



To: Joint Audit Committee

From: Chief Executive

Date: 29 June 2017

CONSULTATION ON THE LOCAL BUSINESS CASE FOR FIRE AND RESCUE GOVERNANCE OPTIONS

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Business Coordination Board (the “Board”) on the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Commissioner”) plans for Consultation on the Local business case for fire and rescue governance options.

2. Recommendation

2.2 The Board is recommended to note the contents of this report.

3. Background

3.1 The Policing and Crime Act 2017 places a duty on police, fire and rescue and ambulance services to collaborate, and enables Police and Crime Commissioners to take on responsibility for the governance of fire and rescue services in their area.

3.2 Commissioners will be enabled to seek responsibility for their local Fire and Rescue Authority where a local case is made to the Home Secretary. This is subject to tests to ensure that changes will deliver improvements in one of more of a) economy, b) efficiency and effectiveness or c) public safety. In line with the legislation, Commissioners are also required to work with their Fire Authority to prepare their local business case.

4. Governance options

4.1 The Act provides for four options relating to fire governance and the Local Business Case reviews the four options and assesses the strengths and weaknesses of each option. The four options are:

1. The no change option: Police and fire continue to have governance arrangements that are independent of each other;

2. The representation option: The Police and Crime Commissioner has a seat and voting rights on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority;
3. The governance option: The Fire Authority is replaced by the Police and Crime Commissioner who becomes the new Fire Authority as a corporation sole. This is referred to as a "PCC style FRA". The PCC would become the "Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner";
4. The single employer option: There is a single Chief Officer for police and fire personnel who becomes the single employer under the Police and Crime Commissioner.

5. The Business Case

- 5.1 The Commissioner has worked with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority to explore the potential for greater collaboration between Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service. Together they have worked in the spirit of collaboration on a Local Business Case, the purpose of which is to explore how the economy, efficiency, effectiveness and, above all, public safety, will be affected by a new governance model.
- 5.2 The Business Case looked at, amongst other things, whether:
 - There are significant collaboration opportunities within Cambridgeshire that cannot be delivered under the current governance structures;
 - There is a case for deeper integration between fire and police;
 - The overall existing governance arrangements could be improved as a result of this change.
- 5.3 The Business Case identifies three key drivers for change in Cambridgeshire:
 1. Operational benefits which will keep the public safer;
 2. Improved management for fire and rescue; and
 3. Financial benefits through more economic and efficient provision of services, with savings reinvested back into front line service and wider community safety and prevention activities.
- 5.4 Of the four options the Business Case identifies the Governance option as the one that offers best balance between ease of implementation and overall benefits that can be delivered in terms of economy, efficiency and effectiveness and public safety.

6. Preferred Option

- 6.1 The Commissioner's preference is for the Governance option as recommended by the Business Case. This would mean the Commissioner takes on the role of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority, becoming the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

7. The Consultation

- 7.1 The Commissioner is required to consult each of the upper tier local authorities in their area on the proposal before they submit it to the Home Secretary. This ensures that the consultation requirement captures all local authorities that operate fire and rescue committees.
- 7.2 The Commissioner is also required to consult personnel who the Commissioner considers may be affected by the proposal and their workforce representative bodies as well as a wide range of stakeholders and the public. This ensures that the Commissioner has secured, and taken into account, local opinion on their proposal before making a request to the Home Secretary. Commissioners are required to publish a response to the consultation he or she has undertaken in the interests of transparency.
- 7.3 This Business Case will form the basis of the Commissioner's consultation exercise on the governance proposal. The formal consultation, which will run for 8 weeks during July and August, will ensure that he has secured, and taken into account, local opinion on this proposal before making a request to the Home Secretary on the desired governance model.
- 7.4 The consultation will utilise a wide range of contact methods in order to engage with the public, representative organisations, police and fire staff and stakeholders. This will include digital channels, meetings, 1-2-1 briefings, media relations, internal communications and events.

8. Timescales

Jun 2017	Pre-consultation engagement phase to raise awareness
Jul to Aug 2017	Formal consultation
Sep 2017	Review of comments, redrafting of business case to reflect consultation comments
Oct 2017	Submission to home office (12 week review)
Dec 2017	Home Office decision
Jan – Mar 2018	Transition preparation if business case approved
01 April 2018	Implement



Source Document	Policing and Crime Act 2017 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/3/contents/enacted
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