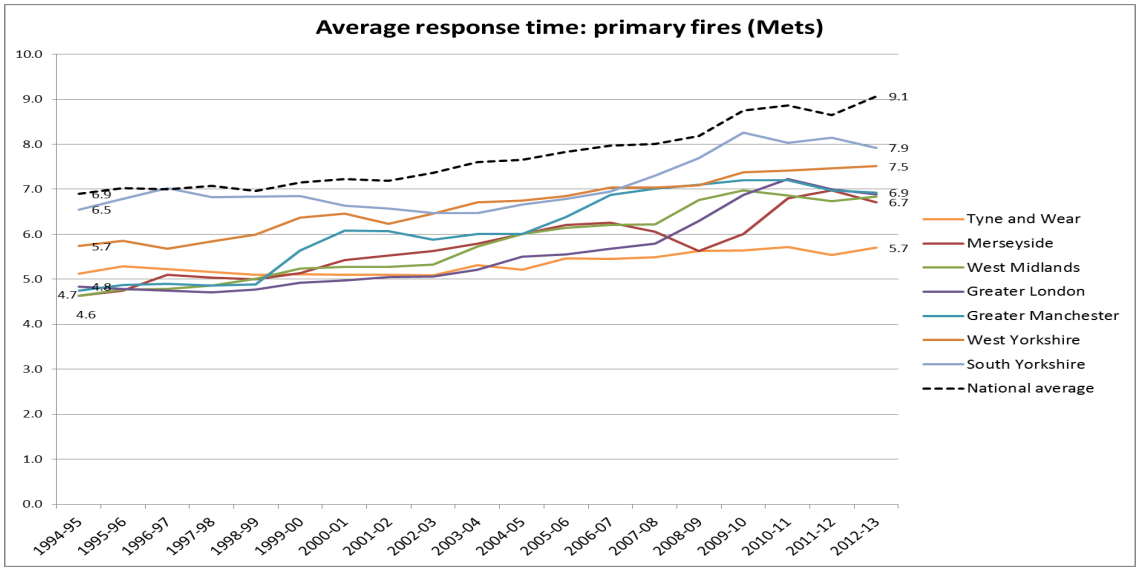
6.12 The hours between 01:00 and 6:00 hrs are those when incidents are least likely to happen.

7 SPEED OF RESPONSE

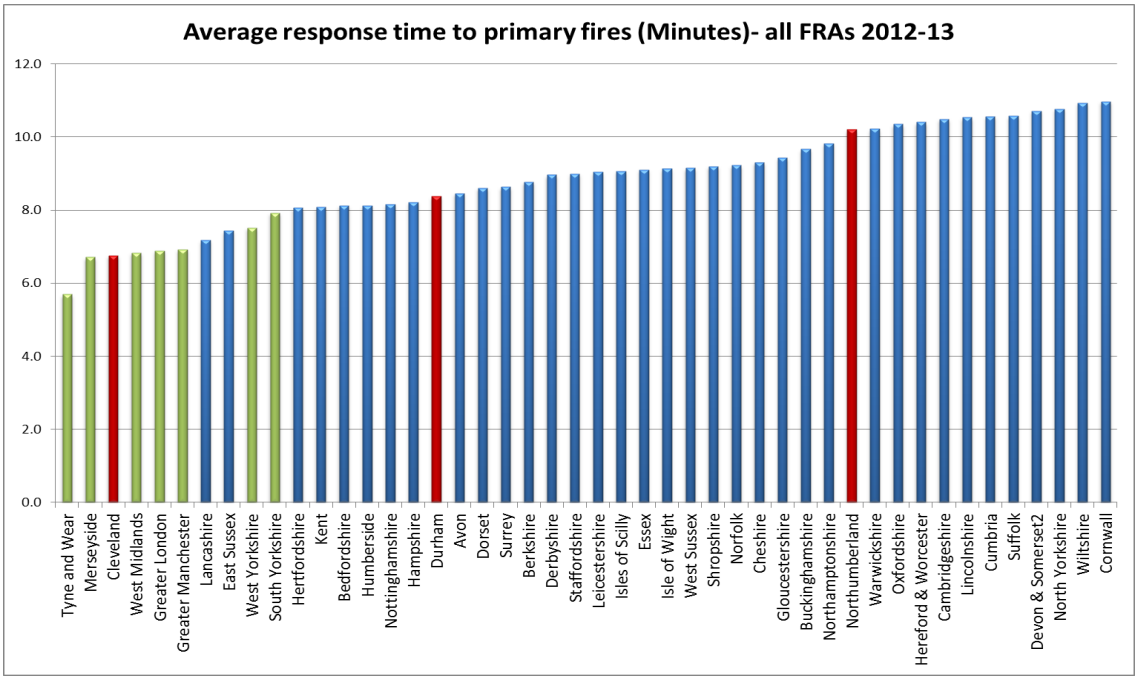
7.1 A FRS's speed of response is determined by the number of appliances available, their location within the area, and the geographical makeup/transport links in the area. The Tyne and Wear area has tight geography, good transport links, a densely packed population with relatively high level of fire risk.

7.2 With the second smallest number of appliances of any Met[6], TWFRS has been able to maintain its average response times over the last 15 years, as shown below in relation to Primary fires[7].

[6] TWFRS 30; S Yorkshire 28; Merseyside 37; West Midlands 59; Greater Manchester 66; London 169- *CIPFA actuals 2012-13*
[7] *Fire Incident Response Times 2012-13*. CLG August 2013.



7.3 At 5.7 minutes (5 minutes 42 seconds), TWFRS' average response to primary fires is the fastest in the country; Metropolitan FRSs tend to have faster responses as their populations are less dispersed; however they also have higher levels of risk and incident numbers. Clearly this is an average and the actual response time to a specific incident will depend upon its proximity to a fire station.



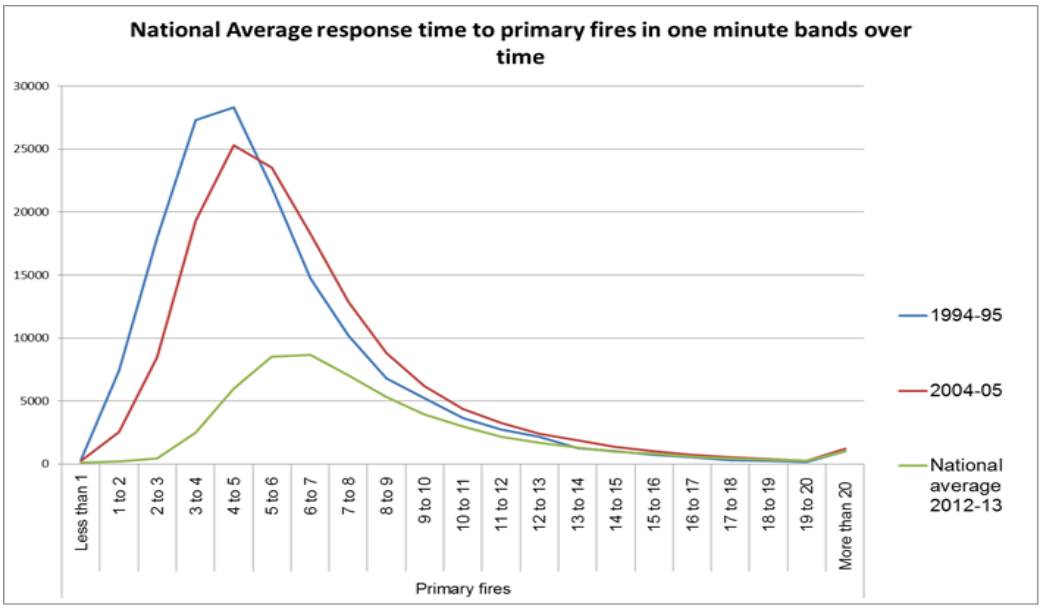
7.4 Attendance times to incident types also vary; DCLG figures for TWFRS show the following average times during 2012/2013.

TWFRS Average Response Times 2012-2013	
Incident Type	Average Time
Dwelling Fire	5 minutes 18 seconds
Other Buildings Fire	5 minutes 30 seconds
Primary Fire	5 minutes 42 seconds
Car Fires	6 minutes 6 seconds
Outdoor Fires	6 minutes 48 seconds

7.5 Although the times above clearly show a faster response to higher risk incidents (dwellings) when compared to low risk (outdoor); this reflects that there is already a small degree of prioritisation of higher risk incidents.

7.6 The Authority agreed in 2004 (when the IRMP process was first introduced) to broadly maintain response times to building fires, since 2004 response time has increased within the Tyne and Wear area by 8% to building and dwelling fires, with Primary fires increasing by 10%. This demonstrates excellent performance when compared to other Metropolitan FRSs, for example South Yorkshire FRS have seen increases of 23% in their response time to dwelling fires and the Metropolitan average increase of 14% to dwellings is also significantly higher than TWFRS over the same period.

7.7 These can also be compared to the national picture as shown in the 2012-13 Response Times statistics. The examples below show the average response times to primary fires at the national level, as they have changed over a period of time.



7.8 The chart in 7.7 clearly shows the decline in the number of primary fires nationally since 1994 and 2012/13, it also shows the changes in the number of incidents attended by response times. In 1994 peak performance can be seen at 4 to 5 minutes of response, this is also the case for 2004-05, however the most recent data for 2012-13 shows the peak was between 6 to 7 minutes, a shift of at least 2 minutes in the average peak performance, clear evidence that on average English FRS response is slower now when compared to 2004.

8 RESOURCES AND RISK

8.1 It is clear that whilst overall TWFRS has a relatively high number of incidents and the busiest stations in the country[8], there is wide variation in incident levels:

- Between geographical locations within Tyne and Wear
- At different times of day
- In terms of the magnitude of the incidents, and the risk to life and property they pose

8.2 Members have previously considered such evidence which underpinned decisions to introduce different delivery approaches as part of earlier IRMPs. For example, we introduced 4 and 4 staffing at all 2 pump stations from 2005, based on risk and travel times. Our 4 least busy stations have 1 pump deployed there instead of 2; one of them is Retained. Two stations were removed in the mid-1990s as part of the rebuild and replacement programme supported by PFI. Day Crewing Close Call staffing has been introduced at Birtley and is planned for implementation at Rainton Bridge in 2014. The Authority has already been able to introduce some successful change in this way, and reduce costs without impacting negatively on community risk, firefighter safety or speed of response.

8.3 The review team further examined our risk in the light of funding challenges, whilst still seeking to minimise the impact on Community and Firefighter risk. In line with earlier IRMP reviews we have carried out, this has been achieved through **increasing targeting** based on evidence, and **increasing flexibility.**

8.4 The basic unit of response in TWFRS is a fire appliance/pump with 4 staff (or 5 for a single pump station). Wherever the incident, whatever its size or level of risk, we deploy staff in blocks of 4. We also make the same staffing levels available 24/7 despite differing patterns of incidents throughout the 24 hour period. In terms of flexibility, we therefore asked ourselves whether we could deliver with less, and developed the following options:

[8] Audit Commission value for money profiles

a) Introduce alternative appliances, with lower crewing levels, to deal with lower risk incidents

b) Introduce dynamic call handling by Control

c) Introduce flexibility of day and night time cover

8.5 We then asked whether it would be feasible to reduce the overall resources available, whilst maintaining an acceptable level of cover and speed of response, targeted at the highest risk both in terms of geography and incident type. The options developed under this heading are:

d) Reduce the number of pumping appliances based on analysis of risk

e) Reduce the number of fire stations

f) Crew all one pump stations with 4 staff on the appliance

g) Reduce Aerial Ladder Platforms (ALPs) from 3 to 2

h) Invest in new firefighting technologies to enhance performance and safety

i) Seek to further reduce the number of false alarms

8.6 Workload Modelling and Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) software were used to model a number of these options. Workload Modelling provides an indication of how changes to the response strategy can impact based upon analysis of previous incidents, whilst FSEC gives a prediction of the impact of such changes on life and property risk.

9 THE OPTIONS

9.1 This section gives some more detail on the proposed options. Section 9 then builds the options together into a proposal for reshaping the service over the next 3 years.

Alternative appliances and dynamic call handling by Control

9.1 Under this option, alternative appliances, staffed by 2 or 3 firefighters, would be introduced to deal with lower risk (level 3 and 4) incidents. These would replace a number of pumping appliances.

9.2 This approach has been adopted by many FRS, including other Metropolitan authorities such as West Midlands and South Yorkshire. The alternative vehicles range from 4x4s (such as the Toyota Hi-Lux used in West Midlands) to large vans. Although approaches vary, typically these vehicles are used for smaller incidents such as secondary fires, and for Anti-Social Behaviour reduction/diversionary work. TWFRS already has two vehicles of this kind but does not currently use them as part of operational response.

9.3 Practical challenge exercises as part of the review indicated that using alternative vehicles is feasible for level 3 and 4 risk incidents (such as car fires and small ASB fires), but not for more complex incidents (those tested were House Fire, RTC persons reported, and Fire-High Rise, all of which are risk category 1 and required larger numbers of staff to be dealt with safely and quickly).

9.4 The main benefit of this approach is to provide a more flexible range of response options, so that fewer staff can be deployed to low risk incidents where this can be done safely. As the data in section 6.3-6.5 shows, such lower risk incidents make up the majority of incidents attended. For example, small scale secondary fires make up 32% of incidents attended.

9.5 Larger appliances and teams could be kept for the more serious incidents where one or more pumps are needed to deal with the incident safely.

9.6 This would also result in a reduction in the number of firefighters required, allowing some savings to be made.

9.7 The risk level of any incident would feature routinely in how our professional Control operators deploy appliances and staff, and this would be done dynamically (in response to incident intelligence) with flexibility added to pre-determined attendances (PDAs). A wider range of deployment options would be available to Control to match the resource to the incident. This would make better use of the skills and experience of Control in determining response.

Flexibility of day and night time cover

9.8 Under this option, different numbers of appliances would be provided by day and by night, at stations where activity and risk levels allowed this to happen with the least impact on the risk. In essence, some fire appliances would be “stood down” for a period of up to 12 hours at night, removing the need for crews to be available to staff them.

9.9 As with Day Crewing Close Call, this would only be done at stations where the known level of night time incidents is low enough to do it safely.

Reduce the number of pumping appliances and/or fire stations, based on an analysis of Risk

9.10 Under this option, the number of pumping appliances deployed by TWFRA would be reduced over time, based on a rigorous analysis of risk, incident patterns and attendance times, with firefighter numbers reduced accordingly. This would be linked to the option of adding additional smaller appliances to the fleet, so that the best mix of appliances and crews can be made available within the reduced financial resources available, to achieve the smallest impact on response times and appropriate response to risk.

9.11 As part of this option, the locating of the appliances would also need to be considered; if the fleet is smaller, there may be a need to remove or relocate some stations to achieve the

best possible response times. This happened, for example, in the late 1990s when Tunstall and Grindon stations in Sunderland were closed and a new station opened at Farringdon.

Crew one pump stations with 4 staff on the appliance

9.12 Under this option, the staffing of all appliances would be brought into line. Currently, the pumps at the four, one-pump stations are crewed with 5 staff, whereas all other pumps are crewed with 4. Although the risk was identified that this could lead to reduced capacity in the initial stages of a larger incident if the pump was the first to arrive, in practice this is mitigated by the overall speed of response in Tyne and Wear.

9.13 Over the last 3 years, the review found that a large number of standbys were completed by 4 person crews in these areas without any near misses or concerns being reported.

Reduce Aerial Ladder Platforms (ALPs) from 3 to 2

9.14 Following on from the earlier IRMP review into the provision of ALP's; subsequent analysis of use has demonstrated that 2 ALPs are sufficient to meet the operational requirements of TWFRS. Under this option, one ALP would be removed from the fleet.

9.15 Since all Special appliances are already dual staffed following earlier IRMP reviews, this would not have an impact on staffing levels, but would reduce operating and capital costs.

Invest in new firefighting technologies to enhance performance and safety

9.16 A number of technological advances have been made recently, including high pressure fire suppression systems (e.g. COBRA) which have been shown in other FRS to assist with effective firefighting and improved firefighter safety, by allowing the sites of fires to be penetrated from the outside; and high pressure pumps which do not require a pump operator.

9.17 These technologies were actively explored as part of the review, including practical testing at the Training Centre of a 2 person crew's ability to deal with car and ASB fires. It was determined that this type of technology does add value and would support the implementation of the other options.

9.18 Under this option therefore, the Authority would invest in relevant technologies, to support the capacity and safety of firefighters in the future, and the delivery of the other options. This would require an upfront and on-going allocation of capital.

10 PROPOSALS

10.1 Based on the options outlined above, detailed workload modelling was done on a number of scenarios with the objective of determining the best mix of options which would reduce our costs whilst having the least impact on response times and community risk.

10.2 It is clear that any reduction in frontline appliances will increase the average time of attendance, the strategy employed within the design of the proposals is to protect as far as possible the average time to life and significant property risk incidents (risk level 1 and 2) and allow a planned increase in the average time to attend lower risk incidents (risk level 3 and 4).

10.3 Any proposal agreed would be implemented in phases over the next 3 years, to enable clear monitoring to occur, thus ensuring risk is managed appropriately.

10.3 Proposal One

10.3.1 Introduce 4 targeted response appliances; staffed by 2 firefighters, to attend lower risk (level 3 and 4) incidents, 2 of the appliances to be staffed 24 hours a day, the remaining two will be available 24 hours a day but dual staffed.

10.3.2 The review found that a different number of appliances could be provided by day and by night, at stations where activity and risk levels allowed this to happen with the least impact on the risk. This proposal recommends that 2 fire appliances would be “stood down” for a period of up to 12 hours at night, removing the need for crews to be available to staff them.

10.3.3 Based on a rigorous analysis of risk, incident patterns and travel times (and the strategy detailed in 9.2), this option proposes that 6 traditional pumping appliances should be removed from the fleet (reducing numbers from 30 to 24) with firefighter numbers reduced accordingly. This would be linked to the option of adding additional smaller appliances to the fleet (from 0 now to up to 4 in the future), so that the best mix of resources can be allocated within the reduced finances available, to achieve the smallest impact on response times.

10.3.4 Crew all one pump stations with 4 members of staff.

10.3.5 Reduce Aerial Ladder Platforms (ALP) from 3 to 2.

10.3.6 This proposal would change the balance of appliances used by in Tyne and Wear, reducing traditional pumping appliances by 6 (20%) and adding 4 smaller vehicles. This option would reduce firefighting staff by approximately 131 (20%) and costs by £5,109,689.

10.4 Proposal Two

10.4.1 **Implement proposal one, and**;

10.4.2 Closure of two Community Fire stations and replace with one new station. Determination of which stations to close and where to site a new station has been determined through examination of workload modelling, FSEC and analysis of risk data and intelligence. The

analysis considered station areas with some of the lowest numbers of incidents and has identified new locations to provide a more efficient Service Delivery model.

10.4.3 The above will increase the number of stations with 2 fire appliances, and improve the location of stations according to risk and response within Tyne and Wear. Remodelling the strategic locations for stations now will also provide an opportunity to maintain service delivery and provide some resilience.

10.4.4 This proposal would save a minimum of £170,000 in addition to proposal one and two. The Authority would have to invest capital to support the new build, and would also receive some finances from the sale of the two existing locations.

10.5
Proposal Three

10.5.1 **Implement proposal one and two, and**;

10.5.2 Closure of a further Community Fire Station. Again through examination of workload modelling, FSEC and analysis of risk data and intelligence a further station has been identified for potential closure. Whilst the station identified experiences one of the largest number of incidents within TWFRS, it is surrounded by 3 station areas which have the capacity (and are in the correct geographical location) to provide an efficient response to the community.

10.5.3 The above will increase the number of stations with 2 fire appliances and improve the location of stations according to risk and response within Tyne and Wear. Remodelling the strategic locations for stations now will also provide an opportunity to maintain service delivery and provide some resilience.

10.5.4 This proposal would save a minimum of £340,000 in addition to proposal one and two. The Authority would have to invest capital to support the new build, and would also receive some finances from the sale of the two existing locations.

Risk Modelling

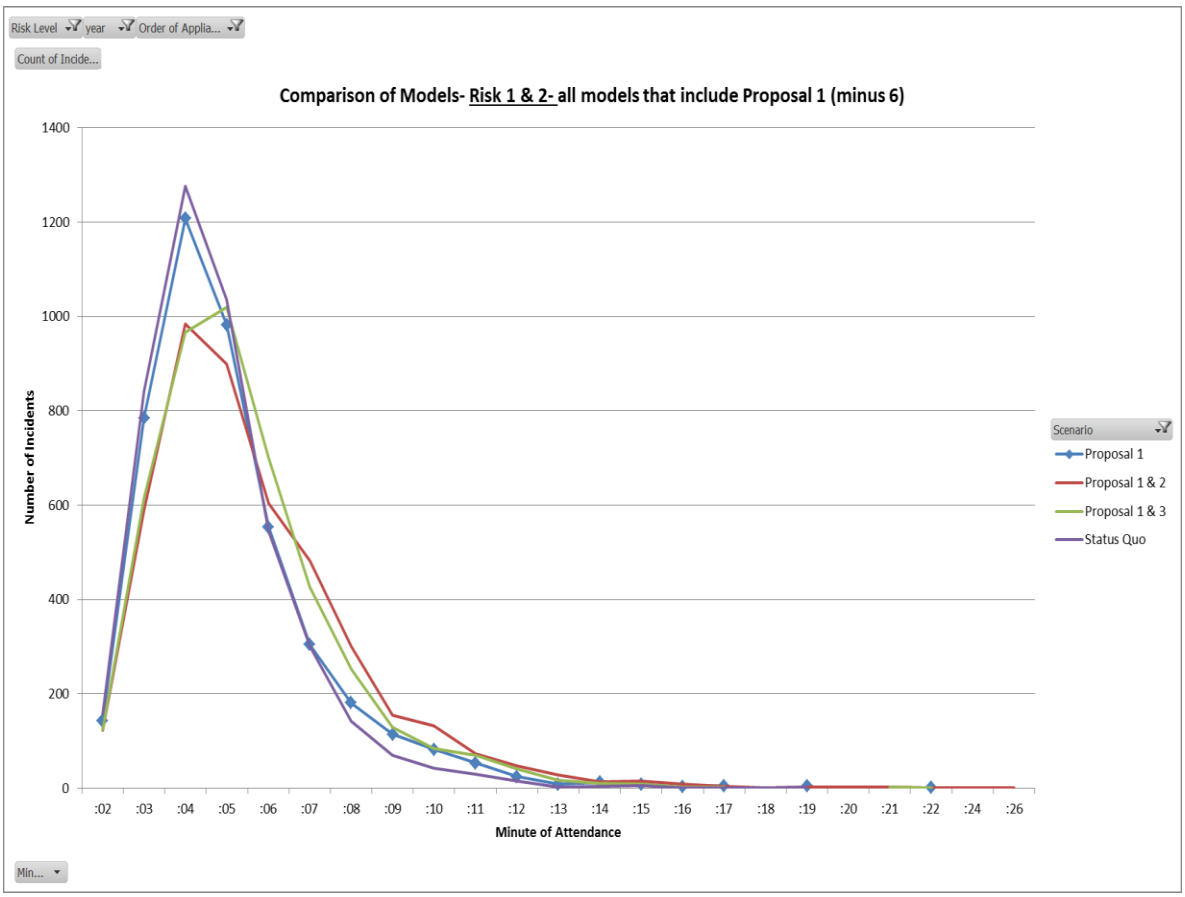
10.6 Risk modelling has been carried out on the proposals above using Workload Modelling software, and the Government's Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) software. The FSEC modelling illustrates that all the options would have a negative impact on life and property risk when compared with the TWFRS status quo; information regarding the projected (yearly) impact on life is shown below.

10.7 It must be noted, however, that this is a projected model; the actual fire death number within TWFRS is well below the 8.51 the model indicates for the status quo. These figures do not include the 4 additional vehicles, however since those vehicles would attend low risk incidents only, the impact on life risk would not be significantly different:

Vehicle Deployment Strategy	Dwelling Fatalities	Other Buildings Fatalities	PROJECTED Total Fatalities	Total 'Difference' Per year
Status Quo model	7.093198	1.425737	8.518935	
Proposal One	7.281908	1.623716	8.905624	0.38
Proposal One and Two	7.226658	1.660189	8.886847	0.36
Proposal One and Three	7.325219	1.751642	9.076861	0.55

10.8 Section 7 of this report discussed speed of response and the number of incidents that are attended within an average time. Workload modelling uses historical data (actual incident data) to examine the workload placed upon each appliance but more importantly for our response strategy (briefly covered in 9.2), it also provides an indication of incidents attended and speed of response. Each of the proposals have been examined in detail and the following graphs show the outcome in relation to incident numbers and response times for 2011/12.

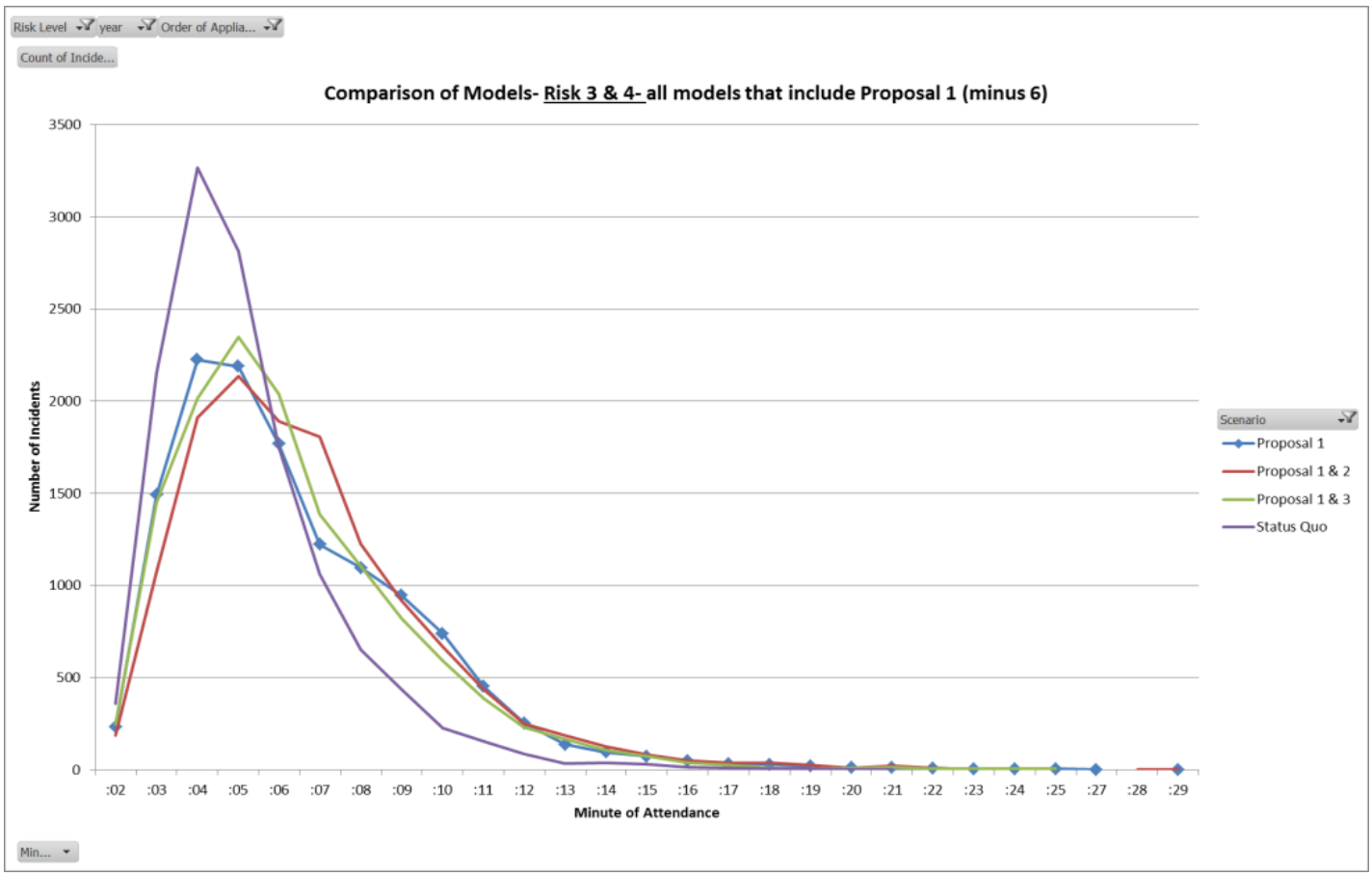
10.9 These can also be compared to the national picture as shown in 7.7 of this report. This indicates that even with these changes, speed of response in Tyne and Wear would still be significantly better than the national picture.



10.10 The above graph shows the comparison between the status quo and all models which include proposal one to enable direct comparison against each other. This analysis is for the first appliance to attend all incidents within **risk levels one and two** (higher risk) in 2011/12. It is important to note that the difference between status quo and proposal one is slight, with most incidents responded to within the same response time.

10.11 As expected, when proposal 2 and 3 are introduced (removal of stations), the response patterns change, with less incidents responded to within 4-6 minutes, but a similar picture to the status quo beyond 6 minutes.

10.12 The graph below again shows the comparison between the status quo and all models which include proposal one; however this analysis is for the first appliance to attend all incidents within **risk levels three and four** (lower risk incidents) in 2011/12.



10.13 Because the strategy is to protect service levels to the higher risk incidents, the response to lower risk incidents is more markedly different to the status quo. The status quo peak is still 4 minutes, reflecting that we do not currently differentiate between the level of risk of incidents at the current time.

10.14 With all the proposed models, response is approximately one minute slower to lower risk incidents. This is still better than the national average increase seen in 7.8. All models are very similar with the difference between proposal one and station closures less obvious within this risk grouping.

10.15 The strategy to protect as far as possible the average time to life risk incidents (risk level 1 and 2) and allow a planned increase in the average time to attend lower risk incidents (risk 3 and 4), is clearly visible when you examine both graphs, the different response to lower risk incidents is allowing the Service to attend higher risk incidents as a priority.

Appendix B: Consultation Principles

HM Government Consultation principles 2013

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/255180/Consultation-Principles-Oct-2013.pdf

This guidance, issued in October 2013, sets out:

"the principles that Government departments and other public bodies should adopt for engaging stakeholders when developing policy and legislation. It replaces the Code of Practice on Consultation issued in July 2008. It is not a 'how to' guide but aims to help policy makers make the right judgments about when, with whom and how to consult".

Criterion	Guidance	Our approach
Subjects of consultation	The objectives of any consultation should be clear, and will depend to a great extent on the type of issue and the stage in the policy-making process – from gathering new ideas to testing options.	Consultation document clearly outlines options, background to options and impact of options. Process for engaging in consultation is set out. Consultation document clearly states no decision has been made. Variety of options outlined for meaningful discussion and debate. The financial background and need to balance risk and resources is made clear.
Timing of consultation	Timeframes for consultation should be proportionate and realistic to allow stakeholders sufficient time to provide a considered response. The amount of time required will depend on the nature and impact of the proposal, and might typically vary between two and 12 weeks Every effort should be made to make available the evidence base at an early stage to enable contestability and challenge.	Proportionate consultation undertaken within these guidelines.

Criterion	Guidance	Our approach
Making information useful and accessible	Consultation should capture the full range of stakeholders affected. Information should be disseminated and presented in a way likely to be accessible and useful to the stakeholders with a substantial interest in the subject matter. It should be in an easily understandable format, use plain language and clarify the key issues, particularly where the consultation deals with complex subject matter Consideration should be given to more informal forms of consultation that may be appropriate – for example, email or web-based forums, public meetings, working groups, focus groups, and surveys – rather than always reverting to a written consultation.	Range of activities and event location and times to maximise accessibility across all 5 districts, and to all staff. The consultation document was prepared with the guidance in mind but does contain some complexity which is necessary to demonstrate the rationale for proposals. It was available on the Service website and the process included a number of face to face explanatory sessions bearing in mind the complex content
Transparency and feedback	Sufficient information should be made available to stakeholders to enable them to make informed comments. Relevant documentation should be posted online to enhance accessibility. To encourage active participation, policy makers should explain what responses they have received and how these have been used in formulating the policy. The number of responses received should also be indicated. Consultation responses should usually be published within 12 weeks of the consultation closing.	Responses will be analysed using the Grounded Theory methodology. Feedback (including numbers) will be provided directly to staff and key stakeholders and also available online by 31st March 2014.

Appendix C: Consultation Document

Consultation document

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority

Preventing, Protecting and Responding

Proposed changes to our operational response 2014 to 2017

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Creating the Safest Community
www.twfire.gov.uk

Alternative Formats

If you need this document in another format please contact: 0191 444 1529 or email: consultation@twfire.gov.uk

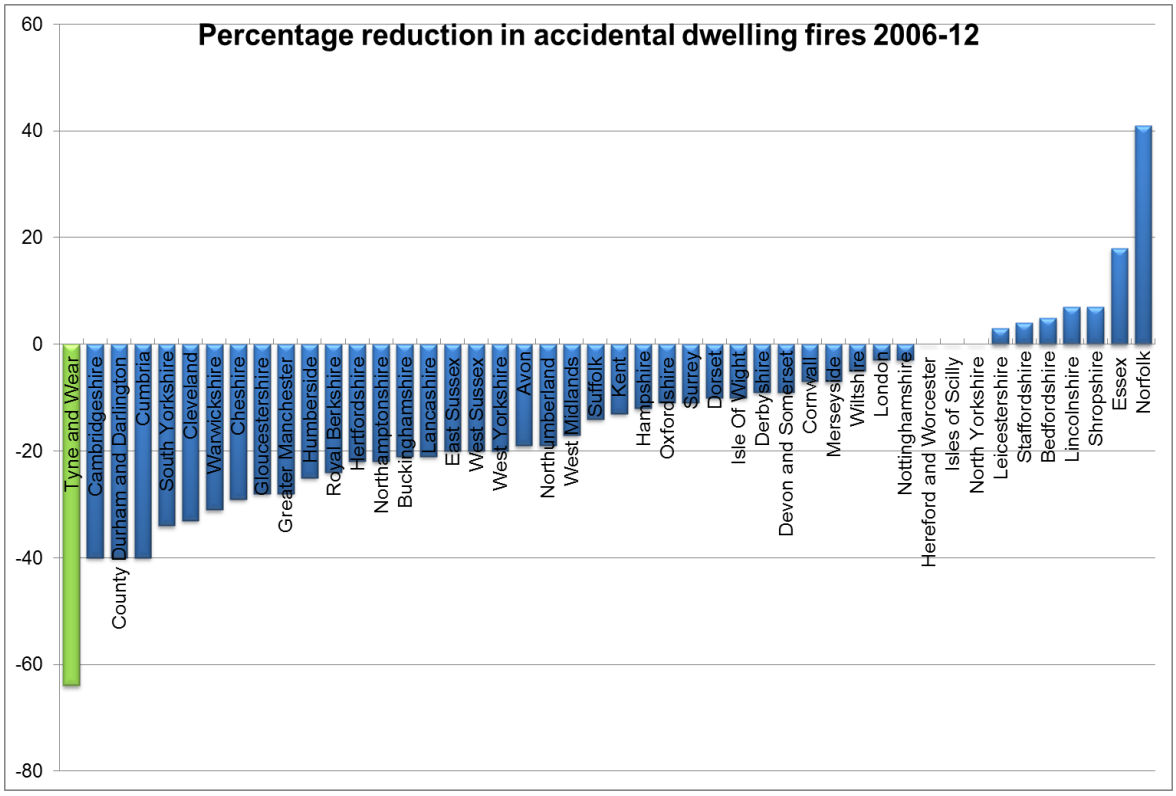
Contents

Your views count

An introduction from the Chief Fire Officer and the Chair of Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority

Thank you for taking the time to look at this document; it sets out our plans for the next three years to make sure that Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) continues to deliver its services effectively and efficiently. It contains a number of proposals for service changes and we are seeking your views on these.

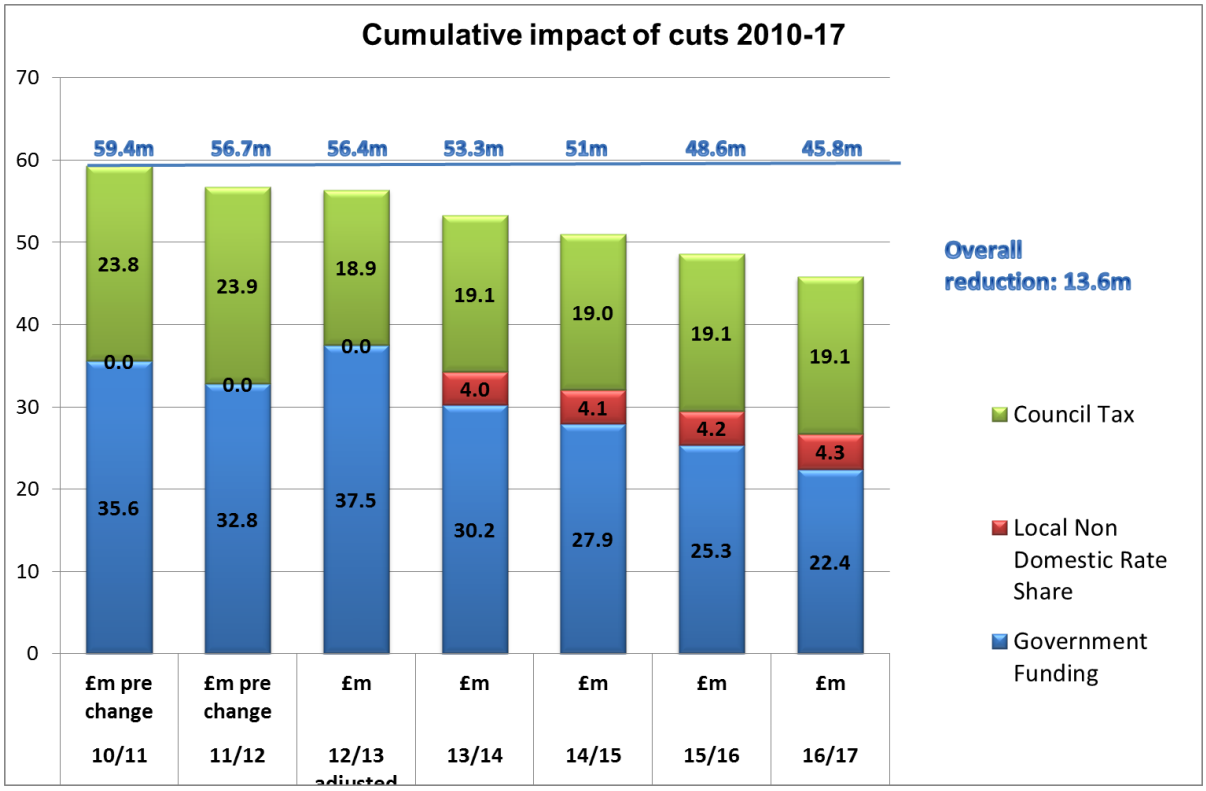
Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) are part of the backbone of keeping our communities safe and responding when things go wrong whether in fire, flood, road accident or other crisis. Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) provides the local community with a high standard of service, including fast response times and effective prevention activities which have, for example, seen accidental fires in people's houses reduce by 64% in the 6 years to 2012. This is the best performance in the country and something we are very proud of.



The service has been independently judged by auditors and through operational peer review to be both effective and efficient. This has been achieved through an ongoing process called Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP), which is used by Fire and Rescue Services nationally to ensure that risk to people and property is identified, targeted and reduced through efficient use of our people, buildings, fire appliances and other resources.

This need to balance efficiency and risk is particularly important given the huge pressures on public spending over the last few years, which is set to continue into the future.

Since the Government's Spending Review in 2010, TWFRS has seen a significant reduction in the funding available to deliver the service to our community. This is shown in the graph below, which shows how much of the budget has already gone, and what further reductions are expected by 2016-17. In total this amounts to a reduction of £13.6m, or 23%, between 2010 and 2017.



This unprecedented level of reduction presents our service with a major challenge, particularly bearing in mind that TWFRS has met all its previous efficiency targets and reduced spending over the last ten years.

During this time we will continue to be guided by the following principles:

- Commitment to maintaining standards of service to the public, including stability of response times, wherever possible
- An appropriate balance of prevention, protection, response and resilience activity

- Commitment to improving performance, efficiency and effectiveness through innovative practice
- Strong management of resources
- Minimising the impact of spending reductions on the quality of service experienced by the public
- Valuing staff and maintaining a commitment to health, safety and welfare
- Working in partnership to deliver shared objectives

So far, we have made the savings required to balance our budget by reducing spending on all areas of our support and specialist services. In 2011, after public consultation, we undertook to reduce our operational response only when the budgetary situation made that absolutely unavoidable. We are now at the point where this is necessary. Operational response, and the staff that go with it, represent the vast majority of our spending and we cannot now meet the reductions we have to find without examining how we respond.

The proposed actions in this document show how we could reduce our response in ways which, we believe, will have the least impact on the service the public has come to expect. They are based on a rigorous analysis of risk and information about this is included in the document.

No decisions have been taken yet. Please let us know what you think of our options for change. Information on how you can provide us with your comments is at the end of this document.

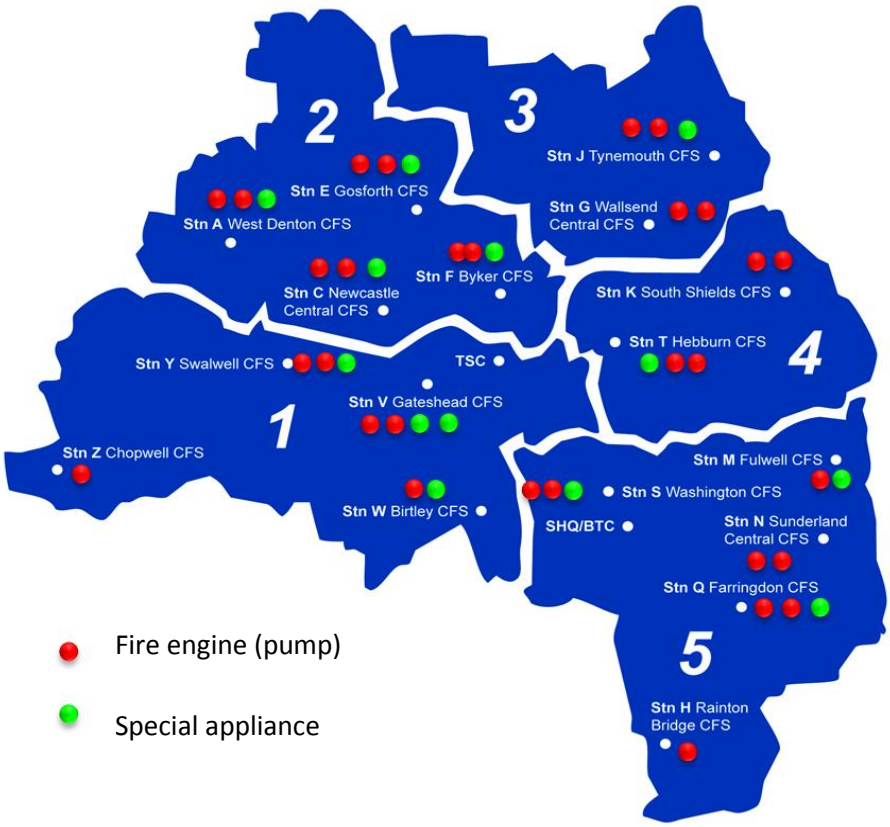
This is **your** fire and rescue service and **your views count.**

Tom Capeling (Chief Fire Officer)

Tom Wright (Chair of Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority)

1. Our service to you

1.1 We provide an efficient, effective and rapid response to the whole of Tyne and Wear. Our stations, staff and appliances are spread throughout the 5 Council areas of Tyne and Wear in the best configuration to get to fires and other incidents quickly. Appliances work across the area and offer support to each other, and we also have mutual aid agreements with neighbouring fire services so that we can assist each other in major emergencies.



1.2 We currently have 17 community fire stations, of which 15 are whole-time, 1 retained (staffed by part time firefighters) and 1 staffed using the Day Crewing Close Call system (a flexible shift system which is effective in areas of lower incidents and risk, and was introduced at Birtley in 2012).

1.3 TWFRS has the busiest fire stations in the country (number of incidents dealt with per station). This is an indicator of efficiency according to the Audit Commission's 2008 publication on fire service efficiency, Rising to the Challenge: *"Station utilisation varies (nationally)…the least busy stations are almost three times more expensive per incident to maintain".*

1.4 30 frontline appliances (pumps) are based at our stations. 26 of these operate from thirteen 2-pump stations; the remaining four stations have 1 pump each.

1.5 The service operates a 4 watch duty system, and 119 firefighters are on duty at any one time comprising Firefighters, Crew Managers and Watch Managers. The total number of frontline firefighters at the current time is 645.

1.6 These staff undertake a wide range of duties covering the areas of Prevention (Home Safety Checks etc), Protection, Response and Resilience. Firefighters also dual staff specialist appliances such as Aerial Ladder Platforms, i.e. if these appliances are required they will be staffed by firefighters from a frontline pump, which will be taken off the run until the crew are available again. Firefighters are also trained in particular specialisms such as Rope Rescue, Urban Search and Rescue or Swift Water Rescue.

1.7 For major incidents, operational command is provided by senior officers who operate across the whole of Tyne and Wear, and provide 24/7 command on a rota basis.

1.8 A strategic review of fire cover in 2003 allowed the service to become more efficient by reducing the number of fire stations by 2, but locating the remaining stations more effectively. This also allowed the reduction of some applainces.

2. Our priorities and core activities

2.1 TWFRS' overall vision is "creating the safest community", and its mission is **"to save life, reduce risk, provide humanitarian services and protect the environment".** This mission is clearly linked to community safety, but the preventative focus means that the service is targeting vulnerable individuals and thus contributing to wider community outcomes.

2.2 The specific priorities of TWFRS relate to the statutory duties placed on the Authority under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and the Fire Service National Framework 2012. Our priorities are:

a) Reduce the occurrence of all incidents attended and their consequences
b) Work with partners to promote community safety, social responsibility and inclusion
c) Plan and deliver resources as determined by the risk
d) Work with relevant partner agencies to develop and resource effective emergency plans
e) Provide a trained and competent workforce that reflects the communities we serve
f) Provide efficient and effective services which meet community needs and minimise negative impacts on the environment

Response and resilience

2.3 The service has a **statutory duty to provide a safe and effective operational response** to meet the wide range of incidents that are encountered. These can include fires; road traffic collisions; building collapse; hazardous materials incidents and mass decontamination; water rescue including flooding; rope rescue; national and international rescue.

2.4 The service forms a critical part in the national, regional and local **resilience** infrastructure which prepares for, and responds to major unexpected events such as natural disasters or terrorist incidents. TWFRS has specific responsibilities under the national New Dimensions/Resilience programme which is designed to increase resilience to terrorism and other similar incidents.

Prevention

2.5 The focus on reducing risk means that the **prevention is another statutory activity for TWFRS.** Research has shown that those most at risk from fire include older people, people with limited mobility and those who misuse alcohol and drugs; deprivation has also been shown to increase the likelihood of accidental fire. Many of the people we work with are also known to other partner organisations which are similarly seeking to address social and health inequality and improve outcomes for these individuals.

2.6 The Fire and Rescue Service has a unique ability to engage with different groups, often groups that other partners find very hard to access. This is related to the respect in which firefighters are held as “safe pairs of hands” and role models.

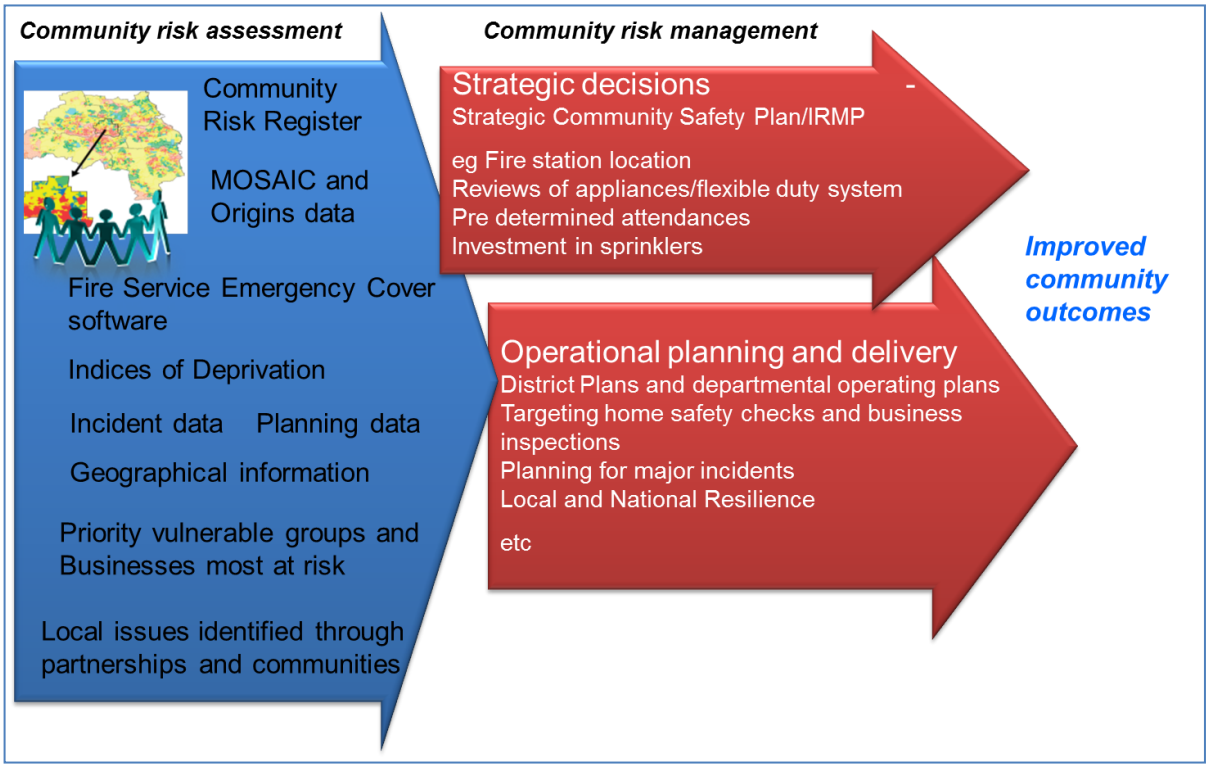
2.7 TWFRS’ prevention activities contribute to delivering wider outcomes for the community. For example, we are active in supporting vulnerable people to live independently and spend a significant amount of time visiting their homes (over 30,000 homes were visited for Home Safety Checks and advice in 2012/13); and we provide well regarded and effective diversionary activities for young people at risk of anti-social behaviour/offending, because fire related anti-social behaviour is likely to be perpetrated by the same individuals who behave antisocially/offend in other ways.

Protection

2.8 Recognising that fires will always occur, Fire and Rescue services have a statutory positive role in mitigating the effects by ensuring that buildings are constructed and managed with fire safety designed in. TWFRS ensures the **compliance** of building owners with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 as well as advising local authorities and other partners on fire safety.

3. A Risk based service

3.1 Fire and Rescue Authorities are required to design their services in a way which is based on known community risk. TWFRS makes use of a wide range of information to understand the risk in our communities. We then use this information to make strategic decisions (such as those under consultation through this document), and everyday decisions such as who to target first for Home Safety Checks. The diagram below shows this process.

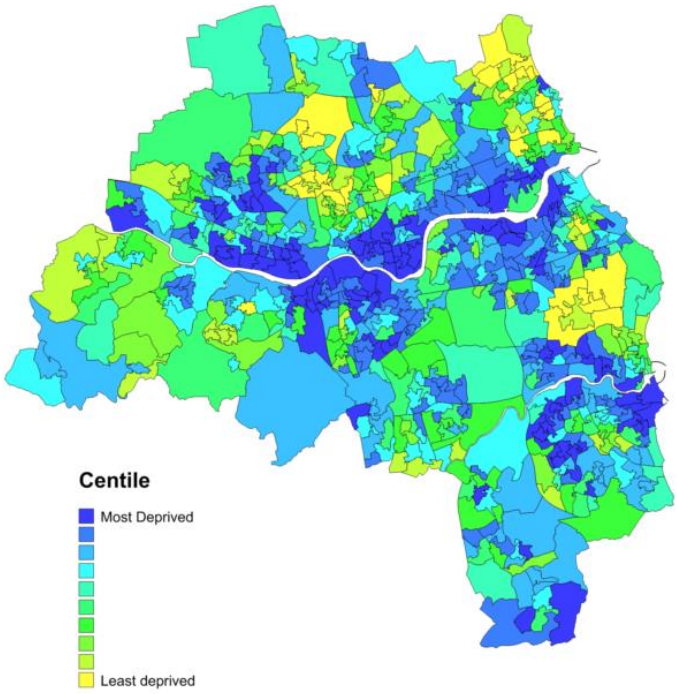


3.2 Tyne and Wear, like other Metropolitan areas, is a high risk based on the makeup of the population. Government research[9] indicates that there is a clear link between risk of **accidental dwelling fires and injuries** and socio-demographic factors such as deprivation, disability, being single and unemployment. Tyne and Wear carries a higher level of this risk than most other areas, as shown overleaf[10]:

[9] *Analysis of Fire and Rescue Service Performance and Outcomes with reference to Population Socio-demographics.* Department for Communities and Local Government Fire Research Series 9/2008
[10] Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010

Regional Average Rank		Average IMD Rank
Tyne and Wear	***Most Deprived***	12324
North East		12943
London		13045
North West		13699
West Midlands		14325
Yorkshire and Humberside		14455
England		16242
East Midlands		17055
South West		18141
East of England		19743
South East	***Least Deprived***	20723

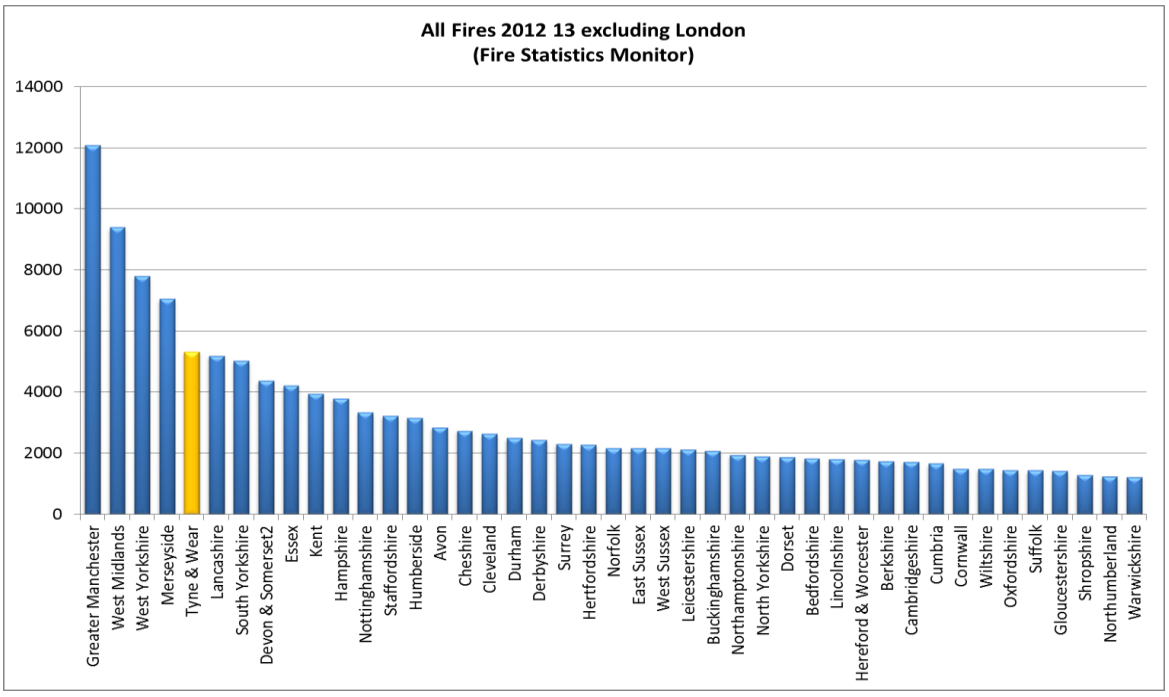
Risk map of Tyne and Wear showing deprivation scores

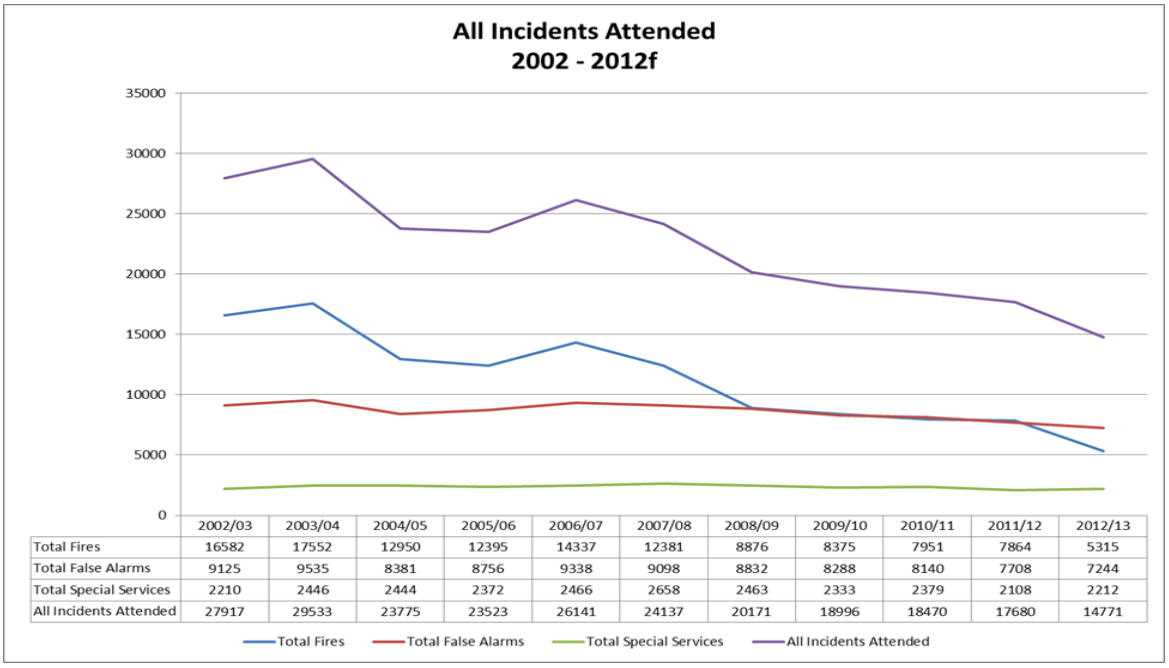


3.3 Risk and incidents are not the same thing. Risk is inherent in the community because of its makeup; we believe that incidents are what happen when risk is not mitigated. The Fire and Rescue Service has a key role in reducing risk, as well as in responding to those incidents that do occur.

4. Incidents in Tyne and Wear and how we respond to them

4.1 The level of risk in Tyne and Wear means that the area still experiences a higher number of fires than most parts of the country. This is despite excellent reductions in fires over the last ten years, as a result of our concentrated focus on Prevention and Protection. The charts below show the current level of fires in Tyne and Wear compared with the rest of the country, and then the overall reduction in incidents we have brought about in Tyne and Wear.





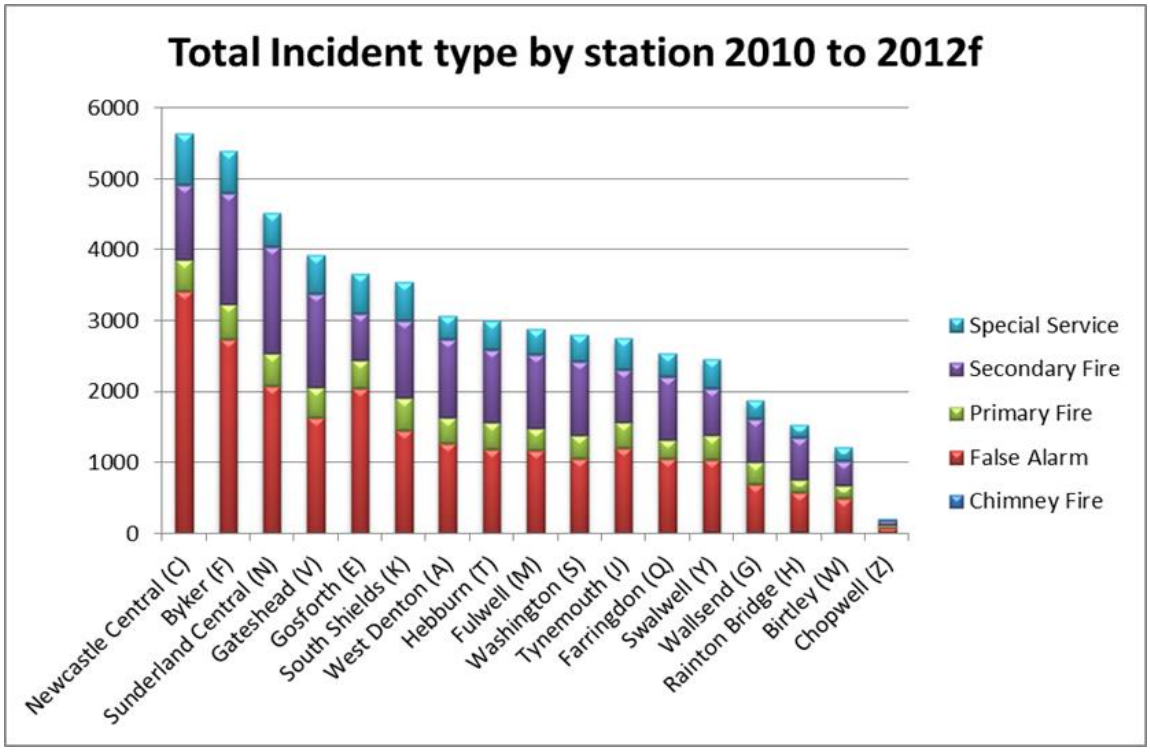
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Total Fires	16582	17552	12950	12395	14337	12381	8876	8375	7951	7864	5315
Total False Alarms	9125	9535	8381	8756	9338	9098	8832	8288	8140	7708	7244
Total Special Services	2210	2446	2444	2372	2466	2658	2463	2333	2379	2108	2212
All Incidents Attended	27917	29533	23775	23523	26141	24137	20171	18996	18470	17680	14771

4.2 Between 2010-11 and 2012-13, our service attended 51,024 incidents- an average of 46.5 in a 24 hour period or 1.9 per hour.

4.3 Different numbers of appliances are sent (mobilised) to incidents depending on the severity and risk of the incident. The average number of appliances sent to an incident over the last three years has been two (i.e. normally 8 firefighters).

4.4 1,607 (3%) of the incidents were large incidents with more than 4 appliances attending.

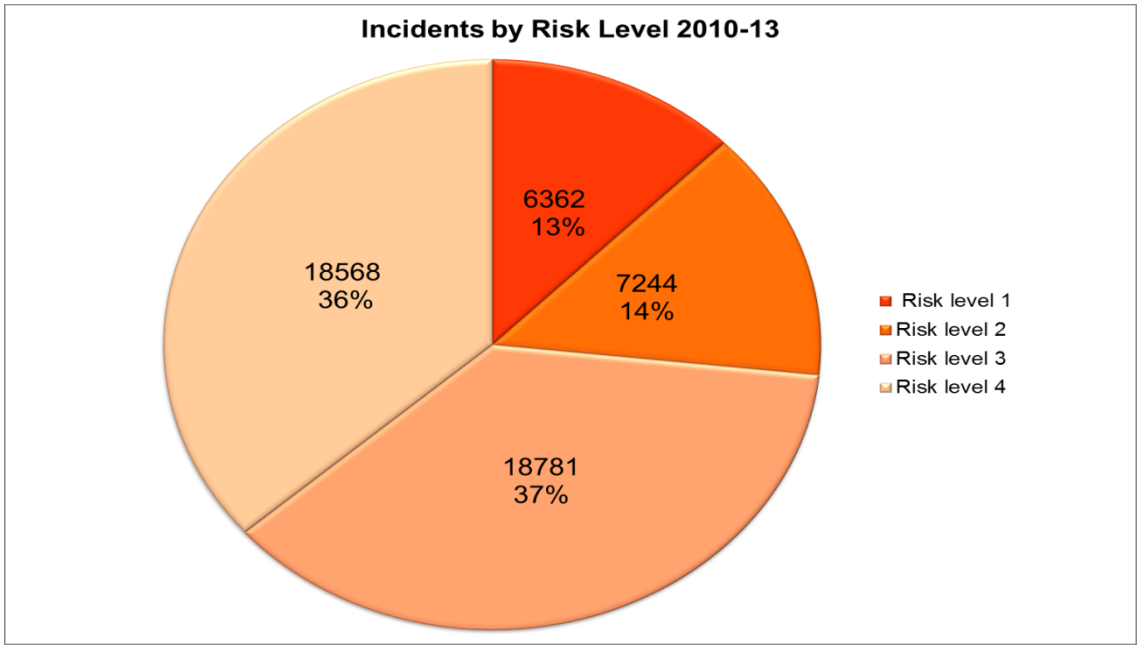
4.5 Different parts of Tyne and Wear have different numbers of incidents, and this is illustrated in the chart below showing incidents per station area. It should be noted that pumps from the less busy station areas provide support across the rest of Tyne and Wear. The number of false alarms is still high and one of the review recommendations is to determine what further action can be taken to improve this.

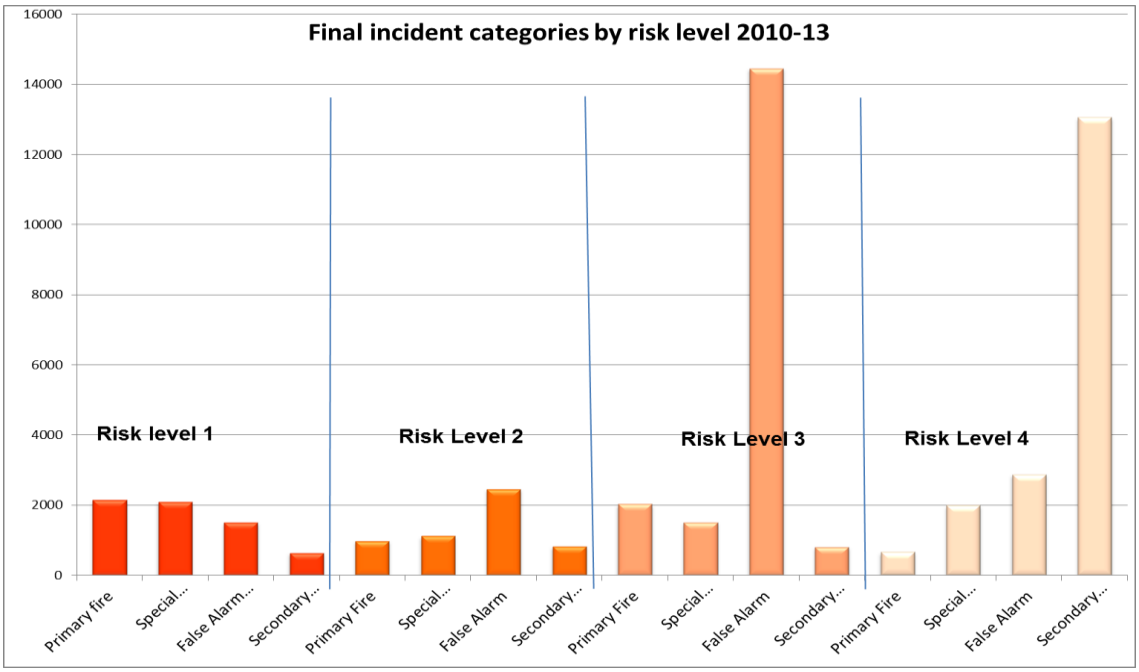


Risk at the time of response

4.6 As well as categorising incidents geographically, they can also be assessed by type and risk level. FRSs already report incidents at the national level under a number of categories; the review team took these, combined with professional judgement of life and property risk, and categorised them into 4 risk levels (1-4 with 1 the highest, representing significant life and/or property risk). The table in Appendix A of this document summarises this categorisation.

4.7 When incidents are categorised in this way, three year incident data shows the following breakdown. The upper chart shows mobilisations[11] and the lower chart shows the final category assigned to the incidents.



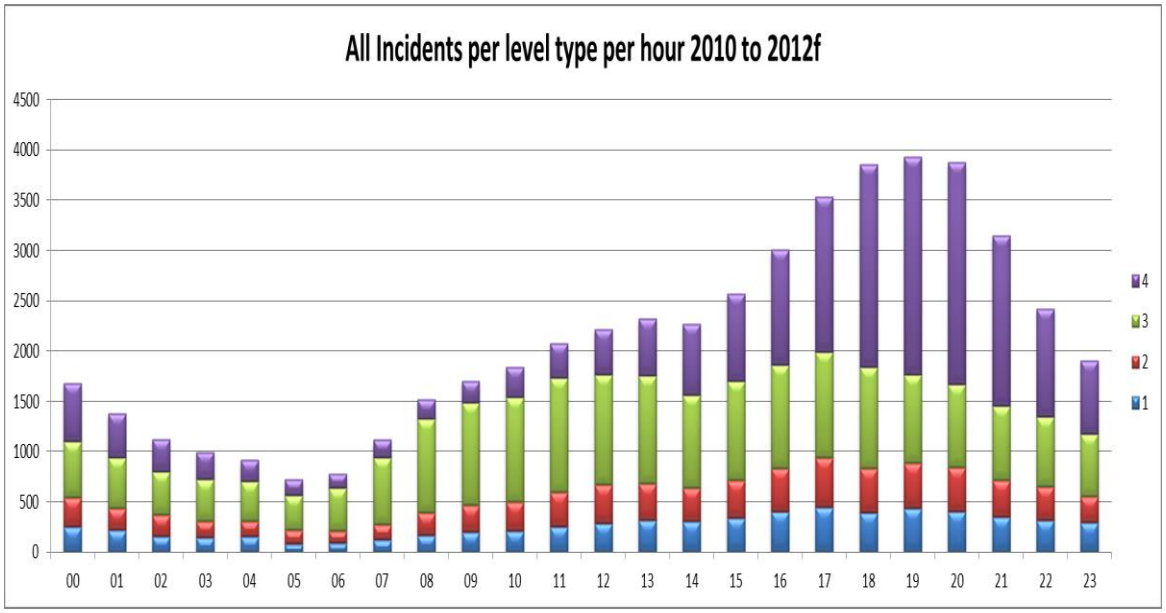


4.8 When these incident levels are broken down by station, the distribution largely reflects the total number of incidents per station as shown in 4.5. Clearly a “high risk” incident e.g.

[11] When an appliance is mobilised and sent to an incident by Control, this is based on all the available information Control is able to glean about the incident to know what should be sent. Occasionally, the incident turns out to be something different- eg a false alarm- or develops into something larger. This is why figures for mobilisations can be different to those by which incidents are categorised once they are over.

"persons reported" in a fire, can happen anywhere, although it is more ***likely*** to happen in areas of higher vulnerability and deprivation.

4.9 Level of incidents varies significantly by time of day. The chart below takes three years "time of day" data, and shows this by risk category:



4.10 It is well established that the peak time for all incidents is the early evening. Higher risk incidents have less peaks and troughs but still follow this pattern.

4.11 Our data confirms that 69% of incidents occur between 11:00 and 23:00.

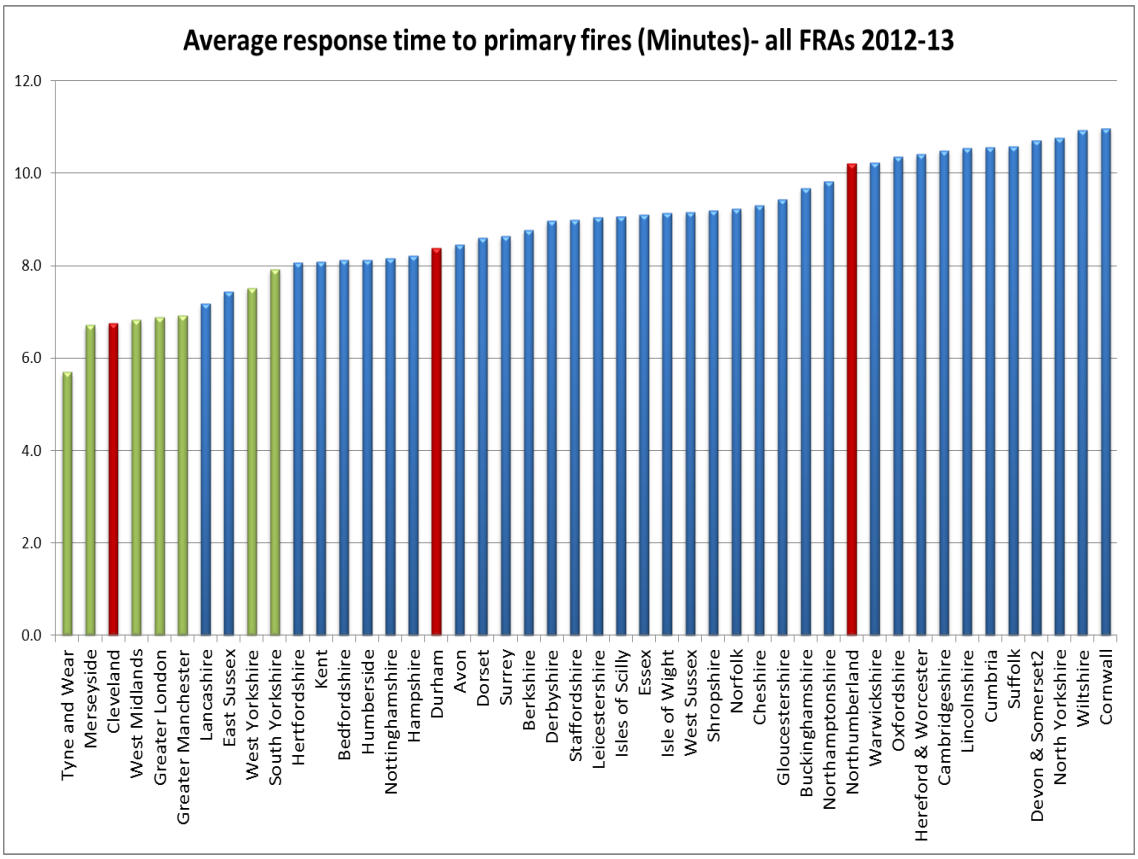
4.12 In terms of lower risk incidents, level 3 incidents (including most of the false alarms) have a dual peak in mid-morning and early evening; and level 4 incidents (including most secondary fires such as rubbish , bin or grass fires, often associated with anti-social behaviour) peak from 17:00 to 21:00 hrs. We know that there are seasonal peaks in these incidents, with the Bonfire Period and Lighter Nights period both showing increases.

4.13 The hours between 01:00 and 6:00 hrs are those when incidents are least likely to happen.

5. Speed of Response in Tyne and Wear

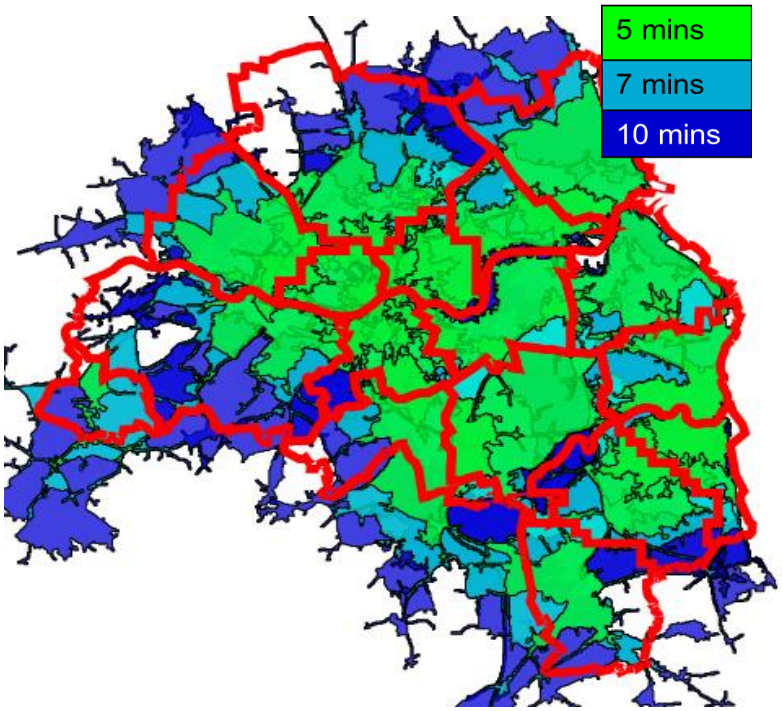
5.1 A Fire and Rescue Service's speed of response is determined by the number of appliances available, their location within the area, and the geographical makeup/transport links in the area. The Tyne and Wear area has tight geography, good transport links, a densely packed population with a relatively high level of fire risk.

5.2 At 5.7 minutes (5 minutes 42 seconds), TWFRS' average response time for the first pump to primary fires[12] is the **fastest in the country**.



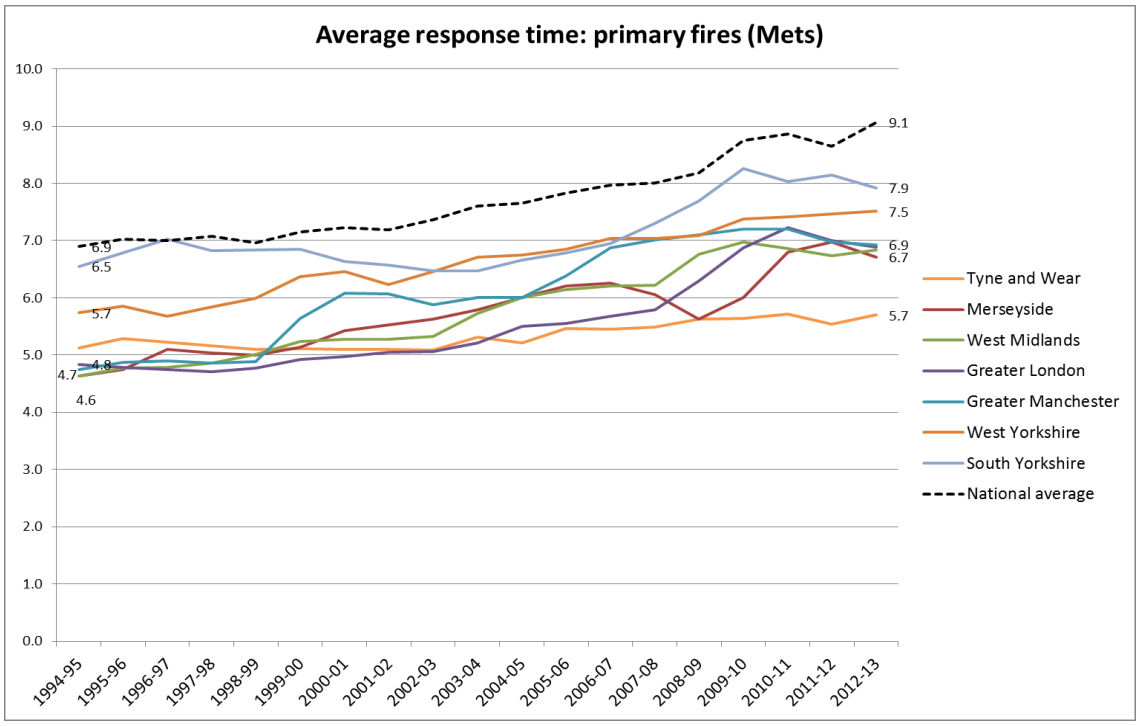
5.3 Metropolitan FRSs tend to have faster responses as their populations are less dispersed; however they also have higher levels of risk and incident numbers. Clearly this is an average and the actual response time to a specific incident will depend upon station location, transport and (to some extent) priority, as the table overleaf shows.

[12] *Fire Incident Response Times 2012-13.* Department for Communities and Local Government, August 2013. A Primary fire is a fire where there is a life or significant property risk.



TWFRS Average Response Times 2012-2013	
Incident Type	Average Time
Dwelling Fire	5 mins 18 seconds
Other Buildings Fire	5 mins 30 seconds
Primary Fire	5 mins 42 seconds
Car Fires	6 mins 6 seconds
Outdoor Fires	6 mins 48 seconds

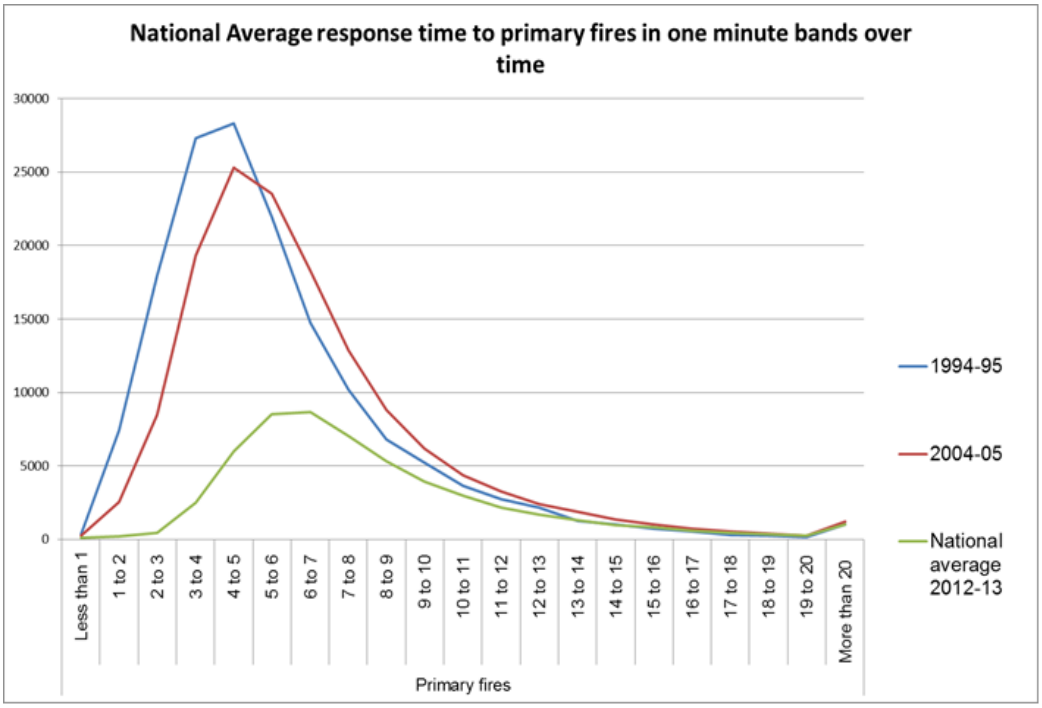
5.4 With the second smallest number of appliances of any Metropolitan FRS[13], TWFRS has been able to maintain its average response times over the last 15 years, as shown below in relation to Primary fires.



5.5 This performance reflects the Fire Authority's commitment in 2004 (when the IRMP process was first introduced) to broadly maintain response times to building/dwelling fires.

[13] TWFRS 30; S Yorkshire 28; Merseyside 37; West Midlands 59; Greater Manchester 66; London 169- *CIPFA actuals 2012-13*

5.6 These can also be compared to the national average as shown in the 2012-13 Response Times statistics. The examples below show the average response times to primary fires at the national level, in bands of 1 minute. Incidents have declined, but the average speed of response has also become slower at the national level.



6. Our options for change

6.1 Our options for consultation are about changing how we work in the light of funding challenges, whilst still seeking to minimise the impact on Community and Firefighter risk. These options have been developed through a formal review process which carried out detailed analysis of the varying levels of risk in Tyne and Wear, as discussed in the early part of this document. All the options generated have been tested in terms of impact.

Resources and Risk

6.2 It is clear that whilst overall TWFRS has a relatively high number of incidents and the busiest stations in the country, there is wide variation in incident levels:

- Between geographical locations within Tyne and Wear
- At different times of day
- In terms of the size of the incidents, and the risk to life and property they pose

6.3 The basic unit of response in TWFRS is a fire appliance/pump with 4 staff (or 5 for a single pump station). Wherever the incident, whatever its size or level of risk, we deploy staff in groups of 4 (or 5 for one pump stations). We also make the same staffing levels available 24/7 despite differing patterns of incidents and other workload throughout the 24 hour period.

6.4 Bearing this in mind, we reviewed our current operational response model to determine whether it would be feasible to reduce the overall resources available, whilst maintaining a safe level of cover and speed of response, targeted at the highest risk both in terms of geography and incident type.

6.5 We developed a number of potential ways to change the service, and your views are sought on these. Some detail on each proposal for change is set out over the next pages, followed by three specific options and an analysis of impact.

A. Introduce alternative appliances and dynamic call handling by Control

6.6 Under this proposal, alternative appliances, staffed by 2 firefighters, would be introduced to deal with lower risk (level 3 and 4) incidents. These would replace a number of pumping appliances.

6.7 This approach has been adopted by many FRS, including other Metropolitan authorities such as West Midlands and South Yorkshire. The alternative vehicles range from 4x4s to large vans. Although approaches vary, typically these vehicles are used for smaller incidents such as secondary fires (rubbish, grass etc), and for Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) reduction/diversionary work.

6.8 Practical exercises as part of the review indicated that using alternative vehicles is feasible for level 3 and 4 risk incidents (such as car fires and small ASB fires), but not for more complex incidents (those tested were House Fire, RTC persons reported, and High Rise (tower block) fires, all of which are risk category 1 and required larger numbers of staff to be dealt with safely and quickly).

6.9 The main benefit of this approach is to provide a more flexible range of response options, so that fewer staff can be deployed to low risk incidents where this can be done safely. As the incident data shows, such lower risk incidents make up the majority of incidents attended.

6.10 Larger appliances and teams could be kept for the more serious incidents where one or more pumps are needed to deal with the incident safely.

6.11 This would also result in a reduction in the number of firefighters required, allowing some savings to be made.

6.12 The risk level of any incident would feature routinely in how our professional Control operators deploy appliances and staff, and this would be done dynamically (in response to incident intelligence) with flexibility added to pre-determined attendances (PDAs). A wider range of deployment options would be available to Control to match the resource to the

incident. This would make better use of the skills and experience of Control in determining response.

B. Flexibility of day and night time cover

6.13 Under this proposal, different numbers of appliances would be provided by day and by night, at stations where activity and risk levels allowed this to happen with the least impact on the risk. In essence, some fire appliances would be "stood down" for a period of up to 12 hours at night, removing the need for crews to be available to staff them.

6.14 As we did when we introduced Day Crewing Close Call, this would only be done where the known level of night time incidents is low enough to do it safely.

C. Reduce the number of pumping appliances and/or fire stations, based on an analysis of risk

6.15 Under this proposal, the number of pumping appliances deployed by TWFRS would be reduced over time, based on a rigorous analysis of risk, incident patterns and attendance times, with firefighter numbers reduced accordingly. This would be linked to the option of adding additional smaller appliances to the fleet, so that the best mix of appliances and crews can be made available within the reduced financial resources available, to achieve the smallest impact on response times and appropriate response to risk.

6.16 As part of this option, the locating of the appliances would also need to be considered; if the fleet is smaller, there may be a need to remove or relocate some stations to achieve the best possible response times. This happened, for example, in the 2000s when Tunstall and Grindon stations in Sunderland were closed and a new station opened at Farringdon.

D. Crew one pump stations with 4 staff on the appliance

6.17 Under this proposal, the staffing of all appliances would be brought into line. Currently, the pumps at the four, one-pump stations are crewed with 5 staff, whereas all other pumps are crewed with 4.

6.18 Over the last 3 years, the review found that a large number of standbys were completed by 4 person crews in these areas without any near misses or concerns being reported.

E. Reduce Aerial Ladder Platforms (ALPs) from 3 to 2

6.19 Following on from earlier IRMP reviews into the provision of ALPs, further analysis of use has demonstrated that 2 ALPs are sufficient to meet the operational requirements of TWFRS. Under this option, one ALP would be removed from the fleet.

6.20 Since all Special appliances are already dual staffed following earlier IRMP reviews, this would not have an impact on staffing levels, but would reduce operating and capital costs.

F. Invest in new firefighting technologies to enhance performance and safety

6.21 A number of technological advances have been made recently, including high pressure fire suppression systems which have been shown in other FRS to assist with effective firefighting and improved firefighter safety, by allowing the sites of fires to be penetrated from the outside; and high pressure pumps which do not require a pump operator.

6.22 These technologies were actively explored as part of the review, including practical testing at our Training Centre of a 2 person crew's ability to deal with car and ASB fires. It was determined that this type of technology does add value and would support the implementation of the other options.

6.23 Under this option therefore, the Authority would invest in relevant technologies, to support the capacity and safety of firefighters in the future, and the delivery of the other options. This would require an upfront and on-going allocation of capital.

Overall options

6.24 The three overall options below are combinations of the elements set out above. They have been arrived at through modelling a number of scenarios, with the objective of determining the best mix of options which would reduce our costs whilst having the least impact on response times and community risk. Option 1 forms the basis of the other two options, which also include proposals for fire stations.

6.25 It is clear that any reduction in frontline appliances will increase the average time of attendance. The strategy employed within the design of the proposals is to **protect** as far as possible the average response time to life and significant property risk incidents (risk level 1 and 2) and allow a **planned increase** in the average time to attend lower risk incidents (risk level 3 and 4).

OPTION 1

- **Crew appliances at 1 pump stations with 4 staff**
- **Remove 6 main pumps**
- **Introduce 2 Targeted Response Vehicles (TRVs) for lower risk incidents 24/7**
- **Introduce 2 additional TRVs to be Dual Staffed at night and as required**
- **Remove 2 pumps for up to 12 hours at night**
- **Invest in new firefighting technologies**

OPTION 2

- **Implement Option 1 plus:**
- **Close 2 stations (Gosforth & Wallsend) and replace with one more centrally placed, based on risk and incident intelligence (Benton Area)**

OPTION 3

- **Implement Options 1 and 2 plus:**
- **Close Sunderland Central station**

6.26 If agreed, any of these options would be implemented in phases over the next 3 years, to enable clear monitoring to occur, thus ensuring risk is managed appropriately.

7. Impact

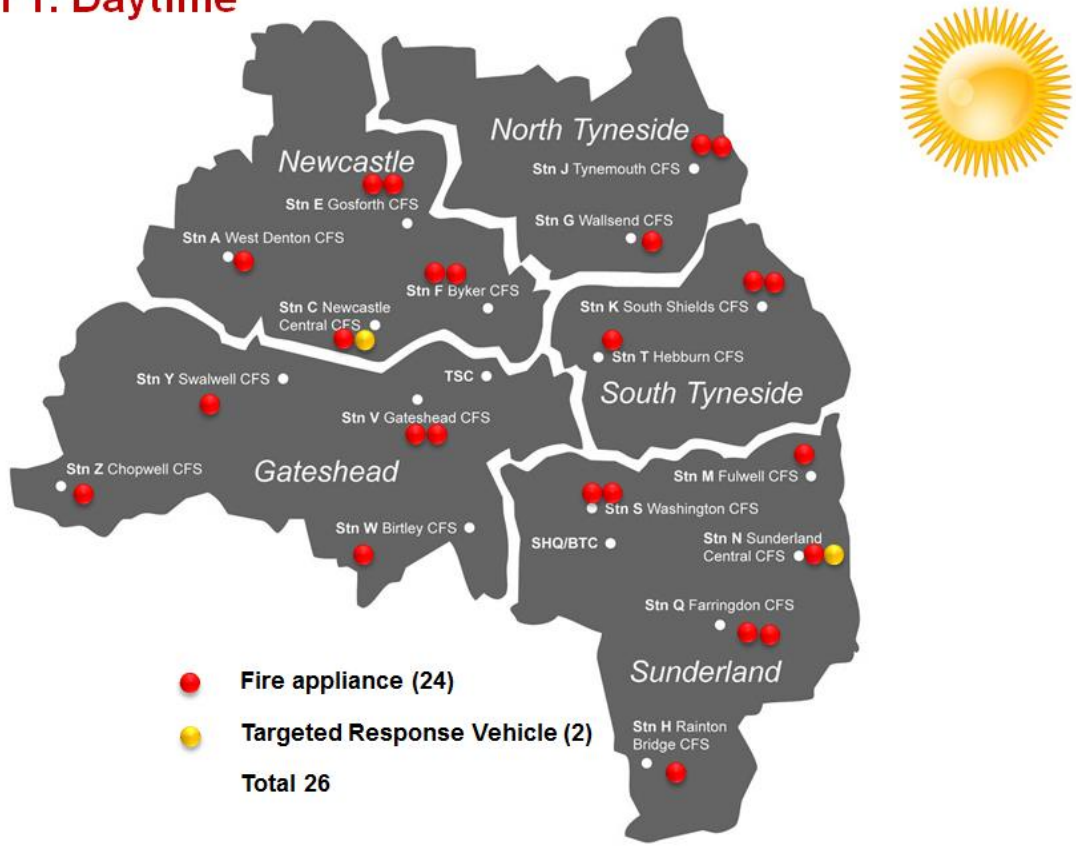
7.1 The overall impact of these proposals would be to change the number and balance of appliances used in Tyne and Wear, reducing traditional pumping appliances by 6 (20%) and adding 4 smaller vehicles. Options 2 and 3 would also reduce the number of fire stations at which pumps are based.

- **All 3 options would reduce firefighting staff by approximately 131 (20%) and costs by £5,109,689**
- **In addition to Option 1, Option 2 would reduce fire stations by 1, reducing running costs by c£170,000**
- **In addition to Option 1, Option 3 would reduce fire stations by 2, reducing running costs by c£340,000**
- **Under all 3 options, 96 Firefighters would be on duty during the daytime and evening, and 88 at night**

7.2 The specific locations of appliances to be changed have been modelled against risk. The maps below show the current locations of our appliances, and the reconfigured model which is different in the daytime, evening and night time for each option, reflecting different patterns of risk. The tables set out those stations where change is proposed.

7.3 These maps show the *bases* of pumps, which already move around the area as required on a daily basis. If this model is implemented we will, as always, keep risk under review because risk patterns change. This means that in the future, we might need to move the bases of pumps from the locations set out in the maps.

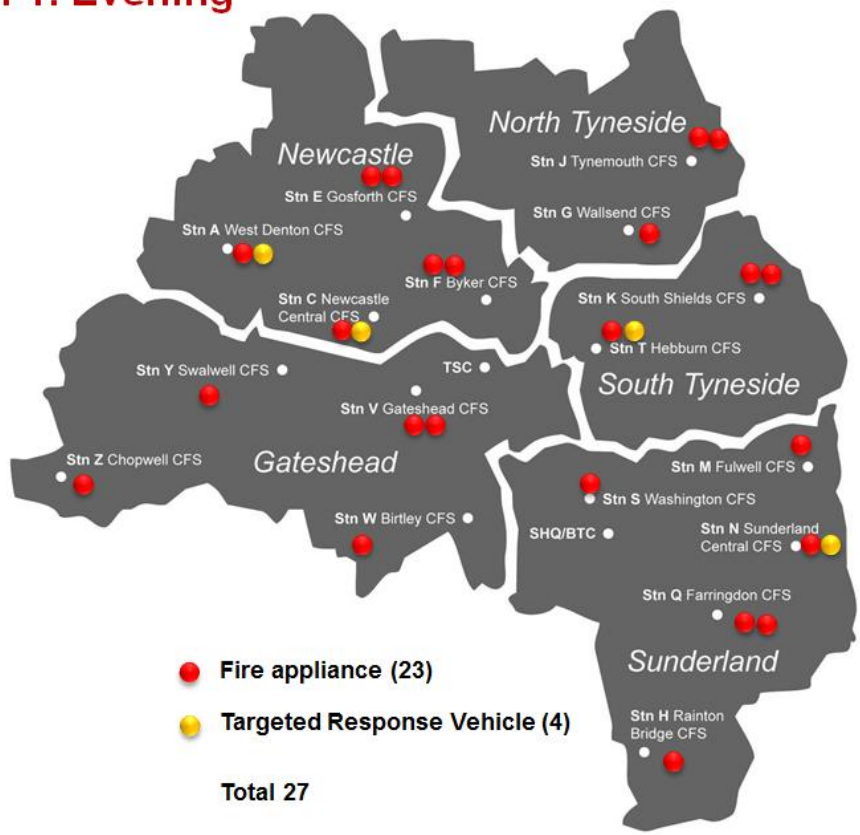
Option 1: Daytime



7.4 Under this option, 6 appliances are removed and 2 TRVs added. In order to achieve the best cover, this is proposed as follows:

Station A West Denton	One appliance removed
Station C Newcastle Central	One appliance removed One TRV added
Station G Wallsend	One appliance removed
Station Y Swalwell	One appliance removed
Station T Hebburn	One appliance removed
Station N Sunderland Central	One appliance removed One TRV added

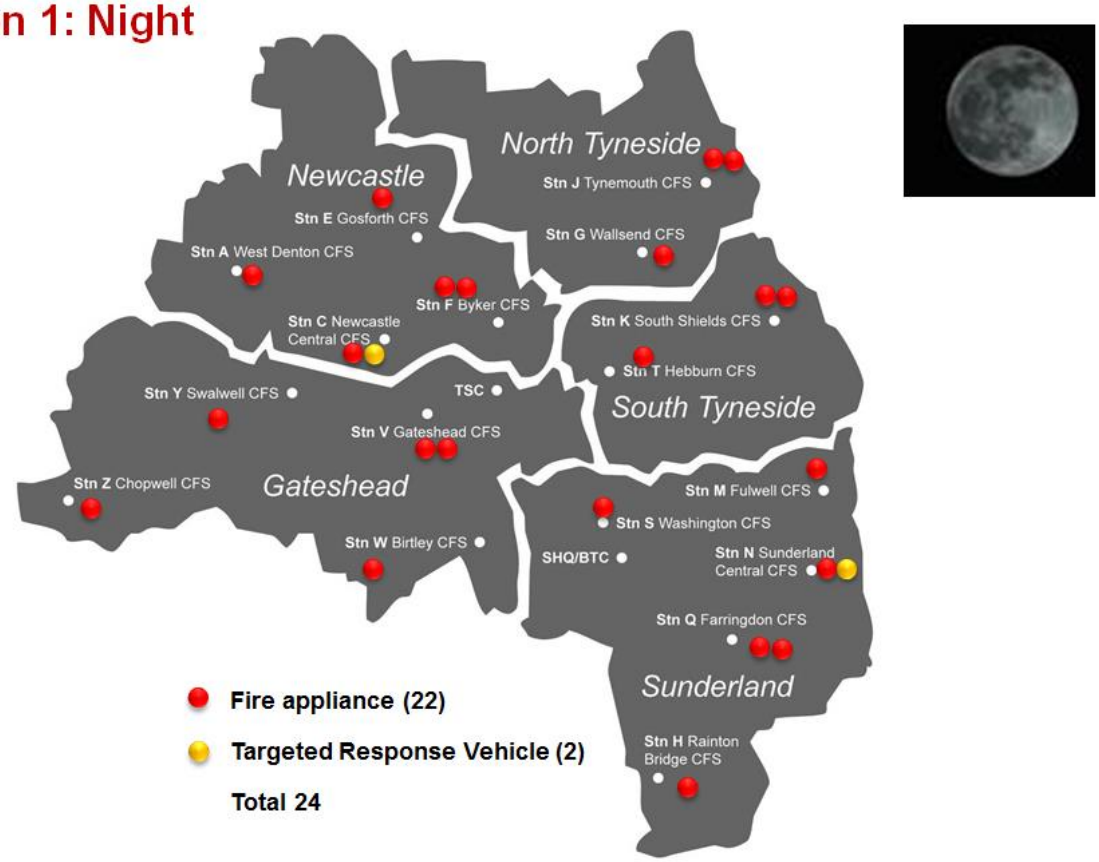
Option 1: Evening



7.5 Option 1 now adds 2 additional TRVs to cover the evening period which is the peak time for lower risk (particularly deliberate secondary) fires. These are dual staffed vehicles and under the option, the staff from one of the appliances at Washington will be available to staff these 2 TRVs.

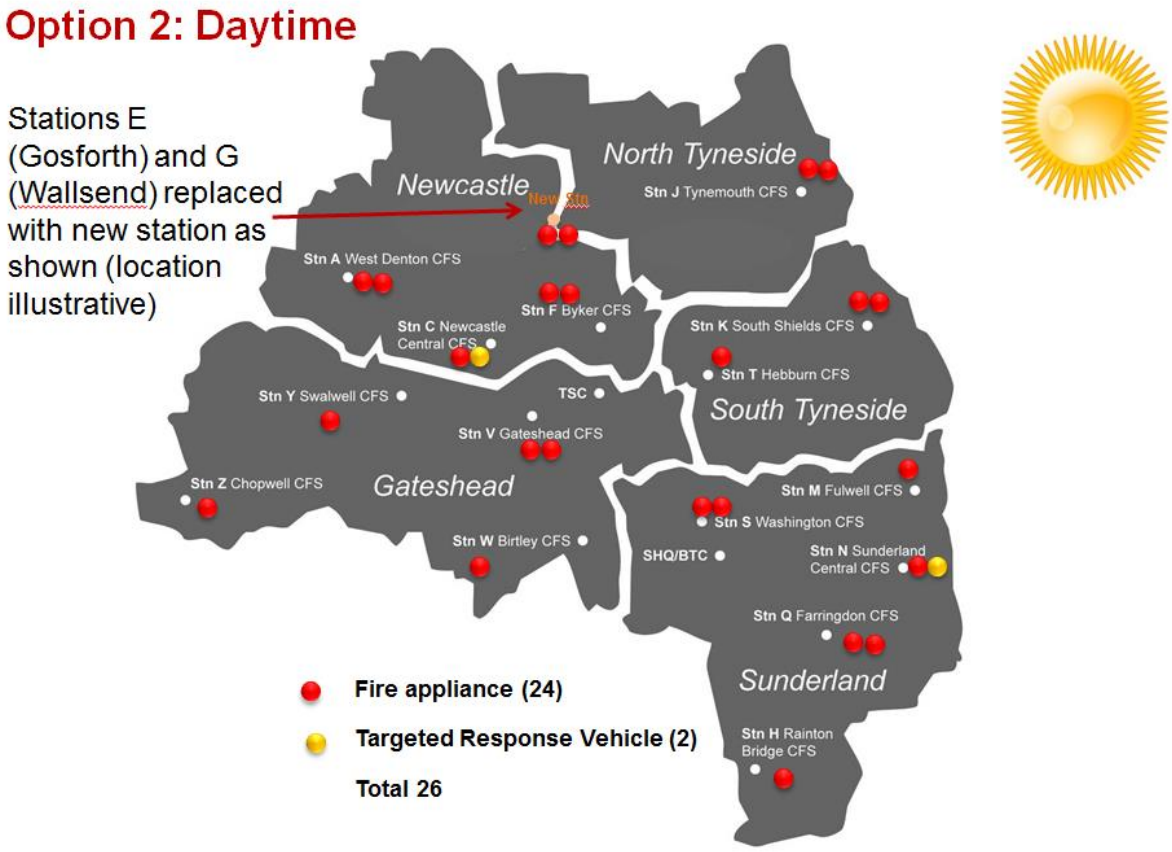
Station A West Denton	One appliance removed One TRV added
Station C Newcastle Central	One appliance removed One TRV added
Station G Wallsend	One appliance removed
Station Y Swalwell	One appliance removed
Station T Hebburn	One appliance removed One TRV added
Station N Sunderland Central	One appliance removed One TRV added
Station S Washington	One appliance off the run to dual staff 2 TRVs

Option 1: Night



7.6 Since fewer incidents happen at night, the proposal removes the 2 dual staffed TRVs which had been brought in to enhance cover of low risk incidents in the evening. In addition to this, 2 pumps are stood down for a period of up to 12 hours.

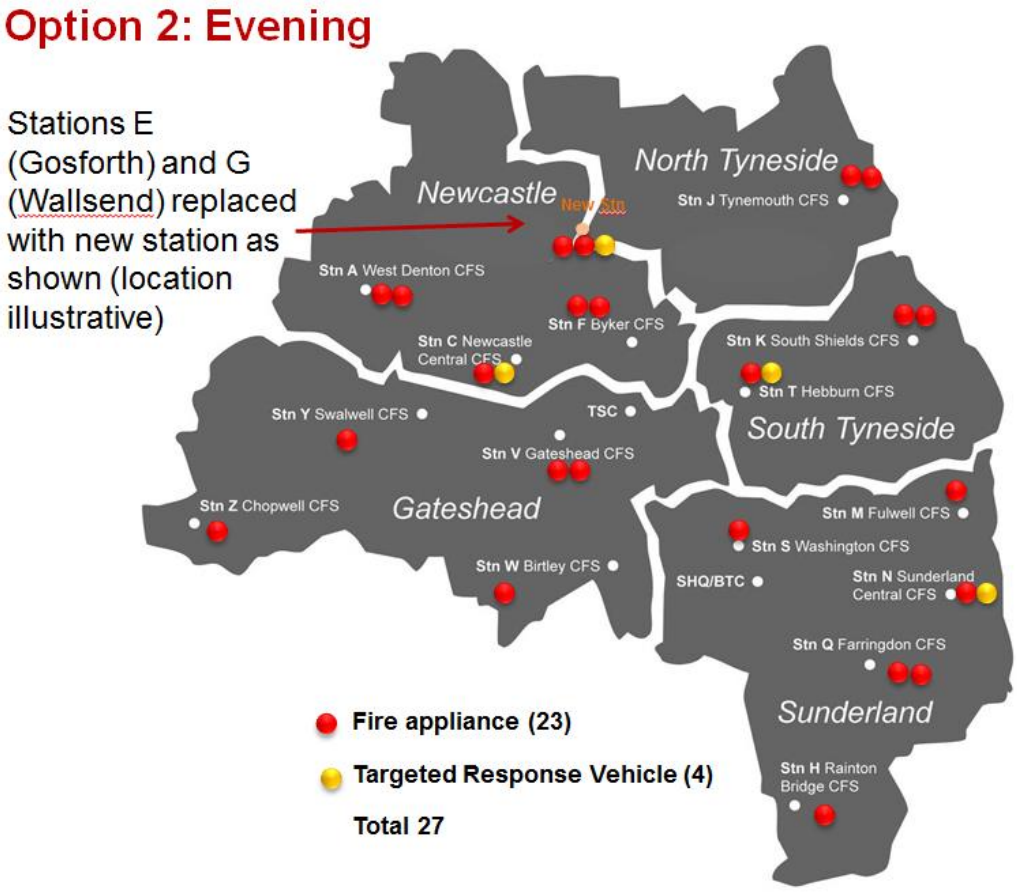
Station A West Denton	One appliance removed “Evening” TRV stood down
Station C Newcastle Central	One appliance removed One TRV added
Station G Wallsend	One appliance removed
Station Y Swalwell	One appliance removed
Station T Hebburn	One appliance removed “Evening” TRV stood down
Station N Sunderland Central	One appliance removed One TRV added
Station E Gosforth	One appliance stood down
Station S Washington	One appliance stood down



7.7 Under this proposal, as with Option 1 (Daytime), 6 appliances are removed and 2 TRVs added. Gosforth and Wallsend stations are closed and replaced with a centrally located station (shown as New Station).

7.8 Under this option Station A (West Denton) remains a two pump station during the day, whereas under Option 1 (Daytime) it became one pump. Modelling shows this to assist coverage of the area based on the new station locations.

Station C Newcastle Central	One appliance removed One TRV added
New station	Two appliances
Station E Gosforth	Stations closed and replaced with one station strategically located.
Station G Wallsend	
Station Y Swalwell	One appliance removed
Station T Hebburn	One appliance removed
Station N Sunderland Central	One appliance removed One TRV added

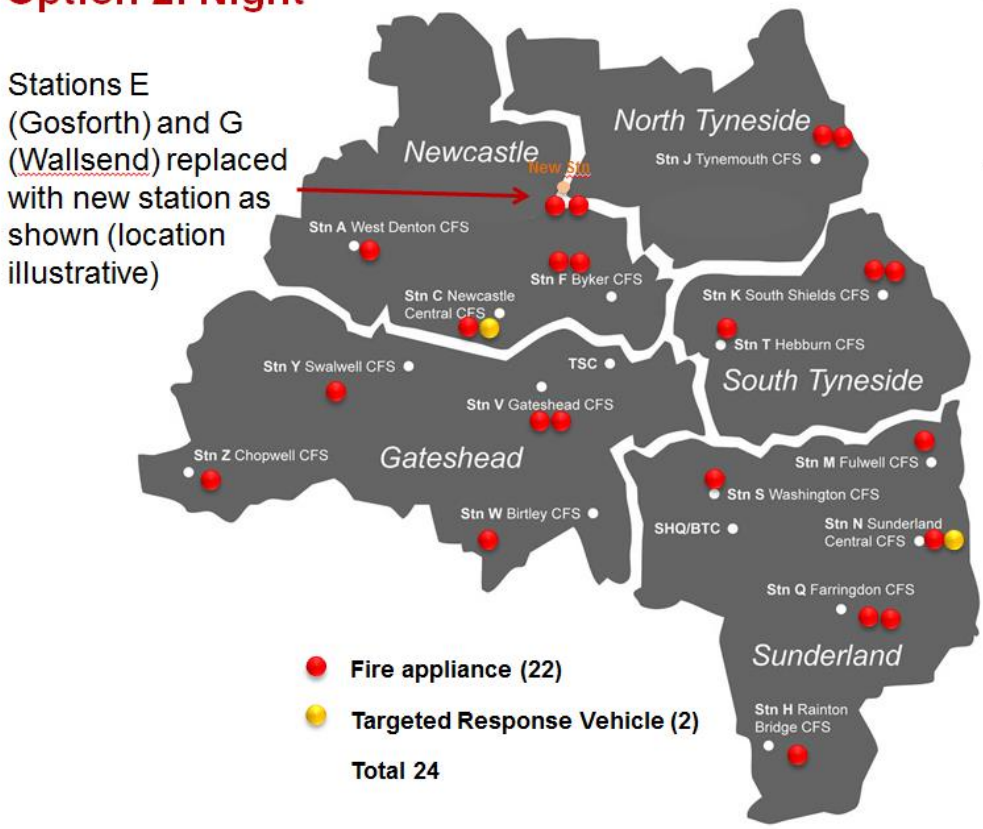


7.9 As with option 1 (Daytime), this proposal adds 2 additional TRVs to cover the evening period which is the peak time for lower risk (particularly deliberate secondary) fires. These are dual staffed vehicles and the proposal is that the staff from one of the appliances at Washington will be available to staff these 2 TRVs.

7.10 The new station would be the base for 2 appliances and one TRV during the evening.

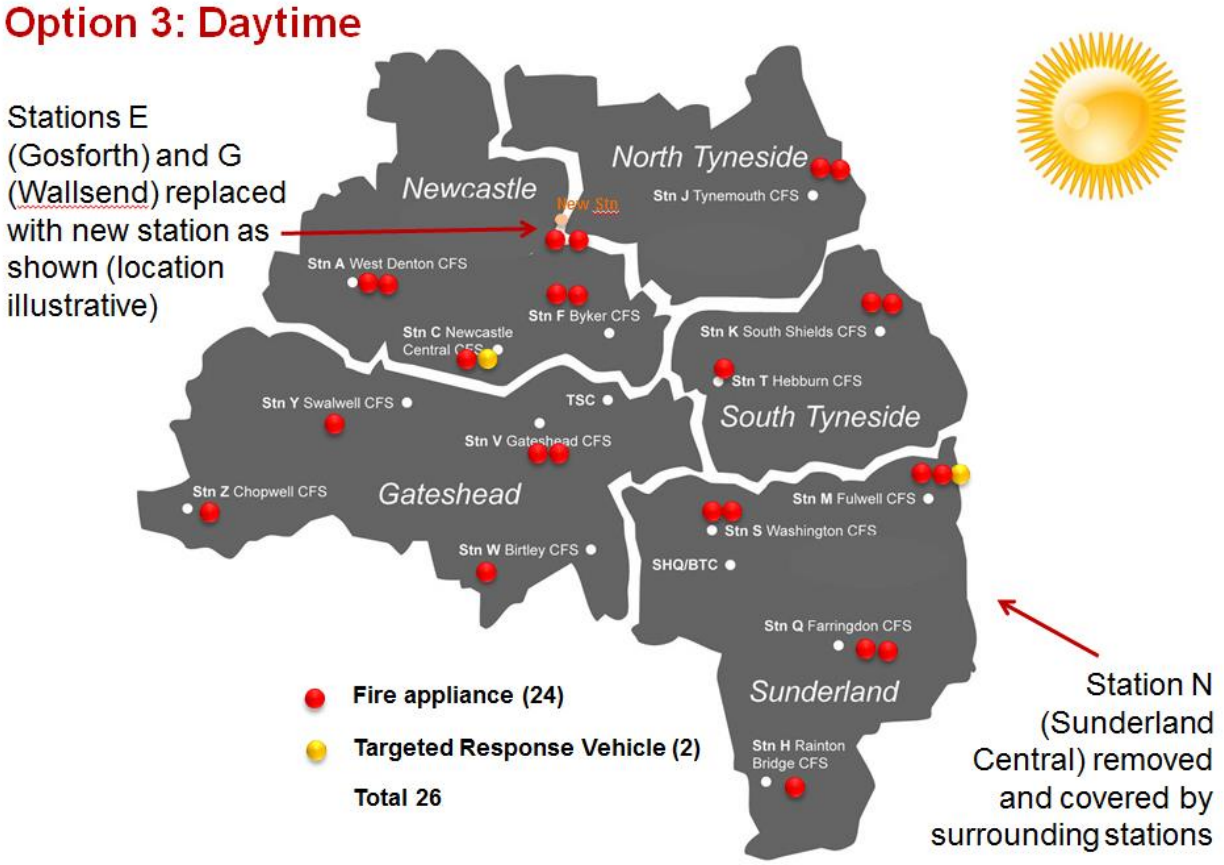
Station C Newcastle Central	One appliance removed One TRV added
New station	Two appliances, one TRV
Station E Gosforth	Stations closed and replaced with one station strategically located
Station G Wallsend	
Station Y Swalwell	One appliance removed
Station T Hebburn	One appliance removed One TRV added
Station N Sunderland Central	One appliance removed One TRV added
Station S Washington	One appliance off the run to dual staff 2 TRVs

Option 2: Night



7.11 As with Option 1 (Night), since fewer incidents happen at night, the proposal removes the 2 dual staffed TRVs which had been brought in to enhance cover of low risk incidents in the evening. In addition to this, 2 pumps are stood down for a period of up to 12 hours.

Station A West Denton	One appliance removed
Station C Newcastle Central	One appliance removed One TRV added
New Station	2 appliances “Evening” TRV stood down
Station G Wallsend	Stations closed and replaced with one station strategically located
Station E Gosforth	
Station Y Swalwell	One appliance removed
Station T Hebburn	One appliance removed “Evening” TRV stood down
Station N Sunderland Central	One appliance removed One TRV added
Station S Washington	One appliance stood down

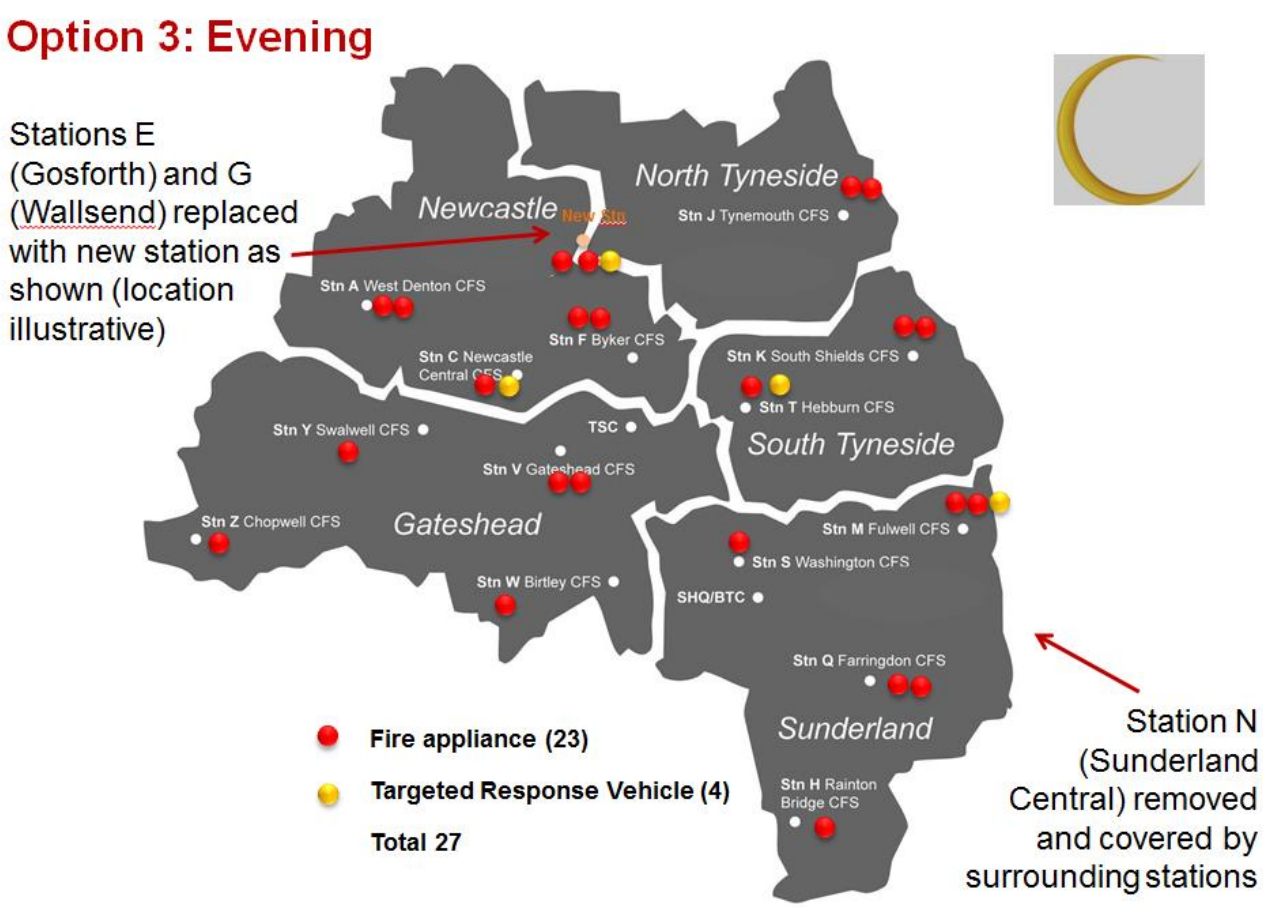


7.12 Under this proposal, as with Option 1 (Daytime), 6 appliances are removed and 2 TRVs added. Gosforth and Wallsend stations are closed and replaced with a centrally located station (shown as New Station), and Sunderland central station is closed with cover provided by the surrounding stations.

7.13 Under this option Station A (West Denton) remains a two pump station during the day, whereas under Option 1 (Daytime) it became one pump. Modelling shows this to assist coverage of the area based on the new station locations.

Station C Newcastle Central	One appliance removed One TRV added
New station	Two appliances
Station E Gosforth	Stations closed and replaced with one station strategically located.
Station G Wallsend	
Station Y Swalwell	One appliance removed
Station T Hebburn	One appliance removed
Station N Sunderland Central	Closed
Station M Fulwell (Marley Park)	One appliance added One TRV added

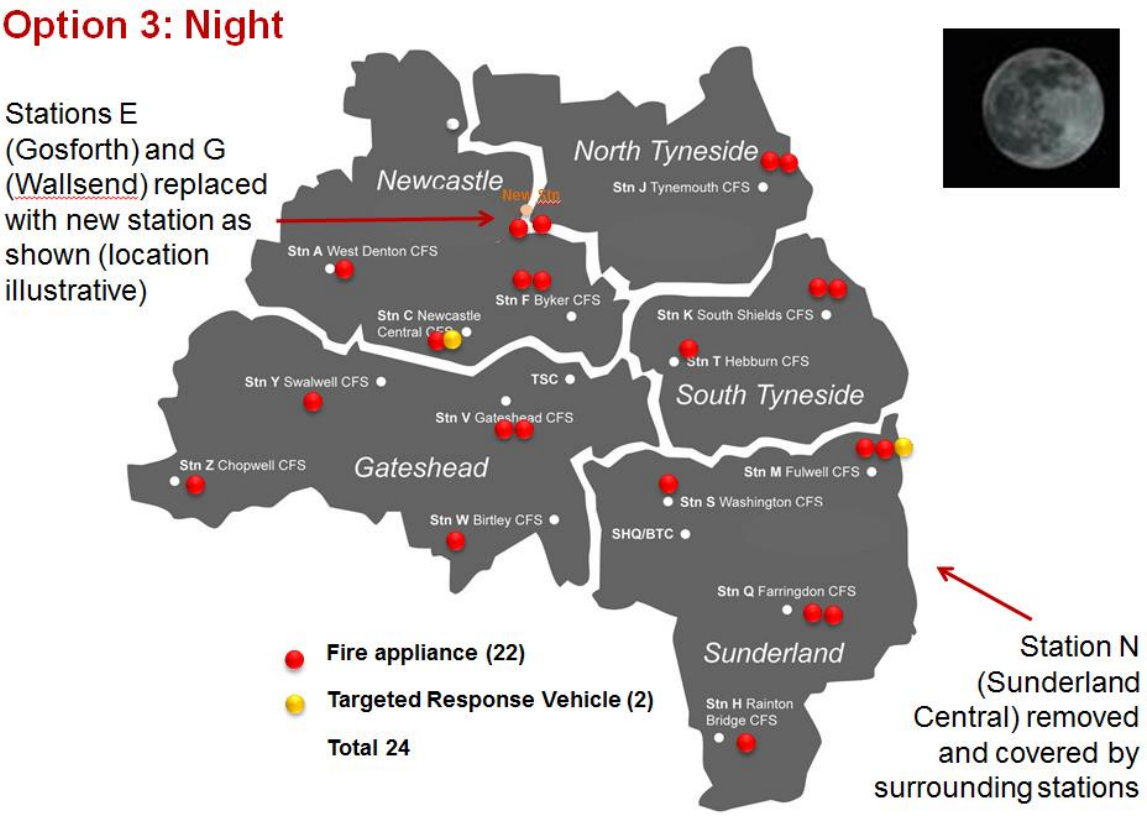
7.14 As with option 1



(Daytime), this proposal adds 2 additional TRVs to cover the evening period which is the peak time for lower risk (particularly deliberate secondary) fires. These are dual staffed vehicles and the proposal is that the staff from one of the appliances at Washington will be available to staff these 2 TRVs.

7.15 The new station would be the base for 2 appliances and one TRV during the evening.

Station C Newcastle Central	One appliance removed One TRV added
New station	Two appliances, one TRV
Station E Gosforth	Stations closed and replaced with one station strategically located
Station G Wallsend	
Station Y Swalwell	One appliance removed
Station T Hebburn	One appliance removed One TRV added
Station N Sunderland Central	Closed
Station S Washington	One appliance off the run to dual staff 2 TRVs
Station M Fulwell (Marley Park)	One appliance added One TRV added



7.16 As with Option 1 (Night), since fewer incidents happen at night, the proposal removes the 2 dual staffed TRVs which had been brought in to enhance cover of low risk incidents in the evening. In addition to this, 2 pumps are stood down for a period of up to 12 hours.

Station A West Denton	One appliance removed
Station C Newcastle Central	One appliance removed One TRV added
New Station	2 appliances “Evening” TRV stood down
Station G Wallsend	Stations closed and replaced with one station strategically located
Station E Gosforth	
Station Y Swalwell	One appliance removed
Station T Hebburn	One appliance removed “Evening” TRV stood down
Station N Sunderland Central	Closed
Station S Washington	One appliance stood down
Station M Fulwell (Marley Park)	One appliance added One TRV added

7.17 The tables below summarise all the proposed changes. Red dots indicate fire appliances and blue dots, TRVs.

Option 1

		Status Quo	Proposal ONE		
Station	**District**	24/7/365	Day	Evening	Night
West Denton - Alpha	NEWCASTLE	🔴🔴	🔴	🔴🔵	🔴
Newcastle Central - Charlie		🔴🔴	🔴🔵	🔴🔵	🔴🔵
Gosforth - Echo		🔴🔴	🔴🔴	🔴🔴	🔴
Byker - Foxtrot		🔴🔴	🔴🔴	🔴🔴	🔴🔴
Wallsend - Golf	**North Tyneside**	🔴🔴	🔴	🔴	🔴
Tynemouth - Juliet		🔴🔴	🔴🔴	🔴🔴	🔴🔴
South Shields - Kilo	**South Tyneside**	🔴🔴	🔴🔴	🔴🔴	🔴🔴
Hebburn – Tango		🔴🔴	🔴	🔴🔵	🔴
Fulwell/Marley Park – Mike	Sunderland	🔴	🔴	🔴	🔴
Sunderland Central – November		🔴🔴	🔴🔵	🔴🔵	🔴🔵
Farringdon - Quebec		🔴🔴	🔴🔴	🔴🔴	🔴🔴
Rainton Bridge – Hotel		🔴	🔴	🔴	🔴
Washington – Sierra		🔴🔴	🔴🔴	🔴	🔴
Gateshead – Victor	Gateshead	🔴🔴	🔴🔴	🔴🔴	🔴🔴
Birtley – Whiskey		🔴	🔴	🔴	🔴
Swalwell – Yankee		🔴🔴	🔴	🔴	🔴
Chopwell - Zulu		🔴 retained	🔴 retained		

Option 2

		Status Quo	Proposal TWO		
Station	**District**	24/7/365	Day	Evening	Night
West Denton - Alpha	NEWCASTLE				
Newcastle Central - Charlie					
Gosforth - Echo					
Byker - Foxtrot					
NEW STATION					
Wallsend - Golf	North Tyneside				
Tynemouth - Juliet					
South Shields - Kilo	South Tyneside				
Hebburn – Tango					
Fulwell/Marley Park – Mike	Sunderland				
Sunderland Central – November					
Farringdon - Quebec					
Rainton Bridge – Hotel					
Washington – Sierra					
Gateshead – Victor	Gateshead				
Birtley – Whiskey					
Swalwell – Yankee					
Chopwell - Zulu		retained	retained		

Option 3

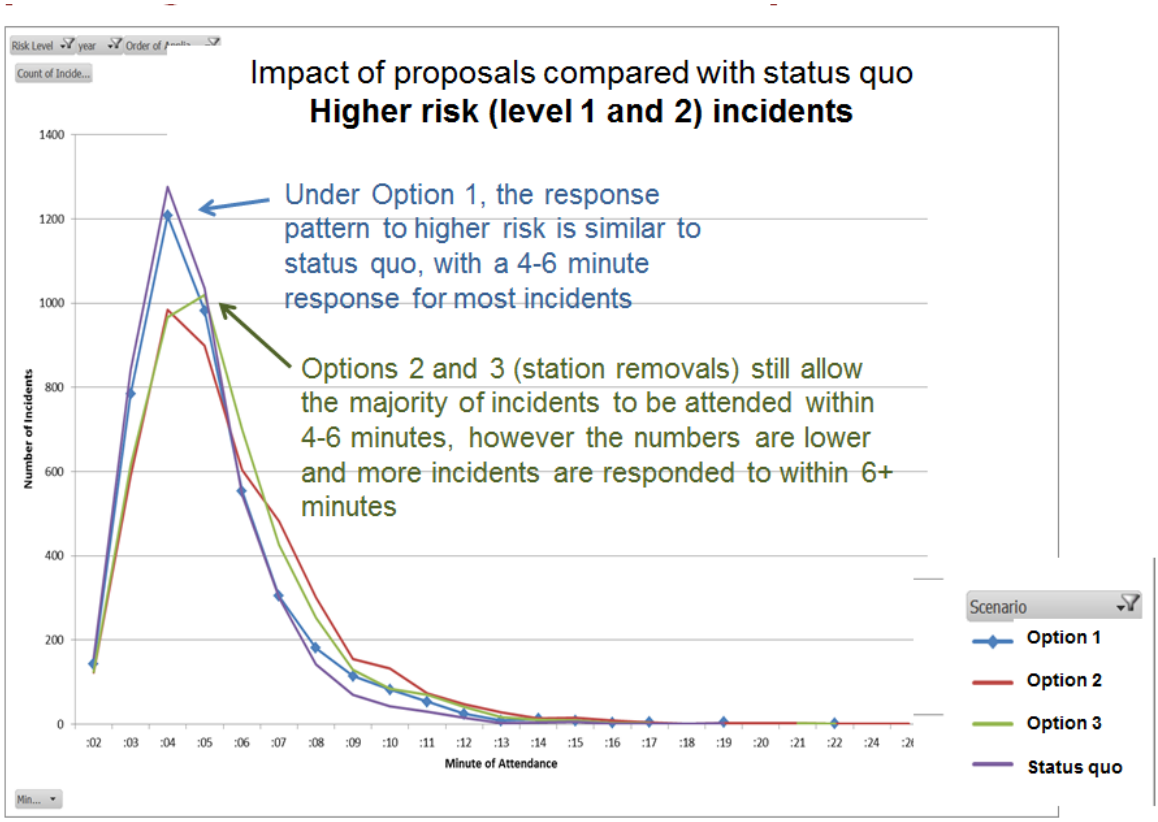
		Status Quo	Proposal THREE		
Station	**District**	24/7/365	Day	Evening	Night
West Denton - Alpha	NEWCASTLE				
Newcastle Central - Charlie					
Gosforth - Echo					
Byker - Foxtrot					
NEW STATION					
Wallsend - Golf	North Tyneside				
Tynemouth - Juliet					
South Shields - Kilo	South Tyneside				
Hebburn – Tango					
Fulwell/Marley Park – Mike	Sunderland				
Sunderland Central – November					
Farringdon - Quebec					
Rainton Bridge – Hotel					
Washington – Sierra					
Gateshead – Victor	Gateshead				
Birtley – Whiskey					
Swalwell – Yankee					
Chopwell - Zulu		retained	retained		

7.18 Risk modelling has been carried out on the proposals above using Workload Modelling software, and the Government's Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) software. The FSEC modelling illustrates that the proposal has a small negative impact on life and property risk when compared with the TWFRS status quo; information regarding the projected (yearly) impact on life is shown below. These figures do not include the impact of the 4 additional vehicles (TRVs).

Operational Response model	Dwelling Fatalities	Other Buildings Fatalities	PROJECTED Total Fatalities	Total 'Difference' Per year
Status Quo	7.093198	1.425737	8.518935	
Option 1	7.281908	1.623716	8.905624	0.38
Option 2	7.226658	1.660189	8.886847	0.36
Option 3	7.325219	1.751642	9.076861	0.55

7.19 It must be noted that this is a projected model; the actual number of fire deaths in Tyne and Wear is much lower than the 8.51 the model indicates for the status quo (1 fire death in 2012-13; 3 in each of the preceding years).

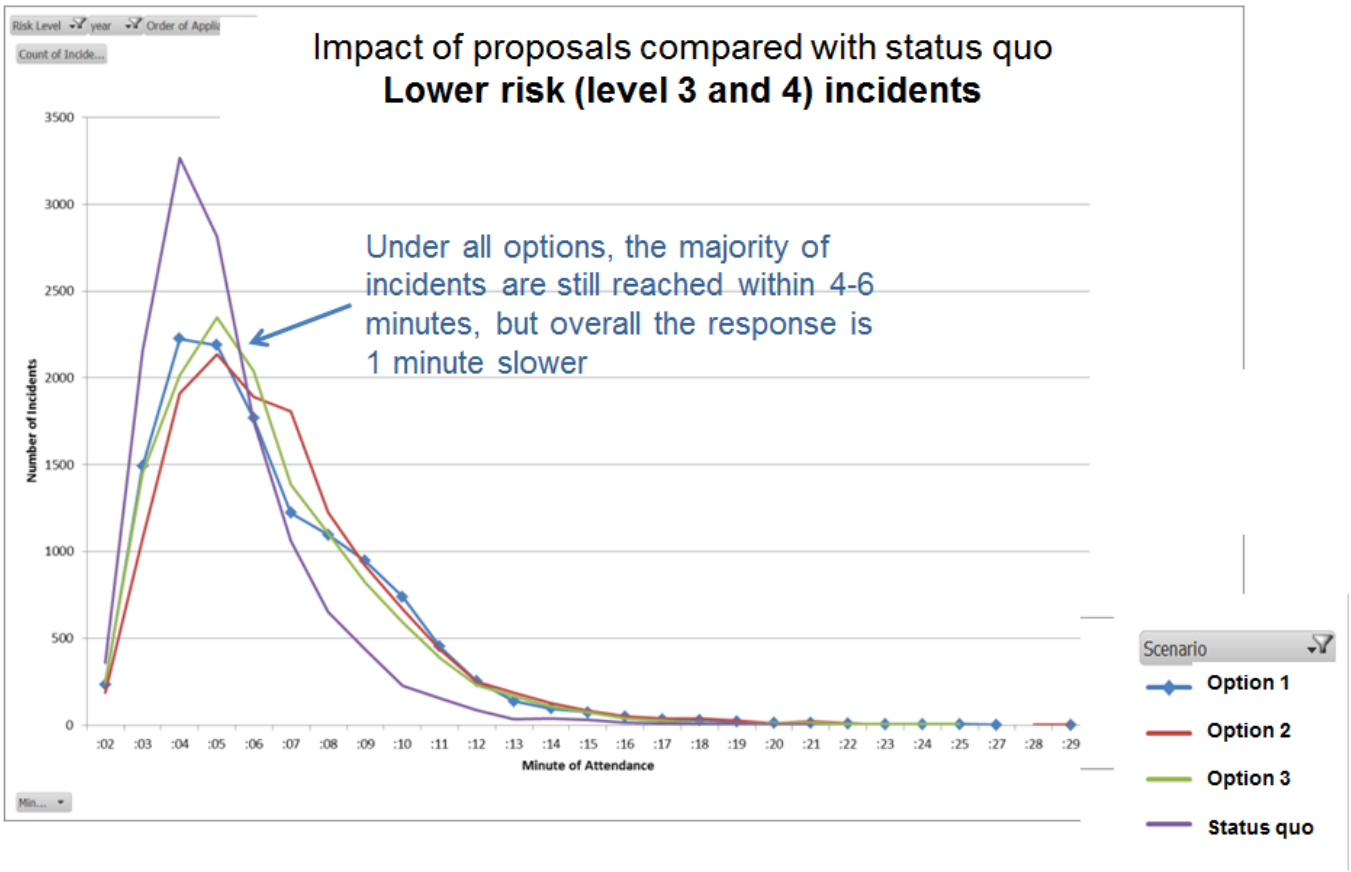
7.20 In terms of speed of response, Workload Modelling software shows the following impact of the proposal on incidents of different risk levels.



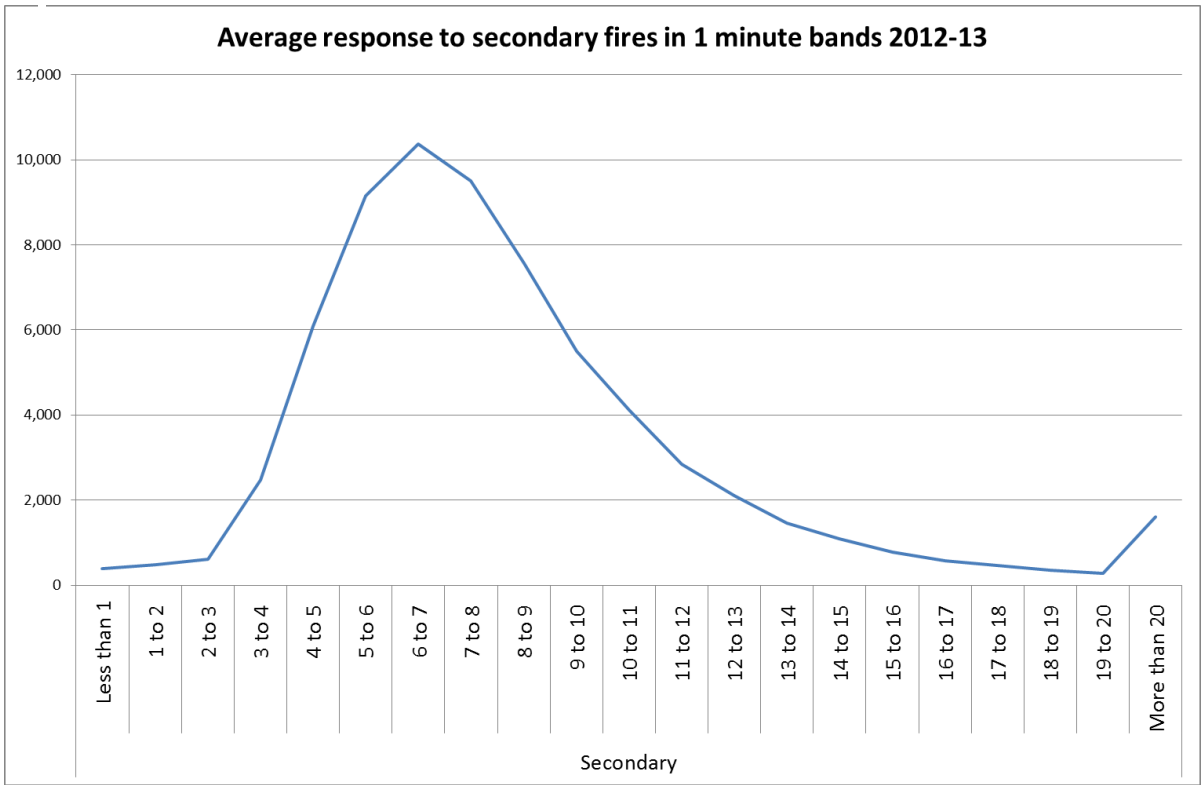
7.21 For the highest risk incidents (levels 1 and 2), the modelling shows that there is minimal difference between the proposals and the status quo, if Option 1 is implemented.

7.22 Once stations are removed (Options 2 and 3), there is more of an impact on speed of response.

7.23 For lower risk incidents (levels 3 and 4), the difference between the status quo and the proposals is more marked. This is to be expected since the strategy in the proposals is to protect the response to higher risk incidents by accepting a lower speed of response to some lower risk incidents. Whilst the majority of incidents are still responded to within 4-6 minutes, the number that take longer is larger than at the current time.



7.24 Overall, response under the proposed model is approximately one minute slower to lower risk incidents**. Tyne and Wear would still have a better response to these lower risk incidents than the national average as shown in the chart below- the peak response time for secondary fires nationally is around 7 minutes against a proposed 4-5 minutes in Tyne and Wear.**


Average response to secondary fires in 1 minute bands 2012-13
12,000
10,000
8,000
6,000
4,000
2,000
0
Less than 1
1 to 2
2 to 3
3 to 4
4 to 5
5 to 6
6 to 7
7 to 8
8 to 9
9 to 10
10 to 11
11 to 12
12 to 13
13 to 14
14 to 15
15 to 16
16 to 17
17 to 18
18 to 19
19 to 20
More than 20
Secondary

Let us know your views

The proposals set out in this document will change the way TWFRS responds to incidents over the coming years. We believe that although these proposals do reduce the speed of response to some lower risk incidents, they protect our response to higher risk and will still allow Tyne and Wear communities to have a high standard of fire cover- higher than that in many other parts of the country, as required because fire risk in Tyne and Wear is higher.

None of these proposals have been agreed, and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority is seeking your views to inform their decisions.

We are carrying out this consultation through a number of channels including:

- Discussions with staff
- Seeking the written comments of partners and members to the community
- Presentations to Local Strategic Partnerships
- Public meetings
- Seeking views via our website

Having considered this document, we would welcome your views on the following questions.

Consultation Issues:
1. Do you have any comments on the financial position facing the Fire and Rescue Authority?
2. Would you be prepared to pay more Council Tax if this made it possible to retain the current level of Fire and Rescue service in Tyne and Wear?
3. Do you have any comments on our approach to understanding risk, or on the conclusions we draw about risk in setting out our proposals?
4. What are your views on the different elements of the proposal we have made? **a) Introducing alternative appliances (TRVs) to deal with some of our lower risk incidents – 2 TRVs available 24/7 and 2 additional ones in the evenings when most of these incidents occur** **b) Introducing flexibility of cover by day and night, in areas where the risk allows this** **c) Reducing the number of pumping appliances by 6** **d) Crewing 1-pump stations with 4 staff on the appliance in line with other pumps** **e) Reducing Aerial Ladder Platforms (ALPs) from 3 to 2** **f) Investing in new firefighting technologies to enhance performance and safety**
5. What are your views about our proposed approach, which protects the response to higher risk incidents by allowing a slower response to some lower

risk ones? Is it the right one in the circumstances?
6. What is your view of the options to change our response model?
7. Should we consider the options which involve closing fire stations?
8. Do you feel that any of the options are more acceptable than the others, and if so why/why not?
9. Are there any other comments you would like to make, or ideas you would like to suggest?

Following the consultation period, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority will consider your views in detail before deciding whether the proposals should be implemented as they stand, or amended. As stated in our introduction, we do not believe it is possible to balance our budget in future without some form of change to the operational response.

The consultation period ends at 5pm on Wednesday, 1st January 2014.

We want to hear what you think of our proposals. If you have any comments, responses to our questions or have you own questions you can contact us in the following ways:

By post:
Freepost RLZH-ZZYU-LJUJ
Development and Review
Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Barmston Mere
Nissan Way
Sunderland
SR5 3QY

By telephone 0191 444 1529

By email consultation@twfire.gov.uk

On our website www.twfire.gov.uk

Disclosure: Please note that we intend to publish a summary of the responses to this consultation document

Risk level	Incident types	
1 Very Significant life and property risk	Civil Disturbance/Unlawful Act - Bomb Suspected and -Bomb Confirmed Explosion Explosion Vehicle LPG fuelled Fire- Aircraft – Large, Light or Military Fire- Building Fire- Caravan/Camping Fire- Cylinder Acetylene Fire- Persons Reported Fire- Persons on Fire Fire- Railway Train Passenger Fire- Ship Hazardous Material- Gas involved	Hazardous Material- Major Hazmat Hazardous Material-Radiation involved Rescue- Aircraft Accident Rescue- Building Collapse Rescue- Persons Trappend Rescue- Railway Accident Rescue- Confined Space Rescue from Entrapment Rescue from Height Rescue from Mud Rescue from Water Rescue- RTC Persons Trapped Rescue- Ship Sinking Rescue- Suicide Attempt
2 Significant Life and property risk	Alarm- Smoke Alarm Fire- Below Ground Fire- Boat Fire- Building Thatched Fire- Cylinder Other Fire- Electrical installations	Fire- Railway Train Goods Fire- Vehicle Large Hazardous Material- Minor Hazmat Humanitarian or Assistance- Flooding Rescue- Aircraft in Distress Rescue- Animal Rescue Large Rescue- Boat
3 Some Life and Property risk	Alarms- Automatic Fire Alarm Alarm- Gas Alarm Civil Disturbance/Unlawful Act- Civil Disturbance Fire- Barn Fire- Derelict Property Fire- Vehicle Small Fire in the Open- Large	Hazardous Material- Pipeline Humanitarian or Assistance- Dangerous Structure Humanitarian or Assistance- Person Collapsed Humanitarian or Assistance- RTC Rescue- Person Locked In
4 Minimal Life and Property risk	Alarm- Fire or Intruder Alarm at FRS Property Civil Disturbance or Unlawful Act- Call Challenged Fire- Abandoned Call Fire- Chimney/Chimney Thatch Fire in the Open- Small Fire- Now Out Fire- Late Fire Call Fire- Postbox Fire- Railway Embankment Fire- Road Furniture	Fire- Smoke in the Open Hazardous Material- Oil Pollution Hazardous Material- Vehicle Leaking Fuel Humanitarian or Assistance- Persons Locked Out, Swill Away, Advice Given and all other categories Rescue- Animal Small Rescue- Lift- Person Shut In

Appendix D: Public meeting slides

Proposed changes to our operational response 2014 to 2017

Public consultation
October to December 2013

Sunderland

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Creating the Safest Community

These slides cover:

- Background
- The community risk
- Responding to the risk- how we do it now
- The financial challenge
- Options for change
- Specific options
- How this could impact across Tyne and Wear and in your area

Background- elements of our service

Homes and community

Major/widespread threats
Specific roles alongside partners

Commercial/public-
Advice and enforcement

Background: our duty to Respond

Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004

A Fire and Rescue Authority must make provision for:

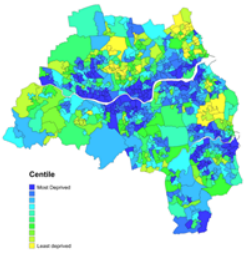
- extinguishing fires in its area
- protecting life and property in the event of fires in its area
- rescuing people in the event of road traffic accidents in its area
- protecting people from serious harm, to the extent that it considers it reasonable to do so, in the event of road traffic accidents in its area
- Responding to other emergencies as conferred by the Secretary of State
- Under this Act FRAs must also have regard to the National Fire and Rescue Framework (last updated 2012)

The community risk: deprivation

CLG research shows a clear link between "*risk of accidental dwelling fires and injuries and socio-demographic factors such as deprivation, disability, being single and unemployment*".

There is a correlation between deprivation and Deliberate fires in Tyne and Wear

Regional Average Rank		Average IMD Rank
	Most Deprived	
Tyne and Wear		12324
North East		12943
London		13045
North West		13699
West Midlands		14325
Yorkshire and Humberside		14455
England		16242
East Midlands		17055
South West		18141
East of England		19743
	Least Deprived	
South East		20723



The community risk- targeting

Home Safety Checks
Smoke alarms
Advice on living safely
Changing behaviour
Working with partners

Domestic sprinklers
Co funding
Influencing partners
National lobbying

Working with young people and vulnerable adults

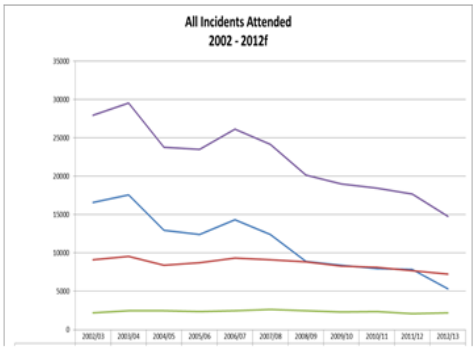
Early intervention programmes- this one is Prince's Trust

Schools Campaigns

Businesses
Advice
Support
Compliance

Safetyworks! Learning to live safely through experiences

The community risk- Incidents



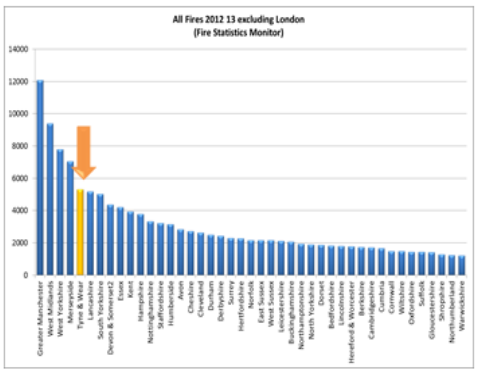
All incidents	Fires	False alarms	Special services (rescues)

Excellent reductions in incidents due to Prevention and Protection

Last 10 years 68% reduction in fires

But the next slide shows how the level of risk in Tyne and Wear means we still have more fires than most parts of the country

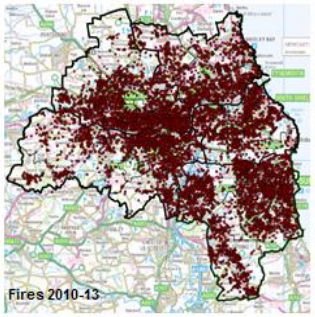
The community risk- Incidents compared



Between 2010 and 2013 there were:

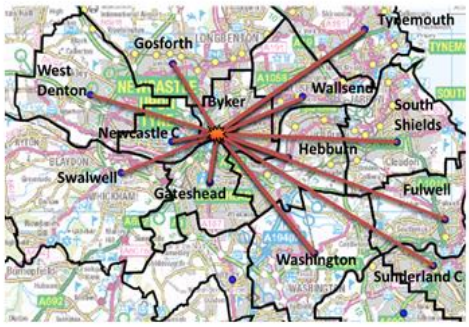
- 51,024 incidents
- 47 a day
- 2 an hour
- 1,607 (3%) large incidents (4+ pumps)
- 3/4 of incidents were secondary fires or false alarms
- Appliances spent 3% of the time at incidents
- Remainder of time spent on prevention, protection, training etc

The community risk- where incidents happen



Local example: deliberate fires at the ward level

Responding to the risk: Working across Tyne and Wear- the Byker fire



Responding to the risk- our current response

17 community fire stations:

- 15 wholetime
- 1 retained (part time-Chopwell)
- 1 using Day Crewing Close Call (Birtley) and 1 planned for DCCC (Rainton Bridge)

30 fire appliances (pumps):

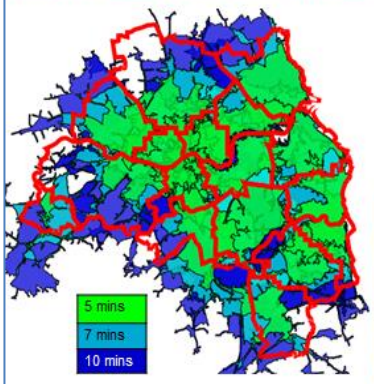
- 13 stations have 2 pumps
- 4 stations have 1 pump
- Based on risk

645 operational Firefighters:

- 4 watches
- 119 on duty at any one time
- As well as Response, a wide range of Prevention, Protection and Resilience duties

Firefighters	470
Crew Managers	113
Watch Managers	62
Total	645

Responding to the risk- speed

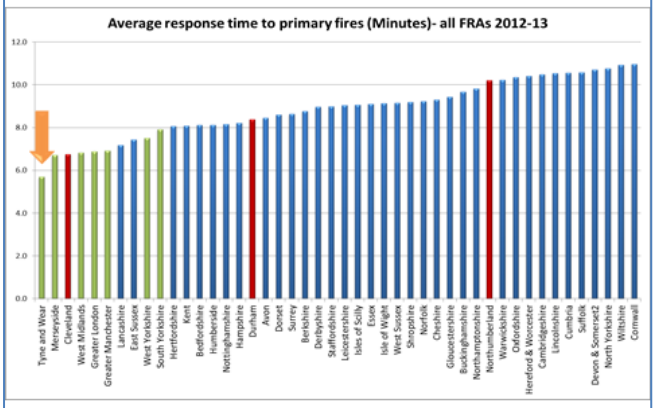


Average first pump response time to primary (building/life risk) fires in Tyne and Wear is **5 minutes 42 seconds** - the fastest in the country

Within this, response times vary based on station location, transport and (to some extent) priority:

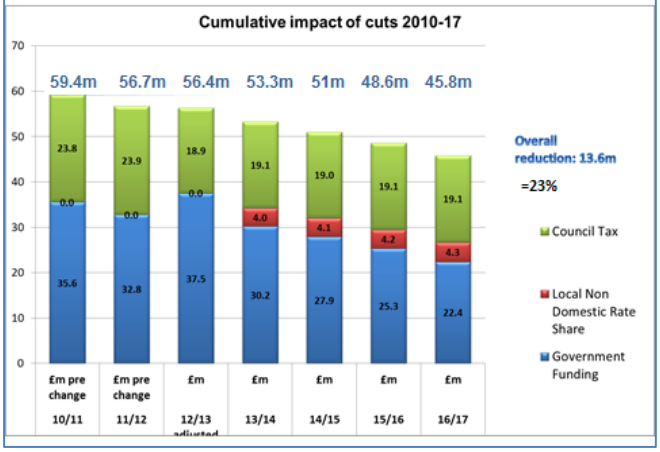
TWFRS Average Response Times 2012-2013	
Incident Type	Average Time
House Fire	5 mins 18 seconds
Other Building Fire	5 mins 30 seconds
All Primary Fire	5 mins 42 seconds
Car Fire	6 mins 6 seconds
Outdoor Fire	**6 mins 48 seconds**

Responding to the risk- response times compared

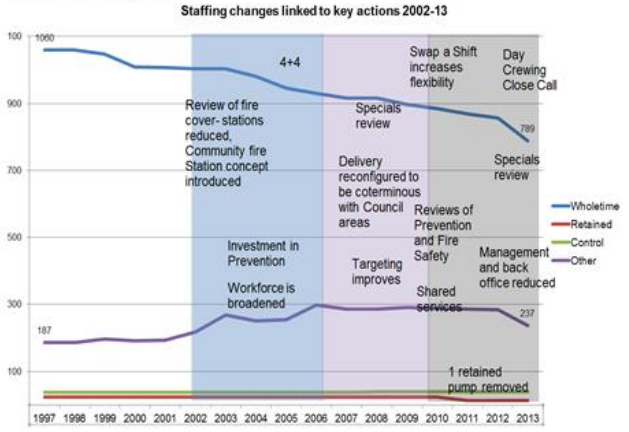


Fire Incidents Response Times, England, 2012-13. CLG August 2013 TWMS 6.48 outdoor fires

The financial challenge



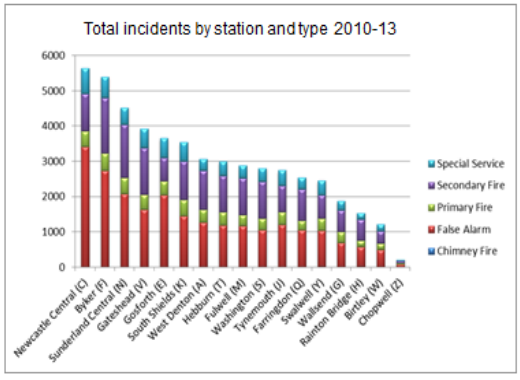
The last 10 years



Analysis and options- evidence used

- Current and future risks
- Incidents- size, type, level of risk, location, time of day: 10 year and 3 year data
- Existing and future resources- what is needed for tasks to be undertaken, including workload modelling
- Testing of scenarios:
  - High Rise incident with persons reported
  - House Fire, no persons reported
  - House fire, persons reported
  - Road Traffic Collision, person trapped and injured casualty
- Appliance run time tests
- "Value of a pump" (ie all activities of the crew, not just response- prevention, education, training, risk assessments, standby cover)
- Vehicle types and technology

Incidents by station



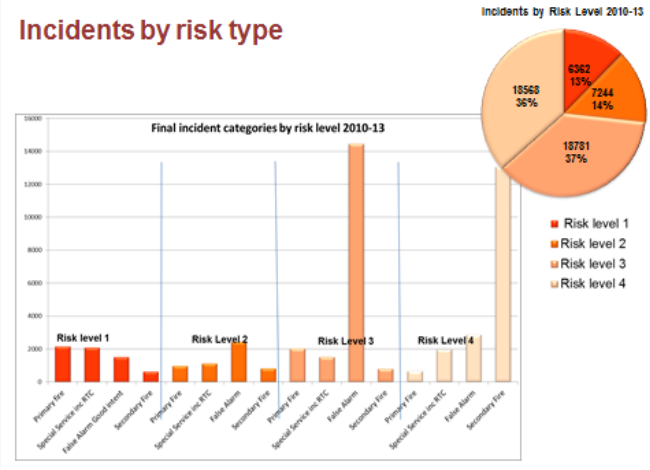
Total of 51,024 incidents, almost 20% reduction on previous 3 year period (2007-2010)

2012 average incidents per W/T appliance was 509, a 38% reduction compared to 2007 (832)

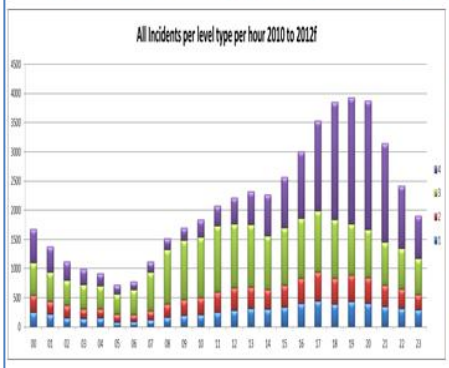
Significant difference in incident numbers across the area

Some appliances attend 4 times more incidents than others

Incidents by risk type



Incidents by risk type and time of day



69% of incidents happen between 11:00 and 23:00

Early evening is the peak time

Higher risk (level 1 and 2) incidents have less peaks and troughs but still follow this pattern

Lower risk- Level 3 (most false alarms) peak mid morning and early evening

Level 4 (most secondary/ASB fires) peak early evening

Analysis

Tyne and Wear has a relatively high number of incidents and the busiest stations in the country, but total incidents have reduced by **47%** over the last 10 years

There is wide variation in incident levels:

- Between geographical areas of Tyne and Wear
- At different times of day
- In terms of the size of the incidents, and the risk to life and property they pose

We have already made some changes using this information eg:

- Reduction of 2 stations
- 4 and 4 crewing at all 2 pump stations (2005); Day Crewing Close Call
- Resource deployment (2 pump, 1 pump, Retained)

Change has been made carefully without impacting negatively on community risk, firefighter safety or speed of response

By increasing **targeting**, or increasing **flexibility**

Alternative appliances- TRV (Targeted Response Vehicles)

- Used in many Fire and Rescue services
- Crew of 2-3
- Used for lower risk incidents
- Shown to be effective for these
- Larger appliances targeted at higher risk incidents
- Change to current approach of deploying only in groups of 4
- Allows reduction in firefighter numbers whilst still targeting risk

Dynamic call handling

- Control send appliances most suitable for risk
- Will still have Pre Determined numbers (PDAs) for certain incident types
- But wider range of appliances to choose from

More flexible day and night time cover

- Different numbers of appliances by day and night
- Reflecting lower incident numbers at night
- Some appliances would be "stood down" for up to 12 hours
- At stations where risk patterns shows this to be possible and safe

Reduced number of pumps and/or fire stations

- Reduce appliances over time based on risk analysis
- Link to adding different appliances to the fleet
- Basing would also need to be considered- is the number of stations right?

Crew 1 pump stations with 4 staff on appliance

- Brings 1 pump stations into line with the others

Invest in new firefighting technologies

- Tested during review
- Assist ability for smaller crew to fight lower risk fires
- In support of firefighter safety

Reduce Aerial ladder Platforms from 3 to 2

- Operational need is for 2 ALPs
- Already dual staffed but can reduce running costs

Option 1

- Crew appliances at 1 pump stations with 4 staff
- Remove 6 main pumps
- Introduce 2 Targeted Response Vehicles (TRVs) for lower risk incidents 24/7
- Introduce 2 additional TRVs to be Dual Staffed at night and as required
- Remove 2 pumps for up to 12 hours at night

This would be implemented over a 3 year period

It would reduce firefighter staffing by up to **131 posts**

It would reduce costs by up to **£5.1m**

Option 2

- Implement Option 1 plus:
- Close 2 stations (Gosforth & Wallsend) and replace with one more centrally placed, based on risk and incident intelligence (Benton Area)

This would be implemented over a 3 year period

It would increase the number of 2 pump fire stations, and improve station locations in relation to risk

Remodelling station locations could provide some resilience for any further cuts

It would further reduce costs by at least £170,000

Capital investment would be required for the new station

Option 3

- Implement Options 1 and 2 plus:
- Close Sunderland Central station

This would be implemented over a 3 year period

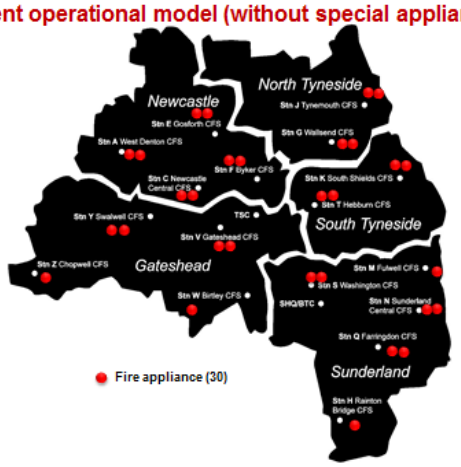
Sunderland Central has one of the largest number of incidents (mostly false alarms and secondary fires) but is surrounded by 3 stations which have the capacity and location to provide an efficient response

It would increase the number of 2 pump fire stations, and improve station locations in relation to risk

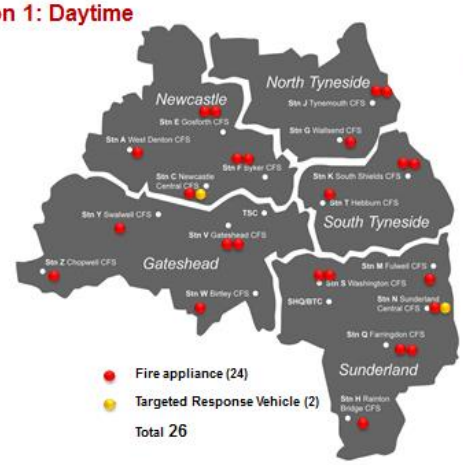
Remodelling station locations could provide some resilience for any further cuts

It would further reduce costs by at least £340,000

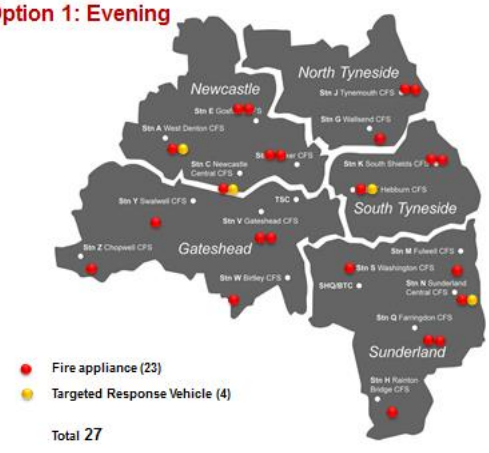
Current operational model (without special appliances)



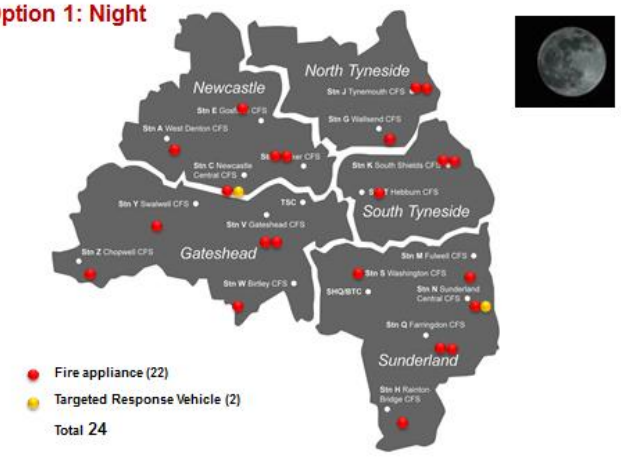
Option 1: Daytime



Option 1: Evening



Option 1: Night

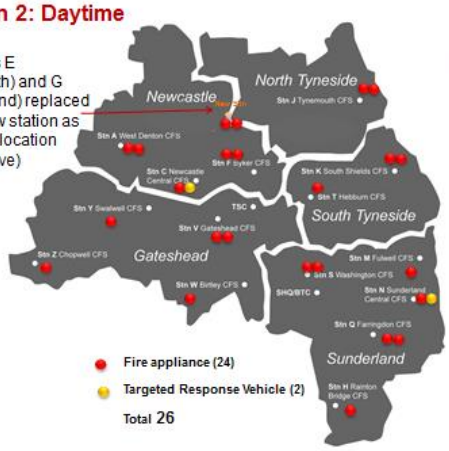


Option 1 summary

Station	District	Status Quo 24/7/365	Proposal ONE Day	Evening	Night
West Denton - Alpha	NEWCASTLE	●●	●	●◐	●
Newcastle Central - Charlie		●●	●◐	●◐	●◐
Gosforth - Echo		●●	●●	●●	●
Byker - Foxtrot		●●	●●	●●	●●
Wallsend - Golf	North Tyneside	●●	●	●	●
Tynemouth - Juliet		●●	●●	●●	●●
South Shields - Kilo	South Tyneside	●●	●●	●●	●●
Hebburn – Tango		●●	●	●◐	●
Fulwell/Marley Park – Mike	Sunderland	●	●	●	●
Sunderland Central – November		●●	●◐	●◐	●◐
Farringdon - Quebec		●●	●●	●●	●●
Rainton Bridge – Hotel		●	●	●	●
Washington – Sierra		●●	●●	●	●
Gateshead – Victor	Gateshead	●●	●●	●●	●●
Birtley – Whiskey		●	●	●	●
Swalwell – Yankee		●●	●	●	●
Chopwell - Zulu		● retained		● retained	

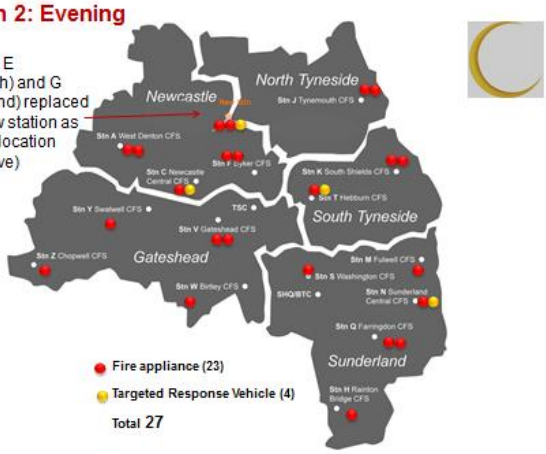
Option 2: Daytime

Stations E (Gosforth) and G (Wallsend) replaced with new station as shown (location illustrative)



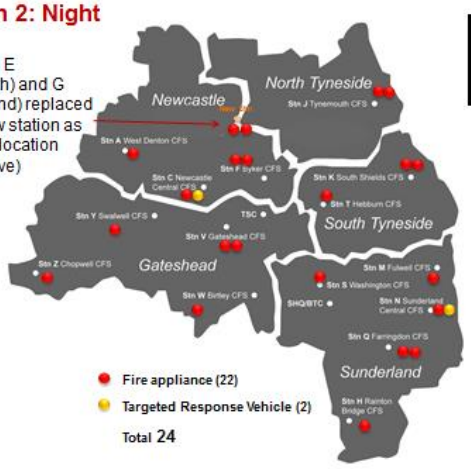
Option 2: Evening

Stations E (Gosforth) and G (Wallsend) replaced with new station as shown (location illustrative)



Option 2: Night

Stations E (Gosforth) and G (Wallsend) replaced with new station as shown (location illustrative)

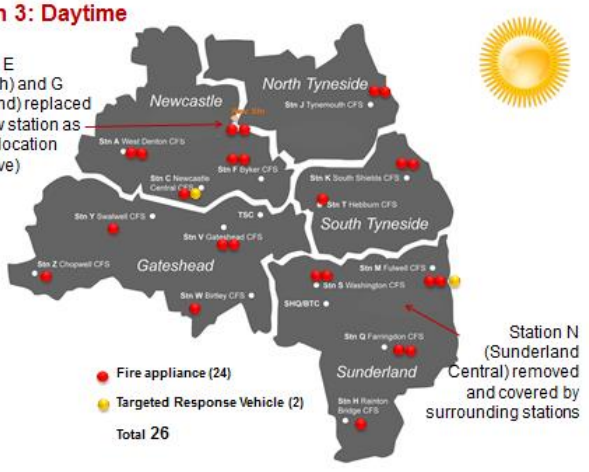


Option 2 summary

Station	District	Status Quo 24/7/365	Proposal TWO Day	Evening	Night
West Denton - Alpha	NEWCASTLE	●●	●●	●●	●
Newcastle Central - Charlie		●●	●●	●●	●●
Gosforth - Echo		●●			
Byker - Foxtrot		●●	●●	●●	●●
NEW STATION			●●	●●●	●●
Wallsend - Golf	North Tyneside	●●			
Tynemouth - Juliet		●●	●●	●●	●●
South Shields - Kilo	South Tyneside	●●	●●	●●	●●
Hebburn – Tango		●●	●	●◐	●
Fulwell/Marley Park – Mike	Sunderland	●	●	●	●
Sunderland Central – November		●●	●◐	●◐	●◐
Farringdon - Quebec		●●	●●	●●	●●
Rainton Bridge – Hotel		●	●	●	●
Washington – Sierra		●●	●●	●	●
Gateshead – Victor	Gateshead	●●	●●	●●	●●
Birtley – Whiskey		●	●	●	●
Swalwell – Yankee		●●	●	●	●
Chopwell - Zulu		● retained		● retained	

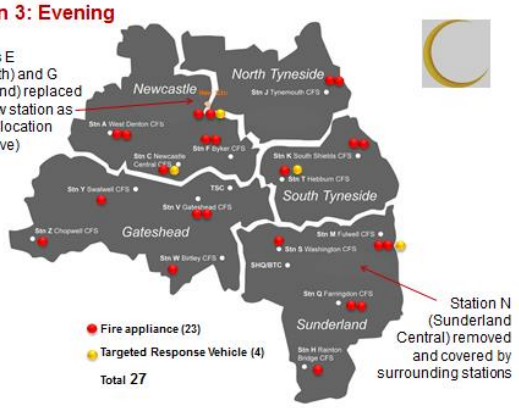
Option 3: Daytime

Stations E (Gosforth) and G (Wallsend) replaced with new station as shown (location illustrative)



Option 3: Evening

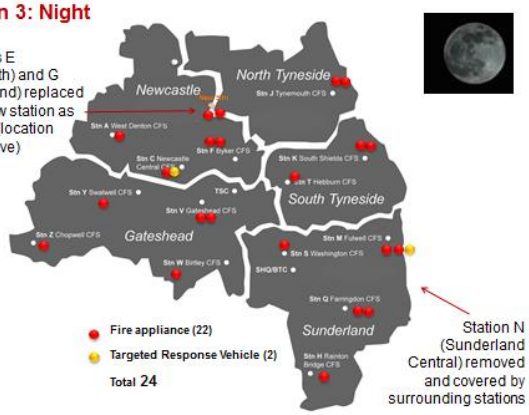
Stations E (Gosforth) and G (Wallsend) replaced with new station as shown (location illustrative)



Station N (Sunderland Central) removed and covered by surrounding stations

Option 3: Night

Stations E (Gosforth) and G (Wallsend) replaced with new station as shown (location illustrative)

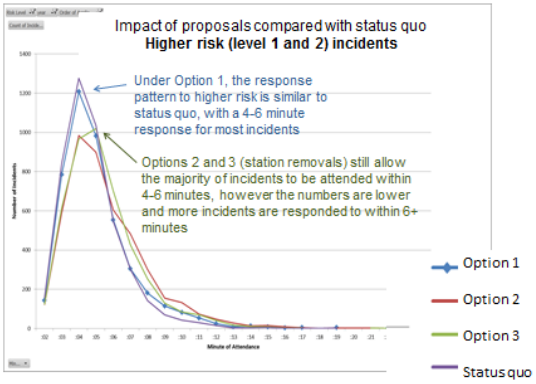


Station N (Sunderland Central) removed and covered by surrounding stations

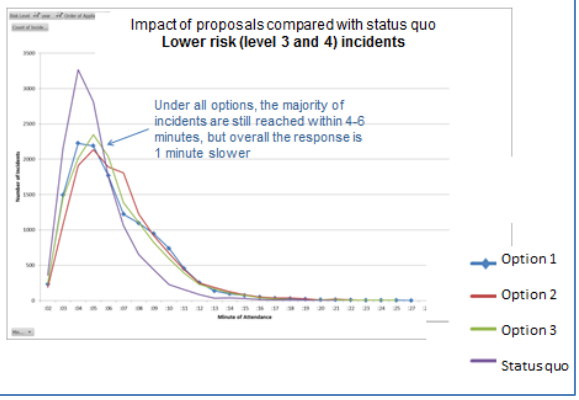
Option 3 summary

Station	District	Status Quo 24/7/365	Proposal THREE Day	Evening	Night
West Denton - Alpha	NEWCASTLE	●●	●●	●●	●
Newcastle Central - Charlie		●●	●●	●●	●●
Gosforth - Echo		●●			
Byker - Foxtrot		●●	●●	●●	●●
NEW STATION			●●	●●●	●●
Wallsend - Golf	North Tyneside	●●			
Tynemouth - Juliet		●●	●●	●●	●●
South Shields - Kilo	South Tyneside	●●	●●	●●	●●
Hebburn – Tango		●●	●	●	●
Fulwell/Marley Park – Mike	Sunderland	●	●●●	●●●	●●●
Sunderland Central – November		●●			
Farringdon - Quebec		●●	●●	●●	●●
Rainton Bridge – Hotel		●	●	●	●
Washington – Sierra		●●	●●	●	●
Gateshead – Victor	Gateshead	●●	●●	●●	●●
Birtley – Whiskey		●	●	●	●
Swalwell – Yankee		●●	●●	●	●
Chopwell - Zulu		● retained	● retained		

Overall impact- higher risk incidents



Overall impact- lower risk incidents



Overall impact- 2nd Appliance

- 59% of incidents had one main pumping appliance in attendance
- Existing average response times for the 2nd appliance varies between 1 to 3 minutes after the 1st attendance depending upon station area
- New response strategy required to minimise the impact of the cuts
- Less AFA's attended by TWFRS and by main pumping appliances
- Implement the use of TRV appliance to maximise the availability of main pumping appliances
- Rationalise standby procedure to maximise speed of response
- Introduce AVLS (including pre alerting) to mobilise the nearest appliance at all times, this will improve the average speed of response
- Increase availability of all Cat 02 by changing relevant internal procedures (off site Training, stand by, etc)
- Phased implementation to monitor impact

Finally

- The Options for change are complex and will be supported by many internal procedures and policies
- All of the options have been designed to minimise the impact of the cuts on Community and Firefighter safety
- Any future change will be implemented and continuously monitored over a 3 year period to minimise risk

How to feed back

Public consultation will run to 1st January 2014

These meetings are part of the consultation

Individual feedback can be given via:
- the questionnaires available today
- Email to consultation@twfire.gov.uk
- Answering the questions online at www.twfire.gov.uk

What do you think about these options ?

Appendix E: Media coverage

The launch of the consultation period included a press briefing following which there was extensive media coverage of the proposals. Press releases were also issued to publicise public meetings and encourage responses to the consultation questionnaire; paid for advertisements were also placed in local media.

Media coverage is listed below

Coverage of proposals

23/10/13	Sky website and TV coverage of cuts/proposals
23/10/13	Northern Echo article on cuts/ proposals
23/10/13	Coverage on Sun FM, ITV, Chronicle Live, Journal, metro Radio, BBC, Tyne Tees
24/10/13	Journal article
24/10/13	Evening Chronicle article
24/10/13	Sunderland Echo article
24/101/3	Shields gazette article
25/10/13	Metro Radio website – website details for information (initial press release)
25/10/13	Evening Chronicle detailed article on proposals and how to feed back
25/10/13	Journal article on proposals
26/10/13	Article in Shields Gazette with website address for information on the consultation process

Coverage of public meetings

8/11/13	Article in Evening Chronicle saying public meetings have been organised with the details on the website and giving the website address.
8/11/13	Advert in the Evening Chronicle advertising both Gateshead meetings
8/11/13	Article in Sunderland Echo with website details and giving details on how to take part in the consultation
11/11/13	Article in Sunderland Echo with dates and times of both public meetings and the website
14/11/13	Advert in Sunderland Echo on 14 November with details of both Sunderland events
14/11/13	Advert in News Guardian promoting both North Tyneside meetings
14/11/13	Advert in Evening Chronicle to promote Whitley Bay meeting
16/11/13	Sunderland Echo – article promoting the Sunderland public meetings
19/11/13	BBC Radio Newcastle (two pieces on Drive Time) ahead of Sunderland meeting encouraging people to attend a meeting, to take part in the consultation and gave out website address.
19/11/13	Sunderland Echo article- incorrect start time given – TWFRS notified Sunderland Echo and they removed the online version
19/11/13	TWFRS press release with South Tyneside dates issued to South Tyneside media
20/11/13	Article in Sunderland Echo covering the public meeting on 19 November, promoting the

	public meeting on 25 November and giving details on how to take part in the consultation
21/11/13	Press advert to appear in Shields Gazette advertising both public meetings
21/11/13	Advert in Evening Chronicle to promote the Wallsend meeting and Kingston Park meeting
28/11/13	Advert in the Evening Chronicle promoting the Newcastle City Centre public meeting

Cost of press adverts

Date of advert	**Which meetings promoted**	**Newspaper**	**Cost**
8 November	Blaydon & Gateshead	Evening Chronicle	£600
14 November	Wallsend & Whitley Bay	News Guardian	£492
14 November	Sunderland x 2	Sunderland Echo	£1,162.40
14 November	Whitley Bay	Evening Chronicle	£600
21 November	Kingston Park & Wallsend	Evening Chronicle	£600
21 November	South Shields and Jarrow	Shields Gazette	£450.80
28 November	Brunswick	Evening Chronicle	£600
Total			**£4,502.2**

Appendix F: Social media coverage

Facebook

Date	Post	Number of people who saw post	Likes
14/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Quayside Exchange Sunderland on Tue 19 Nov from 6 -7.30pm bit.ly/1bV4yM6	718	
19/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Quayside Exchange Sunderland on Tue 19 Nov from 6 -7.30pm bit.ly/1bV4yM6	812	
19/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Wallsend Town Hall on Tue 26 Nov 6-7.30pm bit.ly/1bV4yM6	770	1
19/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us today at the Quayside Exchange Sunderland 6 -7.30pm bit.ly/1bV4yM6 @sunderlanduk	673	
20/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Kingston Park Community Centre on Mon 25 Nov from 6-7.30pm bit.ly/1bV4yM6	54	
20/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Place, Sunderland on Mon 25 Nov from 10 – 11.30am bit.ly/1bV4yM6	153	
21/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Wallsend Town Hall on Tue 26 Nov 6-7.30pm bit.ly/1bV4yM6	686	1
22/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Kingston Park Community Centre on Mon 25 Nov from 6-7.30pm bit.ly/1bV4yM6	594	
22/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Place, Sunderland on Mon 25 Nov from 10 – 11.30am bit.ly/1bV4yM6	597	
23/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Place, Sunderland on Mon 25 Nov from 10 – 11.30am bit.ly/1bV4yM6	555	1
23/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Kingston Park Community Centre on Mon 25 Nov from 6-7.30pm bit.ly/1bV4yM6	529	
23/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Wallsend Town Hall on Tue 26 Nov 6-7.30pm bit.ly/1bV4yM6	687	2
25/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us today at the Place, Sunderland 10 – 11.30am bit.ly/1bV4yM6	708	1
25/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Jarrow Community Centre on Mon Dec 2 from 6-7.30pm bit.ly/1bV4yM6	669	1
25/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us today at Kingston Park Community Centre from 6-7.30pm bit.ly/1bV4yM6	591	
25/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Central Library South Shields on Tue 26 Nov from 10 -11.30am bit.ly/1bV4yM6	80	
25/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Wallsend Town Hall on Tue 26 Nov 6-7.30pm bit.ly/1bV4yM6	235	1
26/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us today at the Central Library South Shields from 10 -11.30am bit.ly/1bV4yM6	130	1
26/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Brunswick Methodist Church on Thurs 5 Dec from 10-11.30am bit.ly/1bV4yM6	153	2

Date	Post	Number of people who saw post	Likes
26/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us today at Wallsend Town Hall from 6-7.30pm bit.ly/1bV4yM6	151	
27/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Jarrow Community Centre on Mon Dec 2 from 6-7.30pm bit.ly/1bV4yM6	168	1
28/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Brunswick Methodist Church on Thurs 5 Dec from 10-11.30am bit.ly/1bV4yM6	73	1
29/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Jarrow Community Centre on Mon Dec 2 from 6-7.30pm bit.ly/1bV4yM6	105	
30/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Brunswick Methodist Church on Thurs 5 Dec from 10-11.30am bit.ly/1bV4yM6	161	
30/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Jarrow Community Centre on Mon Dec 2 from 6-7.30pm bit.ly/1bV4yM6	14	
02/12/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us today at Jarrow Community Centre 6-7.30pm bit.ly/1bV4yM6	128	
03/12/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Brunswick Methodist Church on Thurs 5 Dec from 10-11.30am bit.ly/1bV4yM6	78	1
05/12/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us today at the Brunswick Methodist Church from 10-11.30am bit.ly/1bV4yM6	82	
Totals		**10,354**	

Twitter

Date	Tweet	Retweets
24/10/13	Have your say on the proposed changes to our Service. No decision has yet been made and your views really do count. http://www.twfire.gov.uk/contact/consultation/have-your-say/ …	3
25/10/13	Have your say on the proposed changes to our Service. RT to tell your followers where they can have their say too. http://www.twfire.gov.uk/contact/consultation/have-your-say/ …	8
6/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes, join us at Blaydon Youth & Community Centre on Tues 12 Nov 6-7.30pm http:// http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	1
8/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Gateshead Leisure Centre on Friday 15 Nov 10 -11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	1
9/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Blaydon Youth & Community Centre on Tues 12 Nov 6-7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	1
11/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Gateshead Leisure Centre on Friday 15 Nov 10 -11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	1
11/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Blaydon Youth & Community Centre on Tues 12 Nov 6-7.30pm http:// http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	2
12/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Whitley Bay Library on Tues 19 Nov from 10-11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	
12/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Quayside Exchange Sunderland on Tue 19 Nov from 6 -7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	
12/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us tonight at Blaydon Youth	4

Date	Tweet	Retweets
	& Community Centre 6-7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	
13/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Gateshead Leisure Centre on Friday 15 Nov 10 -11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	2
14/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Quayside Exchange Sunderland on Tue 19 Nov from 6 -7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	
14/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Whitley Bay Library on Tues 19 Nov from 10-11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	4
15/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us today at Gateshead Leisure Centre at 10 -11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	1
16/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Whitley Bay Library on Tues 19 Nov from 10-11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	3
16/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Quayside Exchange Sunderland on Tue 19 Nov from 6 -7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	
18/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Kingston Park Community Centre on Mon 25 Nov from 6-7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	2
18/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Place, Sunderland on Mon 25 Nov from 10 – 11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	
18/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Quayside Exchange Sunderland on Tue 19 Nov from 6 -7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	2
18/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Whitley Bay Library on Tues 19 Nov from 10-11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	1
19/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Central Library South Shields on Tues 26 Nov from 10 -11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	1
19/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us today at Whitley Bay Library from 10-11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	1
19/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Wallsend Town Hall on Tue 26 Nov 6-7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	3
19/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us today at the Quayside Exchange Sunderland 6 -7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6 @sunderlanduk	2
20/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Place, Sunderland on Mon 25 Nov from 10 – 11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	3
20/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Kingston Park Community Centre on Mon 25 Nov from 6-7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	1
21/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Central Library South Shields on Tue 26 Nov from 10 -11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	
21/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Wallsend Town Hall on Tue 26 Nov 6-7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	1
22/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Place, Sunderland on Mon 25 Nov from 10 – 11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	
22/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Kingston Park Community Centre on Mon 25 Nov from 6-7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	
23/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Central Library South Shields on Tue 26 Nov from 10 -11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	1
23/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Wallsend Town Hall on Tue 26 Nov 6-7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	3
23/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Place, Sunderland	1

Date	Tweet	Retweets
	on Mon 25 Nov from 10 – 11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	
23/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Kingston Park Community Centre on Mon 25 Nov from 6-7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	3
25/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us today at the Place, Sunderland from 10 – 11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	
25/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Jarrow Community Centre on Mon Dec 2 from 6-7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	
25/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us today at Kingston Park Community Centre from 6-7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	1
25/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Central Library South Shields on Tue 26 Nov from 10 -11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	1
25/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Wallsend Town Hall on Tue 26 Nov 6-7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	1
26/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us today at the Central Library South Shields from 10 -11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	3
26/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us today at Wallsend Town Hall from 6-7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	
26/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Brunswick Methodist Church on Thurs 5 Dec from 10-11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	
27/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Jarrow Community Centre on Mon Dec 2 from 6-7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	
29/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Jarrow Community Centre on Mon Dec 2 from 6-7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	
30/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at Jarrow Community Centre on Mon Dec 2 from 6-7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	
30/11/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Brunswick Methodist Church on Thurs 5 Dec from 10-11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	
02/12/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us today at Jarrow Community Centre from 6-7.30pm http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	2
03/12/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us at the Brunswick Methodist Church on Thurs 5 Dec from 10-11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	
05/12/13	Have your say on our proposed changes join us today at the Brunswick Methodist Church from 10-11.30am http://bit.ly/1bV4yM6	
Totals		42

Appendix G: Publicity materials distribution

This section details communication methods other than media and social media

Each District Manager has been given:

- 200 A4 posters
- 300 A5 flyers to distribute to key locations in their district

NHS England sent copies of articles specific to each district to include in bulletins for GPs.

North Tyneside

25 A4 posters each to: North Tyneside Council. Posters distributed to libraries, customer centres and Cabinet members.

The Council also shared the information with residents at Community Conversation Meetings and the Mayor's listening sessions as below. At the Wallsend meeting on 19/11/13 the Chair drew everyone's attend to the consultation event, encouraging them to go along to the open event and give their views.

Ward	Date	Times	Venue
Valley	30/10/2013	6:00 - 8:00pm	Backworth Miners Hall, Backworth, NE27 0AH
Howdon	31/10/2013	6-8pm	Howdon community centre
Benton	07/11/2013	6:00pm - 8:00pm	Ivy Road Primary School
Chirton	13/11/2013	2pm - 3.30pm	St Peters Community Hall next to St Peters Church.
Whitley Bay	14/11/2013	6:00pm- 8:00pm	Whitley Bay CF Centre
Wallsend	19/11/2013	6:00 - 8:00pm	Room 6, Wallsend Town Hall
Battle Hill	20/11/2013	4:00pm- 5:30pm	Church of the Good Shepherd
Weetslade	20/11/2013	6:00pm - 8:00pm	John Willie Sams Centre
Camperdown	21/11/2013	6:00pm - 8:00pm	Burradon Primary School

Ward	Date	Times	Venue
Northumberland	26/11/2013	6:00 - 8:00 pm	Jubilee School, Mullen Road, Wallsend
Longbenton	27/11/2013	7:00 - 8:00pm	Oxford Centre, Longbenton
Monkseaton South	30/11/2013	11am-12.30pm	Crawford Park Bowling Pavilion
Tynemouth	04/12/2013	6.00 - 8.00 pm	Youth Village, North Shields
St Mary's	05/12/2013	7:30 - 8.30pm	Earsdon and Wellfield Cty Centre
Riverside	05/12/2013	2.30 - 4pm	North Shields Customer Services Centre
Killingworth	09/12/2013	4:30pm - 6:30pm	White Swan Centre
Monkseaton North	10/12/2013	6:00 - 7:00 pm	St Johns Methodist Church Hall, Ilfracombe Gardens
Collingwood	10/12/2013	6.30pm - 7.30pm	St Aidans Church hall tbc
Cullercoats	12/12/2013	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Marden High School
Preston	02/12/2013	6:00 - 8:00 pm	Tynemouth Blind welfare / Prearey House

The Council also included:

- The press release in their staff newsletter round up on 11 November 2013
- An article in the members briefing on 11 November 2013
- Placed the press release on the website on 7 November

Gateshead

25 A4 posters to Communications Department, Gateshead Council

The following also sent to Gateshead Council at their request:

- Newsletter article – for use in staff newsletter/intranet or members briefings
- Advert for the plasma screens
- A4 designed poster for community centres etc.

10 A4 posters to Communications Officer, Queen Elizabeth Hospital to display around the hospital

Sunderland

2 A4 posters each to:

Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, Burdon Road, Sunderland

City library and Arts Centre, Fawcett Street, Sunderland and to:

Gentoo	1 Emperor Way	Doxford International Business Park	Sunderland
Age Concern Sunderland	Bradbury Centre	Stockton Road	Sunderland
Hendon Library	Toward Road, Hendon		Sunderland
Grangetown CA	Stannington Grove	Grangetown	Sunderland
Deptford and Millfield CA	Havelock Buildings	270 Hylton Road	
Doxford Park Community Association	Mill Hill Road	Doxford Park	
East CA	Moore Terrace		Sunderland
Ryhope CA	Ryhope Street		Sunderland

Newsletter article sent to Sunderland council for use in staff newsletter/intranet or members briefings

South Tyneside

The following also sent to South Tyneside Council:

- Newsletter article – for use in staff newsletter/intranet or members briefings
- Advert for the plasma screens
- A4 designed poster for community centres etc.

Newcastle

The following also sent to Newcastle Council:

- Newsletter article – for use in staff newsletter/intranet or members briefings
- Advert for the plasma screens for the Council's five customer service centres.
- A4 designed poster for distribution in community centres etc.
- Article in the Council's staff bulletin which goes to 4,500 employees

Appendix H: FBU response

Fire Brigades Union

Tyne and Wear.

Formal response to Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service IRMP 2014 – 2017

'Proposed changes to our operational response model'

Introduction.

The primary concerns of the Fire Brigades Union when responding to a service Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) is the protection of the public, FBU members, residents and visitors alike, the protection of their homes, businesses, environment and infrastructure.

FBU members within Tyne and Wear constantly strive to ensure their community is safe, to do so in a safe and appropriate manner they need to be provided with adequate and appropriate resources and expect the Fire Authority to provide them with such.

The FBU continues to recognise and support the benefits that can be gained from a well designed and truly integrated risk management plan, however it has been the formal position of the FBU since the inception of the IRMP process that a genuine risk management plan cannot take place against a background of year on year central Government imposed funding restrictions.

For that reason the FBU do not believe that the proposed IRMP is a genuine risk based document as the proposals are driven purely by financial consideration and not upon a pure assessment of risk, indeed the briefings given to employees, public and locally elected representatives during staff and public consultation have on occasion clearly indicated that the service will be slower in responding to incidents, which in our view significantly increases the risk to public and firefighter alike.

The proposed loss of 131 operational firefighters and 6 fire appliances would be catastrophic and the FBU believe the consequences for firefighters and the public will be extremely dangerous and question the rationale used for these proposed cuts, the FBU fully accept that the service is under previously unknown financial pressure due to the extremely hostile stance taken by the Coalition Government against the public sector in general and the Fire Service specifically, however we view these proposals with alarm and a degree of astonishment that such proposals would be considered at a time when the Fire Authority are sitting on an exceptional level of balances and reserves.

The FBU are extremely concerned that the information provided to staff and public during the consultation process is so lacking in clarity or detail that FBU members and the public will find it difficult to have a clear understanding of the possible implications to the service or for employees to their existing working arrangements.

After careful consideration our conclusion is that TWFRS continue to utilise the IRMP process as a budget reduction tool rather than a legitimate or genuine attempt to assess the risk contained within Tyne and Wear, in essence this is a Business plan and not a risk based document.

As a consequence the Fire Brigades Union cannot agree with the proposals contained within TWFRS IRMP 2013-17 and formally object to these proposals.

Proposed changes and consultation.

Previous years IRMP's have significantly reduced the front line response in terms of pumping appliances, special appliances and firefighter posts. This has been an incremental process over several years. However the FBU are unaware of any significant change to the risk profile that could justify a cut of 131 firefighter posts and the removal of 6 appliances as the service has not provided any such evidence in their proposals.

As stated in last years IRMP response it is the formal position of the Fire Brigades Union in Tyne and Wear that the service is currently operating at the minimum level necessary to respond to emergency incidents and safely bring those incidents to a conclusion. On this point it is worth noting that less than 10 years ago TWFRS would in normal circumstances have approximately 160 Firefighters on duty with 32 pumping appliances and 8 special appliances fully staffed and immediately available. These cuts will mean a reduction to 21 wholetime pumping appliances with only 88 firefighters on duty at night with some of these 88 firefighters also expected to dual staff special appliances meaning that they will not be immediately available. That is a reduction of almost 50% in firefighter posts, cuts of this level are not sustainable or safe.

A major problem faced by the FBU when responding to recent IRMP documents or action points arising from such is the lack of detail provided by TWFRS for both staff and public consultation.

This year's proposals appear to be more detailed however that is not the case.

While providing detail as to which appliances and stations are under threat and also clearly stating the number of firefighter posts to go, no detail is provided as to how the changes would be managed or implemented.

Much is made of 'new technology', yet there is no detail or evidence to support this proposal, it is merely a headline or bullet point on a power point presentation.

It appears to FBU members that the proposals would involve a change to the existing duty / watch system as all options involve 3 periods of duty, currently TWFRS operate a day / night duty system incompatible with the proposals.

When this matter has been raised during the consultation no manager has been able or willing to explain how the cuts will be implemented and whether a change of duty system is planned. As a staffing review was also an action point from last years IRMP we believe it unacceptable that management are unwilling or unable to inform their employees how these cuts will impact them, we also believe that it is incorrect that the public are being consulted on matters that may have a contractual impact upon FBU members.

No information has been provided to FBU members regarding future training arrangements or how the service would provide cover to all station areas should there only be 21 wholetime

pumping appliances available as it would only take a period of relative activity for there to be more station areas than available appliances, this is not a situation the service have faced in anything other than exceptional circumstances, this would become a regular occurrence and is not addressed at all in the current IRMP proposals.

Currently it is not uncommon for 6 appliances or more to be out of their station area for training purposes, it is difficult to see how that could occur if these proposals are imposed.

Over the past 3 years 2,591 stand bys have taken place to enable crews to undertake risk critical training and 20,364 stand bys to cover for operational incidents, the loss of 6 / 8 pumping appliance will inevitably make such provision extremely difficult.

These major issues have not been addressed in either the staff or public consultation meetings, indeed the only information supplied were two bullet point on some of the public consultation meetings;

“Rationalise standby procedure to maximise speed of response “&

“Increase availability of all Cat 02 by changing relevant internal procedures (off site training, stand by, etc)”

These statements are so lacking in detail, clarity or information that it is impossible to understand what is meant by them, and this was for public information.

Staff briefings have been equally unclear as to how these changes would be implemented.

We will address the nature of the consultation later in the response as we believe it to have been meaningless and a cosmetic exercise.

<u>Speed of response.</u>

Much emphasis is given in the IRMP to the speed of response and how the service will largely maintain the current speed of response. This is misleading and gives the public a false sense of security as every firefighter knows speed of response is only half of the equation, the other is weight of response. In practical terms it does not matter how quickly the first appliance is in attendance if the appropriate weight of response ie/ the required number of appliances and firefighters is delayed.

It is inescapable that these proposals will lead to delays in 2nd appliance and additional resources reaching the incident. When that happens TWFRS will be placing an intolerable burden upon supervisory managers and operational crews.

TWFRS has a statutory obligation to respond to incidents in a safe and effective manner and to meet the wide range of incidents that are encountered. It is the professional opinion of the Fire Brigades Union that should these proposals be imposed then TWFRS will be placing their operational supervisory managers in an inexcusable position when they will be faced with a

moral dilemma of whether to tackle an incident without adequate resources or wait for the necessary number of appliances and firefighters to safely deal with the incident.

The concerns of FBU members have not been addressed by management during the consultation period, in fact their genuine professional concerns have gone unanswered as have their practical specific operational related questions with watch based managers left feeling exposed and lacking support from senior management.

It would appear that the Service is happy to place the entire responsibility for safely dealing with incidents upon the lowest level of management and this feeling has been reinforced by comments at staff briefings when operational staff were told that the "*service still expects them to operate safely most of the time"*, this is not acceptable and has alarmed firefighters.

Professional firefighters accept that there is an inherent risk in the job they do and are quite ready and willing to put themselves in harms way, that should not be taken for granted by senior managers or the Fire Authority and the loss of 131 jobs, 6 appliances,1 ALP and the reduction in staffing on appliances will have a direct impact upon their safety. That these concerns have gone unanswered is not acceptable and disappointing.

It is inappropriate and unsafe that these cuts are even being proposed as they would have a fundamental impact upon the way the service responds to incidents. It would be inexcusable for be these cuts put in place by a Fire Authority who have the option not to do so.

It is an inescapable conclusion that TWFRS will not be able to provide the same level of protection to the public of Tyne and Wear or to their staff they employ should the front line response be cut any further.

Newcastle and Gateshead ‘mini –squirt’ circa 1967.

This part of the response specifically focuses on the planned introduction of an appliance with a ‘limited’ capability by TWFRS and compliance with current legislation, existing operating procedures and working arrangements. As well as agreements that form contractual arrangements with employees who are represented by The Fire Brigades Union.

In simple terms these require TWFRS to deliver a service that is economic, efficient, appropriate, safe and fair.

As stated in the introduction the primary concerns of The Fire Brigades Union when responding to any service Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP)or action point resulting from such is the protection of the public within Tyne and Wear, residents and visitors alike, the protection of their homes, businesses and the environment as well as the improved safety of FBU members.

For that reason we view with alarm the proposed introduction of Targeted response vehicles (TRV’s) into TWFRS.

As can be seen by the image at the top of the page; there is no such thing as a new idea in the Fire Service, that TWFRS are actively proposing a similar type of appliance that was in service in

Newcastle and Gateshead in the late 1960's and were reported as 'the ill-fated mini fire engines' and only had an operational life span of 3 years is extremely disappointing.

That part of this proposal states "Taking account of new technology" makes this even more remarkable as no detail has been provided as to the 'new technologies'.

Role of TRV .

It was presumed that the primary role of the Targeted Response Vehicle would be to attend and deal with the majority of small and anti-social behaviour fires within the service area and assist in maintaining front line pumping appliances availability for the purpose of attending life threatening incidents. Indeed that is the terminology used in the IRMP itself.

However contained within the proposals is Appendix B. This attempts to classify the type of incident that the TRV's would attend - Risk level 3 & 4. Within the list of incidents classed as 'Minimal life or some life risk' are some that it would be entirely inappropriate to respond to with any type of reduced attendance or appliance with limited capability or capacity. Indeed current Standard operating procedures would need to be rewritten for incidents such as ;

Fires involving;

Barns, vehicles, derelict property, chimney, road furniture, railway embankment etc .

Hazardous material incidents, Lift rescues, Civil disturbances, Collapsed persons are also contained within levels 3 & 4.

What is particularly disappointing is that the IRMP clearly states such vehicles would be staffed by a crew of 2, yet in the staff and public briefings it was stated they were crewed by a crew of 2-3. The FBU believe that has confused staff and the public and is just one example of the meaningless nature of the consultation.

In the IRMP TWFRS state that many other FRS's use such vehicles, indeed that is the case, however many FRS's are now moving away from these type of vehicles as they are not viewed as value for money, safe or efficient.

The above list is not a complete list of the incidents listed in the IRMP, we have selected some incidents that it is proposed a TRV would deal with, all of those listed above currently receive a pre- determined attendance of at least 4 firefighters with many requiring a 2 appliance attendance with 8 firefighters. This has been determined after a thoroughly researched risk assessment process and a quality assurance process and years of operational experience.

Incidents require a speed and weight of response appropriate to the risk that would enable firefighters to safely deal with incidents, the service have over many years established safe systems of work and these are firmly enshrined in our 'Standard operating procedures' (SOP's), All

of the type of incidents listed above currently have a SOP designed to limit risk and assist firefighters safely deal with the incident, it is unclear how the service expect to change all relevant

SOP's in order to encompass the role of TRV's as management has been either unwilling or unable to explain this.

This is contrary to the current operational assurance process and unacceptable.

Newcastle Gateshead Mini- squirt circa 1967.

In all options TRV's are at differing locations with some only at a location for the 'middle shift' this has led FBU members to believe that a change of duty system is inevitable, such a change would have to be a matter of negotiation as it is a contractual matter. This is inextricably linked to how the cuts would be implemented and yet management have not discussed this matter and have not been able or willing to inform employees of the authority how this would be put in place or managed, this is not acceptable.

As previously stated the idea of a 'smaller' fire appliance is not new, indeed Tyne and Wear had a brief flirtation with 'Rapid deployment vehicles' approximately 20 years ago, again the value of such appliances was limited and was not a success and they were removed from the service after a short time. It appears that TWFRS are intent on making the same mistake yet again.

A major concern for the FBU is that one of the major uses of a TRV would be to deal with car fires, for the avoidance of doubt a crew of 2 cannot deal with a car fire, to do so would be counter to all current national procedures regarding the use of breathing apparatus. That the service are proposing such a use for the TRV is frankly staggering and goes to the heart of the FBU's concern and anger at these proposals. When these concerns have been raised by firefighters to senior managers there has been no satisfactory response, the FBU view that as unacceptable.

The issue of new technologies associated with this type of limited vehicle is unknown and it is extremely concerning that FBU members, the public and the Fire Authority are being asked to reach a conclusion without the most basic of information being available.

The number and type of incidents they will be expected to deal with places the unit within the scope of TWFRS statutory duties contained within the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 namely;

Part 2: Functions of Fire and Rescue Authorities Core Functions.

7 Fire-fighting

(1) A fire and rescue authority must make provision for the purpose of-
(a) extinguishing fires in its area, and

(b) protecting life and property in the event of fires in its area.

(2) In making provision under subsection (1) a fire and rescue authority must in particular-

a) secure the provision of the personnel, services and equipment necessary efficiently to meet all normal requirements;

(b) secure the provision of training for personnel;

(c) make arrangements for dealing with calls for help and for summoning personnel;

(d) make arrangements for obtaining information needed for the purpose mentioned in subsection (1);

(e) make arrangements for ensuring that reasonable steps are taken to prevent or limit damage to property resulting from action taken for the purpose mentioned in subsection (1).

Part 5 Water Supply

38 Duty to secure water supply etc

(1) A fire and rescue authority must take all reasonable measures for securing that an adequate supply of water will be available for the authority's use in the event of fire.

Also a TWFRS statutory duty contained within the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. Namely;

Part 2: Functions of Fire and Rescue Authorities Core Functions

Section 8 Road traffic accidents

(1) A fire and rescue authority must make provision for the purpose of-

(a) rescuing people in the event of road traffic accidents in its area;

(b) protecting people from serious harm, to the extent that it considers it reasonable to do so, in the event of road traffic accidents in its area

(2) In making provision under subsection (1) a fire and rescue authority must in particular;

(a) secure the provision of the personnel, services and equipment necessary efficiently to meet all normal requirements;

(b) secure the provision of training for personnel;

(c) make arrangements for dealing with calls for help and for summoning personnel;

(d) make arrangements for obtaining information needed for the purpose mentioned in subsection (1);

(e) make arrangements for ensuring that reasonable steps are taken to prevent or limit damage to property resulting from action taken for the purpose mentioned in subsection (1).

The FBU are particularly concerned that these cuts will mean that TWFRS will be unable to train its firefighters in the effective manner it currently does, failure to do so may mean TWFRS are in breach of the above act. The matter of training is crucial and we will address this in more detail later in the response as this is of fundamental importance to the FBU as it is directly related to firefighter safety and has not been addressed during the consultation period.

Flexibility of day and night time cover.

The above proposal suggests that there is a reduced risk at night however in the past 3 years between the hours 2100 and 0900 hrs TWFRS has attended 2,812 primary fires of which 1224 required the use of Breathing apparatus and resulted in 864 rescues.

The FBU believe this clearly demonstrates the level of risk at night and the danger of a reduction in night time cover and formally opposes this proposal as we view it as unsafe and unnecessary.

Impact of 131 firefighting jobs lost, loss of 6 / 8 appliances and station closures.

It is an inescapable conclusion that should these cuts be imposed there will be delays in appliances reaching incidents, this will lead to greater risk to the public, firefighters and the infrastructure of Tyne and Wear, this is an obvious conclusion should 6 or 8 appliances be removed as travel distances will increase. As an example, under all of the options Swalwell will lose an appliance and would be left with 1 appliance crewed by 4 firefighters. There has been 2 incidents recently one in Crawcrook and another in Highfield which was persons reported. Had Swalwell lost its 2nd appliance the 1st appliance with a crew of 4 would have waited 10 minutes for the arrival of the appliance travelling from Gateshead. This would have placed the crew in an intolerable position.

When challenged upon operational matters such as this management have deflected the argument or failed to respond, should these cuts be imposed firefighters will have to fundamentally change the way they deal with incidents from a largely offensive technique to a much more defensive posture.

To do otherwise would be to place themselves in danger, this increases the risk to the public and property within Tyne and Wear.

As a further example of the risk of these proposals, currently Newcastle Airport expect to receive 5 pumping appliances for a full emergency, should these cuts be imposed then the ability of TWFRS

to supply the required 5 pumps could be in doubt and could mean that Newcastle, North Tyneside and even Gateshead would be left with little or no firecover.

It is vital to note that under all options 131 firefighters, 6 fire appliances, 1 ALP will be lost with reduced staffing to 4 on all appliances, the only differences are the closure of the 3 Fire stations.

The FBU are concerned that individuals may view option 1 as acceptable as it does not include any station closures, for the avoidance of doubt the FBU view option 1 as unacceptable as options 2 & 3, and we will not accept such cuts as there is a clear and obvious solution.

There does not appear to be any evidence to support the station closures or which appliances would be removed indeed Sunderland central is the 3rd busiest station and Gosforth has the largest station area in Tyne and Wear.

The FBU formally oppose any station closure as we believe they are integral parts of the community and their closure will result in reduced levels of fire cover and increased travel times, often at peak traffic periods, thereby increasing the risk to public and firefighters, it would also leave Sunderland city centre without a fire engine for the first time since 1908.

Should these cuts be imposed it could impact upon an individuals ability to survive or make a recovery from any injuries as any delay in the required resources reaching an incident will have a negative impact as medical emergency teams work to the ‘Golden Hour’ and the latest reports for CBRN response recommend that decontamination of casualties must take place within 15 minutes of contamination. Therefore a prompt, adequate and appropriate response is vital to the chances of casualties survival.

The formulas for calculating the impact of response times are well established, when fire engineers work out fire safety solutions for buildings, they commonly assume that a fire’s rate of growth can be slow, medium, fast or even ultra fast, but that in either case it’s size increases in proportion to “time squared”. They call these fires “t squared fires” and a medium and a fast “t squared” fire. Strictly speaking, there is no reason why a fire should really double in size every minute.

This briefly examines the findings of four reports;

National Risk assessment of Dwellings 1996

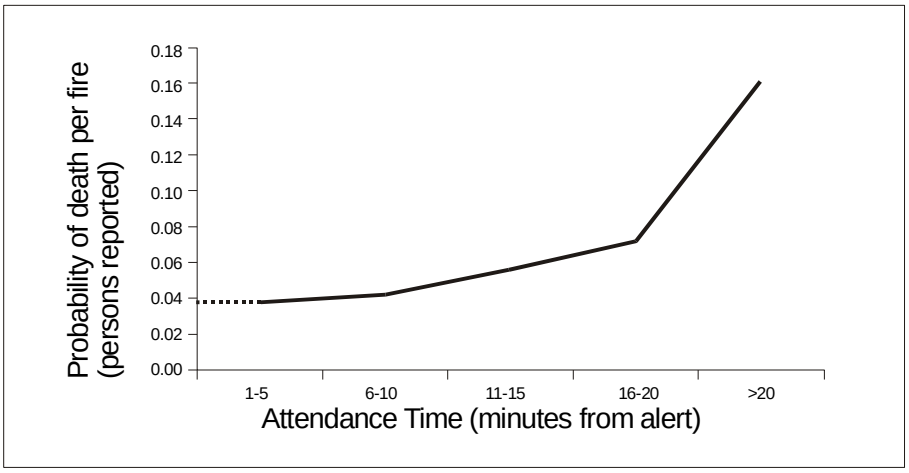
Response time fatality rate relationship for dwelling fires 1999

Fire Research Series 1/2009 Review of Fire and Rescue Service response times:,

Fire Research Report 3-2010 Update of response time loss relationships for the Fire service Emergency Cover toolkit

Supporting Evidence from ENTEC;

ENTEC Reports 1996 & 1999: *National Risk Assessment of Dwellings*' & '*Response Time Fatality Relationships for Dwelling Fires* indicated that the probability of fire death was linked to attendance time of fire appliances. If appliances could attend in less than 5 minutes, the probability of death was 3.8 per hundred fires. If appliances took 6 to 10 minutes to attend a fire, the probability of death was 4.2 per hundred fires (See below).



ENTEC Reports relationships for fire death linked to attendance time of fire appliances

ABOVE 5 MINUTES ANY INCREASE IN ATTENDANCE TIME MEANS AN INCREASE IN DEATHS.

THE PROBABILITY OF FIRE DEATH

When the ENTEC work was undertaken, the old national standards of fire cover were in force. The report considered the risk areas A to D and Remote Rural and calculated the effects of *increasing* average response times by 5 minutes and *decreasing* average response times by 5 minutes in each risk area. The results were:

- *there would be a 20% increase in the number of fire related deaths per annum, 115 additional deaths, with a 5 minute increase (slower) in attendance time nationwide,*
- *there would be 7% decrease in the number of fire related deaths nation-wide per annum, 39 lives saved, with a 5 minute reduction (faster) in attendance times*

Supporting Evidence from Greenstreet Berman/CLG

The idea that increased attendance times results in more death, injury and damage was confirmed by the 2009 Greenstreet Berman/CLG report *Review of Fire and Rescue Service response times: Fire Research Series 1/2009*.

While the FBU disputes the conclusion of the Greenstreet Berman/CLG report that increased attendance times are a result of traffic congestion, we are prepared to believe the calculation that increased response times may contribute to about:

- 13 additional fatalities in dwelling and other building fires each year;
- Possibly 65 additional deaths in Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs); and
- An £85m increase in Other Buildings fire damage.

It is worthy of note that the Insurance Industry itself has seen a much larger real terms rise in insured losses, saying that "the number of fires has been falling, but the cost of these has been increasing: the average cost of fire claims more than doubled between 2002 and 2008."[14]

[14] Tackling Fire: A Call For Action: December 2009: Association Of British Insurers

A further and more comprehensive report *Fire Research Report 3-2010 Update of response time loss relationships for the Fire service Emergency Cover toolkit* was produced and published. This sets outs research that had led to an update of response time-loss relationships used in the FSEC Toolkit. The FBU does not accept the linear model used to estimate fire damage and favours the time-squared formulas used by fire engineers. However, and even with this caveat, *FRR 2-2010 shows that the costs of emergencies increase in proportion to the* speed and weight *of response of FRS.*

It is interesting to note that the Greenstreet Berman/CLG conclusion was that one minute of additional attendance time has resulted in 13 extra deaths, while the ENTEC conclusion was that 5 minutes of additional attendance time would result in 115 extra deaths.

If an extra one minute causes 13 extra deaths, it might be thought that an extra 5 minutes should cause 65 extra deaths. So the two pieces of research contradict one another.

But remember that fires increase in size at an ever increasing rate. The first extra minute of attendance time might cause an extra 13 deaths, but the next extra minute of attendance time might cause an extra 17 deaths, and so on.

It is clear that TWFRS have failed to take appropriate account of speed and weight of response in their IRMP.

It is the professional opinion of the Fire Brigades Union that injuries, deaths and financial losses will increase in Tyne and Wear should these proposals become a reality. This position is underlined by the evidence provided by the service within the IRMP.

Fire and Rescue service.

It is a matter of immense disappointment that the entire thrust of these proposals is based upon fires. TWFRS is a Fire and Rescue Service this appears to have been forgotten.

The impact of these cuts will have a devastating impact upon the services ability to respond safely to fires but also to rescues, whether road traffic, rope rescue, water rescue, building collapse or any manner of the rescues the service performs.

The rationale or justification behind the cuts is the reduction in fires over the last 10 years, however the number of special services has remained largely unchanged from 2210 in 2002/03 to 2212 in 2012/13.

These proposals will have a massive impact upon all stations and firefighters but certain stations will be particularly hit.

Currently Hebburn is the pre-eminent rescue station with a significant level of skills particular to that station, under all options they will go to a one appliance station with a TRV there at certain times. They will be unable to train and maintain their skill sets under the proposed changes therefore those skills will have to be transferred to another station, this has led to a massive drop in morale as the firefighters there are proud of the service they give the public of Tyne and Wear.

Another station to highlight is Swalwell, currently it has the High Volume Pump which was purchased to deal with large fires and can also be used in major flooding incidents, under all options Swalwell will have a crew of 4 on duty, that is not enough to train or operate the pump, as it requires a trained crew of 5 to safely train and operate the pump. As a consequence that appliance will have to be relocated.

The services ability to respond safely and appropriately to any form of Chemical, biological, radiation or nuclear incident will be severly restricted as a consequence of these cuts, as previously stated decontamination is required to commence within 15 minutes and under current procedures approximately 43 operational firefighters and officers are required to undertake decontamination procedures, this will be exceptionally difficult with only 88 firefighters on duty, especially as 3 of the appliances crewed by firefighters trained for this type of incident are appliances that are due to be lost, one from Washington and 2 from Wallsend.

These points have been put to senior managers at staff and public meetings and on every occasion the answer has been that the service needs these proposals to be agreed before they can work out how to deal with these matters, that is not acceptable and has caused real anger and disappointment to firefighters across the service.

<u>Loss of an ALP.</u>

The FBU view with alarm the proposal to reduce the number of Aerial ladder platforms by a third, this action will clearly impact the ability of TWFRS to deal safely with incidents involving high buildings, particularly as it is often the case that such appliances are off the run or unavailable, a reduction of a third will place even greater pressure on the remaining Aerial ladder platforms.

The issue of where the remaining ALP's will be located is still not known, this question was raised several times during the staff consultation meetings as was the more general issue of special

appliances and where these will be based if the cuts are imposed and how firefighters will be expected to train and maintain their specific skill sets. Senior managers were unable or unwilling to answer any of these concerns, again this is not acceptable and clearly indicates that these proposals are not based in evidence or thoroughly researched and are ill conceived and dangerous.

Reduction in staffing levels.

The above proposal would mean that all pumping appliances would be staffed with a crew of 4 even on stations with only 1 appliance. This will mean a fundamental change to the way TWFRS operates.

Currently all stations with 1 pumping appliance staff that appliance with a crew of 5, this is to enable the officer in charge to safely deal with an incident immediately upon arrival, to reduce this to a crew of 4 will mean that the officer in charge will have to make a judgement on whether the crew can deal safely with the incident or whether they need to wait for the appropriate resources. This places an intolerable pressure on the officer in charge.

This was raised on numerous occasions during the staff consultation both by firefighters and supervisory managers who may find themselves in that position and the response from senior managers was unacceptable. On more than one occasion there was a tacit agreement form senior

managers that they knew firefighters would “just get on with it”, that would lead to an intolerable risk to firefighters and leave the officer in charge of the incident exposed and vulnerable.

It is the responsibility of TWFRS to design safe systems of work for their employees such as Standard operating procedures, this reduction in crewing levels would mean that crews may be expected to work outside the current procedures ,that is not acceptable or safe.

The issue of training is critical and it would be directly impacted by the cuts and the reduction in staffing levels. It is difficult to understand how realistic training could be undertaken by a crew of 4, this is not adequate to carry out Breathing apparatus training in a meaningful manner as an example.

Realistic training and the ability to organise combined training will be extremely limited as the availability of stand by appliances will be restricted as TWFRS would no longer have sufficient capacity to enable a significant number of appliance movements and stand by’s. This will have a direct impact upon firefighter safety and is unacceptable.

Again when these issues have raised at staff meetings senior managers have been unable or unwilling to address or answer how training will be delivered should the cuts be imposed.

Consultation.

The nature and manner of the consultation has been extremely disappointing and in the view of the FBU a cosmetic exercise. The length of the consultation has also been disappointing and again in the view of the FBU not acceptable.

In previous years 12 weeks has been given for the public consultation in line with previous Government code of practice, that guidance has now been superseded by the New Principles of Consultation and is not as prescriptive however it does state “Timeframes for consultation should be proportionate and realistic to allow stakeholders sufficient time to provide a considered response”, it is extremely disappointing that TWFRS have reduced the timeframe for consultation to approximately 9 weeks, including the Christmas and New Year period, especially as this years IRMP contains the most fundamental changes to the service ever proposed.

It also appears that the service expended little resources in notifying the public of the consultation process or the implications should these cuts be imposed. The attendance at the public meetings was extremely poor with at least 2 of the meetings having no members of the public in attendance at all.

During the consultation period little or no information was displayed on Fire stations or even Service Headquarters. The only information available at SHQ was on the tv screen behind reception which had a slide that stated “Proposal to change they way we respond to incidents “, this language is so vague as to be pointless. The posters supplied to stations had an equally vague heading and were A3 size, not a size designed to attract attention.

The service website was also as unhelpful, it was extremely difficult to locate the online consultation form. There was no specific direction contained on the home page indeed the Blog from Spencer the dog was given greater prominence.

It also appears that little or no guidance was given to station administrators as the FBU are aware that many enquiries to stations regarding the consultation were often met with confusion.

It was stated in one of the public meetings that TWFRS had paid for an advert in the local press, one advert to inform the public of such proposals is clearly insufficient and does not offer the stakeholders a meaningful chance to influence the proposals.

It is the formal position of the FBU that the consultation process has not been appropriate or meaningful and was done by the service in such a manner as to limit the ability of the residents of Tyne and Wear to be aware of the proposals or influence the outcomes and we object strongly to the manner and timeframe of the consultation process.

Balances and reserves.

While the FBU understand and support the need for a financial reserve to cover for unseen eventualities and future planning we believe it is morally indefensible that TWFRS are proposing such devastating cuts to the front line service whilst the Authority posses balances and reserves at unprecedented levels.

The FBU are also confused as to the actual amount held in such balances. During the public meetings the figure of £25.2 m was given as the level of reserves this figure is at odds with the figures contained within the Audited statement of accounts 2012 / 2013. Page 51 of that document indicates the movement in earmarked reserves and appears to indicate a figure of £35,328m which is an increase of £2.26 m in the past 2 years.

It is unfortunate that there is confusion surrounding the exact level of reserves, however even if the figure of £25.2m is correct then the FBU are adamant that balances must be utilised to prevent such cuts to the emergency response. For the service to state it must maintain over £12 / £13m in balances for future building development at a time when the size of the service is constricting, while considering the loss of 20% of their firefighters and 20% of their fire appliances is in the view of the FBU unacceptable and distasteful.

We would hope that the fire service and FBU members safety are not to be used as political pawns in local and national politics.

Such is the level of anger and disappointment at these proposed cuts that should they be agreed by the Authority the FBU will consult its members with a view to fighting the cuts and we will explore every avenue and take whatever steps we feel necessary to protect the front line of the fire service in Tyne and Wear.

Conclusion.

The FBU would like to remind all elected members that whilst the IRMP proposals have been designed and written by the Chief Fire Officer his senior managers and advisors, it is only members who can approve it and in doing so they accept ownership and responsibility for any and all consequences that may arise as a result of the document. Therefore the FBU recommend that the CFO and his senior managers are asked to justify in detail all of their recommendations.

The FBU accept that there is unprecedented financial pressure upon the service but cannot accept that it is appropriate or acceptable to pursue such a devastating agenda of cuts while sitting on such a high level of reserves that were claimed to be the highest in England at Decembers Fire Authority meeting.

Therefore we would ask and expect the Fire Authority to utilise existing reserves and balances and explore every possible funding mechanism to protect the front line response and keep the public of Tyne and Wear as safe as possible.

Brigade Secretary.

Dave Turner.

Brigade Chair

Russ King.

FBU Health and Safety Rep.

Brian Harris.

31-12-13.

Appendix J: Responses from other stakeholders and partners

Gateshead Council

Response from Gateshead Council in relation to TWFRS Consultation "Preventing, Protecting and Responding – Proposed Changes to Operational Response for 2014-17".

Question 1 – *Do you have any comments on the financial position facing the Fire and Rescue Authority?*

The type of financial pressures that Tyne and Wear Fire Service are facing have been replicated throughout all other partner agencies involved in tackling crime and community safety – and are part of the wider austerity measures that are currently being experienced. It is disappointing that TWFRS has to consider downsizing the number of front-line resources to tackle fire-related incidents but we understand the need for TWFRS to adopt a different operational model to be able to effectively continue to deliver efficient services in the current financial climate.

Question 2 – *Would you be prepared to pay more Council Tax if this made it possible to retain the current level of Fire and Rescue Service in Tyne and Wear?*

This question is not relevant to Gateshead Council.

Question 3 – *Do you have any comments on our approach to understanding risk, or on the conclusions we draw about risk in setting out our proposals?*

It is pleasing to note that TWFRS design their services based on risk criteria, in that they proactively draw upon and use of a wide range of intelligence and analysis to help develop a detailed understanding of the potential risk in local communities. It is clear from the consultation document that this information has been used to influence and inform strategic decisions (including the proposed options of change identified).

However, it is not clear to what extent local evidence has been taken into consideration to help identify any areas of possible under reporting across the Borough – and could have made more use of local intelligence-gathering mechanisms to support the proposals (e.g. use of community intelligence through Neighbourhood Tasking).

The revised model is based on the annual time of one appliance and in some instances an effective operational response is dependent on two appliances being in attendance. Information relating to the response times for two appliances attending an incident has not been included as part of the statistical modelling exercise. If time of arrival of two appliances had been used as a key measure for determining options, then this could have resulted in different options being arrived at, than those presented in the current consultation. As a result, additional analysis and modelling should be undertaken by TWFRS to identify the level of impact – and if required, a further round of consultation completed.

Question 4a – *What are your views on introducing alternative appliances (TRVs) to deal with some of our lower risk incidents – 2 TRVs available 24/7 and 2 additional ones in the evenings when most of these incidents occur?*

The introduction and removal of additional TRVs and should not impact on Gateshead – with changes only occurring in Newcastle, Sunderland and South Tyneside.

Question 4b – *What are your views on introducing flexibility of cover by day and night, in areas where the risk allows this?*

It is important that TWFRS are able to be flexible to ensure that resources can be deployed into those areas of greater need and vulnerability. However, assurances must be made from TWRFS that this approach continues to be based on rigorous analysis of intelligence and risk-based models to ensure that it is safe to stand down appliances – particularly overnight.

Question 4c – *What are your views on reducing the number of pumping appliances by 6?*

It is always disappointing to experience reductions in the number of resources that will be available at our disposal to protect the local community and residents. However, the proposals have been evidence-based – and highlights that Swalwell continues to experience fewer fire-related incidents than that found in most other localities. The evidence that TWFRS currently operates the quickest response time for both high and low risk-related fires throughout the country is reassuring if Gateshead is to experience a reduction in the number of appliances that will be based at Swalwell. However, as with Question 3, the operational response times for two fire appliances being in attendance has not been appropriately evidenced within the consultation and could have resulted in different options.

Question 4d – *What are your views on crewing 1-pump stations with 4 staff on the appliance in line with other pumps?*

Notwithstanding the response to Question 3 and Question 4, if there are a lower number of appliances based within Swalwell – then it would seem logical that staffing levels would need to reduce in order to be brought into line within other stations. This would also ensure that those areas of greater need and vulnerability have a greater level of staffing resource to be able to effectively address its issues. However, there remains a need for flexibility to ensure that any changes in vulnerable localities can be effectively and quickly covered.

Gateshead Council recognises that all decisions to reduce staffing/appliances are based on identified levels of risk; however, some elected members have expressed concerns regarding the capacity of TWFRS to deliver adequate cover to the West of the Borough – particularly if an appliance is removed from Swalwell.

Question 4e – *What are your views on reducing Aerial Ladder Platforms (ALPs) from 3 to 2?*

The removal of an Aerial Ladder Platforms has been based on evidence identified within the national Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) process. The data analysis and information used within the IRMP demonstrated that 2 ALPs are sufficient to meet the operational requirements of TWFRS – and would not appear to significantly affect Gateshead.

Question 4f – *What are your views on investing in new fire-fighting technologies to enhance performance and safety?*

It is encouraging to see TWFRS invest in new technologies such as high pressure fire suppression systems in order to improve the effectiveness of its services and to assist in improving fire fighter safety.

Question 5 – *What are your views about our proposed approach, which protects the response to higher risk incidents by allowing a slower response to some lower risk ones? Is it the right one in the circumstances?*

Response times to higher risk incidents should be protected to ensure that TWFRS can address / prioritise those incidents that are associated with fatalities or serious injuries. It is pleasing to note that the modelling figures highlighted within the document show that for highest risk incidents, there will be minimal difference between the proposals and the status quo – and that this will mean that the average response time for responding to primary fires will continue to remain the fastest in the country. It is hoped that TWFRS will be able to maintain excellent service standards.

The consultation information did not include response times for two appliances to attend an incident. Whilst the number of incidents requiring two appliances may be relatively small, it is these incidents which pose risk of loss of life or serious injury, and which are of greatest concern to the public.

This information does not appear to have been included in the consultation or statistical modelling, which produced the options proposed in the consultation. As this has not even been considered, it is impossible to judge exactly what the impact of the proposals would be, although common sense would indicate that it will take much longer for a second appliance to arrive in Blaydon, if it has to come from West Denton or Gateshead rather than Swalwell.

If time of arrival of two appliances had been used as a key measure for determining options for consultation, this could have resulted in very different options being arrived at, than those presented in the current consultation.
For lower risk incidents, the difference between the status quo and the proposals is more marked. We appreciate that in order to protect the response times to higher risk incidents, there will always be a need to accept a lower speed of response to some lower risk incidents. The proposal to increase response times by approximately one minute to lower risk incidents is unavoidable – and given that TWFRS would still have a better response to these lower risk incidents than the national average, this appears to be acceptable.

It is encouraging to see that the proposed model will be kept under constant review (because risk patterns can change) and may mean that in the future, TWFRS might need to realign its resources to cover those areas identified as being at greater risk.
There is now an even greater need for delivering more effective and joined-up multi-agency arrangements to help provide a partnership-orientated response to tackling lower-risk fires. This would help maximise the use of available resources to manage the volume of low-risk fires and their impact.

Question 6 – *What is your view of the options to change our response model?*

It is always disappointing to experience reductions in the number of resources that will be available at our disposal to protect the local community and residents. However, it is hoped that the change in response model will enable TWFRS to continue to deliver an efficient and effective service – and continue to achieve the quickest response times for both high and low risk-related fires throughout the country. An area that may need to be addressed in the future is the potential detrimental impact that any slower response times will have on residents' perceptions of fire safety and on the ability of TWFRS to respond.

Question 7 – *Should we consider the options which involve closing fire stations?*

There are no options to close fire stations within Gateshead.

Question 8 – *Do you feel that any of the options are more acceptable than the others, and if so why/why not?*

All options are identical from a Gateshead perspective (and relate to reductions of services within Swalwell).

Question 9 – Any other comments?

It would be useful if TWFRS could offer to provide a specific briefing to elected members to ensure they are fully up to speed with the impending changes and current issues facing TWFRS. In addition, public meetings regarding the consultation appear to have been poorly attended by local residents and communities; however, those that have been present have continued to express concerns regarding the proposed changes that are being put forward by TWFRS.

Consultation response sent on 30th December 2013

Gateshead Councillors

Dear Colleagues
Having read the consultation proposals I am very concerned about the potential service reduction in my ward

West Gateshead already has one of the highest response times and with the loss of an engine at Swallwell station this will be made worse.

Although Chopwell retained service stays as part of the future plans this service is only available for 50% of the time and really all the proposals do not show this adequately as the casual observer might think it is a full time engine.

We are a rural area with vast amounts of grassland and woods which are the subject of deliberate fires especially in the summer. Our villages have tightly packed rows of terraced housing and many of our homes have solid fuel or wood burning stoves adding to the potential problem of house fires.

This is a difficult time for all of us as the cuts in public spending bite deeper but our area deserves a service that meets its needs.

I
Councillor Lynne Caffrey
Chopwell and Rowlands Gill Ward
Gateshead Council

Councillor Sonya Hawkins

I object to your proposal to remove an appliance from the Swalwell fire station for the following reasons:

Swalwell fire station is situated on the door step of Europe's largest shopping centre, the Metrocentre. Because of the size of the centre, if there was a fire, explosion or a terriost attack, one appliance would not be substantial to assist. Therefore Hundreds of lives will be put at risk. You need to take into account the shoppers aswell as the staff who work there.

There are approximately 20 schools within the inner west. Removing an appliance would be putting children's lives at risk. Do you really want an incident where they have to wait 15 minutes for another appliance to arrive?

The Swalwell station is situated right on the A1. The busiest motorway in the country. They are there instantly to assist in road accidents and explosions of vehicles. One appliance would not suffice.

This station is also 5 minutes away from the gas storage units in the Teams. There has already been an attack on this site before which was horrific. Again one appliance would not cope in such an emergency.

The train line from Hexham to Newcastle runs mainly through the inner west. If there was an accident, would one appliance be sufficient.

Also what will happen to the appliance removed? I find this to be an unreasonable proposal when this station covers such a large area and has so much responsibility. I ask you to reconsider your proposal to remove an appliance from Swalwell as no one can predict what incidents may occur.

I also have to comment on how poor the advertisement for the public consultation was done. No one knew about it! How can you hold a public consultation and not consult the public?

This proposal is simply playing roulette with people's lives and this is unacceptable. This proposal needs to be redone as I am on the understanding that you currently have £35million put aside for a rainy day! We'll now it is raining hard. Maybe senior posts should be looked at before putting peoples lives at risk.

Please accept this as my objection.
I look forward to your reply.

Cllr Sonya Hawkins
Whickham North & Swalwell

Newcastle Council motion

Cuts to Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Council notes that Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service;

- keep us all safe and respond quickly when help is needed
- are the best performing Fire and Rescue Service in the country
- have been disproportionately hit by the Government cuts, losing 23% of its budget by 2016/2017
- has maintained prevention work in the community that has resulted in a reduction of 46% of fires in homes over the last six years
- has protected response times to date and agreed only to look at reducing response times when the budget made that unavoidable.

Council believes that;

- the Government proposed cuts to the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service are unfair and put residents' lives at risk
- the prevention programmes undertaken by the Fire and Rescue Service teams have made a massive impact for local people
- when risk factors have been taken into account, the proposed cuts to services will reduce the speed of response when residents call for help.

Council resolves to;

- write to the Secretary of State expressing concerns about the scale and impact of the proposed cuts on Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service.
- agree to make a response to the current consultation along the lines of the debate in Council and to encourage residents to respond to the consultation

Safe Newcastle Partnership Board

Report: **Safe Newcastle response to Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Authority consultation**

From: **Cllr Linda Hobson, Chair of Safe Newcastle**

Date: **13 November 2013**

1.0	**Background** Since the Government's Spending Review in 2010, Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) has seen a significant reduction in the funding available to deliver to communities. This has amounted to a reduction of £13.6m, or 23% between 2010 and 2017.
1.1	So far, TWFRS has reduced spending on all areas of support and specialist services. In 2011, after public consultation, they undertook to reduce operational response only when the budgetary situation made that absolutely unavoidable. They are now at a point where a reduction in operational response is necessary.
1.2	Joy Brindle, Assistant Chief Officer, attended the Safe Newcastle Board on 7 November to outline the proposals and to open up consultation with Safe Newcastle of which is welcomed.
1.3	It is noted that Joy Brindle, Assistant Chief Officer attended a City Council meeting on the 4 December to give a presentation on the proposals, and the City Council then agreed a motion which is included in Section 5 for information.
2.0	**Consultation overview** There are two distinct areas that TWFRS have opened up for consultation, operational response and diversionary activities with young people.
2.1	**Operational Response** The basic unit of response in TWFRS is a fire appliance/pump with 4 staff regardless of incident or level of risk and time. The options developed focus on maintaining a safe level of cover and speed of response which is targeted at the highest risk both in terms of geography and incident type. The proposals offer alternative appliances for less serious incidents, flexibility of day and night time cover, reducing the number of appliances and/or fire stations based on analysis of risk and investment in new firefighting technologies to enhance performance and safety.
2.2	**Diversionary activities with young people** TWFRS can demonstrate that investment in prevention reduces risk and over time reduces cost. A number of interventions have shown to be effective in

	prevention, these include; home safety checks, domestic sprinklers, case conferences, campaigns, community fire stations and diversionary activities directly with young people such as Safetyworks, Phoenix, Junior Firesetters Education Programme, Young Firefighters, Princes Trust and schools education. The proposal for consultation suggests that focus should be on diversionary activities that have clear success criteria, are targeted at risk (with fire being the top priority), deliver wider community safety outcomes such as reduction of anti-social behavior (only where directly commissioned to do so) and to look to co-fund interventions where the costs and benefits are shared.
3.0	**Safe Newcastle Response** Safe Newcastle recognise the challenges facing TWFRS, specifically since the Government's Spending Review in 2010 and the cumulative impact of additional cuts.
3.1	**Operational Response**
3.1.1	Consideration has been given to the three options outlined in the consultation document, it is clearly understood that the achievement of budget reductions needs to be balanced with the risk to communities by reducing operational response. TWFRS has undertook a full and comprehensive analysis on the impact to average response times and it is agreed that priority must focus on those fires that have the higher level of risk although it is understood that this may impact on the response times for lower risk incidents.
3.1.2	Safe Newcastle recognises that any option will have an impact on response times and safety in communities. Although a reduced service is inevitable to achieve the budget reductions, Safe Newcastle is concerned that reduced services across partner agencies may have an additional impact on the fire service demand.
3.1.3	Safe Newcastle notes with regret that funding cuts make it necessary to consider a closure of a fire station in Newcastle.
3.2	**Diversionary activities with young people**.
3.2.1	Safe Newcastle understands the importance of prevention and educational programmes for sustainable impact on community safety issues. Until the impact of the Government's Spending Review 2010 Safe Newcastle provided periodic monetary contribution to TWFRS to deliver activities in Newcastle.
3.2.2	However, with further savings being directed to Local Authorities and the removal of Home Office and other Grants to Community Safety Partnerships, Safe Newcastle has been forced to review and restrict our support to those areas that are absolutely necessary, either where there is a statutory responsibility or contractual arrangements already in place.
3.2.3	Although Safe Newcastle are not able to contribute financially at this stage, it is proposed to support the continuation of diversionary and preventative activity wherever possible through advice, guidance and links to other agencies.
3.2.4	Safe Newcastle would advocate that the most appropriate funding source for Safetyworks would be the PCC, not least since Community Safety funding which might have otherwise supported this initiative is now transferred to the PCC.

	There may also be opportunities at the margin to increase income from schools.
4.0	**Conclusion** Although Safe Newcastle is unable to make any financial commitment to TWFRS at this stage, Safe Newcastle would like to take this opportunity to recognise the vital role and significant impact that TWFRS has in partnership working across Newcastle. Wherever possible Safe Newcastle will continue to support and champion the work that TWFRS deliver and the impact that they play in keeping Newcastle safe. Safe Newcastle would expect a growth its population, and request that the analysis of options is future-proofed against the projected growth of the city, particularly to the west and north in accordance with the City's proposed core strategy, which will be considered by the Planning Inspector in the coming months. Safe Newcastle would propose further discussions with Newcastle City Council, to plan future needs, including the option of a new fire station should that be necessary as a replacement for the two being considered for closure.
5.0	**Newcastle City Council Notice of Motion** **Cuts to Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service** Council notes that Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service; • keep us all safe and respond quickly when help is needed • are the best performing Fire and Rescue Service in the country • have been disproportionately hit by the Government cuts, losing 23% of its budget by 2016/2017 • has maintained prevention work in the community that has resulted in a reduction of 46% of fires in homes over the last six years • has protected response times to date and agreed only to look at reducing response times when the budget made that unavoidable. Council believes that; • the Government proposed cuts to the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service are unfair and put residents' lives at risk • the prevention programmes undertaken by the Fire and Rescue Service teams have made a massive impact for local people • when risk factors have been taken into account, the proposed cuts to services will reduce the speed of response when residents call for help. Council resolves to; • write to the Secretary of State expressing concerns about the scale and impact of the proposed cuts on Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service. • agree to make a response to the current consultation along the lines of the debate in Council and to encourage residents to respond to the consultation

Councillor David Faulkner

Newcastle City Council

Joy
- for info
Tom has responded

Councillor DAVID FAULKNER
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Tel: 0191 284 5662
E-mail: david.faulkner@newcastle.gov.uk
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www.newcastle.gov.uk

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Chief Fire Officer Tom Capeling
Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters
Nissan Way
Sunderland
Tyne and Wear
SR5 3QY

18 December 2013

Dear Mr Capeling

Please convey to Joy Brindle our thanks for her very clear exposition at the last City Council meeting of the issues facing the service.

In response to your consultation on future changes to the service in the context of cost reductions, I feel that I have to express concerns at the proposal to close Gosforth Community Fire Station and the risks to response times for emergencies in the Gosforth, Fawdon and Kenton areas, part of which I represent.

We know that the fire service has to do all it can to find the economies that other public services are looking for, especially when the number of incidents that you have to respond to has fallen so dramatically (we are pleased to say) in recent years.

At the City Council meeting, we called for maximum focus on reducing management and back-office costs, and for the fire service to consider merging its senior management and support services with those of Northumberland fire service, operating as Northumbria Police do.

It seems to us that the additional savings over Option 1 by closing Gosforth and Wallsend stations seem quite modest, given the capital costs of building a new station at Benton and the paramount importance of protecting frontline services as far as possible. I know that you are looking in details at the logistics of the service to the areas in the immediate hinterland of the stations at risk, but we are concerned at traffic congestion from the east into Gosforth.

I hope that local councillors will continue to have the opportunity to be involved in this consultation.

Yours sincerely

David Faulkner

David Faulkner

This correspondence is available in audio, Braille or large print if required. Please contact the writer to arrange.

Catherine McKinnell MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Freepost RLZH-ZZYU-LJUJ
Development and Review
Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Nissan Way
Sunderland SR5 3QY

Our ref: NN7665/AB

20 December 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

Consultation on proposed changes to operational response service

I would like to express my concerns on the proposed changes to the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service's operational response, and I would be grateful if these could be considered as part of the consultation on this issue.

I fully appreciate the extremely challenging situation in which the fire service currently finds itself, with disproportionate Government funding cuts meaning that Tyne & Wear will lose £13.6million, or 23%, of its budget between 2010 and 2017. The scale of these cuts, and loss of firefighter posts, is unfair and will undoubtedly put people's lives at risk.

I would also like to address the proposed closure of Gosforth Community Fire Station, contained within the Option 2 proposal. Although lying just outside my constituency, it clearly serves large parts of Newcastle North and will employ my constituents.

I am very concerned by the proposal to replace Gosforth (and Wallsend) stations with a new facility at Benton, particularly as – in order to reach parts of Newcastle North from Benton – fire engines would be required to use the Haddrick's Mill / South Gosforth roundabouts. This area is already extremely congested and often difficult to traverse, and the planned improved scheme for the area has been put on hold following last minute cuts to the regional transport budget. It is therefore unclear how the safety of residents will not be put at risk, given the potential delays to fire engines reaching parts of the city.

Gosforth also acts as the lead station for any incidents at Newcastle International Airport, also based in my constituency, and it clearly absolutely imperative that the Airport retains sufficient fire and rescue service cover.

Yours sincerely

Catherine McKinnell MP

Working hard for Newcastle North

catherine.mckinnell.mp@parliament.uk 0191 229 0352 www.catherinemckinnellmp.co.uk

Alan Campbell MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

20th December 2013

Freepost RLZH-ZZYU-LJUJ
Development and Review
Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Barmston Mere
Nissan Way
Sunderland
SR5 3QY

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to comment on proposed changes to the Fire Service in Tyne and Wear and ask that these comments be considered as part of the consultation.

I should point out that there is some concern about the consultation process itself. The length of time for an appropriate consultation should be 12 weeks. The original proposal was for just 6 weeks, increased I understand after concerns were expressed to 8 weeks. There are also concerns about the language and length of the material which lead to concerns about a lack of accessibility.

Before commenting in detail I want to state clearly that I fully understand that the Tyne and Wear Fire Authority has been put in this position by not only the scale of cuts originating in central government but by the way in which the cuts have been structured. It is therefore a question of how best to manage a very difficult situation.

On the options as set out I understand overall 131 posts will go, 3 fire stations and 6 appliances. Other appliances will see a reduction in personnel. It is therefore important to express concern that these changes will inevitably increase public risk and to firefighters not withstanding the efforts of the Fire Authority to minimise that.

I am obviously supportive of the proposal that Tynemouth fire station remains as a working station. The closure of Wallsend, then of Gosforth, could have a knock on effect of increasing risk affecting my constituency. It stands to reason that with fewer stations and appliances if other stations and appliances are busy in other areas they cannot be available for my constituency.

I have also been advised that the Gosforth station is important in the retention by Newcastle International airport of its Category 9 status. If station closures go ahead as planned will Newcastle Airport be able to retain its status?

...../2

23rd December 2013

As I understand it Tynemouth will retain two appliances and two appliances are required to attend before fire fighters are able to attack a fire. If one of the Tynemouth appliances is being used for training, or has been deployed elsewhere, and if there are fewer appliances at fewer stations elsewhere it must raise questions as to whether the threshold will be reached, and how quickly, whereby fire fighters attack a fire. The reality is however that firefighters will choose to do so without reaching that threshold. Two issues arise therefore. Firefighters may have little choice but to put themselves at risk to help members of the public trapped in fires. Following on from that particularly if something goes wrong questions will be asked of senior officers as to how fire fighters attacked fires without necessary backup.

It is right that frontline services are protected as far as is possible. The problem is how frontline is defined. The Fire Service do valuable Fire Prevention work. They are a crucial part of Community Safety Partnerships. They are a vital part of Rescue services dealing with Road Traffic accidents and flooding. These changes would seem to emphasise the fire aspect of the service without giving due attention to other important tasks.

It has been put to me that given cuts from central government inevitably require the Fire Authority to make cuts the question is where funding comes from in the future. In the short term it has been suggested that the scale and timing up cuts could be mitigated by using the authority's reserves, particularly because in recent years there have been underspends in some parts of the budget. If the reserves have been earmarked for the future or there is a legal requirement that the Authority retains them that should be made clear, otherwise the Secretary of State's advice to Councils to consider using reserves may be appropriate advice for fire authorities.

I understand the Authorities difficulties and the pressure they are under. I do hope however that the views of the public are listened to and wherever possible built in to final decisions.

Yours sincerely

Alan Campbell

Alan Campbell MP
Tynemouth

Appendix K: Note on Earmarked (allocated) Reserves and General Fund Balance

The Authority holds a number of reserves which are regularly monitored through quarterly financial reports to Authority. Earmarked reserves stood at £28.171m as at the 31st March 2013 and are projected to reduce to £25.894m at 31st March 2014; these are allocated for specific purposes. All of the reserves held by the Authority are fully committed and a recent review showed that this was still the case.

However, it should be noted that in addition to those earmarked (allocated) reserves the Fire Authority is required to hold a General Fund Balance (or general reserve) which is not earmarked for other purposes but is held to meet unforeseen costs. The level of general reserves as at 31st March 2013 was £3.872m. The level of general reserves is evaluated taking into account the remaining uncertainties that the Authority faces. The most significant being future Government funding levels.

The earmarked (allocated) reserves planned and the impact of other factors will determine the level of general reserve set and agreed each year. In times of financial instability general fund reserves tend to be increased so that business can continue until corrective plans can be implemented. The level of £3.872m set for 2013/14 are considered prudent bearing in mind that the Authority has gross costs of £73.668m and a net budget requirement of £53.330m. The General Reserve thus covers 7.26% of its net budget requirement and is in line with best practice where anything between 5% - 10% is considered appropriate.

Following CIPFA best practice the following factors are taken into account in determining the overall level of reserves and balances:

- Assumptions regarding inflation;
- Estimates of the level and timing of capital receipts;
- Treatment of demand led pressures;
- Treatment of savings;
- Risks inherent in any new partnerships etc;
- Financial standing of the Authority (i.e. level of borrowing, debt outstanding etc);
- The Authority's track record in budget management;
- The Authority's capacity to manage in-year budget pressures;
- The Authority's virements and year-end procedures in relation to under and overspends; and
- The adequacy of insurance arrangements.

The Authority's general reserves and earmarked (allocated) reserves are however subject to annual review. In accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 the Finance Officer is required

to report upon the robustness of the estimates and the level of reserves held as part of the annual budget setting process and statement of accounts.

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority

Statement of Earmarked Reserves

Title and Purpose of Earmarked Reserve / Provision	**Balance as at 31st March 2013**
	£000
Insurance Reserve Reserve held to protect the Authority from unexpected volatility from changes in legislation that could be retrospective, unknown exposures that may arise in the future, and to cover a possible shortfall in the eventual settlement in respect of MMI.	865
Development Reserve Reserve created to fund medium term and long term capital and revenue developments.	13,260
Early Retirements Reserve Reserve to cover future compensatory added years payments associated with an early retirement during 2002/2003. This ensures no ongoing revenue implications.	34
PFI Smoothing Reserve Reserve established to smooth the impact of the PFI scheme on the Authority's revenue budget over the 25 year life-span of the scheme.	5,957
Contingency Planning Reserve Reserve to enable appropriate contingency arrangements to be put in place to ensure continued service delivery.	2,450
Budget Carry Forward Reserve Reserve established to fund the slippage of specific items of revenue expenditure.	1,346
New Dimensions Reserve Reserve to be used in future years to provide for any adverse effect of potential changes in grant arrangements and to provide resources to support delivery of the Urban Search and Rescue response.	623

Title and Purpose of Earmarked Reserve / Provision	Balance as at 31st March 2013
	£000
Community Safety Reserve Reserve to deliver community safety initiatives in future years.	250
Civil Emergency Reserve Reserve to enable the Authority to respond to a catastrophic event, locally or nationally.	200
Carbon Management Plan Reserve Reserve established to work in partnership with the Carbon Trust and other Fire and Rescue Authorities in the region to develop a Carbon Reduction Plan.	665
Equality and Diversity Reserve Reserve to support the Authority's commitment to achieve higher equality and diversity recruitment targets.	101
Organisational Change Reserve Reserve covers expected costs of organisational changes required for the Authority to operate within reduced future funding levels.	1,720
Medium Term Planning Reserve Reserve established to plan for future grant reductions and the effects of localisation of business rates retention.	700
Total	**28,171**