

**TO:** Policy and Resources Committee

**FROM:** Chairman Policy and Resources Committee – Councillor K Reynolds

**PRESENTING OFFICER(S):** Chairman Policy and Resources Committee –  
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**CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH FIRE AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO  
GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – ENABLING POLICE AND CRIME  
COMMISSIONERS TO SIT AND VOTE ON COMBINED FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITIES**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To inform the Policy and Resources Committee of a Government consultation on enabling Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to sit and vote on Combined Fire and Rescue Authorities and agree an appropriate response.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Policy and Resources Committee is asked to;
- a) approve the response at Paragraph 5.1 below,
  - b) delegate to the Monitoring Officer completion and submission of the consultation response before it closes on 15 January 2018.

**3. Risk Assessment**

- 3.1 **Political** – failure to fully engage with opportunities to implement changes that are in the interest of economy, efficiency and effectiveness or public safety would be contrary to the Governments stated aims and the stance taken by the Authority to meet stakeholder expectations.
- 3.2 **Legal** – there is a legal (and reputational) duty on the Authority to contribute to any legislative consultations that have the potential to affect how it is governed.

**4. Background**

- 4.1 On 27 November 2017, the Government published a consultation paper seeking views on the proposal to vary the combination schemes of Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) established under section 2 or continued in existence under section 4 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 (the 2004 Act) to implement the ‘representation model’ of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 (the 2017 Act). Full details can be found at

- 4.2 The 2017 Act enables PCCs to become a fire and rescue authority where a local case is made and it appears to the Home Secretary to be in the interests of economy, efficiency and effectiveness or public safety. To encourage greater collaboration in areas where a PCC does not take on responsibility for local fire and rescue services, the 2017 Act also enables a PCC to be represented on the FRA (outside London) with voting rights, where the FRA agrees (the representation model). In addition, the provisions of the 2017 Act set out the procedure that must be followed where such a representation request is made.
- 4.3 While these provisions apply to County and Metropolitan FRAs as of 3 April 2017 on commencement of primary legislation, Combined FRAs established (or continued in existence) under sections 2 and 4 of the 2004 Act must have their combination schemes amended for these (enabling) provisions to apply.

## 5. Consultation Response

- 5.1 The consultation focuses on applying the representation model provisions to Combined FRAs only and as an affected stakeholder the following response to the consultation, which comprises of three questions, is recommended to the Committee;

**Question 1:** *Do you agree with the proposed amendments to the combination schemes of Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) established or continued in existence under sections 2 and 4 of the 2004 Fire and Rescue Services Act as stated in the proposal above to implement the 'representation model' of the 2017 Act?*

**Answer:** Yes (negates an answer to Question 2).

**Question 3:** *Please state below if you have any other comments:*

This Authority would welcome clarity on how political proportionality is to be balanced and managed should the representation model be adopted.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document	Location	Contact Officer
Home Office Consultation Document	Service HQ Hinchingsbrooke Cottage Brampton Road Huntingdon	Deb Thompson Scrutiny and Assurance Manager 01480 444500 deb.thompson@cambsfire.gov.uk

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