

**TO:** Policy and Resources Committee

**FROM:** Chief Fire Officer - Chris Strickland

**PRESENTING OFFICER(S):** Chris Strickland

Telephone **01480 444506**  
[chris.strickland@cambsfire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.strickland@cambsfire.gov.uk)

**DATE:** 30 June 2016

---

## **CHIEF FIRE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION RE-STRUCTURE**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To inform Members of proposed changes to the structure of the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) and to seek agreement for the Service to financially support the new arrangements.

### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Policy and Resources Committee is asked to agree that the Service should contribute to the ongoing cost of a full time President for CFOA.

### **3. Risk Assessment**

- 3.1 **Political** - the Home Office is keen to establish better lines of communication with fire and rescue services in relation to operational matters and welcomes the idea of CFOA re organising its structure to enable this to happen. If the existing position of a one year presidential contact point is maintained it may impact on the good working relationship that has already been formed between the two bodies.

### **4. Background**

- 4.1 In January 2016 responsibility for the Fire Service was moved from DCLG to the Home Office and in May 2016 the Home Secretary announced a radical transformation programme for the Service that would look at economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 4.2 In the lead up and subsequent to the departmental move CFOA has worked hard to establish a good working relationship with the Home Office. It has done so to promote the excellent work of the fire and rescue service and to ensure the Home Office receives sound and

current professional advice during its review of how the Service should be transformed.

- 4.3 As part of their work with the Home Office CFOA looked at how the police service professional association (National Police Chiefs Council – NPCC) is structured and how it works with government. It was found that to enable the development of a close professional advisory relationship a single Chief Constable is appointed by their peers to work with the Home Office on a full time, three year contract. The arrangement is funded via a top slice from all police service budgets.
- 4.4 As a result of their deliberations CFOA recognised that having a President who works on a part time basis and remains in post for only one year is not a good way to ensure continuity and consistency in the relationship between the sector and its lead government department. It was therefore proposed to all CFOA members that the most appropriate way forward would be to mirror the police model and to request that the new arrangement was funded via contributions from each fire and rescue service on an equal share basis.

## **5. Membership Costs**

- 5.1 Currently the Authority pays £8,447 for corporate membership of CFOA per annum. In addition a further £2,160 is paid per annum to cover the cost of membership of CFOA for the Directors and permanent members of the Director Advisory Board (a total of 9 individuals). The subscriptions pay for organisational and individual access to the professional national networks, that CFOA provides, across the spectrum of operational, community safety and fire protection activity.
- 5.2 The proposed annual contribution to pay for a permanent CFOA President would be £4,862 which would result in a total contribution of £15,469 per annum.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

<b>Source Document</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
CFOA	Hinchingbrooke Cottage Brampton Road Huntingdon Pe29 2NA	Chris Strickland <a href="mailto:Chris.strickland@cambsfire.gov.uk">Chris.strickland@cambsfire.gov.uk</a> 01480 444541