

# WINSLOW TOWN COUNCIL

28 High Street, Winslow, Buckinghamshire, MK18 3HF

## CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Mr C Loch - Clerk

Ms K Oddey – Deputy Clerk



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**BY E-MAIL: [mosborne@bucksfire.gov.uk](mailto:mosborne@bucksfire.gov.uk)**

FAO: M Osborne  
Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service,  
Brigade Headquarters Stocklake,  
Aylesbury,  
Buckinghamshire,  
HP20 1BD.

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014

Dear Mick,

### Re: 2015-20 Public Safety Plan Consultation

Please find below the response from Winslow Town Council (WTC).

Winslow Town Council appreciates the need to review the existing model in Buckinghamshire due to the current economic situation. WTC's particular focus during consideration of the Plan was to establish any risks, particularly those to the local area, Winslow and surrounding rural districts.

Following, a very brief but informative presentation to WTC on the 2nd October, Councillors were encouraged by the statement that Winslow Fire Station was not viewed as a likely closure, but that problems occurred during the daytime due to shifting work patterns of the retained Firemen.

Various suggestions were made to overcome this deficiency including from the floor a suggestion of making Winslow a nucleus station with up to two full time members of staff in the normal business hours Monday to Friday. Further mention was made regarding the possibility of changes to the payment system of retained firemen.

In fact, Winslow was given some praise due the current management structure and the long service of many members.

### Risks.

From studying the Public Safety Plan the following risks applicable to our local area became apparent:

- Building fires due to older properties, many with thatched roofs
- Road Traffic accidents, large number of rural roads with high traffic density
- Remote locations of properties, and a lack of water supplies
- Farm Fires, large number of arable and dairy farms with significant storage of flammable material
- Growing density of population both locally and in nearby towns, i.e. Milton Keynes having a possible effect on support services (backup)
- On Call availability in daytime due to staff shortages.

### Conclusion:

The above risks make it very apparent that Winslow needs to maintain its current fire cover, particularly when the development of a new business park and the East West Railway Station are considered.

Winslow Town Council is prepared to work with the fire authority to examine avenues that will ensure it retains its current facility, such as basing other blue light services at the fire station and involving the fire authority with greater integration with the local town.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Oddey, Deputy Clerk.

## **Newport Pagnell Town Council (by email)**

Our Town Planning & Management Committee met last week to discuss this consultation and this is our formal response:

1. An informative and helpful document that sets out the key issues well.
2. It is clear that the Chief Fire Officer has taken into account the salient comments of the Knight Report and this has influenced the plan.
3. The plan could set out more information on back office costs and overheads and a methodology as to how these important elements are to be addressed and reduced.
4. The risk management plan should be themed as strategic, operational financial and political.
5. The 'blue light' co -responding approach is to be welcomed and more detail would be helpful.
6. Reference to international good practice where fire and rescue personnel are trained paramedics also would be helpful; as it links into the co-responder issue e.g. New York USA.
7. The statistics demonstrate an underused service with spare capacity that need to be addressed.
8. The B&MK area is part of Thames Valley Police area and the South Central Ambulance Service which is geographically TVP plus, as Hampshire and the Isle of Wight are included. TVP are increasingly co-operating with Hampshire Constabulary so it may be both financially prudent and innovative to consider mergers to create a South Central Emergency Service where opportunities would present themselves in respect of cost reductions in respect of back office, removal of duplication, capitalisation of assets, reduced senior management costs, sale of redundant assets and a greater number of shared sites.
9. The plan is silent regarding project management of the proposals and the expected milestones

Regards

Patrick Donovan  
Deputy Clerk

**Newport Pagnell Town Council**  
80 High Street  
Newport Pagnell  
Buckinghamshire MK16 8AQ

**Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley (By email)**

Dear Mark,

There will be increasing pressure for the 'Blue Light Services' to combine a number of their functions in the future. This is being done already in many areas, but not in Thames Valley. It does not seem to be mentioned in the 5 Year Plan. I can see it is much easier in smaller areas where the Police Force and Fire and rescue Services are coterminous. Do you have any views on the combining of call centres? I have looked at the Ambulance Service and I do not believe that the service they offer would be suitable for combining with other services, but I cannot see any major reasons for not combining Police and Fire and Rescue call centres. Whether it would make significant savings needs to be looked at, but I believe we should be looking into this over the next year. Maybe you could mention this to your opposite numbers in Ox and Berks.

Many thanks,

Anthony Stansfeld  
Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

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Ext no: 134  
Direct line: 01296 744434  
Date: 28<sup>th</sup> August 2014  
E-mail: eandrews@bucksfire.gov.uk

Dear Anthony,

Thank you for your contribution to our consultation for the Authority's business over the next 5 years. Your thoughts will be shared with our Authority members as they deliberate in the coming months.

I tend to agree with your views on the combination of call centres and agree with the likely impracticality of combination with the ambulance control and mobilising centre. Between the three Fire and Rescue Services in the Thames Valley Area, we are combining our Fire Control Centres and, in December of this year, both Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Services will start to receive their services from Royal Berkshire under a tri-partite partnership governance arrangement.

This very much creates the possibility of a future combination with Thames Valley Police's arrangements as you suggest although I imagine that project would require some detailed planning and resources. The ultimate aim of continued high quality mobilising and communications services for those we serve and protect, at an ever decreasing cost remains a commitment for all Chiefs and the fact that, as PCC, you have asked the question certainly creates an environment in which all future possibilities can be considered and modelled.

By way of information sharing, I am copying our correspondence with my friends who lead Royal Berkshire and Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Services. I

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**Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive: Mark Jones**  
Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service  
Brigade Headquarters, Stocklake, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1BD  
Tel: 01296 744434 Fax: 01296 744419



thank you once more for your submission and I shall of course keep you informed of our Public Safety Consultation's progress and outcomes.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Jones', written in a cursive style.

**Mark Jones**  
**Chief Fire Officer / Chief Executive**  
**Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service**

cc CFO Fry, CFO Etheridge, Councillor Busby Chairman, Councillor Dransfield  
Vice Chairman, Councillor Reed