



NORTH YORKSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Provision of Fire Cover Across York Public consultation

Introduction

This consultation document sets out proposed changes to an existing approved scheme to revise provision of fire cover throughout the City of York. The existing scheme was approved by the Fire Authority following extensive consultation with stakeholder groups. The Fire Authority is the governing body for the local Fire & Rescue Service and is made up of Councillors nominated from both North Yorkshire County Council and the City of York Council.

Existing Scheme

In 2008 North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority undertook an extensive consultation process following a review of fire cover within the City of York. The review itself had been prompted by a separate survey of the condition and use of fire service premises, in which it was identified that the existing fire station at Clifford Street did not meet the requirements of a modern fire station in terms of the range and type of accommodation and facilities it provided. Furthermore, significant expenditure would be required to the fabric of the building given its general condition. Taking all of these factors into account, refurbishment of the current building was not considered to be a viable option. Following careful consideration of all viable options, plus consultation feedback, the Authority agreed to a scheme which comprises:

1. Relocation of one fire appliance from Clifford Street to the existing fire station at Huntington thereby upgrading it to have one fire appliance immediately available.
2. To redevelop the fire station at Clifford Street to accommodate one immediately available fire appliance.
3. To build a new station in the south east part of the City of York. This station to have one on-call fire appliance (available within five minutes of receipt of a call).
4. To locate and crew the water rescue unit and aerial ladder platform as appropriate but within the City of York.
5. To relocate fire safety offices within the City of York.

The provision of two appliances at Acomb fire station on Boroughbridge Road remains unchanged.

In summary, under this scheme, the City of York would have available to it 5 operational fire appliances and 3 special units as a result of this proposal, the same total resources as currently but better located.

Proposed Revisions to the Existing Scheme

As work has progressed on the aforementioned current scheme, it has been necessary to identify a temporary site for a fire station pending the redevelopment of the Clifford Street site, as the Clifford Street site is not large enough to accommodate the building of a new fire station whilst also maintaining an operational station. A suitable site for the temporary fire station was identified at the former Coach Park site on Kent Street near the Barbican Centre, which is owned by the City of York Council. Detailed analysis was carried out into response times to all parts of the city from the Kent Street site compared to the current Clifford Street site. The results of this analysis showed that some parts of the city would benefit from a quicker response, plus all other parts of the city would receive no worse response times in terms of the initial attendance, if fire cover was provided from Kent Street rather than Clifford Street. Furthermore, the Kent Street site provides better access to the south east part of the city, negating the requirement for another new fire station (with an on-call appliance) and associated costs. Taken together, the proposed amendment to the existing scheme cannot reasonably be discounted, though it must be remembered that the revised scheme is subject to the Fire Authority successfully negotiating the purchase of the Kent Street site from the City of York Council.

In summary, the Kent Street site offers a solution which meets all of the operational requirements in terms of cover for the south east area of the city, while maintaining operational cover for the heritage risk in the city, with improvement in response times to parts of the city. The proposed revisions to the current scheme are as follows:

1. To build a new station at Kent Street and relocate one fire appliance and the water rescue capability to that station from the Clifford Street site.
2. As already agreed under the current scheme, to move the second fire appliance from Clifford Street and the aerial ladder platform to Huntington fire station.
3. To keep the Huntington on-call fire appliance resulting in two fire appliances located there.
4. To relocate fire safety to offices in the city (potentially in the new City of York Council Offices).
5. Sell the Clifford Street Site.
6. Dispense with the requirement under the current scheme to build a new station in the south east part of the city on the basis that the proposed new Kent Street station can meet fire cover requirements to that part of the city.

As in the original project, the provision of two fire appliances at Acomb fire station on Boroughbridge Road remains unchanged. Overall there would be no change in the number of fire appliances and specialist units available to the City of York area as a result of this proposal.

Expected benefits of the revision to the current scheme:-

A better provision of fire cover across the city in line with the original proposal.

An anticipated reduction in the overall project cost of circa £1million.

A shortening of the project timescale (due to not having to source land for a new station and not having to build a temporary station to allow for the redevelopment of Clifford Street).

Less impact on staff (Huntington staff would not face the risk of redundancy through disestablishment of that fire appliance).

Unlike the current Clifford Street location the new Kent Street fire station would have its own training facilities, would not be subject to flooding and would not have the problems of a shared access / right of way running through the middle of the site.

Fire Cover Assessment

In the original project the fire station in the south east would have had a five minute delayed turnout due to it being crewed by staff on the retained duty system, who respond to incidents from home or their primary place of work. This would have been marginally quicker than the response from Clifford Street. However with a station at Kent Street, crewed with wholetime staff, a fire appliance could reach the site of the south east station at the same time as, or slightly before, the crew could turn out from the station. It therefore provides the south east area of the city with the same or marginally better cover than the original project. The historic centre of the city would remain well protected due to the proximity of a wholetime crewed fire appliance at Boroughbridge Road and the fact that Kent Street is still very close to the city centre, therefore capable of providing a fast response to incidents in that area.

The following tables show the impact on the attendance times of fire appliances under a) the current arrangements, b) the original project and c) the proposed revisions set out above. Our analysis concludes that both the original proposal and the proposed revision provide better levels of fire cover across the city, with the revisions providing as good as, and in some cases better, attendance times as the original project.

Current Response Times		
Response Times	Within 5 Minutes	Within 8 Minutes
Road Accidents	101	179
Fire Alarms	1537	2021
Dwelling Fires	356	495

Response Capabilities under the existing scheme are as follows:

Response Times under Current Scheme			
Response Times	Within 5 Minutes	Within 8 Minutes	% Improvement on 5 minute Response Time
Road Accidents	144	250	42%
Fire Alarms	1608	2193	5%
Dwelling Fires	377	543	6%

Response Capabilities under the revised scheme:

Response Times under Revised Scheme			
Response Times	Within 5 Minutes	Within 8 Minutes	% Improvement on 5 minute Response Time
Road Accidents	144	254	42%
Fire Alarms	1611	2200	5%
Dwelling Fires	379	543	6%

This consultation ran from Wednesday 3rd November to Tuesday 25th January 2011.

This Consultation has now closed.

Supplementary information

Here you will find additional information that may assist you in responding to the survey.