

Wyre Forest Emergency Services Hub Station

Consultation about an innovative proposal for the Wyre Forest area



Hereford & Worcester
Fire Authority

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INTRODUCTION

We are keen to get your views on an innovative proposal for the Wyre Forest area. We have a great opportunity to create a brand new central 'hub' for the three blue light services – fire, police and ambulance, so that we're all under the same roof and there would also be space for other voluntary emergency support services.

There are no firm plans at this stage, but if the scheme goes ahead there will be implications for how we deliver fire and rescue services; the main one being that the three current fire stations would be relocated to the new hub.

We have started a series of 'listening and engagement' sessions with our staff in the three Wyre Forest fire stations and members of the public in the Wyre Forest area. We now want to extend that more widely to our partners and local communities before we make any decisions.

This consultation document explains more about the proposal and sets out the pros and cons. We urge you to read it and then fill in the questionnaire to let us know your views.

Derek W. Prodger MBE

Mark J. Yates



Derek W Prodger MBE
Chairman of the Authority



Mark J. Yates QFSM
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Chief Executive



Hereford & Worcester
Fire Authority



HEREFORD & WORCESTER
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FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

SUMMARY

Through a one-off award of £2.38 million funding from the government, Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority has the opportunity to create an emergency services hub station for the Wyre Forest – to include police, ambulance and voluntary services as well as the fire and rescue services. A hub station would have important advantages in terms of bringing some of the resources of each service together on one site, while helping to share costs, local intelligence and training facilities.

Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority is consulting the public, partner organisations and its staff about a proposal to create a joint emergency services hub station for Wyre Forest by relocating the current Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn fire stations into a new hub station at an appropriate location. This consultation is about whether a hub station would be a good idea in principle; no decisions have been taken and no site has yet been selected.

Incident Data

Data presented in this report represents the latest available information following rigorous data cleansing and quality assurance carried out in August 2015. All incident data is taken from the Service's Incident Recording System.



THE PROPOSAL

What is a hub station and who would be involved?

Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority is considering a proposal to create a joint emergency services hub station for Wyre Forest. A hub station is simply a central base for a number of different services where they can work together more effectively for the benefit of the local area.

If approved, the Wyre Forest Hub Station would be a central base for blue light and voluntary emergency services co-located to share enhanced facilities. Instead of being in different parts of the Wyre Forest area,

some parts of the services would come together on a single site – not to merge their organisations, but to co-operate more closely and effectively. There would be economies of scale for each service and other benefits as well.

In early discussions, there has been provisional agreement between partners that, if a hub station was created, then it would become an operational base for the following emergency services:

- **Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service** – for the Wyre Forest wholetime and on-call fire engines, crew training and community safety.
- **West Mercia Police** – to accommodate the 25 members of the Wyre Forest local policing team (Kidderminster Police Station would remain to accommodate other Wyre Forest policing functions).
- **West Midlands Ambulance Service** – to support its work in the north of Worcestershire.
- **Severn Area Rescue Association** – for specialist water rescue equipment and training for volunteers.
- **British Red Cross** – for its vehicles, training, victim support and community engagement.
- **Other organisations** – there would also be opportunities for other voluntary and community organisations to use the Hub Station for meetings and training, and where appropriate to enhance their links with the emergency services.

The Hub Station would also be a focus for community safety – a centre where the emergency services would work together, and with voluntary organisations and volunteers, to improve community safety across Wyre Forest.

With the funding from government, the Hub Station would be designed and built by Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service in consultation with the other partners.

THE PROPOSAL

Would there be real advantages?

The key aim of the project is to develop existing relationships between emergency service partners to improve their joint working for both routine and major incidents. This fits very closely with the government's 'blue light agenda' – which is to encourage fire, police and ambulance services to co-operate to make best use of their resources and achieve better outcomes for the public. The central aim is for the three services to find practical, innovative and technological ways of working together more effectively and efficiently.

Bringing the blue light services together on a single hub station site would also reduce running costs for the organisations and bring other benefits to Wyre Forest – for example:

Fire and Rescue Service-Police co-location would achieve a much higher community profile for their joint activities, including improved:

- Day-to-day communications between fire and rescue crews and local policing teams – for better joint working at incidents such as serious road traffic collisions, flooding and search and rescue.
- Exchange of local intelligence about vulnerable people (to protect those at risk) and also about potential offenders (to identify and nullify the risks they pose).
- Co-operation in tackling anti-social behaviour, such as malicious false alarm calls, deliberate fire setting, vandalism and malicious damage, and reckless driving – by co-ordinated education, response and enforcement initiatives.
- Facilities and space for specialised and joint training programmes.
- Community facilities (meeting rooms and demonstration units) for crime and fire prevention campaigns to be co-ordinated and delivered jointly – including, for example, working with young people at risk of offending.
- Facilities and space for voluntary sector partners to use for their meetings.

Taken together these initiatives would increase the visibility of the Police and Fire and Rescue services within the community, and demonstrate their commitment to improving safety and quality of life in Wyre Forest.

Fire and Rescue Service-Ambulance Service co-location would also promote important joint-working initiatives – for example, through:

- Better co-ordination in preparing for and managing serious accidents and road traffic collisions – such as those involving extrications with cutting gear in parallel with life support interventions.
- Regular joint training for serious incidents, including training sessions for water rescues.
- The potential for developing a co-responding model for medical emergencies – in which the Fire and Rescue Service assists the Ambulance Service to provide rapid response to immediately life-threatening medical emergencies.

It is not commonly recognised that in terms of saving lives the Fire and Rescue Service can potentially make an even bigger contribution towards supporting a response to urgent medical interventions than by just fighting fires through closer working with the Ambulance Service.

Emergency Services-Voluntary Sector co-location would also have major advantages for organisations like the Severn Area Rescue Association (SARA) and the British Red Cross, for example by providing:

- Improve storage and maintenance services for specialist equipment and vehicles.
- Regular training for volunteers.
- Realistic experience in operational settings alongside the emergency services.
- A more co-ordinated role alongside the emergency services in dealing with exceptional incidents like flooding and similar emergencies.
- Shared experience in victim support, care of the injured and vulnerable, and community engagement.
- Some administrative, clerical and office support.

Through the creation of an emergency services hub station, relations between the statutory and voluntary sectors would be strengthened by greater sharing of resources; volunteers would get valuable experience; their organisations would gain even greater resilience; and the emergency services would build closer links with their communities.



THE PROPOSAL

How would this affect the Fire and Rescue Service for Wyre Forest?

The chart and map below show the current distribution of fire stations and fire engines across the whole Service area (Herefordshire and Worcestershire), and the map also highlights the Wyre Forest stations.

All of our fire stations have at least one fire engine crewed by on-call firefighters, who are members of their

communities and have a part-time contract with the Fire and Rescue Service to be 'on-call' for a given number of hours. Some of our busier fire stations also have wholetime firefighters who are employed by the Service to provide a full 24 hour service seven days a week.

Fire Stations with three fire engines	Fire Stations with two fire engines	Fire Stations with one fire engine	
Hereford	Bromsgrove	Bewdley	Leintwardine
Redditch	Bromyard	Broadway	Pebworth
Worcester	Droitwich Spa	Eardisley	Pershore
	Evesham	Ewyas Harold	Peterchurch
	Kidderminster	Fownhope	Stourport
	Leominster	Kingsland	Tenbury Wells
	Malvern	Kington	Upton
	Ross-on-Wye	Ledbury	Whitchurch

Key: = Wholetime = Day Crew Plus = Day Crewing = On-Call

Currently, Kidderminster fire station has one wholetime (immediate response) and one on-call fire engine; and Bewdley and Stourport each have one on-call fire engine. Kidderminster also has specialist equipment and training for flood evacuation and river rescues; Stourport crews have an environment protection vehicle with equipment to contain harmful spillages; and Bewdley crews have an off-road vehicle for incidents in hard-to-access terrain.

The proposal would involve relocating the existing Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport fire stations to a new, purpose-built hub station at a suitable location in Wyre Forest.

All the fire engines and emergency vehicles currently distributed across the three Wyre Forest stations would

move to the new Emergency Services Hub Station and be fully maintained at that location. There is no intention to remove any on-call firefighter posts as a result of the moves.

Since this consultation is about whether a hub station would be a good idea in principle, no site has yet been selected.

If, following this round of consultation, the Fire Authority approves an emergency services hub station in principle, an appropriate site would then be found. The Fire Authority would then consider the suitability of the site, the impact on the environment, emergency response times, and any other factors that need to be considered.



What are the Hub Station’s pros and cons for the Fire and Rescue Service?

The Fire Authority recognises that the relocation of the existing Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport fire stations is a sensitive matter, even if they are replaced with a new, purpose-built hub station at a suitable location in Wyre Forest. People are familiar with their local fire stations and often assume they will always be there. However, there are many considerations to take into account, including:

- Operational benefits.
- Matching available resources to changing risks.
- Attendance times.
- Financial advantages.
- Reduced carbon footprint / improved environmental efficiency.
- Economic development opportunities from redevelopment of existing sites.
- The unsustainability of the status quo and other options.

THE PROPOSAL

Operational benefits

Limitations of the existing fire stations

All three stations have operational disadvantages at present, including:

- Kidderminster fire station's site is too small to develop a modern community fire station with space for partners and community facilities.
- Bewdley and Stourport fire stations have very limited training facilities in which to practise tackling the risks and scenarios crews encounter at incidents.
- Bewdley and Stourport also lack suitable facilities for female firefighters and visitors to the sites.
- All three stations provide very limited access for disabled and special needs visitors.
- All three fire stations are suffering from age-related wear and tear, and it is envisaged that in the future significant investment (which the Fire Authority does not have) would be required at all three sites for their upkeep. Also due to their age all three sites would not meet modern environmental and efficiency standards, and to bring them up to these standards would not be viable.

While it is not cost-effective or physically feasible to address these issues properly at the existing stations, a new purpose-built hub station on a larger site would meet all these requirements, and also serve as a focal point for the emergency services, partner agencies and the voluntary sector. It must also be noted that a large proportion (£2.38 million) of the costs of the Hub Station would come from a government grant.

Availability of on-call (retained) firefighters

Even more important, the Hub Station would provide much enhanced on-call (retained) emergency cover than at present.

As the earlier chart above shows, all our fire stations have at least one fire engine crewed by on-call firefighters. Each fire station maintains a 'pool' of on-

call firefighters, but it can be difficult for them to be available all the time especially on weekdays to form the minimum crew required. This may be because they are away from home working elsewhere due to their primary employment. Fire engines cannot be deployed with fewer than four crew members, so if (on weekdays) only two or three on-call firefighters are available at a station, then their fire engine cannot be deployed.

Our on-call firefighters, like our wholetime crews, are dedicated but it is inevitable that sometimes their fire engines are unavailable. Across the Service as a whole in 2014-15¹, on-call fire engines were unavailable (or 'off the run') for 13% of the time during the day (from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm). The figures for the three fire stations in Wyre Forest in 2014-15 were as follows:

- Bewdley on-call fire engine was unavailable for 33% of the time during the day.
- Kidderminster on-call fire engine was unavailable for 6% of the time during the day.
- Stourport on-call fire engine was unavailable for 7% of the time during the day.

However, combining Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport fire stations into a central hub station would provide a much larger 'pool' of on-call firefighters – thus improving their availability and the resilience of emergency cover in Wyre Forest.

Matching available resources to changing risks

Reductions in risk levels

Over many years, our fire prevention and education work (combined with better building design, fire retardant materials, and many other safety measures), has achieved a big reduction in the number of emergency incidents. The chart below shows the downward trend in all incidents across Herefordshire and Worcestershire over the last ten years.

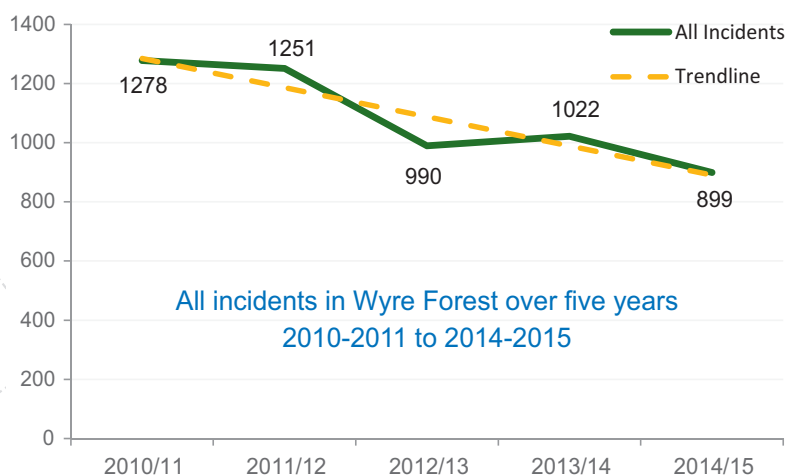
¹ Here and elsewhere in the report, dates refer to the financial year running from 1 April to 31 March.

Incident Trends

Year	All Fires	% fall 2005-15	Special Service Incidents	% fall 2005-15	All False Alarms	% fall 2005-15	Total Incidents	% fall 2005-15
2005-06	3,169	-45%	1,789	-24%	3,924	-23%	8,882	-31%
2006-07	3,590		2,089		4,040		9,719	
2007-08	2,908		2,359		3,878		9,145	
2008-09	2,649		1,817		3,773		8,239	
2009-10	2,433		1,806		3,718		7,957	
2010-11	2,510		1,780		3,846		8,136	
2011-12	2,849		1,509		3,499		7,857	
2012-13	1,770		1,698		3,175		6,643	
2013-14	1,987		1,458		3,178		6,623	
2014-15	1,733		1,354		3,025		6,112	

Across Herefordshire and Worcestershire, there has been a 45% reduction in fires; a 24% reduction in 'special service' calls such as flooding, person and animal rescues, spills/leaks and lift rescues; and a 23% fall in false alarms – equating to a 31% reduction in all incidents. In other words, firefighters now attend 31% fewer incidents each year than they did in 2005.

The chart below shows that there has also been a proportionate 30% drop in incidents in Wyre Forest over the last five years – from 1,278 attended in 2010-11 to 899 during 2014-15, with a 42% reduction in the number of fires attended. The chart includes revisions to any earlier versions following data cleansing in August 2015.



Each of the Wyre Forest fire stations has seen big reductions in the number of incidents over the same five year period:

- **Bewdley** – from 146 per year to 91 incidents per year (38% reduction) with a 47% reduction in fires.
- **Kidderminster** – from 861 to 597 incidents per year (31% reduction) with a 44% reduction in fires.

- **Stourport** – from 271 to 211 incidents per year (22% reduction) with a 34% reduction in fires.

The three fire stations are less than 4 miles apart from each other, and combined together they consistently attend fewer incidents each year than the single fire station at Worcester and slightly more than the single fire station in Redditch, both broadly comparable areas. In the last five years (2010-11 to 2014-15), the three stations attended an average of 1,088 incidents per year between them, while Worcester fire crews attended an average of 1,246 incidents and Redditch fire station attended an average of 992 incidents.

Within these figures the number of potential life risk incidents (fires in buildings and road traffic collisions)

continues to be very low. Across the whole Service area in the last five years, fire and rescue crews attended a total of 3,415 fires in buildings (the vast majority being relatively minor in nature), and 3,210 road traffic collisions out of a total of 35,371 incidents. Over the same five year period in the Wyre Forest area, crews attended 462 fires in buildings and 455 road traffic collisions out of a total of 5,440 incidents, representing about 92 fires in buildings and 91 road traffic collisions a year. Over the five years in Wyre Forest, the majority of fires in buildings (290 or 63%) and road traffic collisions (284 or 62%) were in Kidderminster.

Having reviewed the incident data and other factors, and by applying the professional judgement of experienced senior Fire and Rescue Service officers, we have concluded that a single-site hub station would be safe and effective in providing Wyre Forest with emergency fire cover, while also strengthening the on-call service.

THE PROPOSAL

Attendance times

Relocating three fire stations into one Hub Station would have an impact on some of our attendance times (how long it takes fire engines to arrive at incidents). Depending on where the Hub Station is located, there would be an improvement for those communities living closer to the new station, while for others it may take longer for a fire engine to arrive.

In order to assess how long a fire engine might take, we have carried out some preliminary analysis on a range of commercial sites available through property agents. At this stage no site has been identified and no negotiations have been entered into, as we need to consider the responses to this consultation and our listening and engagement exercises before doing so. However, the initial analysis suggests that depending on where the Hub Station might be located, on average it could take a few seconds or up to three minutes longer to reach some areas than we might do at present.

Thankfully, and largely in recognition of the valuable community safety education and prevention work across the two counties, the number of potential life risk incidents in terms of fires in buildings and road traffic collision is low. Of 462 fires in buildings in the Wyre Forest area between 2010-11 and 2014-15, the majority were in Kidderminster representing about 58 incidents a year, while both Bewdley and Stourport recorded very low average attendance figures of about 12 and 22 fires in buildings a year.

When decisions like this are made, the Fire Authority considers very carefully what levels of fire cover are needed across all the different areas of the two counties. This judgement takes into account the potential impact of any change both locally and across the Service area, whether it's the numbers of fire engines, or crewing systems or the location of fire stations. By doing this, the Service is able to ensure that fire cover is balanced most effectively and efficiently across the whole area.

It would be easy to say that all areas and all communities, no matter how large or small, should have their own fire stations with firefighters ready to provide an immediate response. However, with the relatively low and reducing level of calls and the reducing availability of finance, this is not a practical solution; it would mean that scarce public money would be used for assets and staff that are seldom used. We use call levels and risk in terms of number of people, homes, business size and type to assess fire cover, but there is also a need to apply professional judgement based upon officers' experience both locally and in other locations in the UK to determine appropriate fire cover; there is no set formula for fire cover.

We recognise that there will be a multitude of views on fire cover, very often based upon where any given home or business is located. That is why it is important in this consultation, to set out the issues in some detail, so that we get a range of views. The Fire Authority is required to (and must) take decisions on this matter based upon the whole Service and not just individual discrete areas.

Financial advantages

While the proposal for a hub station for Wyre Forest is based primarily on assessments of risk levels and the advantages of joint working with other emergency and voluntary sector services, there are important financial advantages as well.

Since 2010, there have been substantial reductions in central government funding for fire and rescue services (as well as most other public services), and council tax levels have also been curtailed. Indeed, over the last five years central government funding to Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority has reduced by nearly a quarter, and the financial pressures are not over. Current projections (based on likely further reductions in central government funding, limited increases in council tax income and inflation) are that we shall have a budget deficit of £1.6 million by 2018, increasing to £3.3 million by 2020. We are legally required to



achieve a balanced budget each year, so appropriate savings must be made while keeping our communities safe – balancing our available resources against the prevalent risks across the two counties.

In this context, the proposed Emergency Services Hub Station would make important savings, particularly in the following ways:

- The considerable maintenance and improvement works needed urgently at the current three fire stations would be unnecessary. For example, Kidderminster fire station will need to be fully replaced in the medium term post 2019-20. This would need to be a like-for-like replacement not eligible for government assistance, and it is estimated that the financing costs would be £200,000 to £250,000 a year more than the estimated cost of a single hub station. Any necessary works at Bewdley and Stourport fire stations would increase this figure further.
- The running costs should be lower on the purpose-built site; and many building and site management costs (cleaning, security, maintenance, heating and lighting, and some back-office administrative functions) would be shared with the other emergency services.

Moreover, since October 2014 the government has made £2.38 million funding available for Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service to draw down if the Fire Authority should choose (after consultation) to create a hub fire station. In other words, substantial funding is available for the project if the proposal is approved. The funding is part of a major government initiative recognising that fire and rescue services across the country need to transform the ways in which they deliver their services in the light of falling incident numbers and shrinking budgets. **This funding is not available for any other purpose and if the project was not to go ahead the Fire Authority will not receive the funding.**

Reduced carbon footprint / improved environmental efficiency

The development of a new purpose-built hub station will incorporate the use of greener technologies, which should ensure greater efficiencies in energy consumption and reduce the carbon footprint. This will represent a considerable reduction in the impact on the environment over the three current fire station buildings which do not have the benefits of modern building technologies.

Economic development opportunities from redevelopment of existing sites

Relocating the three current fire stations to a new hub station would also help to make a substantial contribution to the economic regeneration of Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport. The decisions on this type of redevelopment do not sit with the Fire Authority but we accept our sites can play a valuable role in any potential redevelopment and regeneration.

- In Bewdley, the fire station site is centrally located, if it was relocated following the creation of the hub station, it could free up the whole site for potential redevelopment.
- In Kidderminster, the fire station site is a valuable asset that could contribute to the town's regeneration.
- In Stourport, the fire station occupies a site shared with a doctor's surgery and the former library. This could also be utilised for town centre redevelopment.

The unsustainability of the status quo and other options

The previous sections outline the operational limitations and financial liabilities of the three current fire station sites. We have also set out how the level of risk is reducing and the important operational benefits of developing a major emergency services hub station supported by the opportunity of one-off government



funding. For these reasons, we believe that relocating to a new hub station is the most efficient and effective way of delivering fire and rescue service across the Wyre Forest area.

We do not believe that maintaining the status quo (i.e. keeping things as they are currently) is sustainable operationally or financially for the following main reasons:

- The substantial reductions in risk and incident levels in Wyre Forest (and across Herefordshire and Worcestershire generally) mean that having three closely-located fire stations is no longer the most effective and efficient way of providing fire cover to the area.
- Relocating resources into a hub station would improve the availability of on-call crews and their fire engines by creating a bigger, single 'pool' of on-call firefighters.
- The three current fire stations lack important facilities and it is not possible to provide them on their existing sites.
- The three fire stations need expensive maintenance and will continue to be a drain on reducing financial resources.
- The £2.38 million government funding is tied to the possible development of a hub station and would not be available for any other options.

To help in developing the proposal, a number of initial listening and engagement sessions with staff and the

public have been held. In these sessions other options worthy of consideration were also suggested. For example, one suggestion was that Kidderminster and Stourport fire stations could be combined, leaving the existing station at Bewdley to operate as now – or the Bewdley fire engine could be replaced with a smaller appliance, housed not in a fire station as now, but in a secure lock-up facility. However, we believe that both of these options are unlikely to be financially achievable at the current time. Also, continuing to maintain a full fire station at Bewdley is considered unnecessary; the provision would still be compromised by poor weekday availability of the on-call crew members and, given the low number of incidents in the area, the cost could not be justified. While providing a smaller appliance is operationally feasible given the small number and nature of incidents in the area, it would still not necessarily solve the weekday unavailability of on-call crew members, and it could not substitute for the attendance of a full fire engine. In both cases, the government funding would likely be lost.

As noted earlier, the three current fire stations are not in the best state of repair and will require significant investment in the future if the Hub Station does not go ahead. At the very least replacing Kidderminster fire station on a like-for-like basis would cost considerably more per year than building a new single hub station, and this cost would be increased by any necessary works at Bewdley and Stourport fire stations. It should be noted that the Fire Authority does not currently have the finance for these works.

The key issues

The Fire Authority is consulting on whether a joint emergency services hub station for Wyre Forest is a good idea in principle. As we have said earlier, no decisions have been taken and no site has yet been selected.

Therefore, in this context, please let us know your views on the proposal that the Fire Authority should create a joint emergency services hub station for Wyre Forest? Whatever you think, let us know your views by completing the questionnaire in the next section or by one of the other methods listed below.

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

What happens next?

The consultation runs for 12 weeks, from 1 September 2015 to 27 November 2015 and there are many ways in which you can find out more and take part. The Fire Authority welcomes your views and will meet on 17 February 2016 to consider the proposal in the context of all the feedback from the public, organisations and staff. If the Fire Authority takes a decision to proceed with the proposal at their meeting, a site would need to be identified and purchased and the development of the Hub Station would be implemented over the next few years.

All responses and feedback will be analysed and reported by an independent organisation, and their report will be available on our website after the Fire Authority has considered it.

How can I take part?

You can find out more and tell us what you think by completing a questionnaire or by sending us questions and comments in several ways:

Completing the questionnaire either online at www.hwfire.org.uk/your-right-to-know/consultation or by requesting a paper copy.

Coming to a public meeting (see next column).

Call us on: 0845 122 4454

Email us at: Consultation@hwfire.org.uk

Visit our website: www.hwfire.org.uk

Write to us at:

Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service
Headquarters
2 Kings Court
Charles Hastings Way
Worcester
WR5 1JR

Contact us on Twitter: @HWFire or by using the hashtag #TellHWFire

Contact us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/HWFire

To request a paper copy of the questionnaire, or a copy in another language, large print, audio or Braille format, please contact Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service at:

Email: Consultation@hwfire.org.uk

Call us on: 0845 122 4454

Public Meetings

We are also holding the following public meetings:

Bewdley

12th October 2015

St. George's Hall

Kidderminster

17th September 2015

Wyre Forest District Council Chamber

Stourport

15th September 2015

Civic Centre

Confidentiality

All completed **questionnaires** will be processed by Opinion Research Services (ORS), a specialist social research organisation appointed to undertake this work. Your views are confidential and no one except ORS will see your questionnaire. **No individuals will be identified in the ORS report of findings, but organisations may be identified.**

Other **written responses** (emails, letters and other submissions) will be summarised by ORS and may be quoted in their report and on our website. Once more, **no individuals will be identified**, but organisations may be identified.

**Have
your say**
#tellHWFire

Wyre Forest Emergency Services Hub Station Consultation Questionnaire

This questionnaire is an opportunity to give your views about whether or not a joint emergency services hub station for Wyre Forest is a good idea in principle. Under the proposal, Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport fire stations would be replaced by a new, purpose-built station at a suitable location; but no decisions have been taken and no site has been selected.

Please read the consultation document and complete the questionnaire. Everyone aged 16 or over that lives or works in Herefordshire or Worcestershire may take part in the consultation, as well as representatives of business, public and voluntary sector organisations.

There is an online version of this questionnaire which we encourage you to complete. Please visit:
www.hwfire.org.uk/your-right-to-know/consultation

You can also share your views on Twitter **@HWFire** or using the hashtag **#TellHWFire** and on Facebook at **www.facebook.com/HWFire**

All consultation responses will be processed and analysed by Opinion Research Services (ORS), an independent social research organisation. Responses from individuals will be completely anonymous, but views from organisations may be published in full.

All completed questionnaires should be returned by **27 November 2015**.



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SECTION A | QUESTIONS

Please read the Consultation Document to find out more before completing the questionnaire.

For the following statements, please tick ✓ the box that matches your view most closely.

	Strongly Agree	Tend to Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Hereford & Worcester Fire And Rescue Service should collaborate more closely with other 'blue light' emergency services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please tell us your reasons.

	Strongly Agree	Tend to Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The establishment of a Wyre Forest emergency services hub that brings together Fire, Police, Ambulance and the voluntary emergency responders is a good idea in principle.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please tell us your reasons.

	Strongly Agree	Tend to Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The replacement of the existing three fire stations with a Wyre Forest emergency services hub in a suitable location is a good idea in principle.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please tell us your reasons.

As a public body, Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority has a duty to take into account human rights and also the impact of its decisions on people with protected characteristics, which under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation.

Are there any positive or negative impacts that you believe we should take into account? If so, can you suggest any ways to increase any positive impacts or to reduce or remove any negative impacts?

Yes

No

Please answer below and continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Are there any further comments you would like to make?

Please answer below and continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

SECTION B | INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

What is your full postcode?

This will help us understand views in different areas

If you are responding on behalf of an ORGANISATION, which organisation do you represent?

Please give us the name of the organisation and any specific group or department. Please also tell us who the organisation represents, what area the organisation covers and how you gathered the views of members. PLEASE ANSWER IN THE BOX BELOW AND CONTINUE ON A SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

If you are providing your own PERSONAL RESPONSE, please answer the questions below

We have a duty to promote equality in relation to age, gender, disability, race, and religion and belief. We want to make sure that we include all parts of the community in our consultation, but these questions are optional. We will take all consultation responses fully into account when making decisions, regardless of whether you provide your personal details. PLEASE TICK ONLY ONE BOX FOR EACH QUESTION.

What was your age on your last birthday?

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 to 64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25 to 34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 to 74 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 35 to 44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75 to 84 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 45 to 54 | <input type="checkbox"/> 85 or over |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say | |

What is your ethnic group?

- White
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
- Asian or Asian British
- Black, African, Caribbean or Black British
- Any other ethnic group
- Prefer not to say

What is your gender?

- Male Prefer not to say
- Female

Are you employed by Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service?

- Yes Prefer not to say
- No

Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

- Yes Prefer not to say
- No

Thank you very much for your time

Please detach the questionnaire from the information booklet and return to the FREEPOST address below.

Completed questionnaires should be returned by 27 November 2015.

For more detailed information about our plans please visit: www.hwfire.org.uk/your-right-to-know/consultation

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