

From: **CRMP**
Date: Fri, 7 Jan 2022 at 14:48
Subject: RE: Reduction of fire cover - Cheddar
To: Rodney Stoke <rodneystokepc@gmail.com>

Hi Helen,

Thank you for your email.

The Group Commander, Chris Pratt, has provided the response below. This is part of a fleet replacement project which sees a huge investment into our fire engines across Somerset and Devon. I will also make the Area Manager and Project Manager for the fleet replacement project aware of your concern.

My role, as the Group Commander responsible for West Somerset's Operational Response, is to ensure our communities are provided with the most appropriate resource to meet the risks faced by the Fire & Rescue crews.

In 2018/19 DSFRS commenced an ambitious Change & Improvement programme that pulled together our Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and our Fire & Rescue Plan under the 'Safer Together' banner. The process was subject to significant public engagement and final signoff by the Fire Authority.

So what does this mean for Cheddar?

It means that as a service, we hold a significant amount of historical data regarding the incident types, duration, equipment used and risk types that our fire crews at Cheddar have attended over several years. The IRMP (Now Community Risk Management Plan) also looks much more holistically at the general risks faced by the communities in and around Cheddar such as Flooding and climate change that we are likely to experience moving forwards.

Ultimately this means that we are, as a service, much better placed to ensure we provide your local community with the right fire engine, carrying the right equipment and crew, to meet the risks identified in the CRMP.

So what's planned for Cheddar?

Cheddar currently have a 2002/3 Volvo fire appliance.

This will be replaced with a much newer Light Rescue Pump (LRP) that will be a significant upgrade to what Cheddar have currently.

The LRP's are slightly smaller vehicles that are more suited to the narrow lanes found in rural areas enabling crews to get to properties quicker and to properties that previously they may not have been able to.

Although they carry less water (1400 Ltrs rather than 1800 Ltrs) they are equipped with a state of the art Compressed Air Foam system (CAFS) that can significantly increase the 'knock down' effect of a fire compared to water alone.

The vehicle at Cheddar will also have enhanced RTC equipment that will improve outcomes of serious collisions and entrapments.

All of the risk modelling is based on our standard crewing model of 5 personnel. There are no plans to reduce the number of personnel at Cheddar.

I hope this answers your questions and gives you a sense that there is some real science and data behind appliance movements which will put the community at the heart of everything we do.

However, please feel free to contact me directly if you have any further questions?

I would also be very happy to attend one of your Council meetings to answer any further questions you may have (although this may be via a TEAMS link if COVID restrictions are still in place)