

APPENDIX A

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23 NOVEMBER 2017

QUESTION TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

Question to the Chairman of the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Authority, from Councillor Jason Zadrozny

Would the Chairman of the Fire Authority take this opportunity to update Members on the interim position on the Public Consultation currently under way with regards to proposed crewing changes at Ashfield, Retford and Worksop Fire Stations?

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

In line with our Consultation Framework the Fire Authority has employed Opinion Research Services (ORS), who are an independent company, to undertake the consultation process on our behalf.

We have ensured the consultation information has been disseminated across Nottinghamshire, using a wide range of different communication methods. These include website and intranet publication; public consultation forums; media briefings; letters and correspondence; and online and printed adverts in both the City and County areas.

These activities have been supplemented with extensive work through NFRS (Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service) social media channels, including weekly Facebook advertising, which has allowed tens of thousands of citizens from across the county to become aware of the consultation and its timeframe. The weekly updates we are receiving from Opinion Research indicates that these channels are the most popular way that people are hearing about the consultation.

We have also focused on internal communications with our staff including the strategic leadership team undertaking extensive face-to-face briefings, meeting every team and department in the organisation. This has allowed all staff the opportunity to discuss their thoughts and to give informal feedback on the proposals.

ORS has currently logged nearly 2,000 responses to the consultation survey, however we are obviously expecting more before the deadline of 17 December. Importantly, the ORS data is showing that we are getting a good spread of responses from around the county and during the past few weeks this has enabled us to target communications where the responses have been lower.

At this point in time we do not have an update on the way people have voted on the proposals, as this will only be collated and analysed by ORS when the consultation has closed and they produce an outturn report. This report will be shared publicly at the meeting of the Fire Authority in February.