

Motion: Protecting Fire Services in West Oxfordshire

Proposed by: Cllr Liam Walker

Seconded by: Cllr Nick Leverton

Council notes:

1. That Oxfordshire County Council is currently considering proposals that include the potential closure of *two* on-call fire stations within West Oxfordshire: Eynsham Fire Station and Woodstock Fire Station.
2. That both stations provide vital emergency response capability for their communities and surrounding areas, and their crews contribute significantly to safeguarding residents, businesses, heritage assets, and critical transport infrastructure.
3. That West Oxfordshire is a growing district, with new housing developments, increased traffic volumes, and expanding commercial activity—all of which place greater, not lesser, demand on local emergency response capacity.
4. That the loss of either station could risk slower response times, reduced local resilience, and diminished fire cover for incidents such as road traffic collisions, flooding, and property fires.

Council believes:

1. That maintaining strong, localised fire and rescue provision is essential for community safety and public confidence.
2. That any reduction in fire cover within West Oxfordshire is unacceptable and would represent a step backwards in protecting residents, especially in rural and semi-rural areas.
3. That decisions on fire station closures must prioritise public safety above financial or administrative considerations.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Formally oppose the proposed closure of Eynsham and Woodstock Fire Stations.
2. Ask the Council Leader write to the Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and Safety urging her to withdraw the proposals and to commit to maintaining full operational status at both stations.
3. Support local firefighters and residents in campaigning to retain emergency fire cover in West Oxfordshire.

