

EXTRAORDINARY CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 3
19 JULY 2017	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Stephen Gerrard, Interim Director of Law and Governance	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority	
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CONSULTATION ON CHANGES OF GOVERNANCE WITH FIRE

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: <i>Interim Director of Law and Governance</i>	Deadline date: <i>4 September 2017</i>
<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comment on the consultation proposing a change to the governance of the fire and rescue service in Cambridgeshire; and 2. Delegate the preparation of a full written response to the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders, by the closing date of 4 September 2017. 	

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to respond to the consultation launched by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite, on changes to the governance of the fire and rescue service in Cambridgeshire.
- 1.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.2, 'To promote the Council's role as community leader, giving a 'voice' to the community in its external relations at local, regional and international level, and fostering good working relationships with the Council's partner organisations, Parish Councils and the relevant authorities for Police, Fire, Probation and Magistrates' Courts Services'.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Policing and Crime Act 2017 introduced measures that place a statutory obligation on all emergency services to collaborate and enable Police and Crime Commissioners to take on responsibilities for fire and rescue services in their area.
- 2.2 The Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Jason Ablewhite, is proposing that he becomes the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and has overall responsibility for the governance of both Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service and Cambridgeshire Constabulary.
- 2.3 Before the PCC can submit this proposal to the Secretary of State, he must consult each relevant local authority about the proposal.
- 2.4 The PCC has launched a consultation to seek views on him having greater responsibility for

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service.

2.5 A Local Business Case (LBC) assessing police and fire collaboration governance options in Cambridgeshire has been prepared by independent consultants, who were commissioned by a joint Fire Authority and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Working Group. The development of the LBC was part funded by a grant from the Home Office. The two page briefing is attached at Appendix 1 and the Executive Summary at Appendix 2. The full LBC is available at the following link:

<http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/fire-governance-consultation/>

2.6 Available at the same link is a short online survey, which Councillors and their constituents are encouraged to complete.

2.7 The PCC has been invited to brief all Members on his proposals, prior to the meeting of Full Council on 19 July 2017.

3. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

3.1 It is anticipated that Peterborough City Council's response to the Police and Crime Commissioner's consultation will be formally provided and considered by the Commissioner.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

4.1 To ensure that a cohesive and formal response be provided to the Police and Crime Commissioner's consultation on changes to the governance of the fire and rescue service in Cambridgeshire.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 **To not submit a single Peterborough City Council response** – This option was dismissed as a response from the Council as a whole was considered to have greater impact.

6. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications to the delegation amendments.

Legal Implications

6.2 There are no legal implications to the delegation amendments.

Equalities Implications

6.3 There are no equalities implications to the delegation amendments.

7. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

7.1 Consultation Document - <http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/fire-governance-consultation/>

Policing and Crime Act 2017 -

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/3/schedule/1/paragraph/13/enacted>

8. APPENDICES

8.1 Appendix 1 – Briefing Note (as included with the Council 19 July 2017 Agenda Pack)

Appendix 2 – Executive Summary (as included with the Council 19 July 2017 Agenda Pack)