

Rugby South Fire Station Consultation – Frequently Asked Questions

When will the fire station be opened?

If approved, the planned timescale for the new fire station to be opened and operational is 2022

How much will it cost and how will it be paid for?

We have already made a successful funding application through Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, for £3.46 million for the provision of land and notional building costs for a new fire station.

Where is the money for a new fire station coming from?

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service adopted an innovative approach to seeking developer funding. This resulted in a successful application through Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the provision of land and building costs for the new fire station. The cost of the new fire station is based on similar examples of new fire stations built in the UK, with the total cost of building being funded by these developer contributions.

Has planning consent been given for a new build or would an application need to be submitted if the proposal was approved?

If approved, there will be a formal Planning Application submission for the new fire station that will take the usual route to include the planning consultation process.

Why are you providing an additional fire station?

The development in the South West Rugby area will see significant employment provision, as well as 5,400 new homes, built in the coming years. This development will not only increase the population in the area that requires prevention and protection services, but will widen the populated geographical area, in which we are expected to provide an emergency response within current performance requirements. We have an agreed performance standard to provide a response to life risk incidents, (such as building fires and road traffic collisions) within ten minutes anywhere in the County on 75% of occasions.

Current resources in the Rugby area include the provision of two fire engines and a rescue boat at the Corporation Street location. A Rugby south fire station would allow us to relocate one of our fire appliances and crew from the Corporation Street site, to the new site to deal with the increased attendance time issue that would be created by the new development.

This proposal will still leave a fire engine and crew at the existing fire station in Corporation Street. However, our longer term plan is that Rugby would be served by two fire stations, each with a fire engine and crew; one at the Symmetry Park site to the south west of Rugby (which we are proposing in this consultation), and another new fire station site to the north of Rugby (location yet to be determined). Any future proposal for a new site to the north of Rugby would be subject to a separate consultation process.

The development of south west Rugby will also impose additional vehicular traffic on the highway network within the town itself. Transport modelling identifies, in particular, a specific impact at the gyratory in the town centre. Effectively, this would further slow response at peak times of our resources from the current Corporation Street fire station, which is located at the northern side of the gyratory and opposite to the new development.

It is critical to have a response base that is located south west of Rugby, so that the ten minute response can be achieved for the additional incidents that will occur across the new development and its arterial roads. The impact of the new development is so significant that it is necessary to relocate some staff and equipment, so that this effective response can be maintained.

Relocating staff would also allow us to effectively deliver the required prevention and protection activities relevant to the new dwellings and commercial premises in the community.

What are the additional benefits over and above responding more quickly to incidents, of moving a whole time crew to the new station?

We would be able to deliver prevention and protection activities more effectively within the community such as:

- Premise Risk inspections,
- Safe and well checks,
- School initiatives,
- Anti-social behaviour intervention,
- Business fire safety checks.
- Access to fire stations for prevention advice and community meetings

If the station is already in the local plan, why are you consulting?

We need to make plans for building and staffing the station and want to make sure that we understand the potential impacts of the new station and our proposal to relocate a full time crew, before finalising these plans.

How will staff be affected?

A Rugby south west fire station would allow us to relocate one of our fire appliances and crew from the Corporation Street site to the new site. There will be a need to manage and coordinate new crewing arrangements. Internal engagement with the affected staff and the representative bodies will form part of the consultation process.

If two fire engines are required to attend an incident, why do they have different performance targets for their arrival times?

The first appliance attendance time is key to the safe resolution of an incident even when an incident needs two or more to deal with all the aspects.

The first appliance can gain critical information, take life saving action and limit the extent of damage and injury caused in many circumstances. The second appliance response time then ensures other action needing more resources can be taken within reasonable timescales. Therefore the first appliance response time and its potential impact is very important to our decision making processes when deciding where fire stations are located.

Two appliances arriving together later is not necessarily safer for the public than one arriving sooner followed within a reasonable timescale by a second.

At which Rugby station location will the boat be based.?

The boat resource will still be located at the Corporation Street site. This may be reviewed in the future because the new Rugby South will also have the facilities to locate the equipment.

How will this mobilisation be staffed ? (including initial turnout when base Pump is on station and when not) and can this "special" response be staffed from either station?

Staff at both Rugby stations will continue to operate as the water rescue resource. They will be mobilised together when required, and will continue to train together.

What happens if both Rugby stations deploy primary pumps?

The contingency for this scenario will be as it is currently. Should both Rugby pumps be already at an incident, Service Control will arrange for them to be relieved, so that they can respond as required as a water rescue resource.