



# Home Office

Home Secretary

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PO Box 688  
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PE29 9LA

26<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Jason,

## **Re: Proposal to transfer fire governance to the Police and Crime Commissioner**

Thank you for your proposal to take on governance of Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service. I am aware of the hard work that has gone into developing your business case and the steps you have taken to consult widely with local people and stakeholders. I note that the majority of the people and organisations who responded to the public consultation supported your proposal.

As your proposal did not have the support of the relevant upper tier local authorities (Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council), on 17 November 2017, the Policing and Fire Minister (with delegated authority) commissioned the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to undertake an independent assessment of the proposal as required by the Policing and Crime Act 2017.

Having carefully reviewed your proposal, your consultation materials, the views and representations made by statutory consultees and your responses to them, together with the independent assessment, I am pleased to inform you I have decided to approve your proposal. I consider that it demonstrates that a transfer of governance would be in the interests of economy, efficiency and effectiveness and does not have an adverse effect upon public safety.

I welcome your ambition for stronger collaboration between the police and fire and rescue service in Cambridgeshire, particularly in relation to better use of capital assets and the development of innovative community safety plans. I share your view that a single governance model will accelerate strategic collaboration and that greater local service integration is in the best interests of the community.

As a Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, you will have clear local accountability and a strong mandate to pursue ambitious reform. The independent assessment recognised the positive impact the Governance

model could have on the pace and breadth of collaboration and I consider that you are well placed to deliver this on behalf of your local communities.

I note that some of the comments raised by stakeholders in response to your consultation relate to the level of detail on the specific savings opportunities and efficiencies in your proposal. I have carefully considered both the independent assessment and my Department's own analysis, which concluded that the governance model option should achieve the greatest savings of the four available options. I know that you will closely oversee the transfer of governance and will of course develop detailed business cases for each collaborative venture.

I am also aware of concerns brought forward that the proposal is not in the interests of public safety. Having considered these issues, the independent assessment did not identify any public safety concerns. Having considered all the materials, I am therefore of the view that a transfer of governance will not have an adverse effect on public safety. I am assured too that as you take on fire governance, you will carefully consider the detailed implications of your collaborative programme.

My decision will be announced today (26 March) via a Written Ministerial Statement laid in the House of Commons. A copy of the Independent Assessment will be published at this point; however, an embargoed copy of the report is attached, which should not be shared more widely. You should expect to hear from my officials shortly in respect of developing the necessary statutory instrument to give effect to your proposal which we anticipate will take effect in June or July, subject to discussions with you.

I encourage you to work openly and collaboratively with your Fire and Rescue Service colleagues and with other local stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition.

I would like to thank you and your local stakeholders for your constructive engagement and I look forward to seeing the benefits of further collaboration between policing and fire in Cambridgeshire.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amber Rudd', is centered on the page.

**Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP**

Copy List

Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council, Councillor Steve Count  
Leader of Peterborough City Council, Councillor John Holdich

Chief Fire Officer for Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, Chris Strickland  
All local MPs  
Chair of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough FRA, Councillor Kevin Reynolds