

Summary of options and proposals

Operational Response

Three options for consultation have been agreed by the Authority. These have been arrived at through modelling a number of scenarios, with the objective of determining the best mix of options which would have the least impact on response times and community risk whilst reducing our costs. Option 1 forms the basis of the other two options, which also include proposals for fire stations.

It is clear that any reduction in frontline appliances will increase the average time of attendance. The strategy employed within the design of the options is to protect as far as possible the average time to **life and significant property risk** incidents and allow a planned increase in the average time to attend **lower risk incidents**.

OPTION 1

- Remove 6 fire appliances (reducing the fleet from 30 to 24, and firefighter numbers by 131 or 20%)
- Introduce 2 Targeted Response Vehicles (TRVs) for lower risk incidents 24/7
- Introduce 2 additional TRVs to be Dual Staffed in the evening and as required
- Remove 2 fire appliances for up to 12 hours at night, where this is possible based on the risk
- Crew fire appliances at 1 pump stations with 4 staff instead of the current 5, in line with other stations
- Invest in new firefighting technologies

OPTION 2

- Implement Option 1 plus:
- Close 2 stations (Wallsend and Gosforth) and replace with one more centrally placed, based on risk and incident intelligence

OPTION 3

- Implement Options 1 and 2 plus:
- Close one further station (Sunderland Central), based on risk and incident intelligence including the location of surrounding stations