



**TOM
PURSGLOVE**



LISTENING TO CORBY AND EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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Ms Debbie Samwell & Ms Lucie Berridge
Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service
Moulton Logistics Centre
Moulton Way
NORTHAMPTON, NN3 6XJ

Sent via email to: service.improvement@northantsfire.org.uk

10th January 2015

Dear Ms Samwell & Ms Berridge,

RE: COMMUNITY PROTECTION PLAN CONSULTATION.

I am writing to you as part of my *Listening to Corby & East Northamptonshire Campaign*, to reflect local concerns relating to the proposed changes to Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service arrangements in Corby, as laid out in the consultation document.

Prior to writing, I met with Martyn Emberson, the Chief Fire Officer, Councillor Stan Heggs, FBU representatives and 'Green Watch' firefighters at Corby Fire Station. I have also written to Councillor André González De Savage, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Economic Growth & Public Protection.

In addition, I have attended a demonstration of the new Cobra Intervention Vehicle and it is clear that Northamptonshire is leading the way when it comes to Fire Service innovation - undoubtedly, in certain circumstances, Cobra plays a very important role in protecting the lives of firefighters, and those of the general public.

However, as you will appreciate, North Northamptonshire is rapidly growing - in particular, Corby and East Northamptonshire is seeing thousands of new homes built. For example, Priors Hall, when completed, will have seen the construction of over 6,000 new homes.

As such, in my view, it is essential to enhance fire coverage in our area. Therefore, it is my belief, having spoken to all those referred to earlier, that, not only do we need to retain the two existing pumps at Corby, but the new Cobra Intervention Vehicle should be readily available for deployment across our area. **Essentially, this should be an additional tool in the box, and not introduced at the expense of an existing pump.** Indeed, I am particularly mindful of the fact that Corby Fire Station covers not only Corby Borough, but also a very considerable amount of rural East Northamptonshire.

I want to refer to the recent fire at Willow Place in Corby. This was a major incident, with pumps responding from all over the county and beyond. In the event, Corby Fire Station was able to send two pumps, but it would obviously have been preferable had it been able to send three.

To this end, I have launched the *More Fire Cover Campaign* with Peter Bone MP, to increase fire cover across North Northamptonshire. We are encouraging all interested parties to show support for this campaign.

LISTENING TO YOU - CAMPAIGNING FOR YOU

Clearly, there would be a cost implication attached to having a Cobra Intervention Vehicle based at Corby, as an additional pump. However, as the capital cost of the engine has already been covered by Government grant, the only extra expense would be the running cost. Now, as this extra pump would predominantly benefit Corby, it seems to me that the extra funds needed to provide it should come from the New Homes Bonus allocated to Corby Borough Council (CBC), by the Government – indeed, this is exactly the sort of infrastructure project that this money is supposed to help support.

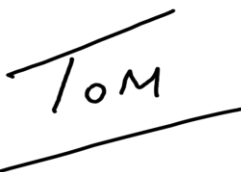
In the current year, CBC has been allocated over £2.6m in New Homes Bonus. This amount will increase significantly in future years, with expected growth. Only a small proportion of that fund would be required to support the running of the extra pump.

Residents have made it clear to me that they think it is a poor decision to reduce fire cover now, when undoubtedly in the future, with the huge expansion of homes and businesses in Corby, there will be a need to reinstate, and increase, fire cover.

I trust that this response will be considered as part of the ongoing consultation process and as someone who vocally supports Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service and its dedicated firefighters, I want to ensure that we get the Community Protection Plan right for the future. Peter Bone MP has also asked me to state that he fully supports the *More Fire Cover Campaign* and the proposals contained within this letter.

If you would like any further information from me, please do not hesitate to contact me using any of the details contained in the letterhead.

Yours sincerely,



**TOM PURSGLOVE
CONSERVATIVE PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**