

Public Document Pack

Tony Kershaw
Director of Law and Assurance

If calling please ask for:

Clare Jones on 033 022 22526
Email: clare.jones@westsussex.gov.uk

www.westsussex.gov.uk

County Hall
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1RQ
Switchboard
Tel no (01243) 777100



14 December 2018

Dear Member,

County Council - Friday, 14 December 2018

Please find enclosed details of recorded votes taken at the meeting of the County Council held on Friday, 14 December 2018.

Agenda No	Item
------------------	-------------

6(a)	Motion on Fire and Rescue Service Funding (Pages 3 - 10)
-------------	---

The resolutions voted on and accompanying recorded votes are attached.

Yours sincerely

Tony Kershaw
Director of Law and Assurance

To all members of the County Council

This page is intentionally left blank

County Council**14 December 2018****Item 6(a) Notice of Motion from Mr Jones on Fire and Rescue Service Funding – vote 1**

This Council notes the existing, and increasing, gap in the funding provided per person from the Government towards West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (WSFRS), in comparison to the per person funding in all of those Fire and Rescue Services immediately surrounding it. Not only are many of these surrounding authorities receiving much higher sums to protect their communities, but with further Government cuts in 2019/20, the gap is set to become far worse, and even more unfair, for West Sussex. Moreover, the local government Settlement Funding Assessment for fire authorities shows West Sussex having the biggest funding cut in England, between 2016/17 and 2019/20, of 45%. The English average is a 15% cut.

This Council also notes that despite assurances by the previous Chief Fire Officer that there would always be a minimum of 30 fire appliances and crews available, out of 35 across the county at any one time, that in practice, between 7am and 7pm, there are rarely more than 15 available, sometimes as few as 10, and that firefighters are having to work hard to keep such numbers and maintain the resilience of the Service.

This council further notes that WSFRS has already had very deep cuts made to it in recent years, with £2.5 million and £1.6 million in 2012 and 2014 respectively, making it according to the FBU the second worst hit fire authority in the proportion of its overall number of firefighters lost in the whole of Great Britain, with a reduction of 37% of its firefighters, during that time.

The Council is aware that the Chief Fire Officer is due to take decisions in December which will result in a reduction of preventative measures which have proved to be a vital tool in reducing risk and saving lives through initiatives such as the Safe Drive to Stay Alive safety awareness campaign and the Firebreak scheme. It is understood that cuts are also proposed which will reduce the availability of the technical response unit who deliver specialist rescue services, and reducing the staff complement for the Resilience and Emergencies Team (RET) in the region of 50%.

The Council is also aware the forthcoming HMI inspection of WSFRS began in November with preliminary feedback expected to be provided in December but its final report is not due to be published until May 2019.

This Council believes in the context of the circumstances outlined above, and also because it is impossible to predict what issues or extra demands the HMI inspection may reveal which will require action, it would be inappropriate at this time to come forward with any measures which would result in a reduction in funding and the delivery of services by the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.

The Council therefore resolves:

- (1) To call on the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities to instruct

the Chief Fire Officer not to take any decisions that will result in a reduction in staffing or services provided by WSFRS, as the service has taken as much as it can bear without further compromising public and firefighter safety, further threatening the availability of crews and appliances at the county's fire stations and increasing the likelihood of road traffic accidents; and

- (2) To request the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities jointly write to the relevant Government Minister, questioning the inequalities in funding for WSFRS and calling for it to be raised so that it is in line with the funding that other neighbouring fire authorities receive, per person.

County Council – 14 December 2018

**Item 6(a) of Motion from Mr Jones on Fire and Rescue Service Funding –
vote 1**

Result of recorded vote

Resolution (1) of the motion was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 3.35.

(a) For resolution (1) of the motion – 13

Mr Buckland, Dr Dennis, Mr Elkins, Mr Jones, Ms Lord, Mrs Millson, Mrs Mullins, Mr Oppler, Mr Oxlade, Mr Purchase, Mr Quinn, Mr Smytherman and Dr Walsh.

(b) Against resolution (1) of the motion - 33

Mr Acraman, Lt Cdr Atkins, Lt Col Barton, Mrs Bennett, Mr Boram, Mr Bradbury, Mr Bradford, Mr Burrett, Mr Catchpole, Mr Cloake, Mr Crow, Mrs Duncton, Mr Edwards, Ms Flynn, Ms Goldsmith, Mr Hillier, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jupp, Mr Jupp, Ms Kennard, Mrs Kitchen, Mr Lanzer, Mr Marshall, Mr McDonald, Mr Mitchell, Mr Montyn, Mr Parikh, Mrs Pendleton, Mr Petts, Mr Simmons, Mrs Sparkes, Mr Turner and Mrs Urquhart.

(c) Abstentions – 17

Mrs Arculus, Mr Baldwin, Mr Barnard, Mr Barrett-Miles, Mrs Brunsdon, Mrs Dennis, Mr Fitzjohn, Mr High, Mrs Jones, Mr Lea, Mr Markwell, Mr R J Oakley, Mr S J Oakley, Mrs Purnell, Mrs Russell, Mr Waight and Mr Wickremaratchi.

Resolution (1) of the motion was lost.

This page is intentionally left blank

County Council

14 December 2018

**Item 6(a) Notice of Motion from Mr Jones on Fire and Rescue
Service Funding – vote 2**

This Council notes the existing, and increasing, gap in the funding provided per person from the Government towards West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (WSFRS), in comparison to the per person funding in all of those Fire and Rescue Services immediately surrounding it.

The Council therefore resolves:

To request the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities jointly write to the relevant Government Minister, questioning the inequalities in funding for WSFRS and calling for it to be raised so that it is in line with the funding that other neighbouring fire authorities receive, per person.

This page is intentionally left blank

County Council – 14 December 2018

Item 6(a) – Resolution (2) of Motion from Mr Jones on Fire and Rescue Service Funding

Result of recorded vote

Resolution (2) of the motion was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 3.35.

(a) For resolution (2) of the motion – 48

Mr Acraman, Mrs Arculus, Lt Cdr Atkins, Mr Baldwin, Mr Barrett-Miles, Mrs Bennett, Mr Boram, Mrs Brunson, Mr Buckland, Mr Catchpole, Mr Cloake, Mrs Dennis, Dr Dennis, Mrs Dunton, Ms Flynn, Ms Goldsmith, Mr High, Mr Hillier, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jones, Mr Jones, Mrs Jupp, Mr Jupp, Mr Lanzer, Mr Lea, Ms Lord, Mr Markwell, Mr McDonald, Mrs Millson, Mr Mitchell, Mr Montyn, Mrs Mullins, Mr S J Oakley, Dr O’Kelly, Mr Oppler, Mr Oxlade, Mr Parikh, Mrs Pendleton, Mr Petts, Mr Purchase, Mr Quinn, Mr Simmons, Mr Smytherman, Mrs Sparkes, Mr Turner, Mr Waight, Dr Walsh and Mr Wickremaratchi.

(b) Against resolution (2) of the motion - 6

Mr Burrett, Mr Elkins, Ms Kennard, Mr Marshall, Mrs Russell and Mrs Urquhart.

(c) Abstentions – 10

Mr Barnard, Lt Col Barton, Mr Bradbury, Mr Bradford, Mr Crow, Mr Edwards, Mr Fitzjohn, Mrs Kitchen, Mr R J Oakley and Mrs Purnell.

Resolution (2) of the motion was carried.

This page is intentionally left blank