

Consultation on changes to the governance of the Fire and Rescue Service

- We want your views about changing the governance of the fire and rescue service in Cambridgeshire.
- This follows a government legislation to promote greater joint working between emergency service organisations.
- The proposal is that the Police and Crime Commissioner becomes the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and has overall responsibility for the governance of both Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service and Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

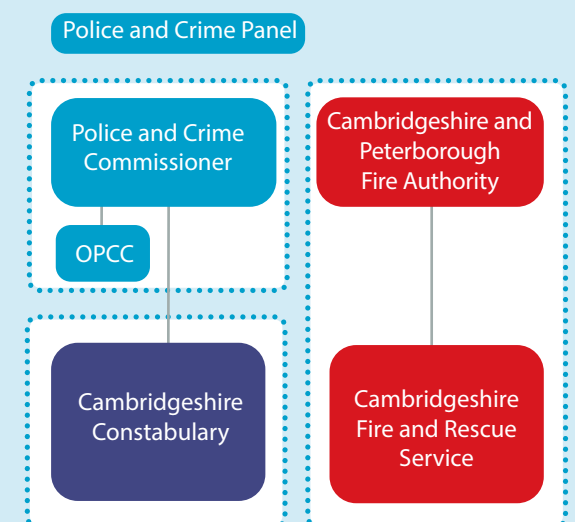
This document summarises the options and the reasons for recommending the chosen option.

WHAT DO WE HAVE NOW?

In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Police and Fire services are currently governed differently.

Police - The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) provides strategic leadership of Cambridgeshire Constabulary. The PCC is elected by the public every four years and is supported by a team of 14 staff in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Cambridgeshire Constabulary has the operational responsibility for policing of Cambridgeshire.

Fire - The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority (CPFA) oversees the service delivery of the fire and rescue service and employs fire staff. The CPFA is made up of 17 elected members, from Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council, and usually meets five times a year as a full authority with smaller committees held throughout the year. Members are appointed by the councils after each local election.



SUMMARY OF THE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

A Local Business Case (LBC) assessing police and fire collaboration governance options in Cambridgeshire has been prepared by independent consultants, who were commissioned jointly by the Fire Authority and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Four different options were considered: **1** No change option, **2** Representation option, **3** Governance option, **4** Single employer option, and ranked as set out below. The business case recommends that the governance option offers the greatest benefits.

| Model | Description | Assessment | Rank |
|------------------------------|--|--|------|
| Governance Model | PCC takes over the role of the CPFA and becomes the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. The PFCC would be the employer for the Fire and Rescue Service, but not Cambridgeshire Constabulary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savings through simpler governance processes • Savings through accelerating the better use of the fire and police estates • Closer and quicker joint working between fire and police, and their local partners improving public safety • Increased accountability through a directly elected Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner • Operational independence of police and fire is maintained • Requires change in governance arrangements. Transfer of staff, assets, contracts and liabilities assumed to be relatively straightforward to deliver | 1 |
| Single Employer Model | PCC takes over the role of the CPFA and becomes the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and appoints a single chief officer and employer for both police and fire personnel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savings through simpler governance processes • Savings through accelerating the better use of the fire and police estates • Closer and quicker joint working between fire and police, and their local partners improving public safety • Increased accountability through a directly elected Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner • Substantial staffing changes and so challenging and time-consuming to deliver | 2 |
| Representation Model | PCC sits on the local fire authority with full voting rights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neither detrimental impact or strong likelihood of improved public safety • Minor scrutiny benefits • Limited economy and efficiency as costs for governance may increase slightly • Likelihood of estates consolidation only marginally increases | 3 |
| No change | There are separate governance structures for police and fire and rescue services. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neither detrimental impact or strong likelihood of improving public safety • Limited economy and efficiency as governance costs continue • Likelihood of estate consolidation not affected • No delivery impact as no change | 4 |

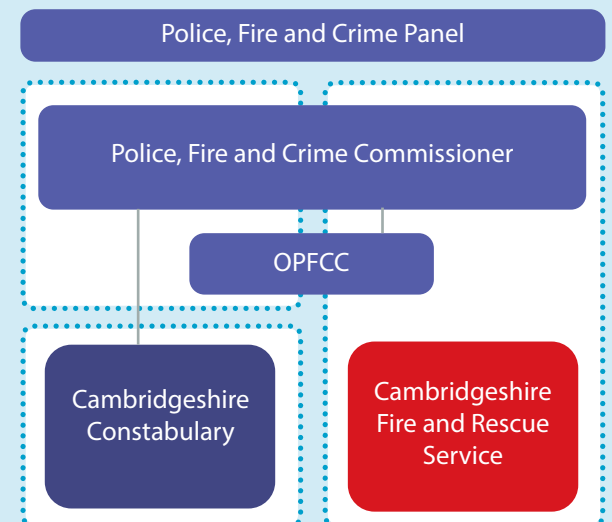
RECOMMENDATION

The business case recommends that the Governance option offers the greatest benefits.

The proposal is that the Police and Crime Commissioner becomes the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) and has overall responsibility for the governance of both Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service and Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

WHAT WOULD CHANGE?

- Operational responsibility for fire and police would remain with the Chief Fire Officer and the Chief Constable.
- The PFCC would continue to be responsible for setting policing priorities through the Police and Crime Plan, and have responsibility for controlling police assets.
- The PFCC would become the holder of fire assets and contracts, as for the police.
- The PFCC would become the employer of all fire and rescue staff (the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire Constabulary would continue to employ police officers and staff).
- The PFCC will be responsible for such things as decisions on how the Fire and Rescue Service spend their budget and whether new fire service facilities should be built or shared with other emergency services.



WHY IS THIS THE PREFERRED OPTION?

The Governance model was assessed as the best option as it would enable:

1. Savings through simpler governance processes

It is estimated that there will be £1.69 million savings over 10 years through savings in Fire Authority members allowances and the sharing of the Chief Financial Officer post.

2. Savings through better use of the fire and police estates

Better use of police and fire estates will initially require investment but is expected to provide financial benefits of £4.34 million over 10 years.

3. Closer and quicker joint working between fire and police, and their local partners improving public safety

Having a single decision-making person, the PFCC, helps speed up decision-making and helps ensure that strategies and decisions are joined up across organisations, therefore improving public safety.

4. Increased accountability through a directly elected Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

You would vote for a Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner every four years as you do for a PCC.

5. Operational independence of police and fire is maintained

The operational responsibility for the Fire and Rescue Service will sit with the Chief Fire Officer and with the Chief Constable for Police.

For the residents of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, this means they will continue to be provided with an efficient and effective public service which delivers value for money. Residents will also be consulted on both the police and fire funding elements of the council tax (known as the precept), so that they can hold the PFCC to account for how their money is spent.

What is governance?

Governance is the process for making and implementing decisions.

Good governance allows people to follow and understand the decision-making process; is answerable for decisions; and uses a process that makes the best use of the available people, resources and time to ensure the best possible results for the community.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK?

To share your views, please complete a short online survey at www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/fire. On the website, you will find the full business case along with some additional materials that summarise and explain the options considered.

Or write to us at: **Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, PO Box 688, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE29 9LA**

Or email us at: Cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk