

Hampshire Fire Service

Proposed Councillor Steve Pitt
Seconded Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

"This Council welcomes Hampshire Fire Service's adoption of changes proposed by the Fire Brigades Union, to the pre-determined attendance (PDA) procedures for tall building fires in Portsmouth.

The previous policy, implemented following last year's Hampshire Risk Review, meant that Southsea's Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) was not on the PDA for tall buildings fires. As a result, there were occasions when Portsmouth was dependent on Southampton's ALP to provide cover, whilst Southsea's remained at the fire station.

At the time of the Risk Review, this Council was warned that such an issue would arise but decided to ignore the FBU's concerns.

In order to provide a solution, the FBU proposed crewing changes to their management, which have now been fully implemented, enabling Southsea's ALP to be deployed in almost all circumstances.

The council wishes to thank the FBU for its sensible and pragmatic approach to solving the problem, and regrets that it did not listen to the city's FBU representatives, when they brought a deputation to Full Council last year.

The council recognises that the solution of 'triple-jumping' a crew onto the ALP is not ideal and thanks the FBU for proposing changes to its established working practices, which have enabled this to be possible, in order to better guarantee their safety and the safety of the people of Portsmouth.

Finally, this council wishes to thank Hampshire Fire Service management for agreeing to make the changes proposed by the FBU and for working constructively with them to implement the new policy."