



## Fire and Rescue Services Association

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**Tristan Ashby:** Chief Executive Officer

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Date: 20 December 2023

To the Town / Parish Councils of: *Atherstone, Bidford, Bedworth, Coleshill, Fenny Compton, Henley, Kenilworth, Polesworth, Stratford, Shipston, Southam, Wellesbourne*

Dear Town / Parish Clerk

### **Resourcing to Risk proposals**

You will be as concerned and alarmed as we are that Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service intends to disband its entire complement of On-Call (also known as retained) firefighters, remove a significant number of fire engines and deliver a massive closure programme of stations. This is the first time in the history of the United Kingdom Fire and Rescue Service, that a non-metropolitan fire and rescue service has planned anything of this nature and scale.

The impact of these proposals is stark. There will be a reduction in the potential for 23 fire engines being available during the day and 21 at night, to just 12 during the day to eight at night. Where stations are effectively closed, in all but name, there will be no service from them at all – these stations are: *Polesworth, Kenilworth, Henley, Bidford, Shipston, Gaydon and Fenny Compton*. The following stations will have no cover between 10 pm and 8 am – *Bedworth, Southam, Wellesbourne and Alcester*.

The net benefit of these closures is a miniscule improvement in response times for the first fire engine response times. Even their own figures suggest only an improvement of 17 seconds on average are saved across the county for the first fire appliance but an increase of 12 seconds for the second. These are 10 minutes 37 seconds for the first engine down to 10 minutes 20 seconds; and for the second appliance 14 minutes 16 seconds increasing to 14 minutes 28 seconds. At least two engines are needed for a house fire.

The savings the service predicts are just £14,000 out of a budget of £22 million. These are not our figures – they are the Service's own.

Where On-Call stations are closed, it is proposed that they become 'surge stations' where firefighters will be mustered **four times every five years** to respond to major events. They will no longer provide a local service, and the current On-Call firefighters will be offered new contracts elsewhere, or as is more likely made redundant.

It is absolutely clear to us that these proposals are both illogical and dangerous to everyone across Warwickshire.

We are the one national organisation actively resisting these cuts. We urge you to consider the [consultation](#) which has been launched by Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service, and let your views be known – otherwise it will be too late.

We stand ready to provide a fuller briefing so please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T Ashby', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Tristan Ashby  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Fire and Rescue Services Association**