

COUNCIL – 23 SEPTEMBER 2026 MOTIONS TO COUNCIL

MOTION 1

Motion submitted by Cllr Ted Strike, to be seconded by Cllr Tony Riordan:-

Cleveland Fire Brigade Funding and Thornaby Fire Station

“Council notes that:

Cleveland Fire Brigade is consulting on a proposal to change the staffing arrangements for one of the two fire appliances based at Thornaby Fire Station.

Under the proposal, one appliance would continue to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, while the second would operate for 12 hours a day during daytime hours. The consultation closes on 26 November 2026, after which recommendations will be considered by Cleveland Fire Authority.

Cleveland Fire Brigade is forecasting a funding gap of at least £1.198 million by 2028/29.

The Brigade serves an area with one of the most significant industrial risk profiles in the country, including major petrochemical and other nationally important infrastructure and a significant concentration of upper-tier COMAH sites.

Council believes that:

Cleveland Fire Brigade must receive sufficient and sustainable funding to maintain effective frontline services and respond safely to the particular risks within its area.

National funding arrangements should properly reflect industrial and community risk and not be based principally upon population.

The proposed reduction in the availability of the second appliance at Thornaby raises legitimate concerns about fire cover for Thornaby, Ingleby Barwick, Yarm and the wider Borough, as well as the safety of residents and firefighters.

Any final decision must be informed by the consultation responses and by clear evidence about its effect on risk, appliance availability, response standards and firefighter safety.

Council resolves that:

- 1) The Chief Executive responds to the Service Delivery Review consultation on behalf of the Council, expressing Council's serious concern about the proposed reduction in the availability of the second appliance at Thornaby and asking Cleveland Fire Authority to

demonstrate, before making any final decision, how appropriate fire cover, response standards and the safety of residents and firefighters will be maintained.

- 2) The Chief Executive writes to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, sending a copy to the Brigade's Chief Fire Officer, calling upon the Government to address Cleveland Fire Brigade's forecast funding gap of at least £1.198 million by 2028/29 and to ensure that future funding arrangements properly reflect the significant industrial and community risks within the Brigade's area.
- 3) The Chief Executive writes to the Members of Parliament for Stockton West, Stockton North and Middlesbrough and Thornaby East seeking their support for sufficient and sustainable funding for Cleveland Fire Brigade."

