



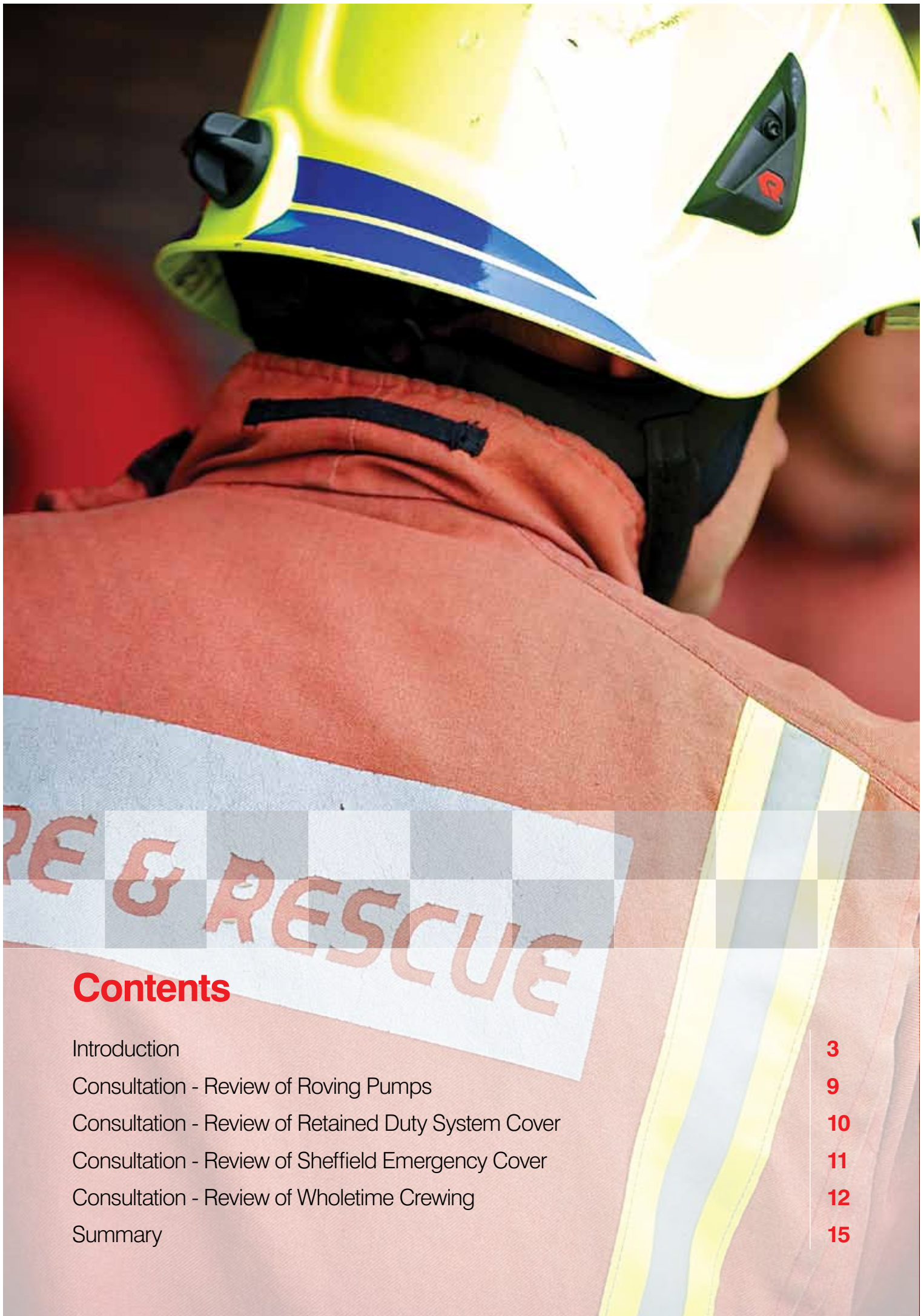
South Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue

WORKING FOR A SAFER
SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Proposals for Service Delivery Changes

Summary document





Contents

Introduction

Consultation - Review of Roving Pumps

Consultation - Review of Retained Duty System Cover

Consultation - Review of Sheffield Emergency Cover

Consultation - Review of Wholetime Crewing

Summary

3

9

10

11

12

15

Introduction

Our Service Plan for 2011-13 was adopted in July 2011 following approval from South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority and a 12-week public consultation. This Plan set the context in which we must provide the county's Fire & Rescue Service over the coming years. It contains an action plan which started a number of reviews into the way we operate. In this document we are publishing the outcomes of the reviews which have been completed, and proposals for changes to the way we provide our services.

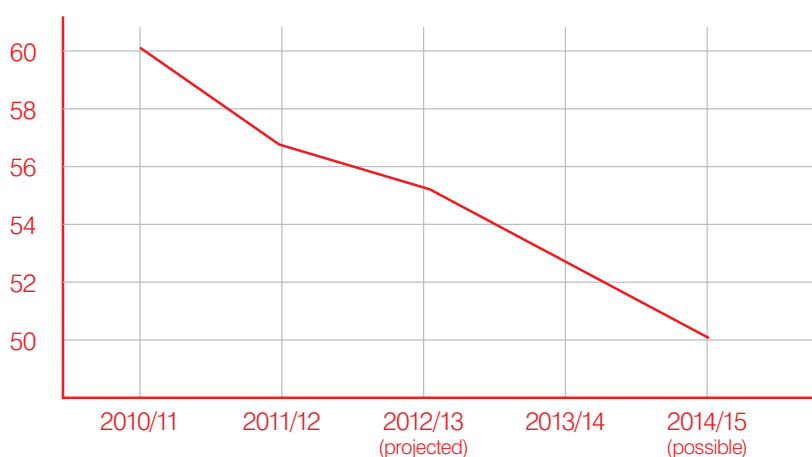
The financial outlook

In 2010/11, our budget was around £60 million.

The Government grant part of our funding was cut by over £3m, meaning our budget for 2011/12 is £56.9m. We already know our budget for 2012/13 will be cut again by a further £1.2m, and the Government has warned us the cuts to our budget in 2013-15 are likely to be even greater than in 2011-13.

Overall, by 2015, we expect to have lost around £10m per year from our budget, in real terms.

SYFR budget in £m (based on current prices)





We are cutting management and administration costs by 25% to save £2.8m per year

Our response so far

We have already started to cut our management costs by 25%. This will be completed by 2013, and will save us £0.8m per year. We have also started to cut our administration costs by 25%. This aims to save £2m per year by 2014.

But that could still leave us with around £7m per year savings to find by 2015. The vast majority of our spending is on frontline services such as firefighter salaries. So the only way we can make the rest of the savings we need to is by reducing the number of people we employ and organising our frontline service delivery more efficiently.

It is intended to manage the reduction in number of full-time firefighters through natural wastage. It is not intended to make any full-time firefighter redundancies.

Why? What does this mean for the public?

We don't want to make these changes.

However, we have no choice, based on the income we will be receiving from the Government. Professional officers, led by Chief Fire Officer James Courtney, have comprehensively investigated all the options available to us.

What we are proposing in this document are changes which will reduce our budget and – we believe – have the minimum possible impact upon public safety.

Will we be less safe in the future?

No. We have comprehensively researched all the options and our proposals are those which we believe will have the least impact on our emergency response service.

Our community fire prevention work over recent years has been so successful that the number of fires in South Yorkshire, and the number of deaths and injuries they have caused, has significantly reduced. South Yorkshire residents are safer now than they have ever been before. Thankfully, our emergency response service is needed much less often than in the past.

	2003/04	2010/11	% reduction	
999 calls (excluding duplicates)	32,000	16,595	48	
Accidental dwelling fires*	1,004	665	34	
Accidental dwelling fire deaths and injuries	155	56	64	
Deliberate fires	15,463	5,266	66	
Road traffic collisions attended	1,027	494	52	
False alarms (faulty fire detection systems)	4,239 ⁺	1,957	54	
Malicious false alarms	804 ⁺	99	88	

* Fires in properties where people live – such as houses, flats and apartments
⁺ Data from 2005/06



Emergency calls to us have almost halved in the last seven years. Fire deaths and injuries are down by 64%

Our priorities

We consulted extensively with the public and our staff in 2010, and our priorities have been developed from that consultation feedback. They are:

- Making People Safer – working to prevent emergencies
- Responding to Emergencies – effectively and safely
- Valuing People – those we serve and employ
- Maximising Efficiency – making our resources go further



What are the next steps?

We have published our proposals for changes to our service provision in this booklet. These are subject to a 14-week public consultation period which ends on Monday 6th February 2012. Public meetings will be arranged in areas directly affected by these proposals and advertised locally, and on our website, www.syfire.gov.uk

There are several ways in which you can make your views known to us, and these are listed at the back of this booklet. Following the completion of this public consultation, we will study all the responses we receive before the Authority makes its final decision.

We understand that these proposals may generate significant public interest and discussion. Before you make your views known to us we ask you to consider three key issues:

- 1) We don't want to make these changes but we must reduce our costs due to Government budget cuts
- 2) As professional officers, we have researched and recommended changes which we believe will have the least impact on the services we provide to the public
- 3) If we don't make these changes, we will have to make other changes instead to balance the budget

A close-up photograph of a red fire truck. The truck's body is a vibrant red. In the center, there is a shield-shaped logo with a white border. The logo is divided into three horizontal sections: the top section is light blue with a white cloud, the middle section is dark blue with white wavy lines representing water, and the bottom section is black with a white torch. To the right of the logo is a blue emergency light with a silver base. Below the logo, the text "South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue" is printed in a large, black, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the slogan "WORKING FOR A SAFER SOUTH YORKSHIRE" is printed in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The background shows a blurred view of a building and a clear sky.

As professional officers, we have researched and recommended changes which we believe will have the minimum impact on public safety

South Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue
WORKING FOR A SAFER
SOUTH YORKSHIRE

For consultation

Review of “roving pumps”

What is this about?

In 1997, we added two “roving pumps” to our fleet, which were above our core provision of fire engines. A third roving pump was later added. These roving pumps acted as “reserve” engines to free fire crews to undertake specific training at our Training and Development Centre. During day shifts, up to three fire crews were receiving formal training to keep their skills updated, while the three roving pumps and crews stood in for them at their usual fire station.

As a secondary benefit, when not being used to support training, these fire engines have been used to provide additional fire cover, and are currently based at Darnall, Elm Lane and Mansfield Road fire stations.

What is now being proposed?

It is proposed to remove these three roving pumps from our fleet, whilst adding at least one new Small Incident Unit (SIU) to tackle the small incidents which comprise about 70% of the fires we attend.

Why are these changes being proposed?

The roving pumps are no longer needed to support training. The ‘stand-in’ provision when a full crew attends our training centre now comes from within the district in which that fire engine is based. For example, when a Thorne crew is training, it makes more sense for a fire engine from Doncaster to stand in than to move a roving pump across the county from Sheffield.

Small Incident Units (SIUs) were trialed in South Yorkshire in 2009, and were very successful. They attend smaller, non life-threatening incidents, keeping traditional fire engines available for fires threatening life or property. This proposal is to initially introduce one permanent SIU to our fleet.

What will the impact be on the local community and their fire cover?

Minimal, because these roving pumps are above our core provision for the communities in which they are based. The number of incidents we attend has reduced since 1997 when this concept was introduced. And the number of larger incidents we attend has reduced significantly. The number of incidents to which we have

had to use two or more fire engines in a ‘roving pump’ station area has gone down from 2,119 in 2003 to 593 last year. The SIUs would be phased in to support the removal of the roving pumps, and be available for prevention activity as well as response, supplemented by support from the community team.

Will this change disproportionately affect Sheffield?

We allocate our resources based on risk, rather than by district. Based on South Yorkshire’s risk profile, a higher proportion of fire engines and firefighters are currently allocated to Sheffield district than any of the other districts. Through our research, we are satisfied that our allocation of resources across our four districts will match the current risks in those areas after this change is introduced.

What savings will this achieve?

This proposal would save around £1.75m per year due mostly through the reduction of 48 full-time firefighter posts. There would be an additional one-off saving of around £500,000. It is intended to make these changes between 2012 and 2013.

Where can I find out more?

The business case and equality impact assessment are on our website, www.syfire.gov.uk



Review of retained duty system cover

What are the current arrangements?

Firefighters on the retained duty system (RDS) work for us part-time, when their other commitments allow. Often they have other full-time work. When on call for us, they must be living or working within five minutes of their fire station.

We have six fire stations which are staffed entirely on the retained duty system – Askern, Mosborough, Penistone, Rossington, Royston and Stocksbridge. Two others (Dearne and Edlington) have full-time firefighters and an RDS crew.

What is now being proposed?

We are proposing to remove the RDS crews at Edlington and Royston stations. Royston fire station would close. Edlington would still be staffed by the full-time crew.

Why are these changes being proposed?

Both these crews attend only a small number of incidents. Our first response to most emergencies in the Edlington area comes from the Edlington full-time crew. Our first response to most emergencies in the Royston area comes from the full-time crews at either Barnsley or the new Cudworth fire station. In addition, these two RDS crews are both available for less than 50% of the time due to their other commitments.

What will the impact on the local community and their fire cover be?

Minimal, due to the other full-time resources available nearby. In the whole of 2010, Royston's RDS crew was the first to attend just 3 fires which affected life or property. For Edlington RDS the figure was 0. In both cases their main calls were to put out small grass or rubbish fires.

What will the impact on firefighters be?

We will no longer have RDS crews at these stations. Some of the firefighters at these stations are currently on 'dual contracts' where they are full-time firefighters with us as their usual job, and they also undertake RDS duties for their local station in between shifts. 'Dual contract' staff will still have their full-time jobs available with us.

What will the impact on South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue be? What savings will be achieved?

We will be able to provide a similar level of service for reduced costs.

This proposal would save around £275,000 per year mostly through the reduction of 19 part-time firefighter posts. There would be an additional one-off saving of around £250,000. It is intended to make these changes as soon as possible.

Where can I find out more?

The full business case and equality impact assessment are on our website, www.syfire.gov.uk



Review of Sheffield emergency cover

What is this about?

A review of the location and suitability of all South Yorkshire's fire stations took place. Due to a number of emerging issues, this review evolved to focus on the south and east Sheffield areas. It took into account factors such as the way community risks have changed over time, whether these changes mean we need to consider different sites for our existing fire stations, the age and condition of those stations, and potential future residential and industrial developments in the county. All of Sheffield's stations were built before the creation of a South Yorkshire wide service in 1974 with the exception of Central station, which relocated with our Headquarters in 2008. The issues raised by the review included the future development of up to 4,000 new homes and industrial units potentially creating 6,000 new jobs on the site of the former Orgreave pit, and the fact that the fire stations at Darnall, Mansfield Road and Mosborough are in need of significant, costly repairs in the near future. This review has provided an opportunity to identify optimum solutions to maintain fire cover whilst providing a more effective and efficient service.

What is now being proposed?

Due to the changes in community risk in this part of the city, it is proposed to merge the fire stations at Darnall and Mansfield Road to a new site at or near to the Sheffield Parkway. The retained fire station at Mosborough would be replaced by a full-time station, staffed on a Close Proximity Crewing basis, in the Birley area. See page 12 for more details on Close Proximity Crewing.

Why are these changes being proposed?

These new proposals take much better note of the significant changes which have taken place in Sheffield over the last 30 years, such as:-

- The substantial reduction in heavy industry in the Darnall station area
- The development of several thousand new residential homes in the south-east Sheffield area
- The creation of the Parkway and other modern transport links
- The future proposals for the development of the former Orgreave pit site

The future Orgreave development would not have been adequately serviced by our existing fire cover arrangements. A new wholetime fire station near the Sheffield Parkway would provide improved cover to the Orgreave site, have good trunk road links, and would cover much of the station areas currently served by Darnall and Mansfield Road stations.

A new station at Birley would service the areas around the existing Mansfield Road station which may have been negatively affected by the relocation to the Parkway site. The Birley station would also serve a greater part of south-east Sheffield than the existing Mosborough station, improving fire cover.

What will the impact be on the local community and their fire cover? What savings will this achieve?

This proposal would be implemented in 2014-15. It would increase the number of full-time firefighters by ten posts, whilst removing 13 retained firefighter posts. The net cost of the proposal is around £600,000 per year, with a one-off capital cost of around £4 million.

When considered alongside the Review of Roving Pumps (see page 9) the overall effect of these proposals is to provide a comparable level of fire cover to the city of Sheffield, at a saving of over £1 million.

Where can I find out more?

The business case and equality impact assessment are on our website, www.syfire.gov.uk

Review of wholetime crewing

What are the current arrangements?

Our 17 full-time fire stations are all staffed by a full crew of firefighters, 24/7. However, some of these stations attend many more incidents than others. Other UK fire services have introduced various different ways of providing full-time cover more efficiently at their quieter stations. We have studied the alternative options already being successfully used elsewhere to see if any of them would be suitable for any stations in South Yorkshire.

What is being proposed?

We have identified six full-time fire stations which respond to a low number of incidents and may be suitable for an alternative method of crewing. These are: Aston Park, Maltby, Rivelin, Thorne, Tankersley and Lowedges.

We have considered three different options for crewing at these stations:

- Retained duty system (RDS) crewing – as seen on page 10, this system would mean switching to a system entirely based on using part-time firefighters when they are available. We don't currently recommend this option. It would need to be reconsidered if it is not possible to introduce Close Proximity Crewing.
- Day crewing – this system would staff these stations with a full-time crew during the day, switching to RDS/part-time crewing at night. This would provide similar savings to Close Proximity Crewing but a longer response time at night. We don't currently recommend this option. It would need to be reconsidered if it is not possible to introduce Close Proximity Crewing.
- Close proximity crewing (CPC) – this system entirely makes use of full-time fire crews, working four consecutive day shifts. During the night after each day shift, instead of going to their usual home, these firefighters would live in dedicated accommodation on, or adjacent to, the fire station. At night, they would be off duty but on call to attend emergencies.

They would be paid an enhancement for the additional on-call commitment they provide. This system gives us full-time, 24/7 cover for significantly reduced costs and, for stations which attend a relatively low number of incidents, is considered suitable. We propose to introduce the CPC system at up to six existing stations – the first one is proposed to be Lowedges.

Why are these changes being proposed?

Using the CPC system at these stations will enable us to provide full-time, 24/7 fire cover to local communities but at a much-reduced cost. The stations identified are suitable because we know that the number of incidents they attend is relatively low – on average, around 1.5 – 2.5 per 24-hour period, most of which are false alarms or small fires.

What will the impact be on the local community and their fire cover?

None. They will still have a full-time emergency response provided from their local fire station, 24/7.

What will be the impact on firefighters?

Firefighters would only volunteer to work the CPC system if it fits in with their domestic arrangements and lifestyle. Nobody would be forced to work it. Those who successfully apply for a post working this system will receive an enhanced rate of pay for the additional commitment they would be giving. Some of our firefighters have already told us they are interested in working the CPC system.

Firefighters who currently work at a station where these arrangements are introduced, but who don't want to work this system, will be able to work at a different station.

What will the impact on South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue be? What savings will be achieved?

If we are able to introduce Close Proximity Crewing, we will provide exactly the same level of service to the public, at a saving of around £400,000 per station, per year.

This proposal would be implemented at Lowedges in 2013, and at a second station in 2014. It would reduce the number of full-time firefighters by 30 posts, saving around £825,000 per year, with a one-off capital cost of around £330,000. Each subsequent CPC station would reduce full-time firefighter posts by 14, making a saving of around £400,000 per year, with a one-off cost of £165,000.

If it is not possible to introduce Close Proximity Crewing, the day crewing and retained duty systems would be reconsidered.

Where can I find out more?

The full business case and equality impact assessment are on our website, www.syfire.gov.uk

Alternative formats

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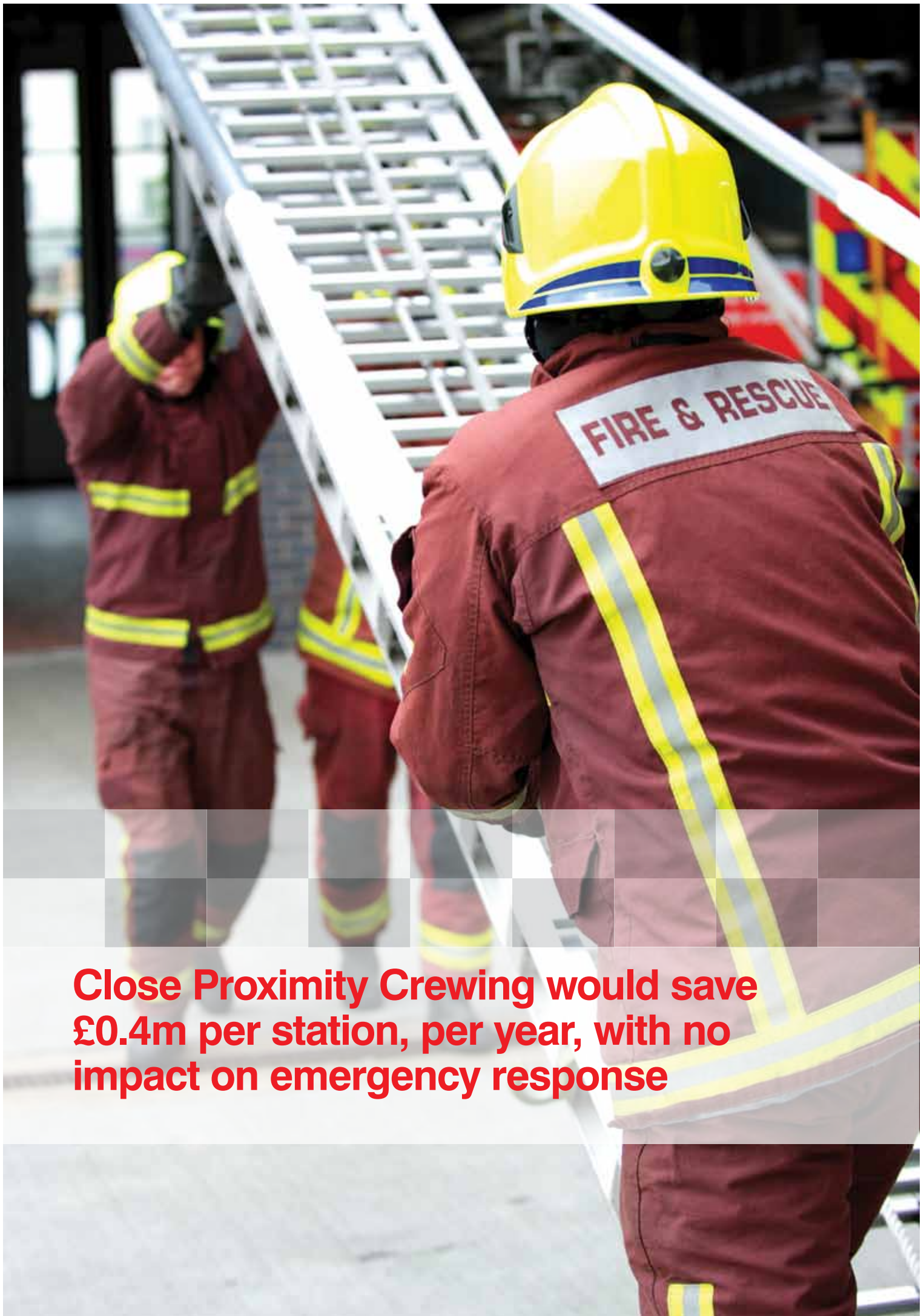
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Close Proximity Crewing would save £0.4m per station, per year, with no impact on emergency response

Summary

These are our proposals for how we can change the way we deliver our services with minimum impact on the services we provide. The public consultation period runs until Monday 6th February 2012, and we would like to hear your views on our proposals.

We are consulting on the following proposals:

- Review of Roving Pumps
- Review of Retained Duty System Cover
- Review of Sheffield Emergency Cover
- Review of wholetime crewing

Will my views count?

We genuinely want to hear your views on these proposals. We believe they represent a way in which we can make a total of £2.25 million per year savings, with minimum impact on services to the public. We are happy to consider alternative proposals for change which would achieve equivalent savings or more. The scale of the Government budget cuts mean that this level of savings is the minimum we need to achieve.

Key issues:

- We don't want to make these changes but we must reduce our costs due to Government budget cuts
- As professional officers, we have researched and recommended changes which we believe will have the least impact on the services we provide to the public
- If we don't take forward these changes, we will have to make other changes instead to balance the budget
- We will hold public meetings in the areas directly affected by these proposals. These will be advertised in local media, and on our website, www.syfire.gov.uk
- You can find more details on these proposals by visiting www.syfire.gov.uk

It should be noted that these proposed changes are not the only way in which we are reducing our budget to address the Government cuts to our funding. We are cutting management and administration costs by 25%. We are also making internal changes to our staffing arrangements on fire stations, control and in support departments to reduce costs. Depending on how the financial situation develops over the coming months and years, we may have to propose further changes.

How to get in touch

Email: serviceplan@syfire.gov.uk
Post: Public Consultation, South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue,
 197 Eyre Street, Sheffield, S1 3FG
Web: www.syfire.gov.uk



We cannot reply personally to everyone but all views expressed will be taken into account.

Thank you for reading this consultation booklet, and for your interest in South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue. Whatever happens in the future, we will always be working for a safer South Yorkshire.



South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue

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