

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Motion 4 in the name of Councillor Hall to be seconded by Councillor Bernhards	
Key Decision		Item No.
Ward		
Contributors	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
Class	Part 1	Date: January 20 2016

“Council notes with concern the current budget consultation being carried out by the London Fire & Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) proposes the permanent removal of 13 fire appliances including one from Forest Hill fire station. These appliances have been removed from normal service for the last two years to provide contingency cover during the period of industrial action over firefighter pensions.

As the Council noted in the Public Spending in Lewisham report in 2015 the absence of Forest Hill’s second appliance has had a negative impact on the time taken for both the first and second fire crews to arrive across Lewisham.

Since the implementation of Fifth London Safety Plan in 2014 and the closure of Downham fire station, the borough has seen an increase of over half a minute in the arrival of the first fire engine at an incident.

Furthermore, there has been an increase of 41 seconds for the arrival of the second fire engine; this has gone up from 6 minutes 22 seconds in 2012/13 to 7 minutes 4 seconds in 2014/15.

Bellingham and Crofton Park wards have seen increases of over half a minute for the arrival of the first fire engine at an incident. Crofton Park, Forest Hill, Perry Vale and Rushey Green wards have all seen increases of over 1 minute for the second crew to arrive. The second fire engine is important as the first crews cannot enter a building until they have been backed up by a second crew. The intensity of a fire can quadruple in just two minutes.

Council believes the permanent removal of a fire appliance will only lead to further deterioration in arrival times. It is for this reason that the Council supports the alternative budget proposals supported by the majority of LFEPA members which would retain the 13 appliances.

Therefore, this Council calls upon the Mayor of Lewisham to respond to the public consultation and support ‘Option A’ which includes retaining the 13 appliances.”