

**From:** Salc Admin [mailto:adminsalc@btconnect.com]  
**Sent:** 01 November 2012 15:02  
**To:** Salc Admin  
**Subject:** Suffolk Fire Service consultation

Dear Parish Clerk

I am writing to ask for your help to publicise a three-month consultation which asks residents to have their say on a proposed merger between Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service and Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service.

This follows a decision by the county council's Cabinet earlier this month to continue to consider the proposal to merge the two fire services if this option looks like it will generate significant financial savings and other organisational benefits.

Like all public services, we are facing increasing pressures to manage the fire service with less money and further significant budget cuts are expected beyond 2015.

Our priority is to protect people by safeguarding front line services as much as we can. By merging with another fire and rescue service we could potentially make further savings in management and support areas, without having to cut the front line.

No decision has been taken as yet, which is why we are asking for people's comments on the proposal to inform Cabinet and Full Council's final decision in the New Year. Cambridgeshire residents will be invited to take part in a similar consultation over the same time period.

Please promote this consultation using your websites, newsletters and other means of communicating with your local residents. The full detail is available from our website from the following link:

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/your-council/decision-making/consultations/delivering-the-best-fire-service-to-you/>

This includes our consultation booklet, an online survey and other associated information. Paper copies of the consultation booklet are available on request, and will be circulated to the county's libraries and other public offices.

Please contact us at 01473 260533 or email [fireconsultation@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:fireconsultation@suffolk.gov.uk) if you would like paper copies, or have any questions about this consultation.

We will also hold three face-to-face drop-in events for people to find out more in the following locations:

- **Lowestoft**  
Monday 19 November 2012, 9.30am to 1pm, Lowestoft Library, first floor meeting room
- **Bury St Edmunds**  
Wednesday 21 November 2012, 1pm to 5pm, Bury St Edmunds Library, conference room
- **Ipswich**  
Monday 26 November 2012, 9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm, Ipswich County Library, lecture hall

I would like to thank you in advance for your help.

**Mark Hardingham**

Deputy Chief Fire Officer  
Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service

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