

APPENDIX A

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13 JULY 2023 QUESTION TO CHAIRMAN OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AUTHORITY

Question from Councillor Jason Zadrozny

As the Chairman knows my colleagues and I have been campaigning for over six years to have the Ashfield fire station returned to a 24-hour full-time station.

Would the Chairman please take the opportunity to update members on progress to return Ashfield Fire Station to a 24-hour, full-time service.

Response from the Chairman of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority, Councillor Michael Payne

I'm sure Councillor Zadrozny will agree with me that the issue of full time fire cover for the good people of Ashfield is far from an anachronistic question as described by Councillor Owen earlier in today's meeting. As Councillor Zadrozny will be aware, Nottinghamshire and the City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority are due to receive an update from the Chief Fire Officer on implementation proposals relating to the specific issue that he has asked about at our full Fire Authority meeting taking place tomorrow on 14 July.

The proposals contained within that report to address the fire risks highlighted in the independent fire cover review carried out in 2019 of our entire city and county will aim, I repeat, will aim to see Ashfield fire station return to a 24 hour whole time crew with the ambition that this can be achieved by the end of November 2023. This will, Mr Chairman, however, be subject to review as more detailed plans are developed by the service. Under the delegated responsibilities of the Chief Fire Officer and in the face of continuing long term uncertainty of the budgetary situation facing the Fire and Rescue Authority, the Service will aim to implement these proposed changes within the current workforce establishment whilst maintaining the levels of fire cover currently seen across the city and our county. Members of the Fire and Rescue Authority will tomorrow be asked to support and endorse the approach of the Chief Fire Officer ahead of the Service embarking on the required steps to implement the required changes.

And I will just finish by saying this, given that this will be the last chance to ask questions about our emergency service, thanks to the anti-democratic work of Councillor Owen and his Conservative colleagues on the other side of the chamber. I am incredibly proud, Mr Chairman, of a Labour led Fire Authority that continues to invest in improving our Fire and Rescue Service even in the face of disproportionate cuts levied by this Conservative government which have been supported by Nottinghamshire Conservative MPs at every single turn and you can have it from me, given it's the last chance I'll be able to speak about the Fire Service in this chamber, while ever I remain in that Chair and while ever Labour is in control of that Fire Authority we will fight the disproportionate cuts, including those voted on by the Leader of this County Council, every single step of the way. And I hope next year in May that

we have a Labour Police and Crime Commissioner who will be concentrating on defending the good people of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire instead of defending themselves in court.