



**GREATER
MANCHESTER**
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Engagement and Consultation report

Proposed new community fire station for Whitefield

April 2023

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Overview of this report

This report gives a summary of the engagement that has happened relating to the proposed new fire station in Whitefield, focussing specifically on the public and community engagement.

This report outlines –

- The **planning** that happened before the engagement activity – including the development of a comprehensive comms and engagement plan, development of visual assets and the building of a dedicated digital consultation space.
- The **activity** that took place during the engagement period between Friday 24th February and Monday 13th March 2023, including the reach of our engagement, as well as the in-person and digital activity.
- The **results** of this engagement and what people have told us about the proposals for the new community fire station.
- And finally, the **impact** of the feedback on the planning development process.

Background

GMFRS' four-year [Fire Plan](#) (launched summer 2021) and [Annual Delivery Plan](#) (2021/22) set out a priority for the Service to invest in its buildings to deliver excellent accommodation and facilities with the aim of building a modern fit for the future estate.

Following on from this, an Estates Strategy has been developed to help achieve this and will deliver a major overhaul of GMFRS' buildings and facilities. This included a combination of new community fire stations and refurbishments to significantly improve the overall standard and condition of the fire stations.

This is a long-term programme of improvements, and it is expected to take place in four phases, each taking four years. This will allow better management of the borrowing burden, make the programme less disruptive to the Service as a whole and allow lessons learned for the first phase to be applied to subsequent phases.

This engagement with the community is relating specifically to the proposed new fire stations in Whitefield which is part of phase 1 of the estate strategy.

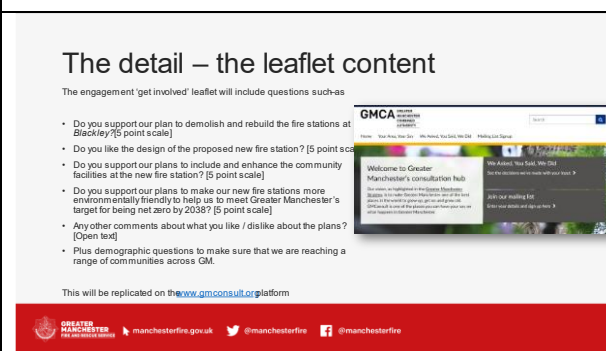
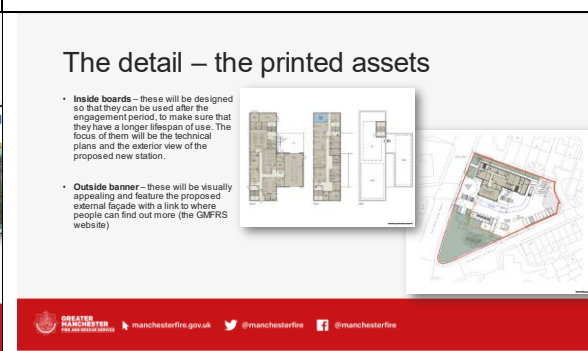
Out of scope for this report is the engagement that has taken place with staff based at the station and partners who've been involved in the development discussions.

Planning

The Communications and Engagement Plan

To make sure that there was a consistent message for the engagement, and we were clear about what we were asking people and their scope of influence, we developed a comms and engagement plan. This plan covered why we were carrying out engagement with communities, what we would be asking them and how it would feed into the overall development of the process.

Extracts from the Comms and Engagement Plan for the proposed new fire stations in Greater Manchester -

 Engagement and Communication Plan Community and stakeholder engagement on the proposed new fire stations in Blackley (Manchester), Whitefield (Bury), Kings Street (Stockport) GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE	 Key messages for the consultation on the new stations - By creating new Community Fire Stations in Blackley, Whitefield and Kings Street we are investing in the future of our staff, Greater Manchester and its residents, while striving to become a modern, flexible and resilient fire and rescue service. - The new Community Fire Stations will include the installation of sustainable heating and lighting systems to support Greater Manchester's target to become carbon neutral by 2038. - The new stations will have a dual purpose community room and operational training room. - The proposed designs have been developed over the last year with partners in the fire and rescue sector and staff from across the organisation. - The new fire stations will have no reduction on fire engines or firefighting capability, response times to emergencies will not be affected. GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE manchesterfire.gov.uk @manchesterfire
 The detail – the leaflet content The engagement 'get involved' leaflet will include questions such as: - Do you support our plan to demolish and rebuild the fire stations at Blackley? (5 point scale) - Do you like the design of the proposed new fire station? (5 point scale) - Do you support our plans to include and enhance the community facilities at the new fire station? (5 point scale) - Do you support our plans to make our new fire stations more environmentally friendly to help us to meet Greater Manchester's target for being net zero by 2038? (5 point scale) - Any other comments about what you like / dislike about the plans? [Open text] - Plus demographic questions to make sure that we are reaching a range of communities across GM. This will be replicated on the www.gmconsult.org platform GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE manchesterfire.gov.uk @manchesterfire	 The detail – the printed assets Inside boards – these will be designed so that they can be used after the engagement period, to make sure that they have a longer lifespan of use. The focus of them will be the technical plans and the exterior view of the proposed new station. Outside banner – these will be visually appealing and feature the proposed external facade with a link to where people can find out more (the GMFRS website) GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE manchesterfire.gov.uk @manchesterfire

Development of tools and assets to support the engagement approach

During the planning phase, a number of things were developed to support the engagement period. This included –

Designed items -

Leaflets to local residents – these included images and site plans of the proposed station, along with the same questions which were also drafted within the dedicated consultation portal pages.

500 leaflets were posted to addresses around the existing station, so that residents were aware of the proposals, had access to find out more and knew how to contribute their feedback.

Front of the leaflet -	Reverse side of the leaflet -
 At GMFRS we are having a major overhaul of some of our fire stations to make sure they are fit for the future. PROPOSED WHITEFIELD FIRE STATION One of the stations being improved is Whitefield. We are proposing to build a brand new fire station on the existing site over the next year. This multi-million pound investment will provide a modern, environmentally friendly fire station close by, with community facilities such as a room that local groups and organisations can use. We've spent a lot of time over the last year talking to our partners and staff, but now we need to hear what the local community thinks. If you'd like to find out more about our plans, including the proposed design of both the inside and outside of the new fire station, and details of the drop-in session we'll be holding, then scan the QR code. Please let us know what you think by Monday 13th March 2023 Find out more: manchesterfire.gov.uk	Thank you for taking the time to tell us what you think about our plans for a new fire station in Whitefield. To submit your response, you can: - Go to www.gmconsult.org and respond digitally - Drop this form at the fire station. Take this form to the drop-in session, and hand it to one of the project team - Email a photograph of it to engagement@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk Your thoughts on the proposals 1. Do you support our plans to demolish and rebuild a new fire station in Whitefield? ☐ I strongly support the proposal ☐ I support the proposal ☐ I oppose the proposal ☐ I strongly oppose the proposal ☐ I don't have a view either way 2. Do you like the design of the proposed new fire station? ☐ Really like it ☐ Quite like it ☐ Don't like it ☐ Really don't like it ☐ I don't have a view either way 3. Do you support our plans to include and enhance the community facilities at the new fire station? ☐ I strongly support ☐ I support ☐ I oppose ☐ I strongly oppose ☐ I don't have a view either way 4. Do you support our plans to make our new fire stations more environmentally friendly to help us to meet Greater Manchester's target for being net zero by 2038? ☐ I strongly support ☐ I support ☐ I oppose ☐ I strongly oppose ☐ I don't have a view either way 5. Any other comments about what you like/dislike about the plans? About you We also want to ask some questions about you to ensure we're hearing from a range of people from the local area. 6. What is your postcode? 7. What best describes your gender? ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer to self-describe 8. Age range ☐ Under 18 ☐ 18 – 24 ☐ 25 – 34 ☐ 35 – 44 ☐ 45 – 54 ☐ 55 – 64 ☐ 65 – 74 ☐ Over 74 9. Ethnicity Please state 10. Do you consider yourself to have a disability? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say Keep up to date by visiting manchesterfire.gov.uk

Information boards – these included 3 large boards covering the proposals for the new station at Whitefield. This was to give a clear visual of the plans, as well as continue to reiterate to people how they could get involved and contribute to the plans.

Board 1 -	Board 2 -
 Proposed plans for Whitefield's new community fire station The proposed new community fire station in Whitefield will be built on the existing site where the fire station currently is on Bury New Road. There won't be any change to the number of fire engines that are based at Whitefield and there won't be any change to how quickly we respond to emergencies. Find out more: manchesterfire.gov.uk	 Proposed plans for Whitefield's new community fire station The modern, environmentally friendly building will have a new community room which can be used by local groups and organisations. The community room will include access to a toilet and a small kitchen area for people to use. Find out more: manchesterfire.gov.uk

Display banners – this included a large external banner to be hung outside of the fire station, so those residents that didn't see the leaflet posted direct to their house, had opportunity to find out about the engagement through another route.

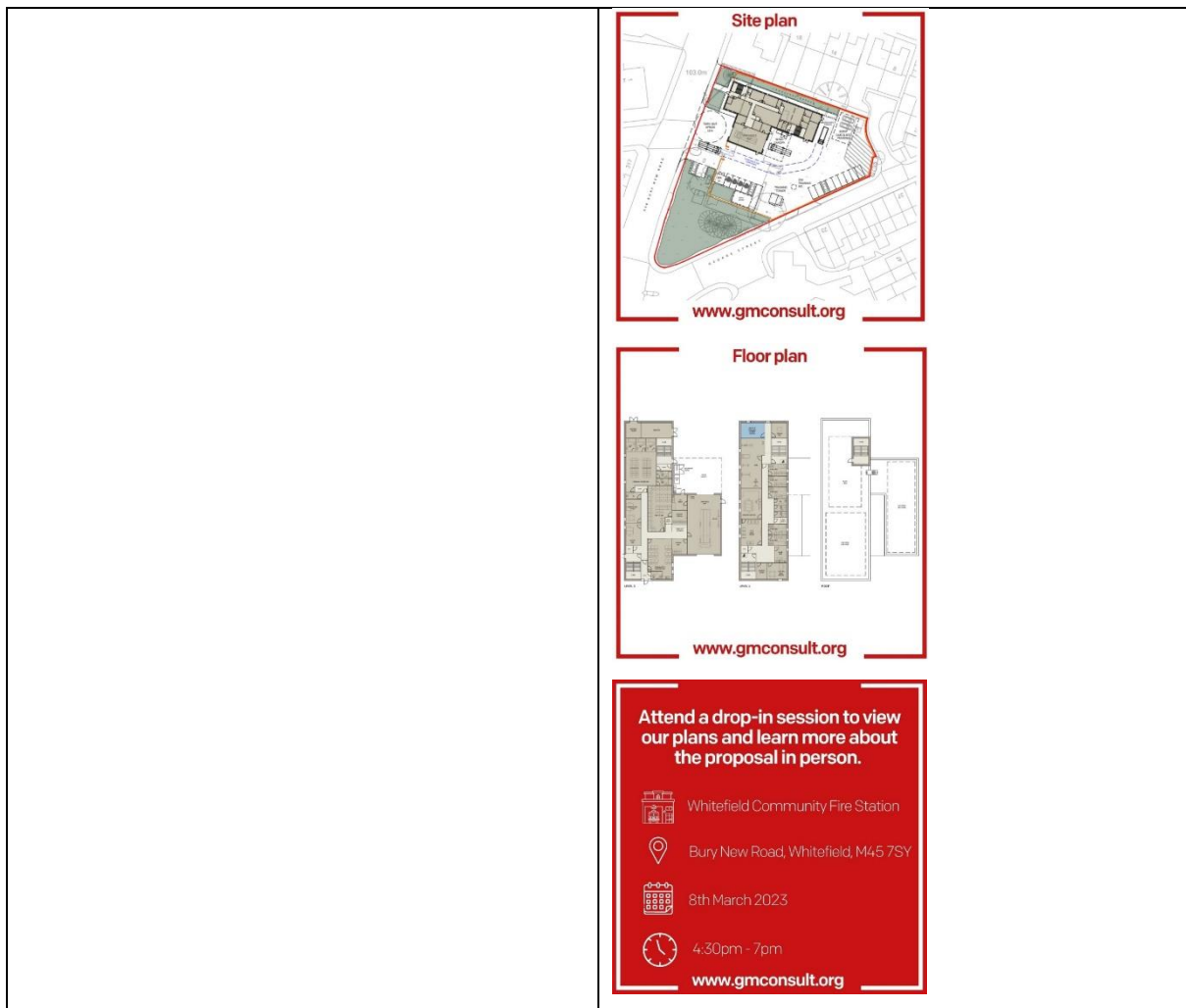
The banner was designed to illicit a response by encouraging people to go on to the web addresses for more information.



Social media pack – this included a range of designed assets showing all elements of the proposals, from the designed façade, to the site plan and floor plan. The purpose of this was so that we had a planned social media approach across multiple channels for the engagement period, but also allowed for our partners to disseminate our messages across their own channels and networks.

Example of the social media toolkit –

Text	Image
 We want to hear your thoughts on the new community fire station proposed in Whitefield, Bury. Go to  www.gmconsult.org You can also attend our in-person drop-in session. Details on the last slide	



Web presence –

www.GMconsult.org – We have a corporate consultation system that is used for a large portion of Greater Manchester surveys (not just GMFRS). During the 2022/23 period, we had over 72,000 visitors to the site. With this large natural footfall, it was the logical ‘hosting site’ for the survey, for people to respond.

The survey was structured around four main areas. It aimed to gather people’s views on the plan, design, community facility and green ambitions of the proposal.

There was also a free text box for people to contribute other feedback.

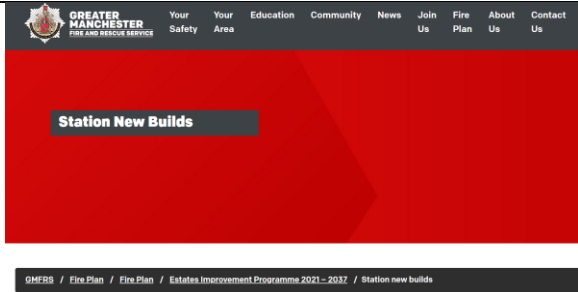
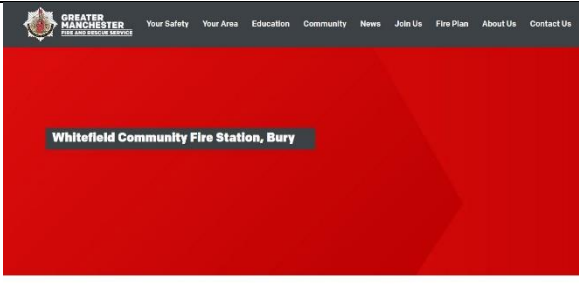
The survey also included other demographic based questions to help us to direct our targeted engagement as the consultation period progresses.

Overview page for the survey

Example page from the online survey

Overview Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service are having a major overhaul of some of its fire stations to make sure that they are fit for the future. One of the stations that is being improved is Whitefield. We are proposing to build a brand new fire station on the existing site over the next year. If you want to know more before you complete this survey, then come to our drop-in session between 4.30pm - 7pm on Wednesday 8th March, at the current station in Whitefield. (Alternatively, there's more information on the GMFRS website - Station new builds - Greater Manchester Fire Rescue Service) 	Page 1 of 4 Closes 13 Mar 2023 This service needs cookies enabled. Your thoughts on the proposal ► Floor and Site plan of the proposed new Whitefield fire station 1. Do you support our plan to demolish and rebuild the fire station in Whitefield? ☐ I strongly support the proposal ☐ I support the proposal ☐ I oppose the proposal ☐ I strongly oppose the proposal ☐ I don't have a view either way
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www.manchesterfire.gov.uk – We developed the webpages on the GMFRS website so that they gave up to date information and where all of the information is downloadable, as well as linking to the wider estates programme.

<i>Landing page for the proposed new stations -</i>	<i>Detailed information and downloads for Whitefield</i>
Station new builds - Greater Manchester Fire Rescue Service	Whitefield Community Fire Station, Bury - Greater Manchester Fire Rescue Service
 GMFRS / Fire Plan / Fire Plan / Estates Improvement Programme 2021-2032 / Station new builds As part of the £38million estates investment that was approved in 2021, three new fire stations are being proposed to be built over the next year, on the existing sites of current stations.	 GMFRS / Fire Plan / Fire Plan / Estates Improvement Programme 2021-2032 / Station new builds / Whitefield Community Fire Station, Bury Façade of the new station:

Stakeholder pre-engagement

Dissemination of information for the engagement was important to make sure that we prepare for as far a reach as possible. We used established channels and networks to gather interest and momentum before the engagement period started. For example, we contacted the comms and engagement team at Bury Council in advance, so that they could invite local Councillors to the drop-in event and use their own internal networks to spread the word and make people prepared to respond.

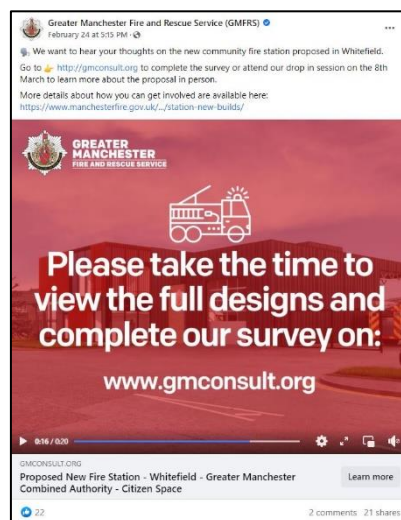
Activity

Social media

Facebook

A promoted Facebook post ran from Friday 24th February to Monday 13th March 2023 from the GMFRS page. The post reached 8,266 Account centres and there were 1,457 post engagements in the form of reactions, comments, shares, and clicks. Two other posts were also shared on the GMFRS page on 1st March and 4th March 2023.

Promoted post:



Overall Facebook reach and engagement:

Post	Accounts centres reached	Engagement (reactions, comments, shares, and clicks)
Ad 24/02/2023-13/03/2023	8,266	1,457
01/03/2023	1,522	74
04/03/2023	1,061	47
Total	10,849	1,578

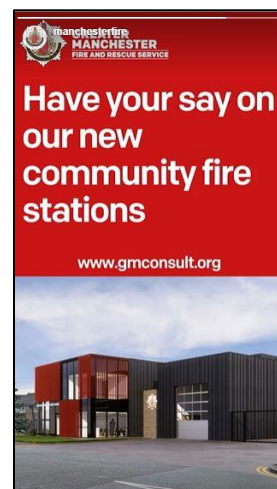
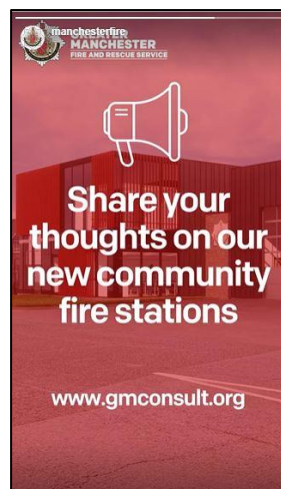
Instagram

A promoted Instagram post ran from Friday 24th February to Monday 13th March from the GMFRS account. The post reached 6,369 Accounts Centres and received 119 likes. An additional post was made on the 4th March 2023. As well as stories that were shared throughout the engagement period.

Promoted post:



Stories:

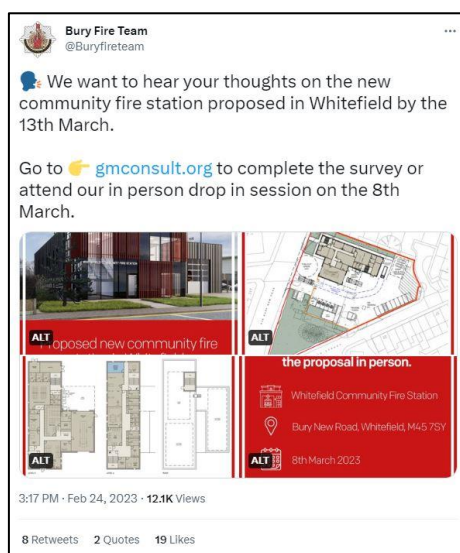


Overall Instagram reach and engagement:

Post	Accounts centres reached	Engagement (likes and comments)
Ad 24/02/2023 - 13/03/2023	6,369	120
04/03/2023	909	26
Total	7,278	146

Twitter

Posts were shared on the borough account for Bury and retweeted from the GMFRS and Deputy Mayor accounts. These accounts have a combined following of 88,522. Four additional posts were made from the Bury Borough account between 24th February and 13th March 2023.



Overall Twitter engagement:

Post	Views	Engagement (likes, retweets and comments)
24/02/2023	12,100	34
01/03/2023	1,425	2
04/03/2023	1,517	19
06/03/2023	2,007	11
10/03/2023	2,184	10
Total	19,233	76

Total reach and engagement across social media platforms

Platform	Reach/Views	Engagement
Facebook	10,849	1,578
Instagram	7,278	146
Twitter	19,233	76
Total	37,360	1,800

The planned social media engagement had a total estimated audience of 37,360 across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. With 1,800 engagements with these posts in the form of likes, shares, reactions, comments and clicks.

External social media engagement

Tweet from Cllr Elizabeth FitzGerald after attending the drop-in session on the 8th March 2023:



Webpage and consultation portal engagement

The consultation was launched on www.GMconsult.org on 24th February 2023 as a featured consultation. The consultation appeared on the homepage of the GMconsult site between Friday 24th February and Monday 13th March 2023. During this time the site was viewed 5,761 times.

The cumulative proposed new fire station in Whitefield consultation site pages were viewed 845 times between Friday 24th February and Monday 13th March 2023.

Visitors to the consultation came from:

Source	Total percent
Facebook	43.1
Direct	36.7
Twitter	5.7
Instagram	4.6
manchesterfire.gov.uk	1.4
Other	8.5

The webpages for the consultation on www.manchesterfire.gov.uk were launched on 24th February 2023. The consultation appeared on the home page of the site between Friday 24th February and Monday 13th March 2023. During this time the site was viewed 32,560 times. The news article for the consultation was viewed 216 times.

The cumulative proposed new fire station in Bury site pages were viewed 571 times between Friday 24th February and Monday 13th March 2023.

Visitors to the site came from:

Source	Total percent
Facebook	24.6
Google	22
Twitter	15.4
Direct	15.2
GMconsult.org	11.2
Other	11.6

Established comms channels

The engagement was also promoted via the weekly Equality Panel bulletin which goes to the 7 facilitating organisations of the [GM Equality Panels](#) who disseminate information to over 100 organisations representing a range of people and communities.

It was also included in the external GMCA newsletter which updates self-selecting partners and residents about activity that is going on in Greater Manchester Combined Authority and GMFRS. This has a circulation of over 4,000 people.

Face to face session

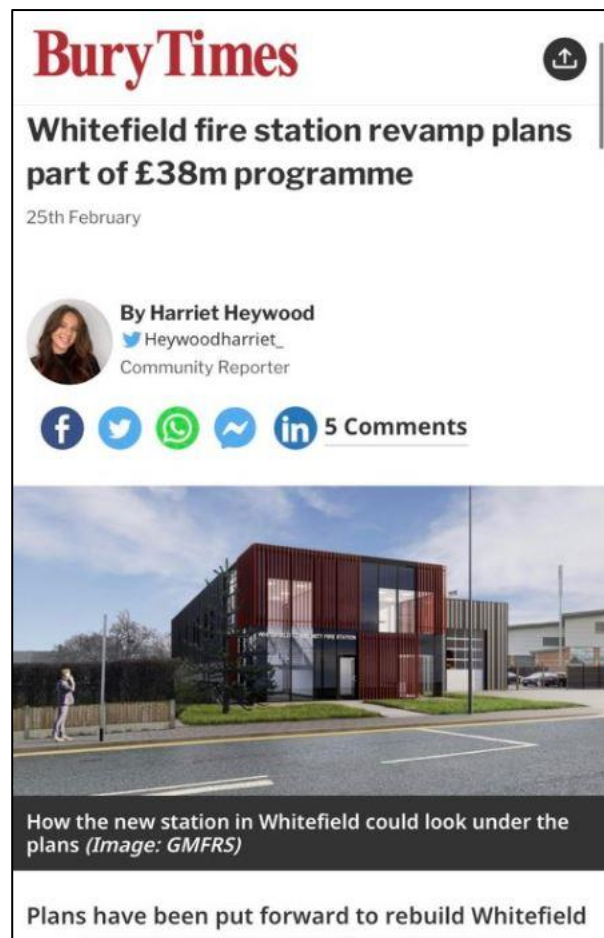
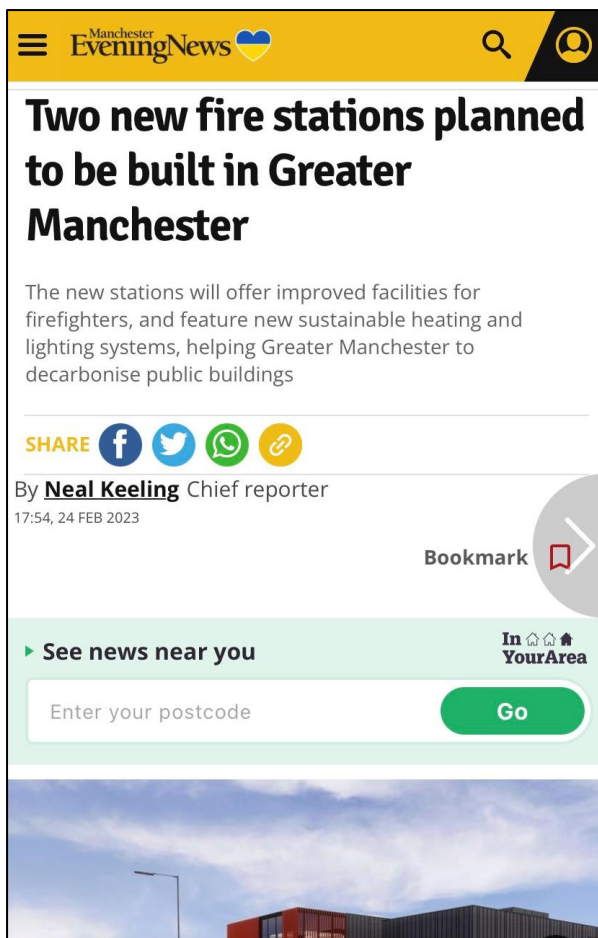
An in-person drop in session was held at the current Whitefield Community Fire Station on 8th March 2023 between 4pm and 7pm. The session offered the opportunity for the community to view the plans and discuss their views on the proposal.

The project team were available at the session, including the project manager and the architect involved in the development of the scheme, so that specific questions could be considered.

The first half an hour of the session was reserved for invited guests such as local Councillors who might have specific concerns from their electorate. 4:30pm-7pm for local residents. The session was attended by Councillors for the Pilkington Ward, Besses Ward and Unsworth Ward and by around fourteen members of the community. During which a number of concerns were raised and logged as part of the process. More can be found in the results section later in this report.

Media coverage

A press release was shared with media outlets on 24th February 2023 and added to the news page of the GMFRS site. The release featured details of the proposed Whitefield Community Fire station and statements from the Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester, Kate Green and Chief Fire Officer, Dave Russel. The story featured in Manchester Evening News, About Manchester, Yahoo! UK and Ireland and The Bury Times.



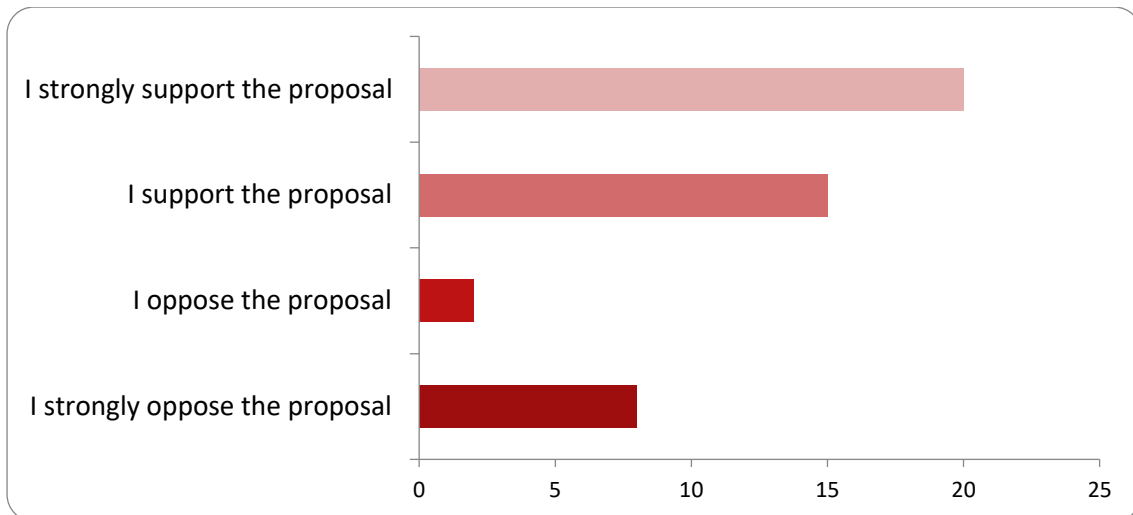
Results

All responses to the consultation were received via the online portal on www.gmconsult.org. One response for Whitefield was received through email. No other responses were received through other routes advertised on the GMFRS website, such as through a drop-in.

Between Friday 24th February and Monday 13th March 2023, 45 people responded to the consultation.

1: Do you support our plan to demolish and rebuild the fire station in Whitefield?

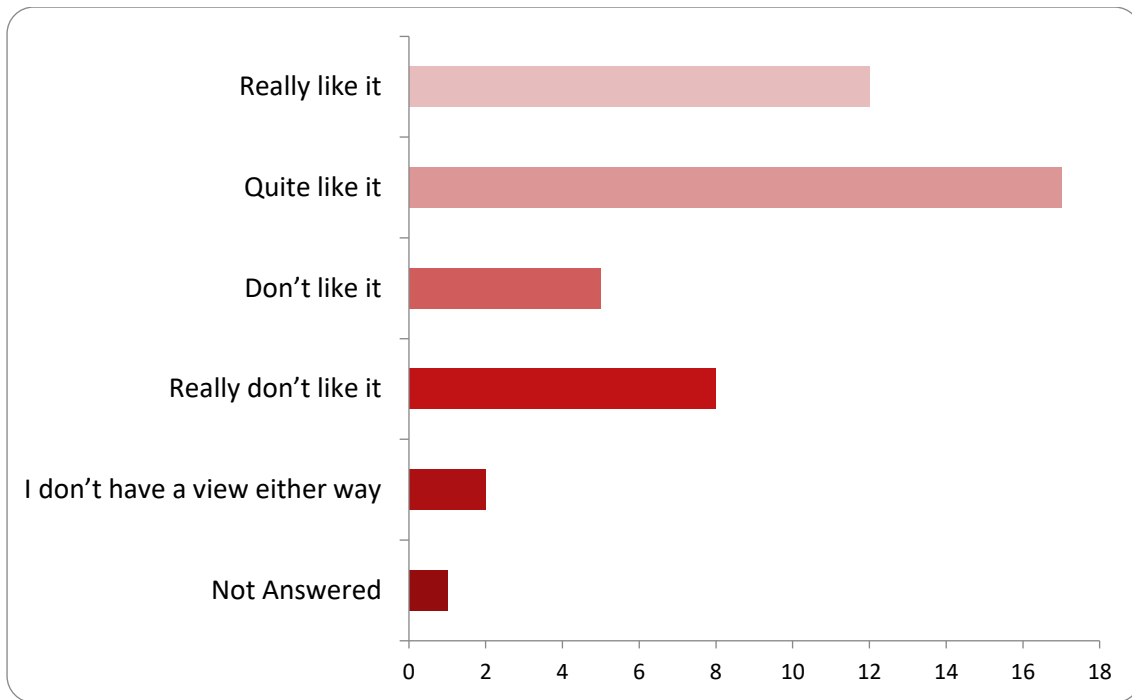
There were 45 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
I strongly support the proposal	20	44.44%
I support the proposal	15	33.33%
I oppose the proposal	2	4.44%
I strongly oppose the proposal	8	17.78%
I don't have a view either way	0	0.00%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

2: Do you like the design of the proposed new fire station?

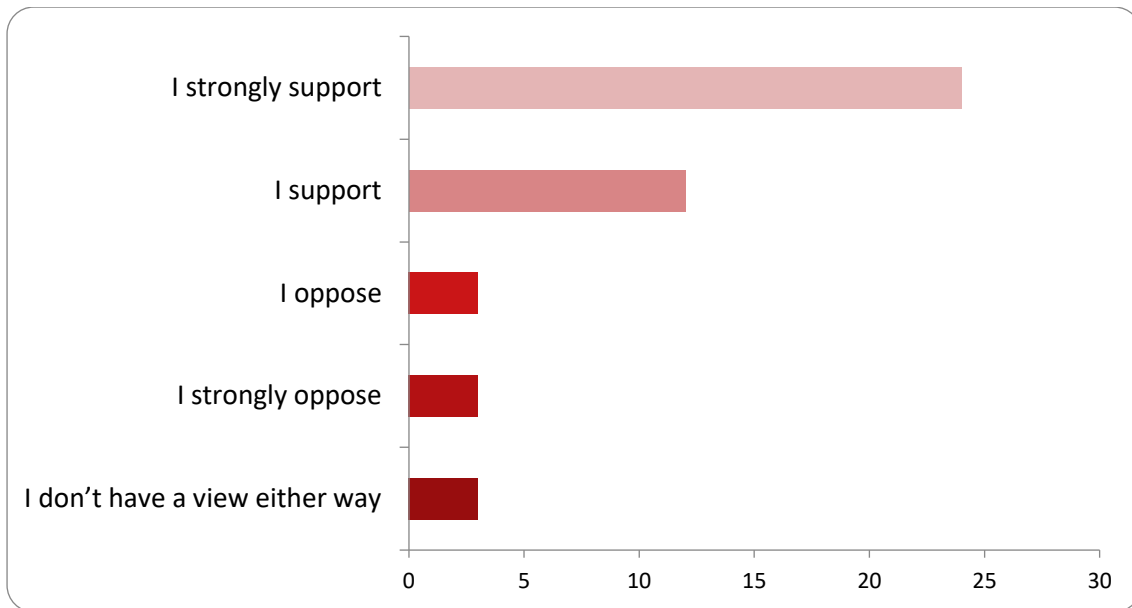
There were 44 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Really like it	12	26.67%
Quite like it	17	37.78%
Don't like it	5	11.11%
Really don't like it	8	17.78%
I don't have a view either way	2	4.44%
Not Answered	1	2.22%

3: Do you support our plans to include and enhance the community facilities at the new fire station?

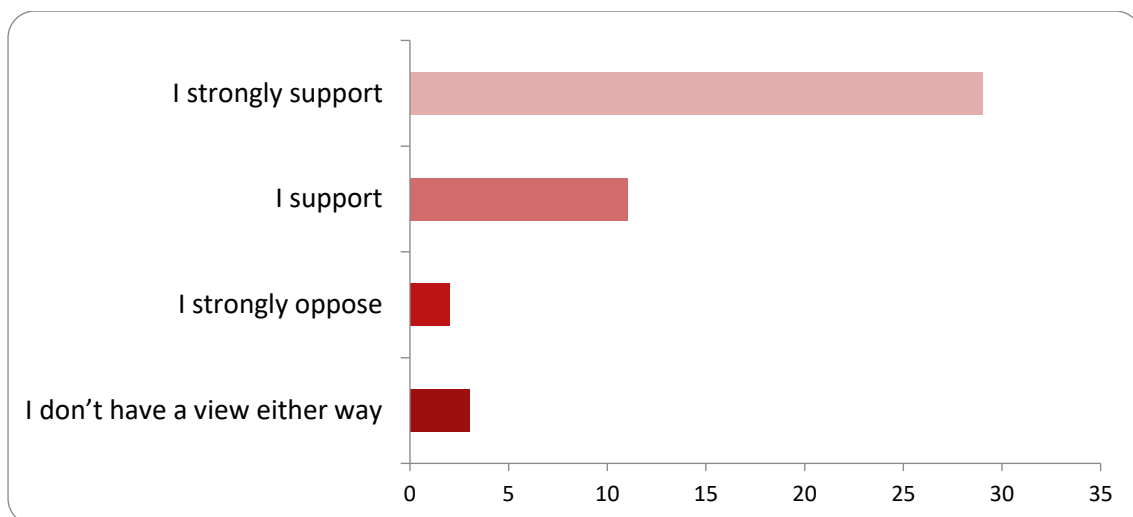
There were 45 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
I strongly support	24	53.33%
I support	12	26.67%
I oppose	3	6.67%
I strongly oppose	3	6.67%
I don't have a view either way	3	6.67%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

4: Do you support our plans to make our new fire stations more environmentally friendly to help us to meet Greater Manchester's target for being net zero by 2038?

There were 45 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
I strongly support	29	64.44%
I support	11	24.44%
I oppose	0	0.00%
I strongly oppose	2	4.44%
I don't have a view either way	3	6.67%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

5: Any other comments about what you like / dislike about the plans?

There were 28 responses to this part of the question. 5 of these asked for their comments not to be published, but they have been considered internally.

Comment from a respondent	Response to the comment raised
Would prefer the engine house inside the main building.	<i>The engine house is integrated into the building in the most economic manner possible, so as to ensure that there are no differences in levels requiring internal steps.</i>
I am happy see that the green area on the corner of George Street will be left with the large trees that are there. This is an interesting site for season fungi. Would love to see the green spaces across the site maximised as diverse wild spaces.	<i>There are some planted areas which are shown on the proposals, but more detail will come at a future stage in the process.</i> <i>Noted re: comment about the community space</i>

It is also good to see improved community facilities in the new fire station. We lack community spaces in Whitefield, especially since local libraires close, so this space will be a real asset.	
The new station has been pushed up against the old fire bridade houses? The plot is large enough to allow moving it away from the houses so they are not dominated and overlooked by the new building. Also the RTC training area is close to the houses; the inherent noise of cutting equipment etc will be intolerable for the residents The flow of the station is wrong in terms of containing fire contaminants and keeping them away from clean areas ie the showers are only accessible by walking through the entire ground floor. This is a serious failing with the design. There is a water cooler located in the appliance bay, again there is a risk of cross contamination especially from diesel fumes. There is no store room for ops equipment on the ground floor. The location of the drill tower is too close to housing and will negate it being used to project water from ground monitors and branches etc. NWAS should have ground floor ablutions that do not require them to enter the personal locker area of the station. The plans do not show enough personal lockers, will there be enough space for all personnel and what consideration has been given to locker size with regards to the amount of uniform, shower kit, personal clothing etc etc an individual is required to store?	<i>We have taken on board the strong feelings that we have received, specifically where the fire station will be located on the site. The original proposal was to have the new build close to the boundary line.</i> <i>We have reviewed the feedback and have moved the proposed building away from the edge of the plot and further away from those homes on George Street. We hope that this change mitigates some of the local concerns around potential impact of the build on individual homes.</i> <i>The new plan leaves the RTC Training Area in its current location.</i> <i>The flow of the station has been designed in accordance with the requirements and recommendations from the Post Incident Cleaning Guidance for containing of fire contaminants.</i> <i>The water cooler has now been relocated following the Room Data Sheet consultation.</i> <i>The furniture layouts circulated following the initial community engagement show shelving for Operational Equipment located in the Engine House.</i> <i>The new Plan has relocated the drill tower.</i>

	<i>The policy is that NWAS crews should be integrated into the station, not provided with separate facilities.</i>
First impressions it doesn't look like a fire station looks more like a office building. Was always good to see the fire engines through the glass windows.	<i>Noted.</i>
My property on Bury New Road faces where the bin store will be. I hope this area will be fenced off so you cannot see the bins.	<i>Noted.</i>
Why only one bay, surely a second bay would be useful for possible expansion should it be needed. Why are you going back to the old days of two floors, I would think that everything on one floor would be better for quick turn outs and health and safety.	<i>We are confident that the proposed plans will meet our needs for the future. Through our recent strategic assessment of risk around Whitefield, we don't anticipate any large amount of growth of housing or commercial development in the area. We are confident that by keeping a single fire engine at Whitefield, we will be able to maintain our current attendance times to incidents. This is monitored regularly through our KPI's. We have also recently carried out a special appliance review (non-regular fire engines) and whilst we anticipate that there might be some changes or additions to our overall fleet in the future, we have enough spare capacity in other stations across the borough of Bury – and wider, to accommodate these.</i>
Looking forward to the new station being built. An asset to our community.	<i>Noted (supportive)</i>
How about introducing rain gardens/SUDs in the landscape plans to reduce waste water? Are there any plans on reducing waste water from the building/training facilities? To continue the community feel, and to utilise the large green space could there be a growing space for vegetables or fruit?	<i>Commenting specifically about rainwater and training water disposal, the ground has been investigated in respect of the provision of SUDS and it is unsuitable for using in this way. Disposing of rainwater through soaraway will instead result in local flooding, therefore rainwater disposal will have to be via the public drainage system. In regard to Grey Water and capturing it for</i>

	<i>secondary use - there are only limited ways in which Grey Water can be safely used and these are extremely limited on a fire station building.</i>
More funds wasted, fix the roads, nhs, dentist and doctor shortages first,	Noted.
I May have Missed it - But Environmentally Friendly ? - It should Include Solar Panelled Roofs, & The Smaller Scale Vertical Wind Turbines for Power Generation - to aid in its Carbon Zero, / Lowest Possible Energy & Bill Costs - Sustainability-	<i>The building will have a green roof to increase local bio diversity, which is entirely covered in solar panels to generate electricity to offset the usage within the station. The building will also be fitted with battery storage to allow excess generation from the solar panels to be stored and used in the hours of darkness. The most effective way to create a carbon zero building is to remove the need to use energy, rather than offset the energy used through solar panels and wind turbines, to reflect this the building fabric is heavily insulated and extremely efficient heating and hot water systems are being installed. The new building will also be a BREEAM Excellent rated building reflecting the usage of recycled aggregates where possible, in particular the existing building will be used to form part of the foundation design.</i>
This can only be a good thing for our community	Noted (supportive)
Is a single appliance enough for the area covered by Whitefield? The new build is too near the main road and doesn't utilise the existing footprint.	<i>We are confident that the proposed plans will meet our needs for the future. Through our recent strategic assessment of risk around Whitefield, we don't anticipate any large amount of growth of housing or commercial development in the area. We are confident that by keeping a single fire engine at Whitefield, we will be able to maintain our current attendance times to incidents. This is monitored regularly through our KPI's. We have also recently carried out a special appliance review (non-regular</i>

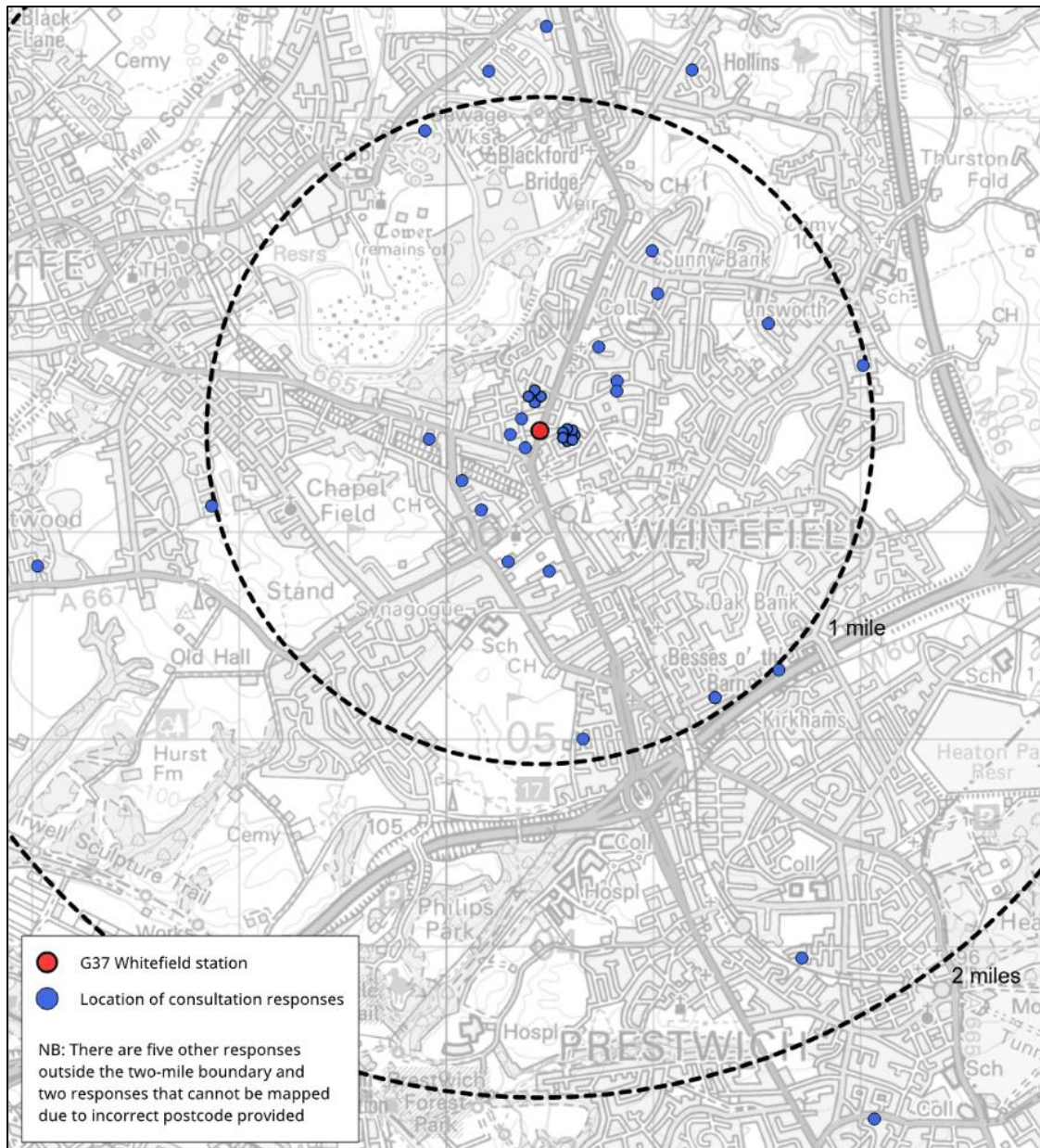
	<i>fire engines) and whilst we anticipate that there might be some changes or additions to our overall fleet in the future, we have enough spare capacity in other stations across the borough of Bury – and wider, to accommodate these.</i>
Support a new building. Overall shape good, dislike the red cladding	<i>Noted</i>
As much trees and greenery around the station would be nice.	<i>There are areas that will be planted are shown on the proposals, but more detail will come at a future stage in the process.</i>
Would like to see a green living wall and more green space. Are any of the materials being reused in the design or reclaimed form elsewhere to support GMs move to more circular models.	<i>The new building will also be a BREEAM Excellent rated building reflecting the usage of recycled aggregates where possible, in particular the existing building will be used to form part of the foundation design.</i>
The cost will be expensive for a fire station that is already working, the plans will add more traffic to a congested road. In the meantime the libraries are falling apart or closed, the roads are full of potholes and congested and the schools are partially closed due to strikes. I strongly object to the waste of my money and use instead for the improvement of our schools/education and transport links(public transport and road network)	<i>The current fire station is of an age where it requires extensive repair and fabric improvement. In addition many of the facilities are unsuitable for a modern diverse workforce and contain inadequate and appropriate storage facilities that the modern fire service requires in order to undertake its duties. The resolution of these issues is most economically served through the provision of a new building.</i>
I live immediately behind the fire station and agree in principle with upgrading the facilities HOWEVER, the current proposed plans will significantly impact myself and my neighbours. A two story building in the footprint proposed will all but completely block light to my home and garden. We will be in shadow which, as someone with physical and mental health issues, will severely impact my wellbeing. It should be	<i>We have taken on board the strong feelings that we have received, specifically where the fire station will be located on the site. The original proposal was to have the new build close to the boundary line.</i> <i>We have reviewed the feedback and have moved the proposed building away from the edge of the plot and further away from those homes on</i>

considered that those in the houses originally built for the firefighters will be negatively impacted. Please reconsider the building's layout - does it need to be two stories? Can the main building be better positioned so the surrounding family homes aren't in its shadow?	<i>George Street. We hope that this change mitigates some of the local concerns around potential impact of the build on individual homes.</i>
I would have liked to have more information about how environmentally friendly the station will be. Is this just a reference to the use of renewable energy or does it also include the use of recycled building material in the construction of the new build? Are there any figures to compare the current fire station and the proposed fire station with respect to energy efficiency and emissions?	<i>See earlier comment. The new fire station will be a minimum EPC rating of A, whereas the current station is a DEC Rating of D.</i>
We've not been told about this and I live on George street	<i>This stage is the preliminary engagement ahead of our plans going to Bury Council for consideration. We will continue to talk to local residents as our plans progress.</i>
Your really restricting future demand by dropping down to one bay. These stations were cut back due to funding which was already a big hit to the safety of people in Manchester and now we're being left with stations that can never expand. Really sour choice.	<i>We are confident that the proposed plans will meet our needs for the future. Through our recent strategic assessment of risk around Whitefield, we don't anticipate any large amount of growth of housing or commercial development in the area. We are confident that by keeping a single fire engine at Whitefield, we will be able to maintain our current attendance times to incidents. This is monitored regularly through our KPI's. We have also recently carried out a special appliance review (non-regular fire engines) and whilst we anticipate that there might be some changes or additions to our overall fleet in the future, we have enough spare capacity in other stations across the borough of Bury – and wider, to accommodate these.</i>

I strongly support it being more eco friendly, having community space and being a more modern and nicer space for the fire fighters. It's nice to have something like this being upgraded after years of under investment in public services due to austerity	<i>Noted (supportive)</i>
The idea of a community room is great. It may be helpful to have an entrance to this that doesn't go through the fire station to allow groups to use this without disturbing the officers.	<i>Noted.</i>
I've only just become aware of this project (Sunday 12 March) whilst surfing Facebook - not well advertised. Do the plans future-proof the service for Whitefield?	<i>This stage is the preliminary engagement ahead of our plans going to Bury Council for consideration. We will continue to talk to local residents as our plans progress.</i> <i>We are confident that the proposed plans will meet our needs for the future. Through our recent strategic assessment of risk around Whitefield, we don't anticipate any large amount of growth of housing or commercial development in the area. We are confident that by keeping a single fire engine at Whitefield, we will be able to maintain our current attendance times to incidents. This is monitored regularly through our KPI's.</i> <i>We have also recently carried out a special appliance review (non-regular fire engines) and whilst we anticipate that there might be some changes or additions to our overall fleet in the future, we have enough spare capacity in other stations across the borough of Bury – and wider, to accommodate these.</i>

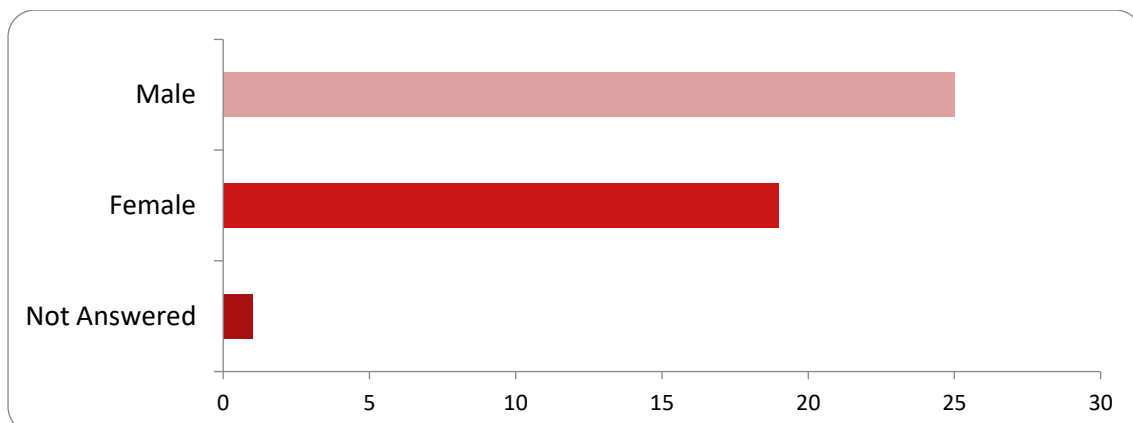
7: What is your postcode?

There were 45 responses to this part of the question.



8: What best describes your gender?

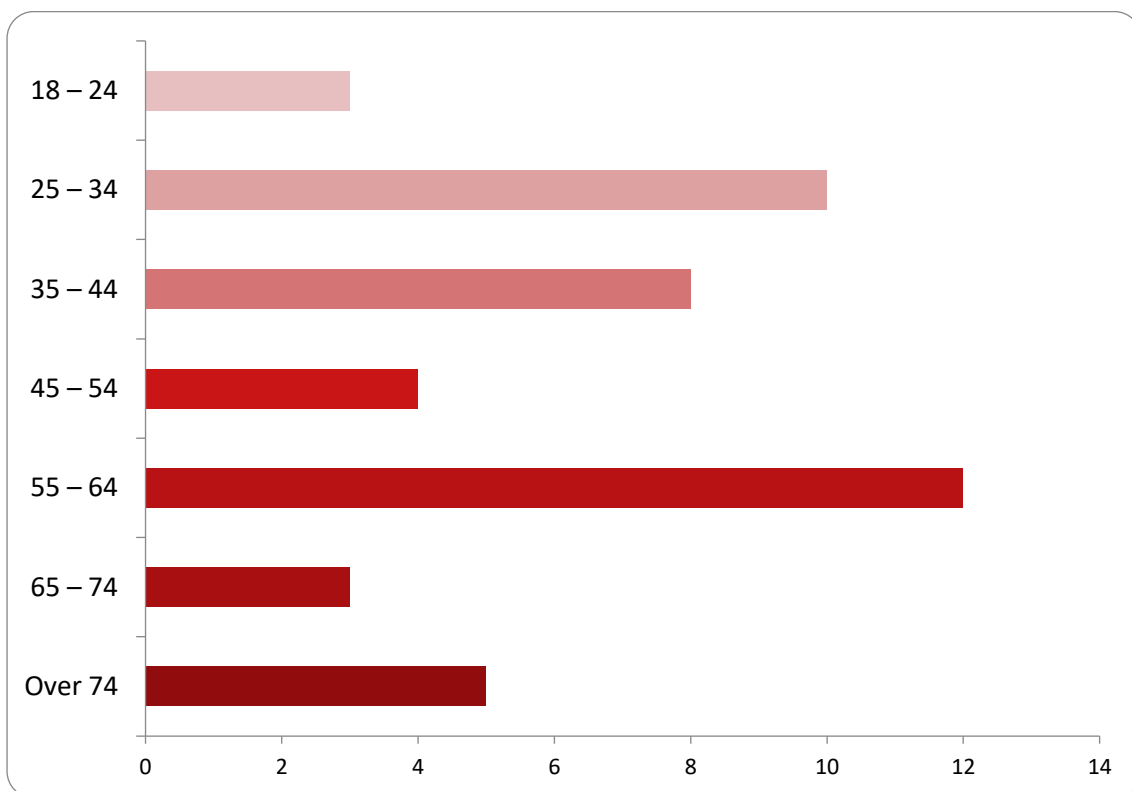
There were 44 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Male	25	55.56%
Female	19	42.22%
Prefer to self-describe (please state below)	0	0.00%
Not Answered	1	2.22%

9: Age range

There were 45 responses to this part of the question.

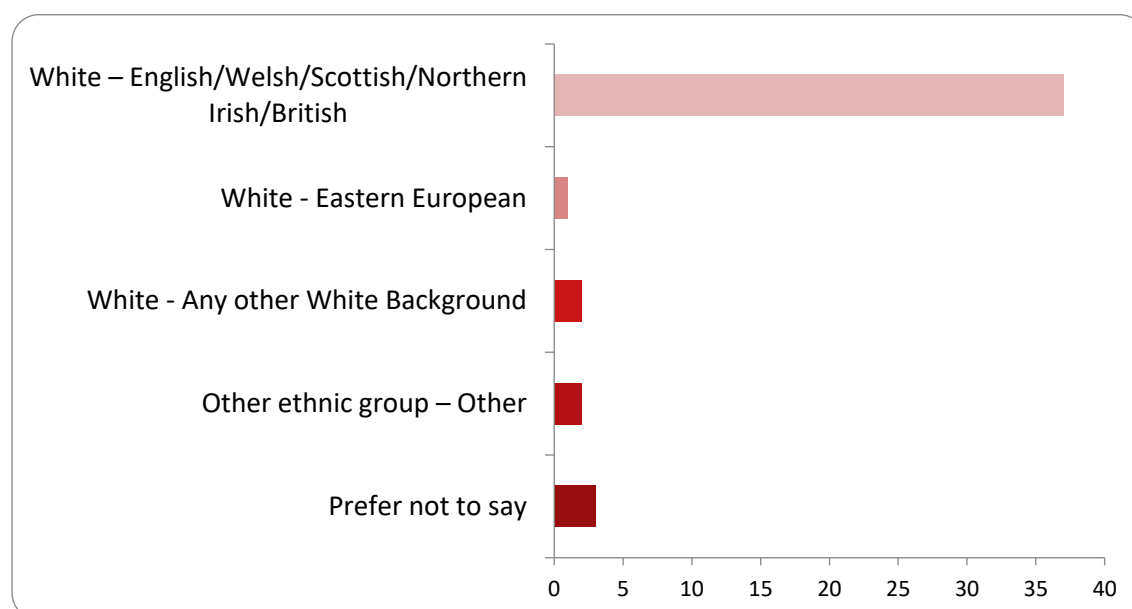


Option	Total	Percent
Under 18	0	0.00%
18 – 24	3	6.67%
25 – 34	10	22.22%
35 – 44	8	17.78%
45 – 54	4	8.89%
55 – 64	12	26.67%
65 – 74	3	6.67%
Over 74	5	11.11%

Not Answered	0	0.00%
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10: Ethnicity

There were 45 responses to this part of the question.

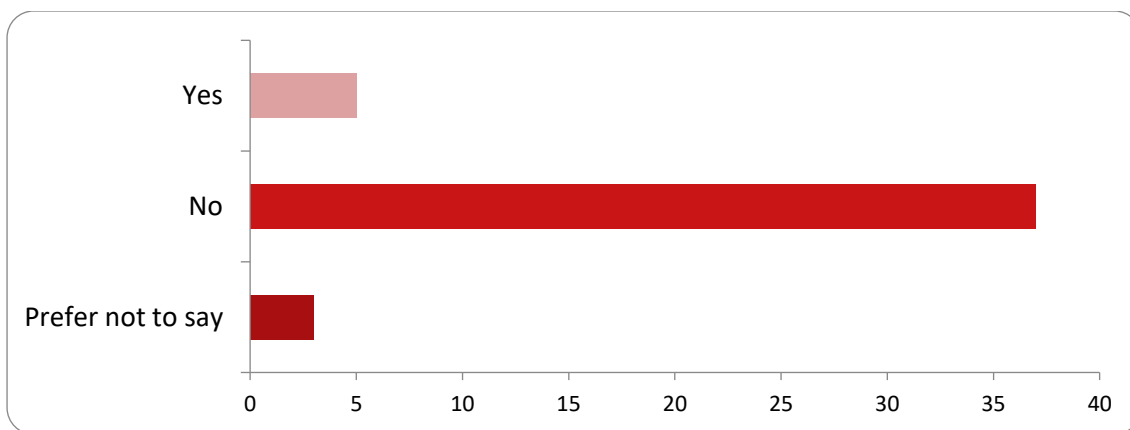


Option	Total	Percent
Asian or Asian British – Indian	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British – Pakistani	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British – Chinese	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British - Any other Asian background	0	0.00%
Black or Black British – Caribbean	0	0.00%
Black or Black British – African	0	0.00%
Black or Black British - Any other Black background	0	0.00%
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	0	0.00%
Mixed - White and Black African	0	0.00%
Mixed - White and Asian	0	0.00%
Mixed - Any other mixed background	0	0.00%
White – English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	37	82.22%
White – Irish	0	0.00%

White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0	0.00%
White - Eastern European	1	2.22%
White - Any other White Background	2	4.44%
Other ethnic group – Arab	0	0.00%
Other ethnic group – Other	2	4.44%
Prefer not to say	3	6.67%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

11: Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

There were 45 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	5	11.11%
No	37	82.22%
Prefer not to say	3	6.67%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Impact

Whilst the response rate through the engagement period isn't excessive, the reach of the engagement through partners, digital means and local information distribution shows that there has been a significant effort into reaching different parts of the local community in a relatively short period of time.

The impact of this engagement shows that there was a concern from respondents about where the fire station is built within the existing boundary of the site, with comments about its proximity to George Street houses in particular.

We have taken the comments about where the new fire station will be placed on the site on board, and we have re-drawn plans to move the building further away from the houses on George Street and nearer to the current location of the existing fire station. These revised plans have been sent to those people who shared their details with us at the drop-in session.

Crews have also followed up this email correspondence with a door-to-door visit to make sure that they've seen the revised plans ahead of planning being submitted.

Updated images have been updated on the GMFRS website as well.

Appendix 1

Copy of the email sent to local residents who provided their details for this purpose (sent 06/04 from engagement@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk) –

Good morning

Thank you for feeding back your views on the proposed plans for Whitefield Community Fire Station. It was really positive to have so much detailed feedback from local residents.

The plans for Whitefield are part of GMFRS' four-year Fire Plan (launched summer 2021) and Annual Delivery Plan (2021/22) which sets out a priority for the Service to invest in its buildings to deliver excellent accommodation and facilities with the aim of building a modern fit for the future estate.

By creating a new Community Fire Station in Whitefield, we are investing in the future of our staff, Greater Manchester and its residents, while striving to become a modern, flexible and resilient fire and rescue service.

We have taken on board the strong feelings that we have received, specifically where the fire station will be located on the site. The original proposal was to have the new build close to the boundary line. We have reviewed the feedback and have moved the proposed building away from the edge of the plot and further away from those homes on George Street. We hope that this change mitigates some of the local concerns around potential impact of the build on individual homes. Attached is the re-drawn site plan, along with the floor plan which remains the same.

We have also made the decision to have temporary accommodation for the fire crews on the site whilst the build is happening, as opposed to temporarily moving them to a new location. This will mean that we can maintain our current response during the build – and the crews can continue to give local residents the very best service. Attached is also the site plan inclusive of the temporary fire station towards the back of the site which we're proposing to be there whilst the build is taking place.

The plans that we have attached will be being submitted to Bury Council for consideration. We will also be sharing with them the feedback that we've received from residents to show how we've taken some of the feedback on board and adjusted our plans.

If you have any questions following this email, please message engagement@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk