

**GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE: FIRE COVER REVIEW AND
SPECIAL APPLIANCES REVIEW 2023**

Report of the Director of Place Management

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Scrutiny Committee of proposed changes for the fire service in Stockport and seek members' views.
- 1.2 The Assistant Chief Fire Officer will be attending scrutiny committee to set out the proposals and explain why they have been made and the expected impact for Stockport.
- 1.3 Representatives from the Fire Brigade Union have also been invited to the meeting.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Greater Manchester Combined Authority launched a review of the fire service during 22/23.
- 2.2 Following the review, a set of proposals were published on 5th June with a consultation taking place until 10th July. These proposals are designed to build a stronger, more resilient fire and rescue service. The consultation document states that the proposals aim to maintain the highest levels of safety and lowest levels of risk to the communities of Greater Manchester.
- 2.3 The consultation is on line on the GMCA website and the link is below, providing details of the proposals, public consultation events and how to submit a response.
- 2.4 [Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service: Fire Cover Review and Special Appliances Review 2023 - Greater Manchester Combined Authority - Citizen Space \(gmconsult.org\)](https://gmconsult.org)
- 2.5 Once the consultation is closed the Deputy Mayor for Policing, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire will consider representations before making any formal decisions.

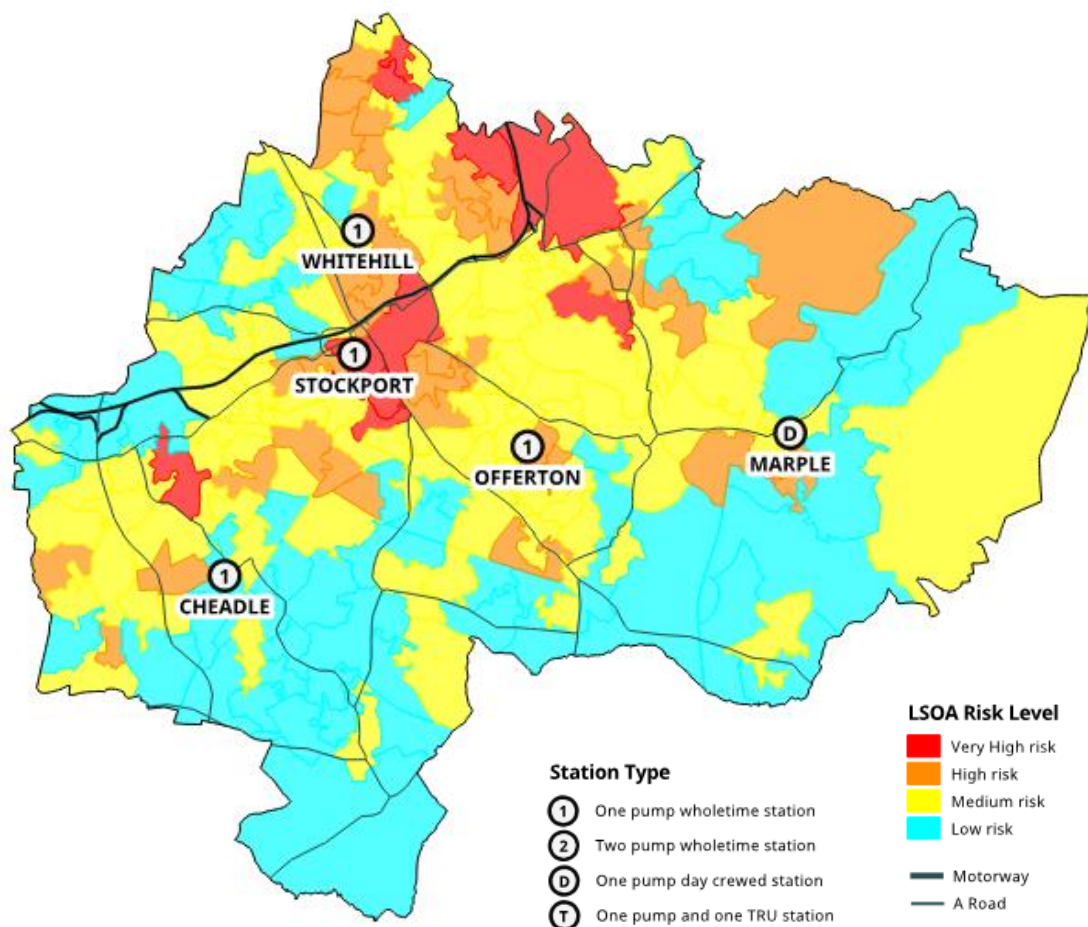
3. IMPLICATIONS FOR STOCKPORT

- 3.1 There are two proposals for Stockport within the review's recommendations.
- 3.2 Firstly, that Offerton fire station becomes a day time crewed station only, with night times (between 18.00 and 08.30) covered by on call officers living nearby.
- 3.3 This proposal will mean that response times are slower overnight time periods, with the review suggesting this is acceptable because of the lower risk profile overnight.

- 3.4 The main impact will be felt in the catchment area around Offerton fire station, although there will be some smaller impacts felt across the whole borough. The table below shows the stated impact that the proposals will have, although it is not clear how the averages have been identified, what the peak delays may be and whether they take into account some of the congestion experienced in the area at rush hours.

Station Area		Performance			Average Response Time		
		Actual	Option	Diff	Actual	Option	Diff
	Whitehill	90.8%	90.8%	0.0%	07:19	07:20	1
	Stockport	94.0%	94.7%	0.7%	06:29	06:23	-6
	Cheadle	85.5%	86.8%	1.2%	07:11	07:08	-3
	Offerton	91.2%	76.7%	14.5%	06:35	08:56	140
	Marple	68.5%	58.2%	10.3%	09:27	09:54	27
	Stockport	87.3%	84.2%	-3.1%	07:19	07:41	22

- 3.5 The diagram below shows the existing station locations across the borough and the fire service's assessment of the risk profile.



- 3.6 The second proposal is for the welcome investment in the Stockport community fire station on King Street. The proposals will see a new facility built on the site of the current station between now and 2025. Details of the proposal are set out in the link below:

[Proposed New Fire Station - Stockport - Greater Manchester Combined Authority - Citizen Space \(gmconsult.org\)](https://gmconsult.org/Proposed-New-Fire-Station-Stockport-Greater-Manchester-Combined-Authority-Citizen-Space)

- 3.7 The plans for the new station are intended to help GMFRS to provide modern and fit for purpose facilities, which are valued by the local community – this includes new community facilities such as a room that local groups and organisations will be able to use.
- 3.8 Officers are working with the fire service to investigate whether a temporary location can be identified whilst the work is ongoing. Should an alternative location not be found it is anticipated that the crews will operate from Whitehill station during the build programme.

4 STOCKPORT RESPONSE

- 4.1 Stockport MBC will be responding to the consultation welcoming the King Street investment but will be forcefully arguing that the reduced service to the borough is unacceptable.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Members views are invited.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none.

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Mark Glynn on telephone number 0161 474 3700 or alternatively email mark.glynn@stockport.gov.uk