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Date: 15 October 2026

Dear Mr McDonald

Council Motion - Cleveland Fire Brigade Funding and Thornaby Fire Station

I have been instructed to write to you on behalf of Stockton Council, in respect of a motion that was approved at the 23 September 2026 meeting of Full Council. The motion relates to Cleveland Fire Brigade Funding and Thornaby Fire Station and states:

“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.

Chris McDonald MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Sent by email to: chris.mcdonald.mp@parliament.uk

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.

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.

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.

In addition to writing to the Prime Minister and Chancellor, I am writing to you in accordance with resolution 3 to seek your support for sufficient and sustainable funding for Cleveland Fire Brigade.

We have similarly written to the Chief Fire officer separately and asked him to accept that letter and the details of the council's motion as a formal response to the Fire Service consultation.

Any response that you send to this letter will be shared with all Members of the Council and made available to view with the relevant minutes from the meeting of Council (23 September 2026) on the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council website.

Thank you in anticipation for your consideration of the above.

Yours sincerely



Mike Greene
Chief Executive