



# Bradford on Avon Town Council

Kingston House Offices, Kingston Road, Bradford on Avon BA15 1AA

F.A.O.

Chair of Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority

Cllr Clare Weight

29<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Bradford on Avon Town Council unequivocally opposes the proposed closure of Bradford on Avon Fire Station.

This fire station is a vital asset to our town, and we want to make clear our deep appreciation for the firefighters who serve our community, who demonstrate exceptional commitment often alongside full-time work.

We also recognise the strength of local feeling and commend the many residents who have already engaged with the consultation, supported the campaign, and made their voices heard. We further acknowledge the work of Brian Mathew MP and other local leaders in raising this issue at the highest levels.

We want residents to be in no doubt - the Town Council will continue to use all of its influence to stop this planned closure. We are actively engaging with the Fire Authority, local representatives, and all relevant stakeholders, and we will continue to do so until every possible option has been fully explored. We are determined to secure the best possible outcome for Bradford on Avon and the surrounding communities.

The case for keeping the station open is both clear and compelling.

Bradford on Avon is the busiest of the eight stations proposed for closure, with its crew attending over 100 incidents per year, with almost half of its mobilisations outside of its station ground last year. Its crews not only serve the town but also support neighbouring villages, provide standby cover for nearby stations such as Trowbridge, and respond beyond county boundaries when required. The loss of this station would therefore clearly not only affect response times in Bradford on Avon but also have a hugely negative impact on coverage across the entire Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service area.

Equally important is the irreplaceable and specialist local knowledge held by our on-call firefighters. In a town characterised by narrow streets, historic buildings, and a high number of listed properties, that knowledge is critical to ensuring rapid and effective emergency response.

Of course, fire stations are not only vital resources in times of fire, but they also provide potentially lifesaving capabilities in events such as severe flooding. The town has been struck by numerous devastating floods in the last decade alone and having a local fire station designated as a flooding incident rendezvous point, where crews are now trained to help out with flooding, would be a huge comfort and vital asset for the town. This could also reduce stress on resources across the county, which could then be deployed elsewhere. BOA firefighters have also been involved in multiple river rescues in the last 18 months, and their response times are vital in these situations.

We are also deeply concerned about the impact on response times. Even small delays can have devastating consequences. The consultation uses response times from Bath Fire Station as a measure. This station is currently operating from a temporary site on Lower Bristol Road, on the other side of the city, and raises serious and justified concerns about increased journey times to incidents in our area.

The fire service's own data also show that the cost of mobilisations from Bradford on Avon's station is lower than the service average, indicating good value for money and financial sustainability.

We also want to highlight the significant improvements made by the on-call team, whose availability has increased markedly over the past 18 months. Their continued efforts to recruit, despite previous restrictions, demonstrate both commitment and resilience.

The Town Council is encouraged by ongoing discussions between our MP, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service Management and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to increase funding for our local fire services. We will continue to press for all viable solutions to be considered. We are also seeking a clear, transparent justification for the inclusion of Bradford on Avon in the closure proposals.

We urge all residents to take part in the consultation before it closes on 15 May.

We stand firmly with our residents. We will continue to advocate strongly, work constructively with all parties, and do everything in our power to ensure that this essential service is protected for our community.

We will be submitting copies of this letter to all members of the fire authority, the Chief Fire Officer and local political leaders.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Vittles', written in a cursive style.

Cllr Jack Vittles

Mayor, Bradford on Avon

On behalf of Bradford on Avon Town Council:

Cllr. James Atkinson  
Cllr. Kate Bessant  
Cllr. Sam Blackwell  
Cllr. Kevin Elliot  
Cllr. Andy Gordon  
Cllr. Alex Kay  
Cllr. Ben Reed  
Cllr. Savva Ghika  
Cllr. George Simmonds  
Cllr. Chris Spence  
Cllr. Katie Vigar