

Mayor and Cabinet			
Report title	Response to the Comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the London Fire Brigade		
Contributors	Executive Director for Community Services	Item No.	
Class	Part 1	Date	21 October 2015

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a response following a referral to Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, arising from discussions held with the London Fire Brigade, as part of the Public Spending in Lewisham review, on 13 July 2015.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Mayor:

- 2.1 Note the responses in the report.
- 2.2 Agrees for the response to be forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3. Overview and Scrutiny Committee views

- 3.1 On 13 July 2015, the full Overview and Scrutiny Committee questioned representatives from the London Fire Brigade, Ambulance Service and Metropolitan Police. The Committee agreed to recommend that the Mayor request a full briefing on Forest Hill Station's second fire appliance, and the relevant Mayoral Direction, from the London Fire Brigade.

Response

- 3.1.1 On 15 June, the Mayor issued a Direction to the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) instructing it not to redeploy the 13 appliances back to their base stations until the Commissioner had written a report on the Authority's budget options for 2016/17.
- 3.1.2 This report is to be considered by LFEPA members by the end of November 2015. (The Authority needs to identify £12m savings for 2016/17).
- 3.1.3 Forest Hill's pump is one of the 13 pumping appliances currently removed from station.
- 3.2 The Committee heard that the second appliance was currently being held elsewhere in order to provide emergency fire cover whilst there was the possibility of industrial action. However, there has now been a Mayoral Direction¹ requiring the 13 appliances from across London currently being held for contingency

¹ See: <https://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/mayor/mayoral-decisions/MD1516>

purposes, to not be returned pending decisions on 2016/17 savings proposals, which could include their permanent decommissioning. Should such a saving be taken, modelling would be carried out to determine which 13 appliances should be decommissioned based on the impact their removal would have.

Response

- 3.2.1 Removal of the appliances in August 2013 for Emergency fire cover was based upon modelling at the time which was prior to the implementation of London Safety Plan 5, the closure of 10 fire stations and reducing 14 pumping appliances by January 2014.
- 3.2.2 If the permanent removal of 13 appliances is put forward as an option for budget savings for 2016/17, it does not necessarily mean that it would be the same 13 appliances that would be removed. Further modelling work would need to be done taking in to account factors which have changed since August 2013.
- 3.2.3 Any permanent removal of 13 appliances would have to go through formal consultation and then be agreed by LFEPA members / Mayoral Direction.
- 3.2.4 With regards to attendance times, the London Fire Brigade strives to achieve getting the first appliance at the scene within 6 minutes and the second within 8 minutes. Appendix A outlines response times and confirms that the target is being achieved for the first attendance on most occasions for those wards that are being covered by Forest Hill's appliance (see Appendix B). The second appliance attendance times is sometimes outside the desired 8 minutes for 3 of the 6 wards covered by Forest Hill Station due to a neighbouring station's appliance being mobilised. It is noteworthy that these are still some of the fastest attendance times in the country and for 3 of the wards the second appliance is still arriving within the 8 minutes.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The changes outlined above are in relation to reduced resources within the Fire Service.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to make recommendations to the Executive or appropriate committee and / or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process.

6. Further Implications

- 6.1 At this stage there are no specific environmental, equalities or crime and disorder implications to consider, but any reductions in resources may impact on these areas and an assessment of impact will need to be considered.

Background papers

Public Spending in Lewisham: Officer report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 13 July 2015

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Referral to Mayor and Cabinet – 15 July 2015

If you have any queries on this report please contact Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney, Head of Crime Reduction and Supporting People on 020 8314 9569.

Appendix A

Attendance times in Lewisham, by ward

Ward	First appliance				Second appliance				Impact of EFCC pump removal
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	
Bellingham	05:54	06:21	06:26	06:20	07:29	07:17	07:43	08:53	1
Blackheath	04:43	04:32	04:53	04:33	06:29	06:16	06:20	07:18	
Brookley	05:28	05:45	05:31	05:50	06:47	06:40	06:37	07:20	1
Catford South	05:33	05:23	05:53	06:08	07:23	06:52	06:43	06:28	0.5
Crofton Park	03:40	04:30	04:26	04:18	04:55	06:31	07:30	06:58	1
Downham	05:25	05:33	07:04	06:56	07:14	07:39	08:18	07:44	
Evelyn	04:09	04:17	04:49	05:21	06:43	06:46	07:02	07:43	0.5
Forest Hill	05:11	05:30	05:33	05:08	06:24	07:09	08:49	08:26	1
Grove Park	04:48	05:27	06:13	06:37	06:27	06:42	07:25	07:49	
Ladywell	04:46	05:15	04:56	05:14	06:48	06:33	06:28	06:48	1
Lee Green	03:51	04:10	04:37	04:44	06:57	06:11	06:55	07:07	
Lewisham Central	03:58	04:05	04:13	03:55	05:50	06:08	06:36	06:04	0.5
New Cross	04:59	04:58	05:06	05:11	06:18	06:18	06:13	06:13	0.5
Perry Vale	04:02	04:19	04:19	04:48	04:50	06:48	07:38	08:39	1
Rushey Green	04:36	04:41	05:00	04:43	05:41	06:39	06:40	06:25	1
Sydenham	05:51	06:11	06:00	06:01	06:41	07:48	07:34	07:50	1
Telegraph Hill	05:05	04:32	05:03	04:34	07:49	06:25	05:52	04:50	1
Whitefoot	05:10	05:38	07:22	07:33	07:54	08:09	08:14	07:34	
	04:44	04:58	05:18	05:17	06:22	06:45	07:04	07:04	

Notes:

- 1) In column 'Impact of EFCC pump removal', 1 = some expected impact, 0.5 = smaller expected impact from the temporary removal of second appliances for EFCC purposes (e.g. at Forest Hill)
- 2) 27 second appliances were removed from stations in August 2013 (2013/14 year) for EFCC purposes.
- 3) LSP5 station closures and appliances removals were implemented in January 2014 (2013/14 year); at this point 13 second appliances continued to be removed for EFCC purposes.
- 4) 2015/16 data is at 20 July 2015

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Appendix B – coverage of Forest Hill Station

