

Fire Service Cuts

AMENDED MOTION BY LABOUR GROUP

This council believes that the safety and security of Londoners, including the residents of Harrow, is being put at risk as a result of cuts to the fire service being pushed through by the London's Mayor.

The council believes that the unprecedented cuts are going too far and too fast and that these cuts to the budget of the London Fire Emergency & Planning Authority (LFEPA) will inevitably endanger families and communities across London and Harrow. This council believes that the cuts are being carried out without consideration of the impact on Londoners' safety.

We oppose the London Mayor's budget requirements resulting in the Draft LSP5 proposal to close 12 fire stations, remove 18 fire appliances and delete 520 firefighter posts. We welcome the potential for an additional fire appliance at Stanmore fire station proposed in the plan but Harrow will still be fully exposed from the downgrading of the fire cover London wide and therefore the real risk of safety and security.

We deplore the Mayor's legal direction requiring LFEPA to ignore the democratic decisions made by the Fire Authority and majority members of the Assembly Members to enable the Mayor to consult on his closure programme.

We welcome LFEPA's decision taken on 26 February to consult every Borough in London and look forward to participating in the consultation process. This council calls on the Chief Executive of Harrow Council to respond to the consultation on the draft LSP5 in due course.

This council challenges the Mayor's position that the scale of the cuts is necessary and acceptable. This council calls on the Chief Executive of Harrow Council to write to the Mayor of London and the Commissioner of the LFEPA expressing the concerns of Harrow about the closure plans. The Council also calls upon Harrow's MPs and Harrow's Assembly Member to oppose the Draft LSP5 proposals promoting closure plans and reckless cuts in the fire service which will put at risk the safety and security of Harrow's residents and community

Proposed by: Cllr Navin Shah
Seconded by: Cllr Ajay Maru