

Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority



AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (EXTRAORDINARY MEETING)

Date: Wednesday 16 October 2025

Time: 2:00 pm

Venue: The Blue Light Hub, 3 Thornbury, West Ashland, Milton Keynes,
MK6 4BB

Agenda Item

5. Questions

To receive questions in accordance with Standing Order SOA7.

QUESTIONS

Question 1

Question from Councillor Simon Rouse – Fire Authority Member to Councillor Niknam Hussain, Lead Member for Finance and Assets, Information Security, IT, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority

Please can you confirm:

- how much the pre-public consultation on the on-call "improvement" programme has cost to date, and the expected final cost of the pre-public consultation?
- how much a 10 week public consultation on the on-call "improvement" programme will cost the Authority should it be approved on 12th November 2025 or how much has been budgeted for this consultation?

Response from Councillor Niknam Hussain, Lead Member for Finance and Assets, Information Security, IT, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority to Councillor Simon Rouse – Fire Authority Member

- a) Total costs incurred to date are £15,825, which is the final cost of the public engagement exercise.
- b) If approved, the cost of the public consultation will be circa £33,000 (final amount subject to cost of travel, subsistence etc.)

Question 2

Question from Councillor Simon Rouse – Fire Authority Member to Councillor Niknam Hussain, Lead Member for Finance and Assets, Information Security, IT, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority

In light of the on-call "improvement" programme, please can you confirm:

- when a valuation for Stokenchurch and Great Missenden fire stations were last undertaken?
- when the aerial rights contract for Stokenchurch comes to an end and whether discussions on not renewing, or renewing, this contract have commenced either formally or informally?

the ownership structures of both stations - namely are they freehold, leasehold or subject to a form of covenant to a third party?

Response from Councillor Niknam Hussain, Lead Member for Finance and Assets, Information Security, IT, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority to Councillor Simon Rouse – Fire Authority Member

- a) All land and buildings owned by the Fire Authority are valued annually in accordance with accounting standards. The valuation report (including Stokenchurch and Great Missenden) is dated 24 July 2025, with the valuation date being 31 March 2025.
- b) There are two contracts for aerial rights at Stokenchurch. One ends on 4 May 2027 and the other on 4 January 2027. Discussions on not renewing or renewing have yet to take place.
- c) Both stations are owned freehold. Great Missenden is subject to a restrictive covenant 'that no erections or buildings of any kind other than a fire station to be built or placed upon the said land'.

Question 3

Question from Councillor Simon Rouse – Fire Authority Member to Councillor Niknam Hussain, Lead Member for Finance and Assets, Information Security, IT, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority

In July 2025, a high-level business case to progress the on-call "improvement" programme was put to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Lead Members and the now Chair of Overview and Audit. Please can you confirm whether you have reviewed and discussed that business case with officers and whether you agree with its assumptions and conclusions?

Response from Councillor Niknam Hussain, Lead Member for Finance and Assets, Information Security, IT, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority to Councillor Simon Rouse – Fire Authority Member

Yes, I received a copy of the presentation delivered in that workshop. I discussed this with the Chair who updated me on the workshop and that those attending supported further work being carried out to inform the preparation of a proposal to the Authority later in the year.

Question 4

Question from Councillor Phil Gomm – Fire Authority Member to Councillor Robin Stuchbury, Lead Member for Health and Safety and Corporate Risk, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority

In July 2025 a meeting of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Lead Members and the Chair of Overview Audit was held where proposals to cut 8 fire engines from our fleet and close 2 stations were proposed. Included in those proposals was the removal of a fire engine from Buckingham in your own ward.

In July 2025 you received a presentation on the On-Call "Improvement" programme, which included 2 options, both of which proposed removing a fire engine from Buckingham in your ward.

Please can you confirm:

- Do you recall seeing these two options in the presentation?
- Do you recall seeing Buckingham covered in both options?
- Why did you support these 2 options, including the specific removal of Buckingham, progressing to staff and pre-public consultation?
- Given the Fire Brigades Union now oppose these two draft options and the cuts they would represent, will you now withdraw your support for these proposals coming forward to the Fire Authority for approval?

Response from Councillor Robin Stuchbury, Lead Member for Health and Safety and Corporate Risk, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority to Councillor Phil Gomm – Fire Authority Member

As answered to the similar written question submitted recently by another Member, my response is that my recollection was to agree that a report be taken to a future meeting for the authority to vote on whether it was in agreement to go out to consultation. There was no decision.

There has been no decision taken other than to go out to gather more information. There has been no decision taken of where the outcomes of such a consultation would lead and which units might be removed.