



## An idea to change the way the Fire Service is looked after in Cambridgeshire

### Plain English version

There are some new ideas about the way the Fire and Rescue Service is governed (or managed) and the Police and Crime Commissioner wants to know what you think.

At the moment, the Fire Service in Cambridgeshire is looked after by the Fire Authority. The Fire Authority is a group of 17 people.

### Why are we doing this?

The government says the emergency services need to work more closely together.

An expert company has looked at four different ideas on how the Fire Service could be managed to make it work better with the police. The four different ideas are:

<b>Option 1</b>	Keep things the way they are
<b>Option 2</b>	The Fire Authority would carry on looking after the Fire Service and the Police and Crime Commissioner would join the Fire Authority to vote on decisions.
<b>Option 3</b>	The Police and Crime Commissioner would govern (or look after) the Police and Fire Service. He would become the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.
<b>Option 4</b>	The Police and Crime Commissioner would manage both the Fire Service and the Police. Instead of a Chief Constable running the Police Service and a Chief Fire Officer running the Fire Service, the Police and Crime Commissioner would appoint a single Chief Officer who would be in charge of both the Police and Fire Service.

The expert company has recommended **Option 3**, which would mean that the Commissioner would look after the Fire Service instead of the Fire Authority.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite thinks this plan would help the county save money and keep the community safer.

The Fire Service would report to the Commissioner and tell him about their work and decisions they make instead of the Fire Authority. The Commissioner, who is elected by the public every four years, would be called the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

### How would the Fire and Rescue Service be governed?

Police and Fire Officers already work really well together in Cambridgeshire and this work would continue.

Both organisations would stay separate – Police Officers would not become Firefighters and Firefighters would not become Police Officers. Both organisations would keep their separate uniforms and carry on doing their own jobs.

The new Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner would look after both the police force and the fire and rescue service.

The Chief Fire Officer would report to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and tell him about the decisions he makes. The Police Chief Constable already does this. The Chief Fire Officer and Chief Constable would continue to be responsible for the day to day running of their services.

The decisions made by the Commissioner would be looked at by a Police, Fire and Crime Panel to make sure that he is doing the right things for the people of Cambridgeshire. The panel would be made up of people who have been elected and other people from our communities.

### **What are the good things about making this change?**

There would be more opportunities to save money on things like buildings so that money can be spent looking after officers on the frontline.

There would be better opportunities for Fire and Police to work more closely together.

The time taken to make decisions would be much quicker.

### **What do you think?**

We want to know if you agree with this idea, where the Police and Crime Commissioner would look after the Fire Service in Cambridgeshire.

Here is a link to a short survey which takes 30 seconds to complete. You will be asked if you agree or disagree with this idea.



If you would like to give us a written response or have any questions, please e-mail [cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk)

If you prefer, you can telephone us and give us your views. The telephone number is [0300 333 3456](tel:03003333456).

For more information visit [www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/fire](http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/fire)

The consultation closes on 4 September 2017.