

Conservative MPs fight proposed Fire Service cuts – nearly a third of fire engines and two stations to go under Lib Dem, Labour and Independent plans

Two Buckinghamshire MPs have today called for the Lib Dem led coalition that run Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority to end their plans for damaging cuts to its Fire and Rescue Service.

The Lib Dem run Fire Authority's Lead Members, propped up in coalition by Labour and Independents, have given agreement for 2 options to cut nearly a third of fire engines and close 2 stations in Great Missenden and Stokenchurch to proceed through staff consultation. They are now in "pre-public consultation" focus groups. The Fire Authority will be asked on 12th November to rubber-stamp the options going to a full 10-week public consultation to choose the "best" approach to service cuts.

Despite a request over 2 weeks ago by both Greg Smith MP and Joy Morrissey MP, the Lib Dem Fire Authority Chairman, Cllr Llew Monger, has failed to brief both MPs on his party's plans.

Mid Buckinghamshire MP Greg Smith said: "The recklessness of the Liberal Democrat Chaired Fire Authority in proposing closure of Great Missenden Fire Station, Stokenchurch Fire Station and removing Haddenham's only Fire Engine is frankly dangerous. The first duty of any arm of the State is to keep people safe and this left wing coalition is risking lives by reducing fire cover in our communities so significantly. These are unjustified cuts, that were roundly rejected when Conservatives ran the Fire Authority. We need all of Buckinghamshire to be heard loud and clear by the ruling Lib Dem, Labour and Independent coalition on the Fire Authority that we will not accept their politically motivated attacks on our villages and cuts to public safety."

The Conservatives led the Fire Authority up until June of this year. In the last 3 years under Conservative leadership firefighter numbers increased dramatically to their highest number since 2013. The significant improvement in finances were praised by His Majesty's Inspector, also removing concerns that had been raised around fire prevention, fire protection and equality & diversity.

Joy Morrissey MP for Beaconsfield, Marlow and the South Bucks villages said "In just a few short months a Lib Dem led coalition of incompetence has wreaked havoc on our Fire Service, putting politics before public safety. There is no financial case for these cuts, and it is a dangerous folly to be proposing cutting fire engines and closing stations when the Labour Government is imposing exponential housing growth on Buckinghamshire. I am pleased our Conservative Fire Authority team are opposed to this disastrous plan and will try and stop it. A proposed 50% cut to the service that protects my constituents in Beaconsfield, Burnham, Bourne End and the surrounding villages is wholly unacceptable. The Lib Dems need to hear our voice loud and clear."

Both Conservative MPs and Buckinghamshire Conservatives have started a petition to stop the plans, which they will present to the Fire Authority ahead of its formal decision.

Background to the proposed changes

- The Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority has been run since June 2025 by the Liberal Democrats, propped up by a coalition of Labour and Independent councillors – despite not running either Bucks or MK councils.
- The Lead Members – Cllr Llew Monger (Authority Chairman, Lib Dem Bucks), Cllr Niknam Hussain (Lib Dem Bucks), Cllr Robin Stuchbury (Independent Bucks), Cllr Moriah Priestley (Labour Milton Keynes), Tracey Bailey (Labour Milton Keynes) have given approval for 2 options to cut nearly a third of fire engines and close 2 stations to proceed to staff and pre-public consultation focus groups.
- Formal approval of the 10 week Public Consultation will be sought at a Fire Authority Meeting on 12th November, with the final recommendation agreed in March 2026.
- The proposals see 8 fire engines cut from the current 30 – nearly one third reduction. They are also looking to close Great Missenden and Stokenchurch stations.
- **Proposal Option 1** removes fire engines from - Haddenham (100% cut), Great Missenden (100% cut), Stokenchurch (100% cut), Beaconsfield (50% cut), Amersham (50% cut), Buckingham (50% cut), Wycombe (33% cut), Aylesbury (33% cut), West Ashland (1 fire engine). Stokenchurch and Great Missenden fire stations would close.
- **Proposal Option 2** removes fire engines from – Amersham, Aylesbury, Beaconsfield, Broughton, Buckingham, High Wycombe, West Ashland (2 fire engines)
- For context - in the summer of 2023 all 30 fire engines were deployed at once during the summer of wildfires, with additional resource having to be deployed from outside services.
- Over the last 3 years when the Conservatives ran the Fire Authority, they twice rejected proposals to cut fire engines or close stations and would not give agreement for any reductions to be proposed or put to the public.
- Under the Conservatives, Buckinghamshire’s number of firefighters reached its highest level since 2013, His Majesty’s Inspector praised the financial recovery in its last inspection and the Service cleared all Causes for Concern that it had for Fire Protection, Fire Prevention and Equality & Diversity.

PETITION LINKS

Joy Morrissey MP - <https://www.joymorrissey.uk/campaigns/save-our-fire-stations>

Greg Smith MP - <https://www.gregsmith.co.uk/savemidbucksfireservices>

For further details, please contact:

- Joy Morrissey MP’s office – joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk
- Greg Smith MP’s office - greg.smith.mp@parliament.uk

End of Release