

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item 7
6 September 2017	Public Report

Report of the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Contact Officers – Dorothy Gregson

Contact Details – cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk 0300 333 3456

FIRE AND RESCUE GOVERNANCE – LOCAL BUSINESS CASE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The report is being presented to the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel (the “Panel”) to update it on the consultation process being undertaken, by the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner (the “Commissioner”), in relation to the Local Business Case on the future governance arrangements for the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to note the contents of this report.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 3.1 Item 6 – To review and scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Police and Crime Commissioner in connection with the discharge of the Commissioner’s functions.

Item 8 – To support the effective exercise of the functions of the Commissioner.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Policing and Crime Act 2017 (the “Act”) introduced measures that place a statutory obligation on all emergency services to collaborate and enable Police and Crime Commissioners (“a Commissioner”) to take on responsibilities for fire and rescue services in their area.
- 4.2 Where a Commissioner is interested in taking on the governance of the fire and rescue service, the provisions of the Act place a requirement on a Commissioner to work with the relevant fire and rescue authority to prepare their local case.
- 4.3 The Act also places a requirement on a Commissioner to consult, in a manner which a Commissioner determines, the following on the governance proposal:
- each of the upper tier local authorities;
 - people in their police area;
 - representatives of personnel who a Commissioner considers may be affected by the proposal.

- 4.4 Following the consultation, the Act requires a Commissioner to publish their response to the consultation. Following this, a Commissioner can then submit their proposal to the Secretary of State for consideration.
- 4.5 The Secretary of State may approve a Commissioner's proposals with or without modification. Where there is not local agreement to a Commissioner's proposal, the Secretary of State is required to secure an independent assessment of a Commissioner's proposal. In the interests of transparency, the Secretary of State must publish the independent assessment she secures of a Commissioner's case as soon as practicable after making a decision on whether to approve the transfer of governance.
- 4.6 The Secretary of State can only make an order creating new governance arrangements where it appears to her that a Commissioner's proposal would be in the interests of either: economy, efficiency and effectiveness, or public safety.

5. LOCAL BUSINESS CASE

- 5.1 The Local Business Case for fire and rescue governance options was prepared for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) by independent external advisers, based on information provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority (CPFA), Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS) and information in the public domain. The appointment of the independent external advisers, PA Consulting, was a joint appointment by the OPCC and the CPFA, after an open tendering process.

6. CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 6.1 The purpose of a Commissioner's consultation is to ensure the Commissioner has secured, and taken into account, local opinion on their proposal before making a request to the Secretary of State.
- 6.2 The Cambridgeshire Commissioner's consultation process started on Monday 3rd July 2017 and ran for nine weeks, ending Monday 4th September 2017. The consultation documents comprised of the consultation survey, a briefing document (Appendix A), an Executive Summary, the full Local Business Case, a plain English version, an easyread version and frequently asked questions. All documents can be found on the Commissioner's website.
- 6.3 As required by law, the Commissioner has formally consulted with the two statutory consultees, Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council.
- 6.4 The following activity has been undertaken to date as part of the consultation process:
- Although the consultation officially launched on the 3rd July 2017, between 12th June and 2nd July there was a pre-consultation engagement where stakeholders and the public were advised that the official consultation was coming. This phase took place after the general election of 8th June.
 - An online questionnaire was set up using Survey Monkey and was the primary collection method. Those who were unable or unwilling to complete the survey were able to e-mail, write or phone with their comments.
 - Press releases were sent on both 12th June and 3rd July with coverage secured on TV, radio and print.

- The public were engaged via a number of online channels including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn as well as the Neighbourhood Alert System (E-Cops) with a circulation of over 16,500 citizens.
- The Commissioner sought public opinion through a series of public meetings and public contact points held at venues across the county.
- As statutory consultees, meetings were held with Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. The Commissioner presented to the Councils and answered questions.
- All MPs, Council Leaders and Council Chief Executives were written to and 1-2-1 meetings held where requested
- Partner organisations and other stakeholders were written to individually with a request to cascade the information through their networks.
- Presentations were given at a number of meetings in June, July and August including all six Community Safety Partnership meetings, the Countywide Community Safety Strategic Board and the Senior Officer Communities Network.
- Staff of both Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue were engaged throughout the process and given the opportunity to express their views.
- Police and Fire union representatives were contacted and meetings arranged where wanted.

6.5 To date the consultation has had over 2,500 responses including 780 comments (as at 21st August 2017).

7. NEXT STEPS

7.1 The formal consultation ends on the 4th September 2017. Following this a report on the outcome to consultation will go to the Commissioner's Business Coordination Board on 21st September before formal submission to the Home Office by 30th September 2017.

7.2 The Home Office is expected to make a decision within three months of receipt of the Local Business Case.

8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

8.1 Policing and Crime Act 2017

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/3/pdfs/ukpga_20170003_en.pdf

Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Fire Governance Consultation

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

9. APPENDIX

9.1 Appendix A – Briefing – 'Consultation on changes to the governance of the Fire and Rescue Service'

This page is intentionally left blank