

**APPENDIX A  
COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2018  
QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF  
NOTTINGHAM FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**Question to the Chair of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority from Councillor David Martin**

Ashfield as a District is in a unique geographical position not only to support its 100,000 plus residents but also incidents on major arterial routes such as the M1 and the A38.

Can the Chairman of the Fire Authority assure this Council and more importantly the residents of Ashfield and Retford that every conceivable alternative evaluation to save money across the County was pursued before cuts to this vital service provision were made?

Can the Chairman of the Fire Authority wholeheartedly promise the residents of Ashfield District and the Country that they have not put lives at risk by this postcode cut in vital overnight emergency services?

**Response from Chairman of Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority Chairman**

You will all be aware that public services have endured a continual reduction in funding over a number of years and the Fire and Rescue Service is no different to any other Service in the country. Since 2010 we have made savings in the region of £13 million pounds which is equivalent to a 25% reduction of our finances.

Over that time we have made savings in every area of the service which have included:

- a significant number of reductions in managerial posts;
- removal of five fire appliances from the city area and one from Mansfield;
- a complete review and restructure of support services; and
- a transformation of the procurement of goods and services within the Service itself.

These latest changes at Ashfield and Retford, which still ensure the same number of appliances are maintained at the stations, are part of a long-term strategy to save £3 million pounds by 2020, so I can confirm that every area of the Service is subject to scrutiny to ensure that the saving being made are proportionate.

What must also be considered, is that when an incident occurs that affects life or property a number of resources are dispatched to deal with the incident, not just the appliances from the nearest station. This will also involve appliances from neighbouring services where they are the closest.

In terms of risk, residents of the County and City are now safer than they have ever been. Due to the significant work undertaken by the Fire Service and our partners we

have driven down risk and the number of incidents by over 40% in recent years. This work will continue as we maintain focus on prevention, whilst at the same time ensure we maintain an operational response capability that is proportionate to the risks and demands placed on the Service.