



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Executive

Date: 21 September 2017

CONSULTATION ON THE LOCAL BUSINESS CASE FOR FIRE AND RESCUE GOVERNANCE OPTIONS

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Business Coordination Board (the “Board”) on the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Commissioner”) recent consultation on the local business case for fire and rescue governance options.

2. Recommendation

2.2 For the Board to note that the Commissioner intends to formally submit the Business Case to the Home Office.

3. Background

3.1 The Policing and Crime Act 2017 places a duty on police, fire and rescue and ambulance services to explore opportunities for collaboration, and enables Police and Crime Commissioners to take on responsibility for the governance of fire and rescue services in their area where a case is made to do so.

3.2 Commissioners will be enabled to seek responsibility for their local Fire and Rescue Authority where a local case is made to the Home Secretary. This is subject to tests to ensure that changes will deliver improvements in one of more of a) economy, b) efficiency and effectiveness or c) public safety. In line with the legislation, Commissioners are also required to work with their Fire Authority to prepare their local business case.

3.3 Independent consultants, who were commissioned jointly by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority and the Commissioner assessed the governance options and prepared a local business case. The plan recommended that the governance option offered the greatest benefit.

3.4 The provisions of the act place a requirement on the Commissioner to consult the following on governance proposal:

- Each of the upper tier local authorities;
- People in the police area;
- Representation of personnel who the Commissioner considers may be affected by the proposal.

4. The consultation

4.1 The public consultation ran for nine weeks from Monday 3rd July 2017 to Monday 4th September 2017. All documents were available on the website (<http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/fire-governance-consultation/>) and people were asked to complete a short online survey. Printed documents were also available to ensure information was accessible, which could be returned through the post and people were able to phone the office with their comments. The consultation documents, comprised of:

- The full local business case
- Two page briefing
- Executive summary
- Frequently asked questions
- Plain English briefing
- Easy read briefing
- Consultation survey which captured both qualitative and quantitative data

4.2 Although the consultation officially launched on 3rd July 2017, pre-consultation engagement took place between 12th June and 2nd July where stakeholders and the public were advised that the consultation was coming.

4.3 The consultation utilised a wide range of contact methods in order to engage with the public, representative organisations, police and fire staff and stakeholders. This included digital channels, meetings, 1-2-1 briefings, media relations, internal communications and events. A summary of activity is below:

- The consultation was launched and communicated to the public via the website, public meetings, digital communications including the Neighbourhood Alert System with 16,500 subscribers and social media like Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.
- The consultation was also communicated to the media which secured coverage on TV, radio and print.
- Statutory stakeholders (Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council) and other key stakeholders including MPs, Council Leaders and Council Chief Executives were communicated via letters, telephone calls, face to face meetings, presentations and formal decision making processes
- Fire and Police unions and staff associations were invited to discuss the consultation and meetings were arranged where requested

- Staff and volunteers of Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service were engaged throughout the process and given the opportunity to comment.
- Police and Crime Commissioner utilised existing engagement events, like contact points and public meetings, to promote the consultation and answer any questions.

5 Response from stakeholders

- 5.1 There were two statutory stakeholders; Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council. The Police and Crime Commissioner attended a meeting with both authorities to discuss the business case and answer questions. Their formal responses did not support the Business Case recommendation. Their responses can be seen in appendix A.
- 5.2 In addition, the Police and Crime Commissioner received written responses from several of the local MPs, the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Cambridgeshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group and Huntingdonshire District Council.
- 5.3 There was engagement with all unions and staff representative bodies whose members could be affected by the future of the change of governance. Responses have been received from the Fire Brigades Union, the Retained Firefighter Union and UNISON.

6. Response from the public

- 6.1 The majority of responses to the consultation were received through postal or online submission, which used Survey Monkey to host the survey. A small number of letters were received.
- 6.2 At the end of the 9 week consultation period, a total of 2,392 responses were received to the survey. A summary of the responses can be found below:

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. How much do you agree or disagree with this proposal?	
Strongly agree	530 responses (22.2%)
Agree	746 responses (31.2%)
Neither agree or disagree	184 responses (7.7%)
Disagree	237 responses (9.9%)
Strongly disagree	695 responses (29.1%)

- 6.3 It was important that the Commissioner understood in more depth people's reasoning behind their response. Therefore respondents were asked to make any comments that had about the proposal. 840 people provided additional comments.
- 6.4 Some of the most common positive comments were:
- It makes sense
 - It would improve efficiency
 - It would save money
 - It would improve accountability and governance
- 6.5 Some of the most common negative comments were:
- It was too much work for one person to manage both the police and fire services
 - That the Commissioner does not have enough experience of the Fire and Rescue Service
 - Concerns about accountability and governance
 - That more evidence was required in the business to support some of the points made
- 6.6 At the Police and Crime Panel meeting of 06 Sep 2017, the panel passed a resolution recommending that the Commissioner takes time to further consult the top tier authorities, District Councils, Fire Authority and Fire Brigade Union before making a decision. They felt that not enough time had been allowed to properly respond to the comments made. The Commissioner has considered this suggestion but feels that as the consultation was promoted from 12 June and the formal consultation ran for 9 weeks from 03 July that there has been ample opportunity for responses. The comprehensive Fire Authority response was received early on in the consultation period and the responses that followed from Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council supported the representation option.
- 6.7 The demographic of responses can be viewed in Appendix B.

7. Next steps

- 7.1 During September a consultation response report will be produced which will include responses to the comments made. It will be submitted to the Home Office for considerations at the end of September. The submission will include: 1. a covering letter, 2. the full business case, 3. a consultation report, 4. a point by point response to the points raised by the statutory consultees.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 For the Board to note that the Commissioner intends to formally submit the Business Case to the Home Office.

Source document	Policing and Crime Act 2017 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/3/contents/enacted
Contact officers	Consultation: Charles Kitchin, Director of Public Engagement and Communications Business Case: Graham Oliver, Interim Head of Finance

Appendix A – Responses from top tier authorities

My ref:
Your ref:
Date: 17 August 2017
Contact: Gillian Beasley
Direct dial: 01223 728595
E Mail: Gillian.Beasley@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Mr Jason Ablewhite
Police and Crime Commissioner,
PO Box 688
Huntingdon
PE29 9LA

Box SH1104
Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

Dear Jason

FIRE GOVERNANCE CONSULTATION

Cambridgeshire County Council met on 18 July 2017 to consider your Fire Governance Consultation. At this meeting, I was delegated to prepare a full written response, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, by your closing date of 4 September 2017.

The Council, at its meeting, resolved unanimously to:

Submit the following responses to the consultation on the changes to the governance of the Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service:

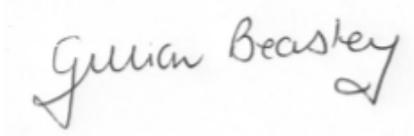
- (i) Express its opposition to the option as detailed with the PCC Business case option 3 (Governance Model)
- (ii) Express its support for option 2 (Representative model) and
- (iii) Wholly support and endorse the response of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough's Fire Authority to the consultation process

Furthermore the Council delegated to me, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the preparation of a letter to the minister responsible for emergency services, yourself and the chair of the Ambulance Trust setting out this council's view that a blue light hub, based on the Fire Service and Ambulance service should be looked at in greater detail and the reasons behind this including the clear and historical synergy between both of these important public services.

You will find the report and minutes of this meeting available at the following link: [County Council meeting 18/07/2017](#)

A recording of the meeting is available on the Council's You Tube site at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O58fll2eDJ8>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gillian Beasley" with a small flourish at the end.

Gillian Beasley
Chief Executive

Cc: Nick Hurd MP, Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service
The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health
Philip Dunne MP, Minister of State for Health
Sarah Boulton, Chairman of East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust

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Your Ref:



Chief Executive's Office
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Jason Ablewhite
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner
PO Box 688
PE29 9LA

15 August 2017

Dear Jason,

Peterborough City Council Response to the Police and Crime Commissioner Consultation

Following the launch of the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner's (P&CC) consultation regarding the changing of governance of the Fire and Rescue Services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Peterborough City Council Members considered their response as statutory consultees.

Members received a briefing from the P&CC, Jason Ablewhite, on 19 July 2017, at which point the P&CC responded to a variety of questions. At this briefing the Chairman of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority, Cllr Kevin Reynolds, provided information on the Fire Authority's position and also answered questions.

The consultation was considered by all Members at a reconvened meeting of Full Council on 26 July 2017, where discussion was held and a unanimous recommendation made to Cabinet. The Peterborough City Council Cabinet considered and adopted in full the recommendation of the Full Council and agreed the following:

Peterborough City Council object to the third option as detailed within the P&CC Local Business Case (LBC), referred to as the "Governance Model". This option is not considered to be in the best interest of the public and public safety and it is not believed that this would result in any form of cost saving.

Peterborough City Council supports the second option as set out in the LBC, referred to as the "Representation Model". This model would maintain the important spread of power between the two bodies, while creating a formal link for the P&CC and the Fire Authority to work together. The Council further cites the response of the Fire Authority, attached at Appendix A, in whole to support the pursuance of the "Representation Model", namely;

- The strong and ongoing collaboration between the police, fire, ambulance, and health services, and the local government;
- That the preferred option within the LBC would weaken accountability;
- That cost savings are not evidenced;
- There is no evidence to suggest the LBC will result in a more integrated approach to estate management;
- No qualitative assessments have been carried out;
- The scoring methodology of the LBC is inconsistent;
- That the preferred option within the LBC lacks resilience; and
- That the LBC fails to recognise the fundamental difference between the police and fire services.

Chief Executive: Gillian Beasley

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It is the view of the Council that a 'Blue Light Hub', based on the Fire Service and Ambulance Service, should be investigated in greater detail. It is considered that there is a clear and historical synergy between both of these important public services, and such a hub could improve communication between services.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Gerrard
Interim Director of Law and Governance

Appendix B

Demographic of respondents to public consultation

Responding as....	Number	Percentage
An individual member of the public	2050	86%
A local Councillor	144	6%
An employee or volunteer of the police service	79	3%
An employee or volunteer of the fire service	67	3%
Did not respond	51	2%

Describe their gender as....	Number	Percentage
Male	1352	56.5%
Female	883	37%
Prefer not to say / did not respond	142	6%
In some other way	14	0.5%

Live in....	Number	Percentage
Huntingdonshire	727	30%
South Cambridgeshire	454	19%
Peterborough	381	16%
Fenland	262	11%
East Cambridgeshire	227	9%
Cambridge City	226	9%
Other	63	3%
Prefer not to say	51	2%

Aged....	Number	Percentage
40-64	1001	42%
65+	778	33%
26-39	279	12%
Prefer not to say / didn't answer	167	7%
18-25	51	2%
Under 18	115	5%

Describe their ethnicity as....	Number	Percentage
White British	1912	80%
Prefer not to say / didn't answer	239	10%
Asian/Asian British	78	3.3%
White other	73	3.1%
Other	59	2.5%
Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	19	0.8%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	11	0.5%