



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

B405

Haverhill Area Working Party 13 January 2011

**Agenda Item 10:
Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service: Haverhill Fire Station**

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Date: 7th December 2010

Dear Mr Rivers

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service - Haverhill Fire Station

I wanted to write to you and set out, at the earliest opportunity and in advance of the County Council Pre-Budget Scrutiny meeting, proposals that Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is considering to meet the challenges of the Comprehensive Spending Review, and the consequent reduction in funding for the Fire Service from 2011/12.

I am conscious that the changes that will be implemented across Suffolk present challenges for a broad range of stakeholders beyond just the Fire and Rescue Service. It is for this reason that I am writing this letter. I want to ensure you are provided with the information that is available at this time, and that you have a point of reference to enable you to find out more information, or discuss the proposals in greater detail, as required.

Before I set out the proposal that is being developed for Haverhill Fire Station it is worth noting that, from a Fire and Rescue Service perspective, Suffolk is one of the safest counties in the country. Through this challenging period this will remain the aim of everyone working in the Service from Firefighter through to Chief Fire Officer.

Haverhill Fire Station Proposal

We are proposing to change the crewing arrangement at Haverhill fire station from one where emergency cover is provided between 0800 and 1800 hours seven days a week by full time firefighters to one where the same emergency cover is provided for five days a week from Monday to Friday. On-call firefighters would provide cover outside of these times, as is currently the case.

It is worth noting at this stage that this is not a new way of crewing fire stations in Suffolk. The proposed arrangement for Haverhill will reflect the arrangement that is in place at Newmarket fire station and this has been successfully used to manage community risk for several years.

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The Fire Service approach to community risk management is developed through an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). This is an assessment of how the Fire Service manages risk across Suffolk, and the proposals that will have an impact on community risk are subject to a 12-week period of public and wider stakeholder consultation. The IRMP is currently being developed and is likely to include the proposal for Haverhill fire station. I expect the consultation to begin in early 2011.

In closing, I trust that I have presented the information in a way that is clear for you to understand and also explains some of the context around the proposal well in advance of the formal IRMP consultation that will take place in due course. I, or one of my senior colleagues, would be happy to meet with you or to provide you with additional information as you require.

Yours sincerely

Andy Fry
Chief Fire Officer