Resolution to Council

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service proposals if implemented would see daytime cover in Gorleston and Great Yarmouth reduced to two whole time crews and one retained crew and night time cover reduced to one whole time crew and one retained crew. Night time cover will in effect be cut in half.

The loss of a whole time crew at night will inevitably lead to an increase in response times as retained crews take between three and seven times longer (up to 7 minutes 20 seconds longer) to dispatch than whole time crews.

Modelling data in the proposals indicates this will lead to an increase in the loss of life, the exact increase for our borough is unclear as projections of 1.14 lives lost for the whole time and 0.51 lives lost for the retained reductions each year include other areas.

Norfolk County Council has saved over £245 million in the last three years and through further cuts to local government funding is faced with finding a further £111 million in savings. This is a result of the 29% cut at the Department for Communities and Local Government announced in November and agreed by ministers that are being passed on to fire and local authorities. It is because of this pressure on its budget that Norfolk County Council finds itself in the unenviable position of considering cuts to one of the most efficient fire and rescue services in England.

This council recognises difficult decisions must be made as result of Westminster imposed cuts however this council resolves to write to the leader of Norfolk County Council to object to the proposed reduction in fire crews and the loss of a fire tender from the Borough. That any reduction in service at

our three fire stations of Martham, Gorleston and Great Yarmouth would lead to an increase in the risk to the lives of residents and visitors, that this is unacceptable and is opposed by this council.

Furthermore it is noted that an one off grant from Norfolk County Council and DEFRA funded a flood rescue capability in Norfolk, that in our 'hour of need' during the storm surge of December 2013 deployed 17 specialist teams and has recently been commended for work in flood rescue in northern England. This funding ends in 2017.

This council resolves to write to Brandon Lewis MP to request that Norfolk's flood rescue capability is again supported through a grant from Government. Recognising the benefit and reassurance that such a capability brings to a community at risk of flooding.

Signed 1.

MICHARL T JAL.

Signed 2.

SYLVIA

VANCOUNT

Signed 3.

Signed 4.

3181104 1.

Signed 5.

Signed 6.

WHALLY WALLOW

LET SUTTON

BORNARD WILLIAMS