

TO: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority

FROM: Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Jon Anderson

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UPDATE ON THE RELOCATION OF PAPWORTH TO CAMBOURNE COMMUNITY FIRE STATION

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Fire Authority on the work being undertaken by Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS) in relation to the relocation of Papworth Community Fire Station to the station in Cambourne.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Authority is asked to;

2.1.1 note the contents of this report and the work the Service is undertaking with its staff and communities that will be affected by this move,

2.1.2 make comment on any opportunity to improve our approach.

3. Risk Assessment

- 3.1 **Political** – in 2010 the Service accepted, under Section 106, to have a community fire station built by the developers of the Cambourne township. It was acknowledged that we would see a shift in risk over time from Papworth to the Cambourne area partly driven by the move of Papworth Hospital to the Addenbrookes site. This has now been realised and there is a political risk if we fail to take advantage of this opportunity.
- 3.2 **Social** – the Service recognises that moving a local fire station can be unsettling for those in that community however the benefits of the move for staff who work at this station, people who are local to Papworth and the wider area are significant. In recognition of this we have started to engage with key stakeholder groups to manage this risk.
- 3.3 **Legal** – our Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), which is a requirement of the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England, details the risks within our county and the Service's plans for mitigating these risks. It also

details our emergency response standards for both rural and urban areas and our commitment to use our resources to provide the best service possible. This move better supports our commitments in the IRMP.

4. Background

- 4.1 In 2010 work started on our £1 million community fire 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; this is now the case.
- 4.2 The community fire station at Papworth was built in circa 1960 and was a primary response to the largest risk in the area, Papworth Hospital, which was located only several hundred metres from the station. The history between the two partners is long standing and symbiotic, with Papworth Hospital providing many of the On-Call staff who provided cover for the station. The hospital being moved has significantly reduced the risk profile in that area and our ability to crew the station. Papworth Community Fire Station is typical of a building constructed in the 1960s. It has limited facilities for the staff who work there or members of the public that may want to visit it. Equally, the facilities to manage our strategic risk of maintaining highly trained and competent staff are limited. The current drill tower was also removed from use following a recent inspection.
- 4.3 The cost of refurbishing the Papworth site would be a misuse of taxpayer's money when we have an excellent fire station at Cambourne that currently does not have an operational crew. The building is secure, has excellent training facilities including a purpose-built training building and is accessible for members of the public if required. It is also next door to the police station and increases the opportunity for collaboration.
- 4.4 The location of Cambourne is also preferable in terms of being better able to respond to our most serious incidents more quickly. It also provides us with a much larger pool of people to recruit from thus enhancing the future sustainability of the station. This in turn continues to improve the availability of the appliance and therefore the opportunity to better support our local and wider response to emergency calls.
- 4.5 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 where a new and purpose built station had been built under Section 106 of the Planning Act.
- 4.6 As part of the ongoing IRMP process, CFRS reviews its risk and call profile and identified that the new location at Cambourne provides wider benefits to managing the changing risk profile in that part of the county. This led to a

paper being presented to the Chief Officer Advisory Group in 2019 to recommend the crew from Papworth be moved to Cambourne in 2021. The reason for the delay in the move was to ensure we had sufficiently trained staff at our Cambourne site to make the move viable; this has now been achieved.

- 4.7 The current arrangements for providing cover at Papworth is that most of the time day cover is provided by one of our roaming pumps; an appliance crewed by wholetime staff. This is because, since Papworth Hospital moved, we are unable to provide sufficient day time cover with our On-Call staff who used to work there. Therefore, we base the roaming pump at Cambourne station for the rationale that supports the move (better location for our risk profile, better facilities etc.). Night time cover is 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. When we move to Cambourne those located in Papworth will continue to be able to respond to Cambourne when they are available.
- 4.8 We recognise that the relocation of a station requires extensive engagement with our staff and local communities. The move may cause concern for some residents in Papworth, who may not realise that their fire cover is currently provided by crews elsewhere for around half of the incidents we attend in that area. The need to clearly communicate the rationale for this change and the benefits it will deliver is vitally important. Engagement with staff affected by the move is already underway and we will be coordinating a range of engagement activity with the local community including the Parish Council to answer any questions and explain the reasons for the move. We are confident this will manage any concerns members of those communities might have.
- 4.9 The aim of the move is to ensure CFRS continues to provide the best service it can to its communities against a changing risk profile. We are confident this will be achieved and are looking to have the move completed by April 2022.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Documents

IRMP 2020 to 2024

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

Fire and Rescue National Framework for England

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

Papworth – Cambourne Relocation Data

<https://cambsfiregovuk.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/Teams-OnCallGroup/Shared%20Documents/Cambourne,%20Papworth%20move/2021%20Papworth-Cambourne%20Relocation.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=rQzav9>

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