

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

Equality Impact Assessment Form

Title of policy/report/project:	Station Mergers , Closures and other Operational Response Options
Department:	Strategy and Performance
Date:	EIA Stage 1 - 19.11.13 EIA Stage 2 – 31.1.14 EIA Stage 3 – 20.8.14 – <u>Knowsley Consultation</u> EIA Stage 3A – From 3.10.14 to 5.12.15 <u>Wirral Consultation</u> EIA Stage 3B – From 1.11.14 to 25.1.15 <u>Liverpool Consultation</u> EIA Stage 3C – From 2.3.15 to 24.5.15 - <u>Wirral Consultation Phase 2</u> (Two options to be considered - merger at Saughall Massie or closure of West Kirby). EIA Stage 3 D – From 3.8.15 to 25.10.15 – <u>St Helens Consultation</u>
<u>Scope of EIA</u> <p>The purpose of this EIA is to review information and intelligence available at an early stage in the development of options for station mergers and closures. It is intended that the EIA can be used to help inform decisions as the options progress and will help Principal Officers and Authority Members to understand equality related impacts on the decisions being made in relation to local diverse communities</p> <p>The EIA will be a living document which will developed further during the life cycle of the consultation stages. This initial EIA will provide be an opportunity to plan ahead for various activities such as community and staff consultation and equality data gathering</p> <p>The EIA will be conducted in a number of stages :</p>	

Stage 1 – Desk Top Assessment by 3/12/13 :To provide Principal Officers with some initial thoughts on equality impacts arising from the Mergers and Closures Authority Report and provide an outline of what further data, research and consultation may be needed to inform the EIA fully in preparation for Community Engagement and Consultation Exercises in the new year (by 19/11/13)

Stage 2 – Consultation External and Internal: to gain feedback from those communities and MF&RS Staff groups affected by the mergers and closures options to ensure equality impacts are considered throughout the process and included in the final version of the EIA for review by final decision makers (Dec 2013 onwards)

Stage 3 – More detailed assessment on the local areas affected by options: for Authority members to take into account at their meeting when they review the EIA in full. (from April 2014)

1: What is the aim or purpose of the policy/report/project

This should identify “the legitimate aim” of the policy/report/project (there may be more than one)

The reports purpose is to provide Authority Members a number of recommendations for approval, subject to public consultation, around station mergers and closures as follows:

Options for mergers

- Two stations on Wirral (West Kirby to merge with Upton at Saughall Massie). New option agreed by the Authority on 29th January following withdrawal of Greasby site by WBC.
 - Consultation on a possible site at Saughall Massie
 - Close West Kirby station
- *Two stations on Wirral (West Kirby to merge with Upton at Greasby). The location was withdrawn by Wirral BC*
- Two stations in St Helens (Eccleston to merge with St Helens at a site in the St Helens town centre ward)
- Two stations in Knowsley (the merger of Huyton and Whiston which already has Authority approval)

In order to meet the budget cuts faced by the Authority as a result of Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 13. These merger options, if approved, will deliver a reduction of 66 whole time equivalent (WTE) posts, reduce the Authority asset base down from 26 stations to 23 and deliver additional savings from a reduction in premises overheads

Options for closures

The incremental move from whole time crewing to whole time retained crewing of at least one appliance in Liverpool and/or Sefton, resulting in the closure of one or more station. This change in crewing and station closure, if approved, will deliver a saving of 22 WTE posts deliver additional savings from a reduction in premises overheads

The options for mergers and closures would not affect the local communities which live in and around the closure areas in relation to fire response times, they would remain within a 10 minute response time, and therefore this EIA will not focus on response times but around the following:

- **The impact of the options and any changes (positive and negative) in relation to any particular equality groups of the local communities' use of MF&RS services and stations**
- **The impact of options and any changes on staff affected by closures**

2: Who will be affected by the policy/report/project?

This should identify the persons/organisations who may need to be consulted about the policy /report/project and its outcomes (There may be more than one)

Communities of Wirral , St Helens, Liverpool, Sefton and Knowsley
MF&RS staff affected by the mergers and closures

3. Monitoring

Summarise the findings of any monitoring data you have considered regarding this policy/report/project. This could include data which shows whether it is having the desired outcomes and also its impact on members of different equality groups.

What monitoring data have you considered?

3.1 Profile of Merseyside and Demographics 2012 report -

[http://intranetportal/sites/smd/equalityanddiversity/Shared%20Documents/Public%20Sector%20Equality%20Data%20-%20Reports%20for%202012/Profile%20of%20Merseyside%20\(Demography,%20Equality%20and%20Diversity\).pdf](http://intranetportal/sites/smd/equalityanddiversity/Shared%20Documents/Public%20Sector%20Equality%20Data%20-%20Reports%20for%202012/Profile%20of%20Merseyside%20(Demography,%20Equality%20and%20Diversity).pdf)

3.2 Ward Demographics from Census 2011 - **Appendix A**

3.3 Profile of MF&RS staff -

<http://intranetportal/sites/smd/equalityanddiversity/Shared%20Documents/Public%20Sector%20Equality%20Data%20-%20Reports%20for%202012/Public%20Sector%20Equality%20Data%20Report%20-%20Published%20version.pdf>

What did it show?

3.1 and 3.2 - The demographics in each of the districts is broadly similar with no significant differences to consider (Significant being + or- 5% difference). To gain a greater understanding of the make-up of the local communities affected by the impact of the closures and mergers, demographics for the local wards broadly covered by each station have been produced in **Appendix A**

Notable highlights showing differences in relation to the average for each district area are as follows:

Huyton

Age Structure: The Huyton Station ground has a mix of age groups depending on the ward; the wards of Longview and Page Moss have younger populations whilst the wards of Prescott West, Roby and Stockbridge in particular have older populations.

Socio Economic (including Disability): In Page Moss, Longview and Stockbridge wards in particular there are well above average levels of people with disability or long term health problems. Within these same wards there are proportionally high levels of adult unemployment.

Racial Profile: Within the Station Ground the predominant ethnicity grouping is "White". Within the Huyton Station Area, the ward of Longview has above district average counts of BME population particularly "Asian/British Asian" persons.

Whiston

Age Structure: The Whiston Station Ground has a mix of age groups depending on the ward. The wards of Rainhill and Whiston North primarily have older populations whilst the wards of Prescott East and Whiston South have younger populations.

Socio Economic: There are no negative Socio Economic factors in the Whiston station ground.

Racial Profile: Within the Station Ground the predominant ethnicity grouping is "White". However BME populations are more diverse within this station ground with above average populations of "Asian/British Asian" in each ward and above average populations of "Black /African /Caribbean/ Black British" within Prescott East.

St Helens

Age Structure: The St Helens Station Ground has a mix of age groups depending on the ward. The wards of: Parr, Bold, Sutton, Thatto Heath, Town Centre tends to have younger populations - particularly Parr and Thatto Heath. By contrast the wards of: Billinge & Seneley Green and Blackbrook have older populations

Socio Economic: The wards of: Parr, Thatto Heath, Sutton and Moss Bank have higher than average levels of adult unemployment as well as having above average levels of disability / long-term illness in these wards.

Racial Profile: Within the Station Ground the predominant ethnicity grouping is

"White". The wards of Town Centre and Thatto Heath (in particular) are the most culturally diverse with well above average counts particularly of "Asian/British Asian" residents. Both Wards also have above average counts of "Black /African /Caribbean/ Black British" people, though this is to a lesser extent to "Asian/British Asian" residents. St Helens has a significant Gypsy and Traveller community.

Eccleston

Age Structure: The Eccleston Station Ground has a mix of age groups depending on the ward. The wards of Eccleston and Rainford (Rainford has one of the highest average population ages in Merseyside) have older populations whilst the wards of West Park and Windle have younger populations.

Socio Economic: The wards of Eccleston and West Park have slightly above average levels of unemployment within the Eccleston station ground. West Park also has slightly above average levels of long term sickness / disability.

Racial Profile: Within the Station Ground the predominant ethnicity grouping is "White", Rainford and West Park have particularly low levels of BME residents. Within the Station Area the Ward of Eccleston has slightly above average BME population "Asian/British Asian" for and West Park has slightly above average counts "Black /African /Caribbean/ Black British" residents.

Upton

Age Structure: The Upton Station Ground has a mix of age groups depending on the ward. Pensby & Thingwall, Greasby, Frankby - Irby and Claughton have older than average populations.

Socio Economic: Generally within the Upton Station there are no particularly significant Socio Economic issues, with the Exception of the Bidston & St James ward which primarily rests within the Upton Station Ground. Bidston and St James have well above average adult unemployment and levels of long term health problems / disability.

Racial Profile: Within the Station Ground the predominant ethnicity grouping is "White". Claughton and Bidston & St James have the most diverse populations with above average counts of "Asian/British Asian" residents.

West Kirby

Age Structure: The West Kirby Station Ground has a mix of age groups depending on the ward. The demographic for the wards of Hoylake & Meols and West Kirby & Thurstaston is much older than the Wirral average.

Socio Economic: There are no negative Socio Economic factors in the West Kirby station ground.

Racial Profile: Within the Station Ground the predominant ethnicity grouping is "White".

Allerton

Age Structure: The Allerton Station Ground has a mix of age groups across different wards, 45-59 age group is the most populous age range. Greenbank has a large population of 20-24 year olds inferring a high population of students. Woolton has particularly high level of population above the age of 65 with 26% of ward population, however the majority of this ward is covered by the Belle Vale station area.

Socio Economic: Majority of area is affluent with small pockets of deprivation (based

on IMD 2010) The majority of wards are below the Liverpool average for unemployment and long term health and disabilities.

Racial Profile: Predominantly “White” (at least 90% white). Greenbank however has a more diverse population including above counts of BME populations, BME groups equate to 17% of overall population compared to 5.5% Merseyside population as a whole.

3.3- Staff Demographics for Operational Staff

95% of operational uniformed staff are Male and 5% are Female
 65% of operational uniformed staff are aged 41 to 50
 5% of Operational staff have declared a Disability or Long term health condition
 3% of MF&RS staff are Black Minority Ethnic the remainder are classed as White

4: Research

Summarise the findings of any research you have considered regarding this policy/report/project. This could include quantitative data and qualitative information; anything you have obtained from other sources e.g. CFA/CLG guidance, other FRSs, etc.

What research have you considered?

4.1 A review of the Access Audit report - results for the stations affected by options

4.2 Review of MF&RS Community Profiles for station areas affected by proposals to help understand the type of communities who may be

What did it show?

The Equality Act 2010 replaced and enhanced the Disability Discrimination Acts (DDA) 1995 & 2005. It sets out the legislation for Public Bodies to make reasonable adjustments to premises to enable disabled people to access all services and fully participate in public life. MF&RS has conducted access audits for all its stations (except new builds) and is in the process of reporting on the results and recommendations to the Authority in December 2013.

The Audits have highlighted significant access issues for the stations identified in the mergers and closures options with a total of **£ 267,875** cost for making them more accessible Community Fire Stations. It has been an important factor when considering the options and proposals for station mergers and closures and the building of new stations.

Results show no specific Equality and Diversity implications for any of the areas affected as the Ten Minute response times will be still valid for the station areas affected by

affected by the options and consider their needs.

4.3 A review of current Partnership agreements for stations affected by proposals to help understand the impact of station closures /mergers on those service users

4.4 **Appendix B** sets out the impact of a potential merger of West Kirby and Upton at a site in Saughall Massie. All areas would be attended well within the 10 minute response time from a new station or other Wirral stations. It has been made clear throughout that there is no option that will improve attendance. The proposals are the least worst option.

4.5 The report “**Proposals for Eccleston and St. Helens Fire stations 30th June 2015**” of which this EIA is Appendix M , contains a number of further appendices (C, D, E ,F,G,H and J) showing 5,6,7,8,9 and 10 minute isochrones showing the impact of a potential merger of St. Helens and Eccleston and the option to close Eccleston . These show the impact of the response times and also show the Risk map of Merseyside to highlight the risk areas outside the 10 minute response times.

the merger/closure proposals

There appears to be no detrimental impact on any of the partnership arrangements for the Knowsley fire stations currently being affected by station merger proposals , the development of a new station with advanced community facilities will strengthen the opportunities for Knowsley communities to access the station for better community engagement activities

The document highlights the impact of adopting either of the proposals on the achievement of the standard 10 minute standard response time. The results show that there are no areas outside the 10 minute response time for the proposals to merge stations at Saughall Massie. In relation to the maps for proposals to close West Kirby, there is a very small area of the West Wirral outside the 10 minute response area with a few dwellings in that area where attendance is 4 seconds outside of the 10 minute response time. It is recommended that HFSC campaigns take place to ensure those living in that area receive prevention advice and support.

The documents highlight the impact of adopting either of the proposals based on information contained in Appendix C, the merger at Canal St, St Helens has the least number of areas outside the 10 minute response time, and the majority are low and medium risk and are similar to the current arrangements. If the option was not taken to merge and close Eccleston and keep the current St Helens station the maps show that there is larger area of Rainford which remains outside of the 10 minute response time. The profile of this area shows a slightly higher proportion of older residents and our risk map of Merseyside shows the additional areas as Low risk, however further additional preventative measures will be recommended in those areas to ensure any increased risk is mitigated.

Further consultation should be targeted around those areas during the forthcoming 12

week consultation process to establish any further equality impacts for any of the 9 protected groups at most risk of fire or in need of rescue.

5. Consultation

*Summarise the opinions of any consultation. Who was consulted and how? (This should include reference to people and organisations identified in section 2 above)
Outline any plans to inform consultees of the results of the consultation*

What Consultation have you undertaken?

No Consultation took place at Stage 1 of this EIA, however consultation will be carried out in two stages to scrutinise the OPTIONS and consider others for all mergers/closures. As such consultation comprises a) a more open-ended listening and engagement phase on the OPTIONS and b) a Formal consultation process on the eventual PROPOSALS. Part of the consultation process will take into account the needs and experiences of those equality protected groups who have been deemed to be affected by the mergers and closures.

Consultation specifically with Protected Groups (as required by the Equality Act 2010) in relation to this EIA and its assessment of the mergers and closures report /options is currently being planned by the Diversity and Consultation Manager. A number of cost effective options are being considered within the time frame available including :

- The development of a new MF&RS Diversity Consultation Forum; a public voice for diverse groups across each district
- Using the 2 stage consultation process mentioned above to consult on the EIA with representative groups from those protected groups affected by the Options and subsequent proposals (where representation is available)
- Consultation with Community Groups currently using the Stations identified as potentially being closed and merged – Impact on equality
- Making the EIA accessible via the Staff Portal and MF&RS Webpage to enable staff , stakeholders and the public to make comments and provide feedback easily

What did it say?

Stage 3 D – St Helens – Starts 3rd August 2015

Stage 3C – Second Wirral Consultation

A 12 week consultation process took place from 2nd March to 24th May 2015. This included:

- Online questionnaire for staff and public to provide their views
- Three externally facilitated deliberative focus groups (one in each station area)
- One Public Forum
- Three Open public meetings
- One stakeholder breakfast meeting

- Postal Survey of 10,000 households in station areas affected
- Several staff consultation meetings
- Several further local Council and stakeholder consultation meetings

As in the previous consultation processes, there was an opportunity to randomly select and invite participants to three deliberative focus groups and the forum from a broad spectrum of backgrounds and equality groups. The aim is to be as fully representative as possible.

Equality Monitoring data shows a breakdown in attendees at these meetings as follows :

49% Female and 51% Male attendees- this closely reflects the Gender breakdown for the Wirral as a whole

18.4% Under 34's , 36.7% 35-54 and 44.9% over 55+ - this reflected the broad range of age groups across the area

20% of attendees had a limiting long term illness /disability – this is slightly lower than the average for Wirral being 22.6%

4.1% of Attendees at the event were from Non White backgrounds which reflects the ethnicity breakdown of the Wirral

The figures above reflect the average profile of residents across Wirral and this allows us to feel comfortable that the views of different groups of people have been considered when using the consultation for decision making purposes.

While considering the draft proposals, participants in all the meetings were encouraged to consider whether proposals have any adverse implications for any vulnerable people and in particular groups with “protected characteristics”: in other words, this question was not just a ‘footnote’ to the main discussion but an intrinsic part of the scrutiny of the proposals

Comments of concern around equality groups were raised from the 49 people who attended the focus groups and forum :

- Saughall Massie Road is not a suitable site for a fire station as it is very near to housing for elderly and disabled people.
- There are many old person's homes in West Kirby so it is undesirable to lengthen response times there*
- There are a lot of elderly people in West Kirby and they are higher risk residents**
- The aged and disabled people will have some impact from these changes

**It should be noted that data shows that Upton has more properties that cater for elderly than Hoylake and Meols (5.5%) and West Kirby and Thurstaston (3.3%)*

*** It should be noted that West Kirby & Thurstaston and Hoylake & Meols show a slightly increased number of residents over the age of 65 with a variance of +/-0. 6% when compared to the Wirral proportion. In Upton, there are proportionally fewer people over 65 when compared to the Wirral proportion for that age range*

The **questionnaires** received (129) were treated as an information gathering exercise, in the same way as the views expressed at the public meetings, the

questionnaires have been analysed in terms of Equality Monitoring (123 completed) and shows:

- 48.8% were Male and 51.2% Female respondents which closely reflects the gender breakdowns for Wirral as a whole
- There were a wide range of ages responding to the survey, the largest group of respondents - 21%, were from the 60 to 69 age group 18.1% identified themselves as disabled, which is lower than the average for Wirral at 22.6%
- 99.2% identified their ethnicity as white, 5.5% preferred not to say and 0.8% were from a BME background. This is similar to the average Ethnicity breakdowns for those areas.

Views were polarised with 59.1% of respondents opposed to the merged station at Saughall Massie, 40.2% were broadly in favour of the new station. There were no obvious comments made in relation to Equality and Diversity in the free text comments made.

For the first time a **postal survey** was undertaken with 5000 homes in the Upton station area and 5000 in West Kirby being randomly selected to take part. 1351 completed questionnaires were returned. 577 from Upton and 774 West Kirby station areas. Overall response rate 12% Upton and 16% of West Kirby residents. 11% of initial contacts were in Saughall Massie but accounted for 17% of returns.

- Responses received were from 51% female and 49% male residents
- Responses were from all ages 20 to over 80 but the majority were in the 40-49 (19%), 60-69 (18%) and 50-59 (18%).
- 26% of respondents identified themselves as disabled either limited a little (12%) or a lot (14%).
- 98% were identified as of white background.

The returned sample for each fire station area were compared with census data and then weighted by age, gender, ethnicity and whether people were suffering long term illness/disability.

There were no comments referring to specific equality impacts or issues for protected groups.

This EIA has been consulted on with the Community Forum Group at a meeting on the 10th December 2014, where members were presented with the EIA and asked for any notable feedback in relation to the approach we take to the EIA and any outcomes of the proposals for particular Protected groups (specifically Elderly and Disabled). The group were happy with the EIA and its findings and no further suggestions made.

Stage 3 A and B – First Wirral Consultation

A 12 week consultation process took place from 2nd October 2014 to 5th January 2015 which followed a similar pattern to the events that took place for the previous consultation at Knowsley (See stage 3 Knowsley below). This included:

- Online questionnaire for staff and public to provide their views
- Three externally facilitated deliberative focus groups (one in each station area)

- One Public Forum
- Four Open public meetings
- One stakeholder breakfast meeting
- Several staff consultation meetings
- Several further local Council and stakeholder consultation meetings

As in the Knowsley consultation process, there was an opportunity to invite participants to three deliberative focus groups and the forum from a broad spectrum of backgrounds and equality groups. The aim is to be as fully representative as possible.

Equality Monitoring data shows a breakdown in attendees at these meetings as follows :

44% Female and 56% Male attendees- this closely reflects the gender breakdown for the Wirral as a whole

16% Under 34's , 35.5% 35-54 and 51.5% over 55+ - this reflected the broad range of age groups across the area

16% of attendees had a limiting long term illness /disability – this is slightly lower than the average for Wirral being 22.6%

10% of Attendees at the event were from Non White backgrounds which closely reflects the ethnicity breakdown of the Wirral

The figures above reflect the average profile of residents across Wirral and this allows us to feel comfortable that the views of different groups of people have been considered when using the consultation for decision making purposes.

While considering the draft proposals, participants in all the meetings were encouraged to consider whether proposals have any adverse implications for any vulnerable people and in particular groups with “protected characteristics”: in other words, this question was not just a ‘footnote’ to the main discussion but an intrinsic part of the scrutiny of the proposals

Four comments of concern around equality groups were raised from the 32 people who attended the focus groups and forum :

- Frankby Road (Greasby) is not a suitable site for a fire station in the village; children, elderly and disabled use the road near the site
- The elderly, nursing and residential homes have to be taken into consideration and that does not seem to be a primary focus and yet we have a lot of elderly people in our area
- We have a lot of elderly
- West Kirby has elderly people and there are some flats with social disadvantage
- The aged and disabled people will have some impact from these changes

Two comments were raised in support of the changes :

- The Council and FRS are aware of the needs of the elderly and the vulnerable
- The FRS links up with other agencies – it has to be a multi- agency approach

The questionnaires received (984) were treated as an information gathering exercise, in the same way as the views expressed at the public meetings, the questionnaires have been analysed in terms of Equality Monitoring and shows:

- 46.3% were Male and 53.7% Female respondents which closely reflects the

gender breakdowns for Wirral as a whole

- There were a wide range of ages responding to the survey, the largest group of respondents - 50%, were from the 50 to 69 age group - this was slightly higher than the local ward age population profiles for that age group (41.6%) but may be due to a higher proportion of older residents using the Greasby community centre attending the consultation events.
- 7.2% identified themselves as disabled ,which is lower than the average for Wirral at 22.6%
- 91.1% identified their ethnicity as white, 7.3% preferred not to say and 1.3 % (15) were from a BME background. This is a similar to the average Ethnicity breakdowns for those areas.

The majority of surveys completed were not in favour of the station being placed in Greasby village. There were no obvious comments made in relation to Equality and Diversity in the free text comments made.

This EIA has been consulted on with the Community Forum Group at a meeting on the 10th December 2014, where members were presented with the EIA and asked for any notable feedback in relation to the approach we take to the EIA and any outcomes of the proposals for particular Protected groups (specifically Elderly and Disabled). The group were happy with the EIA and its findings and no further suggestions made.

Stage 3 – Knowsley Consultation May to July 2014

A 12 week Consultation process on Fire Station merger proposals took place in Knowsley district between the 6th May and 28th July 2014. The consultation included :

- Online survey for staff and public to provide their views
- Three externally facilitated deliberative focus groups (one in each station area)
- One Public Forum
- Three Open public meetings
- One stakeholder breakfast meeting
- Several staff consultation meetings

All consultation events provided the opportunity for staff and public to provide feedback and views on the merger proposals and the impact they may have, positive or negative, in relation to different equality groups and the impact on any of their service needs/outcomes as a result of the proposals. None of the focus groups or forums raised any specific concerns relating to vulnerable people or equality groups, but some observed that it is important to ensure the elderly get appropriate prevention work in the form of Home Fire safety checks and other precautions in those areas where the mergers may have a bigger impact.

The consultation events were well publicised in many different forums from local council promotion, health and wellbeing boards, posters at local supermarkets, Local radio stations and a variety of Websites,

The only opportunity for MFRA to ensure a representative group of people were consulted with was in relation to the invited participants at the deliberative forums.

Efforts are always made to recruit a representative sample of Merseyside residents for each meeting, but as not everyone who is recruited actually attends the meeting this can have an effect.

The breakdown of consultees were as follows:

60% (29) of the 48 attendees were male and 40% (19) were female, 31% (15) were aged 16 -35 and 33.5 % (16) were aged 35 to 55 and 35.5% (17) were aged over 55. These figures are similar to the age profile of Merseyside population.

The majority of attendees were white , however 16% were of Non-white British origin , this compares favourably when compared to the Merseyside population figures of 7%

All events were fully inclusive with British Sign Language Interpreters at each open public meeting (they were not required at any of the deliberative forums), the use of a hearing loop was available for all meetings and information was also available in large print. The venues were sourced taking careful consideration of access from car parking for disabled and mobility impaired to easy access to public transport close by and access in and out of the rooms and seating.

The results from the on line survey have been summarised in a report;

Knowsley Consultation concerning Station Mergers – results from Feedback Surveys. This can be accessed on our Website. The results showed :

- No specific issues raised in relation to any negative or positive impacts of the proposals on any particular protected groups.
- No specific detrimental impact in relation to Equality and Diversity issues for staff raised at this stage of the proposals (staff consultation will continue)
- Of the 93 respondents to the Survey, a vast majority were from the areas affected by the proposals, the split was almost 50/50 male to female, and 11.8 % declared a disability and 2.4% were from non- white British origin.
- The survey was entirely voluntary for anyone to access and complete and there was very little opportunity to encourage responses from minority groups in any reasonable way.

Stage 2 - Engagement and Consultation January 2014

Stage two of the EIA involved engaging members of the public on the current EIA findings in relation to the Mergers and Closures options ,specifically the 5 options provided to the Public Engagement Forums held in January 2014.The possible options discussed at the for further financial savings :

1. Additional “Low Level Activity and Risk Stations (LLAR)
2. Introduction of “Day Crewing” at some whole time stations
3. Introduction of “Community Retained “ (RDS) stations
4. Merger of pairs of older stations and their replacement by modern community fire stations
5. Closure of some stations without replacement

Five forums were held across each of MFRS District :

- Wirral - Saturday 11th January 2014 – 10.00am -1.30pm
- St Helens - Monday 13th January 2014 – 18.00pm -20.45pm
- Liverpool – Tuesday 14th January 2014 – 18.00pm- 20.45pm
- Knowsley – Wednesday 15th January 2014 - 18.00pm – 20.45pm
- Sefton – Thursday 16th January 2014 – 18.00pm – 20.45pm

Part of the engagement presentation included canvassing views from the forum on the impact of each of the 5 options in relation to protected equality groups. The forums were broadly representative of the current demographic profiles for each district when compared to the demographic reports for each district, with the exception of Ethnicity for Wirral, St Helens and Sefton.

Table 1 – Equality Monitoring breakdown for each District engagement forums

	WIRRAL	ST Helens	LIVERPOOL	KNOWSLEY	SEFTON
Gender	Male: 12	Male: 10	Male: 13	Male: 10	Male: 13
	Female: 11	Female: 11	Female: 12	Female: 6	Female: 9
Age	18-34: 5	18-34: 3	18-34: 7	18-34: 3	18-34: 4
	35-54: 7	35-54: 9	35-54: 10	35-54: 7	35-54: 8
	55+: 11	55+: 9	55+: 8	55+: 6	55+: 10
Social Grade	AB: 6	AB: 4	AB: 6	AB: 2	AB: 6
	C1: 8	C1: 7	C1: 9	C1: 3	C1: 5
	C2: 4	C2: 3	C2: 4	C2: 6	C2: 3
	DE: 5	DE: 7	DE: 6	DE: 5	DE: 8
BME	0	0	2	1	0
Disability	6	6	6	3	0

Members of the Forum were given a summary of the outcomes from the EIA stage one, and asked if there were any specific concerns about those outcomes and indeed any of the 5 options. No concerns about the options were raised in any of the Forums, the general view was that the favoured option chosen by the members; mergers and closures, would provide a positive opportunity for members of the Disabled community and those elderly residents with limited mobility to access new station for community events and activities more easily than some of the current stations. The building of new stations would benefit many minority community groups who may have limited access to community spaces.

Stage 3 of the EIA will now involve consulting with the Public Proposals which will include consultation with specific organisations who support specific Protected Groups through various consultation methods.

Stage 1 – no public consultation at this stage

6. Conclusions

Taking into account the results of the monitoring, research and consultation, set out how the policy/report/project impacts or could impact on people from the following protected groups? (Include positive and/or negative impacts)

(a) Age

The needs of different Age groups, especially those minority age groups, in relation to station mergers and closures options and proposals are difficult to fully assess at this early stage of the EIA. Section 3 and 4 sets out the current age profiles which should be considered when taking into account possible options for closures and mergers. Engagement and consultation will provide more opportunities to assess negative and positive impacts and results will be used to inform Stage 2 and 3 of this EIA.

(b) Disability including mental, physical and sensory conditions)

The building of new stations will be positive for the disabled communities affected by the station mergers as the development of new high functioning stations will enable disabled people to access community services delivered from Fire Stations.

(c) Race (include: nationality, national or ethnic origin and/or colour)

As a) above but in relation to Race and Minority ethnic groups

(d) Religion or Belief

As a) above but in relation to Religion and Belief and minority faith groups

(e) Sex (include gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership and pregnancy or maternity)

As a) above but in relation to Gender and Gender Reassignment

(f) Sexual Orientation

As a) above but in relation to the needs of minority sexual orientation groups

(g) Socio-economic disadvantage

As a) above but in relation to the needs of those most affected financially (if at all) by any mergers and closures.

7. Decisions

If the policy/report/project will have a negative impact on members of one or more of the protected groups, explain how it will change or why it is to continue in the same

way.

If no changes are proposed, the policy/report/project needs to be objectively justified as being an appropriate and necessary means of achieving the legitimate aim set out in 1 above.

24.5.15 – EIA Stage 3C Wirral Consultation

The recent Wirral consultation did highlight some feedback and concerns which were specifically mentioned around older people and the proximity of sheltered accommodation to the proposed fire station (this is a planning issue and therefore not covered by this EIA) A review of current demographics shows no significant equality issues in relation to negative impacts on proposed station mergers and closures for any protected group at higher risk of Fire and Rescue as the response times to attend any call will be within the standards set.

13.1.15- EIA stage 3 a Wirral Consultation

The recent Wirral Consultation and this EIA did not highlight any particular negative impacts in relation to different equality groups. It should be noted that the Frankby road, Greasby site was withdrawn by Wirral Borough Council part way through the consultation period as a result of the opposition from residents and local politicians. Proposals are being considered in relation to further options that the Fire and Rescue Authority will consider: to consult on merging at a site in Saughall Massie or to close West Kirby.

17.9.14- EIA stage 3a and 3 b – Wirral and Liverpool (Allerton)

No consultation has taken place at this stage of the EIA for Wirral and Allerton proposals. A review of current demographics shows no significant equality issues in relation to negative impacts on proposed station mergers and closures for both Wirral and Liverpool (Allerton) for any protected group at higher risk of Fire and Rescue as the response times to attend any call will be within the standards set. Consultation at the next stage will review the impact in more detail with different groups of public and will focus also on any equality issues.

EIA Stage 3 – Decisions (Knowsley)

On reviewing the data, research and consultation at stage 3 of this EIA there are no significant disproportionate impacts on any of the protected groups. As response times will be maintained within the 10 minute response standard, no particular group will receive a significantly changed service to Fire and Rescue and there will be no major impact on current partnership arrangements at stations, as these can be transferred to the new station at Prescott with newer and more accessible facilities.

EIA Stage 2 – Decisions

The outcomes of the Engagement forums across the 5 Districts has identified no particular negative impacts that need to be considered in any of the 5 Options. The Merger and Closure option appears to be the most positive for a number of minority equality groups in terms of accessibility to community spaces.

EIA Stage 1 – Decisions

On reviewing the research and data available for stage 1 of this EIA, there are no significant equality Impacts established so far with the exception of Disability, where

current stations earmarked for mergers are currently not fully accessible for disabled community groups.

It is important to note that the impact of the Mergers and Station Closure Options and subsequent Proposals will not impact on any members of the public disproportionately in relation to the current level of service received by these groups e.g. response times and fire safety , prevention and protection services

8. Equality Improvement Plan

List any changes to our policies or procedures that need to be included in the Equality Action Plan/Service Plan.

9. Equality & Diversity Sign Off

The completed EIA form must be signed off by the Diversity Manager before it is submitted to Strategic Management Group or Authority.

Signed off

Wendy Kenyon

Date:

19.11.13- EIA Stage 1
 31.1.14 – EIA stage 2
 20.8.14 – EIA stage 3
 19.9.14 – EIA stage 3a and 3b
 15.1.15 EIA stage 3 a
 updated and introduction of
 3c
 2.6.15 EIA stage 3c
 Completed for Wirral and
 Stage 3D started for St
 Helens

Action Planned	Responsibility of	Completed by
<p>Actions Identified during EIA stage 1</p> <p>9.1 Consultation with Staff , Stakeholders and Communities , in relation to the EIA and its assessment of the Mergers and Closures Options and subsequent Proposals ; specifically those Protected groups and the potential impact (both negative and positive)</p> <p>9.2 Analysis of Community Profiles for station areas affected to understand the types of communities affected by the Mergers and Closures Options and subsequent Proposals (completed)</p> <p>9.3 Equality analysis of those staff affected</p>	<p>Diversity and Consultation Manager (DCM) with Support from IRMP Officer</p> <p>Business Intelligence Manager and DCM</p> <p>DCM with support</p>	<p>Jan-April14</p> <p>Completed</p>

by the Options and subsequent Proposals to see if any particular protected group are affected disproportionately.	from POD	Completed
Actions Identified during EIA stage 2 Consider ways to engage further with members of different Ethnic communities (in those station areas which are most affected) when proposals are identified for consultation in the future (Completed)	WK	Completed
Actions Identified during EIA Stage 3 Target HFSC for those Vulnerable older people most affected by the future station merger and closures (Knowsley and Wirral and St Helens – See Appendix Band C)	District Managers	Completed for Knowsley

Appendix A – ONS Demographic Equality Data by Station Ward

Please note that Station Areas are not based on the shape of wards, as such for the purposes of this section a ward has been identified to belong to a specific location if more than 50% of that ward rests within the station area.

District	Station Affected	2011 ward	Population	Mean Age	District Mean
Knowsley	Huyton	Longview	8,726	36	39
Knowsley	Huyton	Page Moss	7,076	38	39
Knowsley	Huyton	Prescot West	6,535	44	39
Knowsley	Huyton	Roby	7,254	44	39
Knowsley	Huyton	St Bartholomews	6,565	41	39
Knowsley	Huyton	St Gabriels	6,565	39	39
Knowsley	Huyton	St Michaels	6,920	39	39
Knowsley	Huyton	Stockbridge	6,018	40	39
Knowsley	Huyton	Swanside	6,519	42	39
Knowsley	Whiston	Prescot East	7,604	38	39
Knowsley	Whiston	Whiston North	6,908	41	39
Knowsley	Whiston	Whiston South	7,355	39	39
St Helens	Whiston	Rainhill	10,853	46	41
St Helens	St Helens	Billinge & Seneley Green	11,080	44	41
St Helens	St Helens	Blackbrook	10,639	41	41
St Helens	St Helens	Bold	9,759	38	41
St Helens	St Helens	Moss Bank	10,682	42	41
St Helens	St Helens	Parr	12,199	37	41
St Helens	St Helens	Sutton	12,003	41	41
St Helens	St Helens	Thatto Heath	12,280	38	41
St Helens	St Helens	Town Centre	10,978	39	41
St Helens	Eccleston	Rainford	7,779	47	41
St Helens	Eccleston	Eccleston	11,525	45	41
St Helens	Eccleston	West Park	11,392	40	41
St Helens	Eccleston	Windle	10,690	41	41
Wirral	Upton	Bidston & St James	15,216	36	41
Wirral	Upton	Cloughton	14,705	42	41
Wirral	Upton	Greasby, Frankby & Irby	13,991	45	41
Wirral	Upton	Moreton West & Saughall Massie	13,988	42	41
Wirral	Upton	Pensby & Thingwall	13,007	46	41
Wirral	Upton	Upton	16,130	42	41
Wirral	West Kirby	West Kirby & Thurstaston	12,733	45	41
Wirral	West Kirby	Hoylake & Meols	13,348	44	41
Liverpool	Allerton	Church	13,974	41	38
Liverpool	Allerton	Greenbank	16,132	32	38
Liverpool	Allerton	Mossley Hill	13,816	40	38
Liverpool	Allerton	Wavertree	14,772	39	38

Ethnicity Table:

District	Station Affected	2011 Ward	Population	White: Total	White: %	Mixed / multiple ethnic group: Total	Mixed / multiple ethnic group: %	Asian/Asian British: Total	Asian/Asian British: %	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: Total	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: %	Other ethnic group: Total	Other ethnic group: %
Knowsley	Huyton	Longview	8,726	8,414	96.4%	140	1.6%	112	1.3%	54	0.6%	6	0.1%
Knowsley	Huyton	Page Moss	7,076	6,947	98.2%	75	1.1%	36	0.5%	12	0.2%	6	0.1%
Knowsley	Huyton	Prescot West	6,535	6,388	97.8%	58	0.9%	61	0.9%	17	0.3%	11	0.2%
Knowsley	Huyton	Roby	7,254	7,148	98.5%	50	0.7%	30	0.4%	16	0.2%	10	0.1%
Knowsley	Huyton	St Bartholomews	7,143	6,972	97.6%	101	1.4%	32	0.4%	19	0.3%	19	0.3%
Knowsley	Huyton	St Gabriels	6,565	6,434	98.0%	49	0.7%	49	0.7%	25	0.4%	8	0.1%
Knowsley	Huyton	St Michaels	6,920	6,768	97.8%	82	1.2%	55	0.8%	7	0.1%	8	0.1%
Knowsley	Huyton	Stockbridge	6,018	5,843	97.1%	90	1.5%	33	0.5%	36	0.6%	16	0.3%
Knowsley	Huyton	Swanside	6,519	6,347	97.4%	94	1.4%	52	0.8%	16	0.2%	10	0.2%
Knowsley	Whiston	Prescot East	7,604	7,300	96.0%	109	1.4%	160	2.1%	25	0.3%	10	0.1%
St Helens	Whiston	Rainhill	10,853	10,498	96.7%	83	0.8%	240	2.2%	7	0.1%	25	0.2%
Knowsley	Whiston	Whiston North	6,908	6,604	95.6%	60	0.9%	203	2.9%	24	0.3%	17	0.2%
Knowsley	Whiston	Whiston South	7,355	7,144	97.1%	113	1.5%	73	1.0%	20	0.3%	5	0.1%
Knowsley Average					97.2%		1.3%		1.0%		0.3%		0.1%

District	Station Affected	2011 Ward	Population	White: Total	White: %	Mixed / multiple ethnic group: Total	Mixed / multiple ethnic group: %	Asian/Asian British: Total	Asian/Asian British: %	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: Total	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: %	Other ethnic group: Total	Other ethnic group: %
St Helens	St Helens	Billinge & Seneley Green	11,080	10,948	98.8%	67	0.6%	46	0.4%	9	0.1%	10	0.1%
St Helens	St Helens	Blackbrook	10,639	10,474	98.4%	49	0.5%	90	0.8%	4	0.0%	22	0.2%
St Helens	St Helens	Bold	9,759	9,618	98.6%	65	0.7%	50	0.5%	18	0.2%	8	0.1%
St Helens	St Helens	Moss Bank	10,682	10,568	98.9%	46	0.4%	50	0.5%	5	0.0%	13	0.1%
St Helens	St Helens	Parr	12,199	11,972	98.1%	97	0.8%	97	0.8%	22	0.2%	11	0.1%
St Helens	St Helens	Sutton	12,003	11,837	98.6%	87	0.7%	63	0.5%	11	0.1%	5	0.0%
St Helens	St Helens	Thatto Heath	12,280	11,829	96.3%	120	1.0%	270	2.2%	31	0.3%	30	0.2%
St Helens	St Helens	Town Centre	10,978	10,684	97.3%	69	0.6%	191	1.7%	18	0.2%	16	0.1%
St Helens	Eccleston	Eccleston	11,525	11,302	98.1%	76	0.7%	121	1.0%	15	0.1%	11	0.1%
St Helens	Eccleston	Rainford	7,779	7,682	98.8%	34	0.4%	43	0.6%	8	0.1%	12	0.2%
St Helens	Eccleston	West Park	11,392	11,183	98.2%	79	0.7%	88	0.8%	25	0.2%	17	0.1%
St Helens	Eccleston	Windle	10,690	10,564	98.8%	50	0.5%	58	0.5%	8	0.1%	10	0.1%
St Helens Average					98.0%		0.7%		1.0%		0.1%		0.1%

District	Station Affected	2011 Ward	Population	White: Total	White: %	Mixed / multiple ethnic group: Total	Mixed / multiple ethnic group: %	Asian / Asian British: Total	Asian / Asian British: %	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: Total	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: %	Other ethnic group: Total	Other ethnic group: %
Wirral	Upton	Bidston & St James	15,216	14,659	96.3%	238	1.6%	270	1.8%	37	0.2%	12	0.1%
Wirral	Upton	Claughton	14,705	14,147	96.2%	163	1.1%	344	2.3%	21	0.1%	30	0.2%
Wirral	Upton	Greasby, Frankby & Irby	13,991	13,685	97.8%	112	0.8%	146	1.0%	21	0.2%	27	0.2%
Wirral	Upton	Moreton West & Saughall Massie	13,988	13,722	98.1%	87	0.6%	134	1.0%	25	0.2%	20	0.1%
Wirral	Upton	Pensby & Thingwall	13,007	12,744	98.0%	109	0.8%	132	1.0%	13	0.1%	9	0.1%
Wirral	Upton	Upton	16,130	15,587	96.6%	123	0.8%	352	2.2%	36	0.2%	32	0.2%
Wirral	W Kirby	Hoylake & Meols	13,348	13,019	97.5%	139	1.0%	139	1.0%	19	0.1%	32	0.2%
Wirral	W Kirby	West Kirby & Thurstaston	12,733	12,326	96.8%	170	1.3%	168	1.3%	16	0.1%	53	0.4%
Wirral Average					97.0%		1.0%		1.6%		0.2%		0.2%

District	Station Affected	2011 Ward	Population	White: Total	White: %	Mixed / multiple ethnic group: Total	Mixed / multiple ethnic group: %	Asian / Asian British: Total	Asian / Asian British: %	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: Total	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: %	Other ethnic group: Total	Other ethnic group: %
Liverpool	Allerton	Church	13,974	12,858	92.0%	367	2.6%	472	3.4%	160	1.1%	117	0.8%
Liverpool	Allerton	Greenbank	16,132	13,400	83.1%	736	4.6%	949	5.9%	630	3.9%	417	2.6%
Liverpool	Allerton	Mossley Hill	13,816	12,889	93.3%	293	2.1%	399	2.9%	130	0.9%	105	0.8%
Liverpool	Allerton	Wavertree	14,772	13,288	90.0%	526	3.6%	552	3.7%	245	1.7%	161	1.1%
Liverpool Average					88.9%		2.5%		4.2%		2.6%		1.8%

Disability Tables

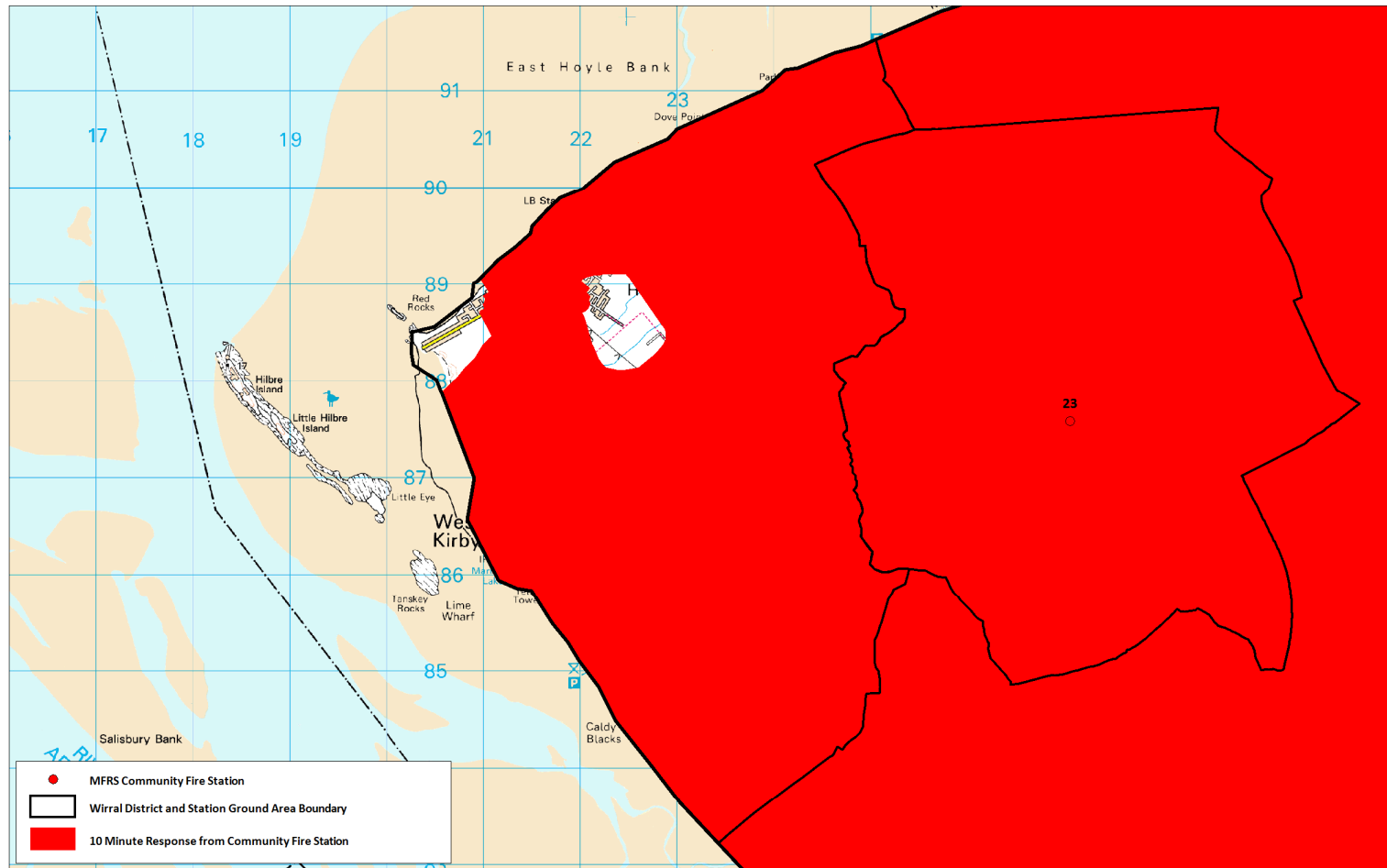
District	Station Affected	2011 Ward	Population	Day-to-Day Activities Limited a Lot	Day-to-Day Activities Limited a Lot %	Day-to-Day Activities Limited a Little	Day-to-Day Activities Limited a Little %	Day-to-Day Activities Not Limited	Day-to-Day Activities Not Limited %
Knowsley	Huyton	Longview	8726	1367	15.7%	904	10.4%	6455	74.0%
Knowsley	Huyton	Page Moss	7076	1239	17.5%	802	11.3%	5035	71.2%
Knowsley	Huyton	Prescot West	6535	1007	15.4%	828	12.7%	4700	71.9%
Knowsley	Huyton	Roby	7254	829	11.4%	722	10.0%	5703	78.6%
Knowsley	Huyton	St Bartholomews	6565	893	13.6%	666	10.1%	5006	76.3%
Knowsley	Huyton	St Gabriels	6920	1042	15.1%	692	10.0%	5186	74.9%
Knowsley	Huyton	St Michaels	7114	642	9.0%	528	7.4%	5944	83.6%
Knowsley	Huyton	Stockbridge	6018	1206	20.0%	730	12.1%	4082	67.8%
Knowsley	Huyton	Swanside	6519	722	11.1%	675	10.4%	5122	78.6%
Knowsley	Whiston	Prescot East	7604	1025	13.5%	817	10.7%	5762	75.8%
Knowsley	Whiston	Whiston North	6908	890	12.9%	701	10.1%	5317	77.0%
Knowsley	Whiston	Whiston South	7355	893	12.1%	739	10.0%	5723	77.8%
St Helens	Whiston	Rainhill	10853	1312	12.1%	1212	11.2%	8329	76.7%
Knowsley Average					14.2%		10.3%		75.5%

District	Station Affected	2011 Ward	Population	Day-to-Day Activities Limited a Lot	Day-to-Day Activities Limited a Lot %	Day-to-Day Activities Limited a Little	Day-to-Day Activities Limited a Little %	Day-to-Day Activities Not Limited	Day-to-Day Activities Not Limited %
St Helens	St Helens	Billinge & Seneley Green	11080	1192	10.8%	1243	11.2%	8645	78.0%
St Helens	St Helens	Blackbrook	10639	1298	12.2%	1146	10.8%	8195	77.0%
St Helens	St Helens	Bold	9759	1176	12.1%	976	10.0%	7607	77.9%
St Helens	St Helens	Moss Bank	10682	1433	13.4%	1235	11.6%	8014	75.0%
St Helens	St Helens	Parr	12199	1864	15.3%	1319	10.8%	9016	73.9%
St Helens	St Helens	Sutton	12003	1569	13.1%	1253	10.4%	9181	76.5%
St Helens	St Helens	Thatto Heath	12280	1658	13.5%	1250	10.2%	9372	76.3%
St Helens	St Helens	Town Centre	10978	1656	15.1%	1252	11.4%	8070	73.5%
St Helens	Eccleston	Eccleston	11525	1201	10.4%	1233	10.7%	9091	78.9%
St Helens	Eccleston	Rainford	7779	850	10.9%	907	11.7%	6022	77.4%
St Helens	Eccleston	West Park	11392	1362	12.0%	1209	10.6%	8821	77.4%
St Helens	Eccleston	Windle	10690	1140	10.7%	1082	10.1%	8468	79.2%
St Helens Average					12.4%		10.6%		77.0%

District	Station Affected	2011 Ward	Population	Day-to-Day Activities Limited a Lot	Day-to-Day Activities Limited a Lot %	Day-to-Day Activities Limited a Little	Day-to-Day Activities Limited a Little %	Day-to-Day Activities Not Limited	Day-to-Day Activities Not Limited %
Wirral	Upton	Bidston & St James	15216	2441	16.0%	1748	11.5%	11027	72.5%
Wirral	Upton	Claughton	14705	1940	13.2%	1556	10.6%	11209	76.2%
Wirral	Upton	Greasby, Frankby & Irby	13991	1233	8.8%	1536	11.0%	11222	80.2%
Wirral	Upton	Moreton West & Saughall Massie	13988	1782	12.7%	1413	10.1%	10793	77.2%
Wirral	Upton	Pensby & Thingwall	13007	1528	11.7%	1539	11.8%	9940	76.4%
Wirral	Upton	Upton	16130	2408	14.9%	1778	11.0%	11944	74.0%
Wirral	W Kirby	Hoylake & Meols	13348	1296	9.7%	1337	10.0%	10715	80.3%
Wirral	W Kirby	West Kirby & Thurstaston	12733	1187	9.3%	1361	10.7%	10185	80.0%
Wirral Average					11.9%		10.7%		77.4%

District	Station Affected	2011 Ward	Population	Day-to-Day Activities Limited a Lot	Day-to-Day Activities Limited a Lot %	Day-to-Day Activities Limited a Little	Day-to-Day Activities Limited a Little %	Day-to-Day Activities Not Limited	Day-to-Day Activities Not Limited %
Liverpool	Allerton	Church	13974	1120	8.0%	1241	8.9%	11613	83.1%
Liverpool	Allerton	Greenbank	16132	1277	7.9%	1047	6.5%	13808	85.6%
Liverpool	Allerton	Mossley Hill	13816	1301	9.4%	1136	8.2%	11379	82.4%
Liverpool	Allerton	Wavertree	14772	1588	10.8%	1336	9.0%	11848	80.2%
Liverpool Average					12.8%		9.7%		77.6%

Appendix B 10 minute response coverage time from Upton Station and surrounding stations (excluding West Kirby and Wallasey)



10 Minute Response Coverage Time from Community Fire Stations 20, 21, 22 and 23

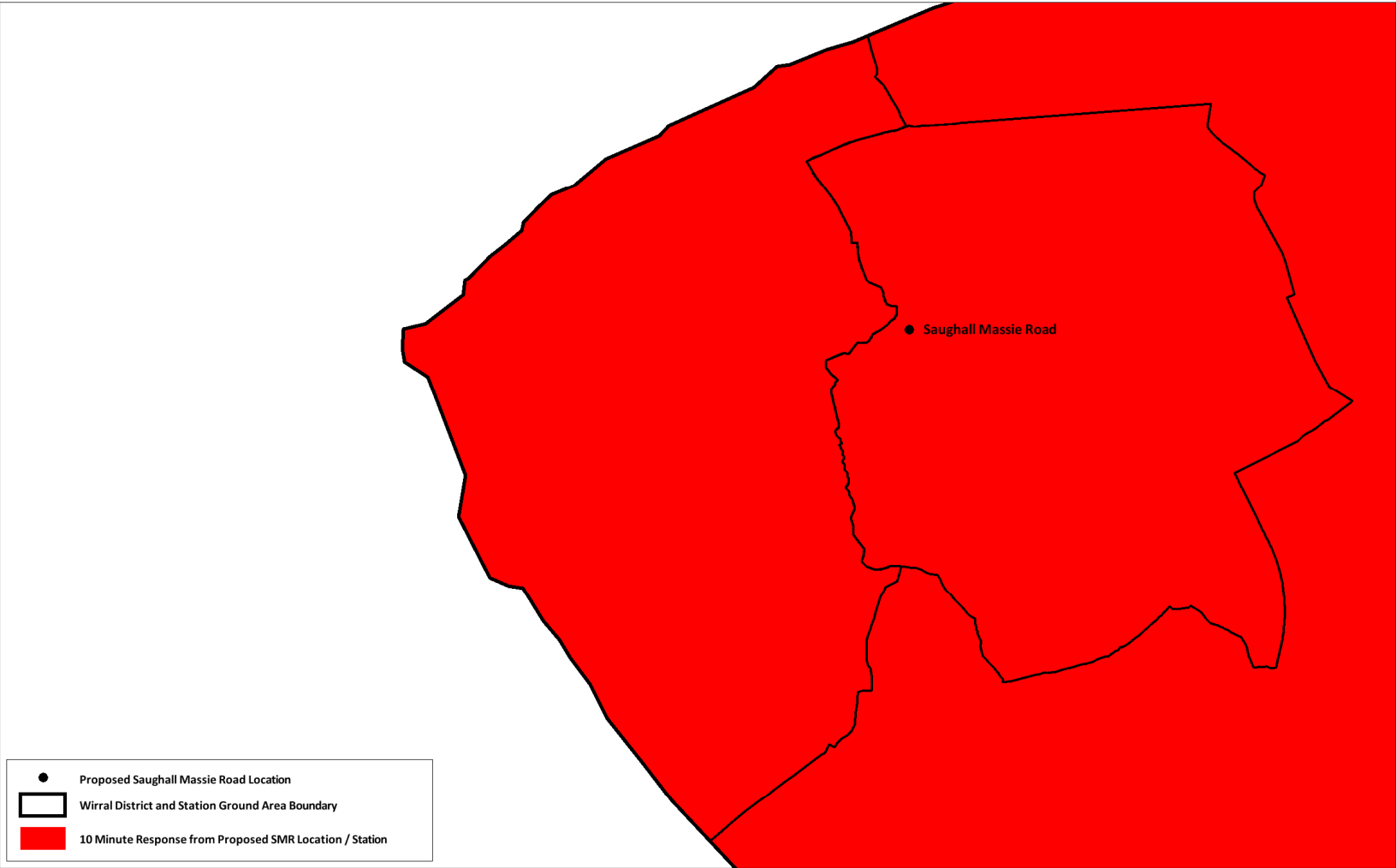
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Author: Gary Crosbie
 Produced Using: MapInfo Professional v11.0
 Date: 15.01.2015
 Strategy and Performance

Map Reference:
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 Greasby/Maps/
 20_21_22_23_10 Minutes_23_24_SGA_Zoom.png



Appendix B Continued – 10 minute response time from proposed Saughall Massie Road location and surrounding stations (Excluding Upton West Kirby and Wallasey)



10 Minute Response Coverage Time from Proposed Saughall Massie Road Location and Community Fire Stations 20, 21 and 22

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Produced Using: MapInfo Professional v11.0
Date: 16.01.2015
Strategy and Performance

Map Reference:
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Appendix C: St Helens isochrones and Risk Maps

SEE ST HELENS PROPOSALS FOR ECCELSTON AND ST HELENS FIRE STATION REPORT APPENDIX C, D, E,F,G,and H

