

Oppose Front Line Cuts To Cambridgeshire Fire Service

Fire Chiefs in Cambridgeshire are planning £6 million cuts in the Fire Service budget.

The planned cuts include the removal of up to 10 fire engines and the closure of up to 4 fire stations.

Fire Chiefs claim that the Fire Service currently needs to save £4.2 million by 2015, but needs to plan to save £6 million to cover the cost of higher than predicted inflation and other financial risks.

Liberal Democrat members are opposing the cuts to frontline emergency services by the Conservative-controlled authority.

Lib Dem Councillor Nigel Bell said: "I have serious concerns about the £4 million in cuts imposed so far but the extra £2 million of cuts, which will see the closure of stations and the removal of fire appliances, is unacceptable. We cannot put lives at risk in order to keep council tax rises well below inflation."

"We are the cheapest Fire Service in the country per head of population but have suffered the maximum 9.5% cut in government grant. With inflation now running at over 4% the Fire Authority must revisit its decision to keep its Council Tax rises at 2.5% for the next 4 years, the cheapest Fire Service in the country

should at least keep its remaining service budget in line with inflation."

Lib Dem Members on the Fire Authority believe that the cuts to frontline services would be unnecessary if Council tax were raised in line with inflation and a fair grant settlement for rural Fire Services were achieved. We also believe that closer working with neighbouring Fire Services must be explored to reduce senior management costs.

The current level of Council Tax charged by the Fire Authority is £57.87p a year for a Band D property and the planned 2.5% rise would be an extra £1.45p a year for a Band D property.

SERVICES THAT COULD BE IN DANGER...

- The closure of Manea Fire Station
- The removal of the only fire engines at Burwell, Swaffham Bulbeck, Thorney and Gamlingay - leading to the closure of these stations.
- The removal of the second fire engines from Ely, Soham, St Ives and Ramsey.
- The re designation of Huntingdon Fire Station from full-time to day time only crewing.
- A review of the second fire engine at Cambridge.
- A review of the status of the Fire Stations at Ely, St Neots and Wisbeach.

Sign our petition against these cuts...