

To: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority

From: Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Jon Anderson

Presenting officer(s): Area Commander – Stuart Smith
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Date: 16 June 2022

Relocation of Papworth to Cambourne Community Fire Station - Update

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Fire Authority on the work undertaken by Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS) in relation to the relocation of Papworth Community Fire and Rescue Station to Cambourne.
- 1.2 The report also details related activities to engage with the local communities and the next steps in relation to the vacated Papworth site.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Authority is asked to:
 - 2.1.1 note the contents of this report and the work the Service has undertaken with its staff and communities that were affected by the move,
 - 2.1.2 approve the proposal to sell the site as detailed in Paragraph 5.

3. Background

- 3.1 In 2010 work started on our £1 million community fire and rescue station in Cambourne. This was offered to the Service under Section 106 of the Planning Act as part of the wider Cambourne township development. The intention of the Service was not to put a fire appliance there until we saw a sufficient shift in our risk profile from Papworth to Cambourne that supported such a move. After engagement with the Fire Authority and local politicians, it was agreed that the Papworth to Cambourne move would only happen when the risk profile had changed.
- 3.2 The location of Cambourne is preferable in terms of being better able to respond to our most serious incidents more quickly. It provides us with a much larger pool of people to recruit from, which should enhance the future

sustainability of the station. This has the potential to improve the availability of the appliance and therefore the opportunity to better support our local and wider response to emergency calls.

- 3.3 The relocation of Papworth Hospital to the Addenbrookes site in Cambridge had a foreseeable and significant impact on the On-Call staffing at the station. CFRS started planning for this by widening its recruitment to include the catchment area of Cambourne.
- 3.4 Until the station moved to Cambourne the arrangements for providing cover at Papworth were that most of the time day cover was provided by one of our roaming pumps; an appliance crewed by wholetime staff. This was because, since Papworth Hospital moved, we were unable to provide sufficient daytime cover with our On-Call staff who used to work there. Therefore, we based the roaming pump at Cambourne station as it is a better location for our risk profile and has better facilities than the Papworth site. The night time cover was provided by our On-Call Papworth and Cambourne staff who respond to the station at Papworth. We have eight staff, four live in Papworth and four in Cambourne. Now that we have moved to Cambourne those located in Papworth continue to be able to respond to Cambourne when they are available. .

4. Engagement

- 4.1 As part of the station relocation from Papworth to Cambourne, CFRS contacted both parish councils and attended parish council meetings in March 2022 to explain the changes and rationale for the move.
- 4.2 CFRS produced a letter explaining the reasons for the move; this letter was distributed to more than 2000 homes in Papworth and the surrounding areas.
- 4.3 A similar letter was produced and distributed to more than 5000 homes in Cambourne; this letter also included a recruitment message promoting being an On-Call firefighter.
- 4.4 CFRS posted within the local Papworth and Cambourne Facebook groups, responding to any questions raised. These posts had good interaction with a number of positive comments generated.
- 4.5 Our Community Support Officers (CSOs) visited vulnerable residents in the community of Papworth to provide reassurance and offer home safety advice.
- 4.6 Staff at Papworth supported an open event on their last drill night at the fire and rescue station which the residents of Papworth were invited to attend.

5. Station Move

- 5.1 The station relocated to the site in Cambourne on 3 May 2022; all staff from Papworth transferred across to Cambourne with the station move.

- 5.2 Papworth Community Fire and Rescue Station has now been emptied and secured whilst the Service goes through the sale process.
- 5.3 A professional valuation for the site has been sought and a proposal for sale has been received. It is proposed that the site is suitable for sale through an auction highlighting a guide price. The auction of the site will be managed by Cheffins and earmarked for sale in September 2022. This will allow sufficient time to produce a marketing plan to include a planning appraisal assessing what could be achieved on the site.
- 6. Operational Response
 - 6.1 Since the move to Cambourne in May 2022 the station has been mobilised to nine incidents, four of which were within their local response area and five mobilisations were to support other incidents.
- 7. Recruitment
 - 7.1 Recruitment of staff from the community of Cambourne continues with the station being prioritised for recruitment campaigns to increase its operational availability.

Source Documents

IRMP 2020 to 2024

[Documents \(cambsfire.gov.uk\)](https://www.cambsfire.gov.uk/documents)

Fire and Rescue National Framework for England

[Fire and rescue national framework for England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-and-rescue-national-framework-for-england)

Papworth – Cambourne Relocation Data – available on request

Location:

Hinchingbrooke Cottage, Brampton Road, Huntingdon

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