

Fire Brigade Campaign

Until the late 19th Century all fire engines and crews were provided by volunteers, private organisations, or insurance companies.

During the fire of 1854 private fire engines and crews from North British, Newcastle and local barracks responded to the first calls for help, however, the fire was too big, and they were overpowered by the fire. If it were not for fire crews from across the North East responding to telegraph messages for help the damage and injury would have been even greater. Help came from Durham, Hexham, Carlisle, Morpeth, Berwick, Shields, and Sunderland.

Sadly 53 people died in the blaze including three firefighters. Another casualty of the fire was Robert Pattinson. He was a town councillor for Westgate ward and was an active campaigner for the establishment of a town fire brigade.

Can you continue Robert Pattinson's campaign?

How can you make the other councillors see that it is important to have a town fire brigade?

You could:

- Create posters of placards
- Come up with a slogan
- Write letters to the councillors
- Design campaign t-shirts or badges
- Something else! See what you can come up with

