

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Meeting to be held on 2nd July 2018

FIRE SERVICE GOVERNANCE CONSULTATION

Contact for further information: David Fairclough, Secretary to Police & Crime Panel, david.fairclough@blackburn.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This report provides the Panel with information on the Commissioners proposals in respect of Fire Service Consultation.

Recommendation

The Panel is asked to review the communications received from the Commissioner and provide comments and initial feedback and scrutiny.

Background and Advice

On 27th April 2018 and 23rd May 2018 the Police and Crime Commissioner wrote to panel members with regards to proposals regarding Fire Service Governance.

Those letters are provided as Appendix A and Appendix B to this report. The Chair of the Panel has provided an initial response by letter on behalf of the Panel on 4th June 2018, Appendix C refers.

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 introduced measures that place a statutory obligation on all emergency services to explore opportunities for further collaboration between organisations. This legislation also made amendments to the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to enable Police and Crime Commissioners to take on responsibility (or the governance) for fire and rescue services in their area.

The legislation provided for three different options (or Models) through which the Police and Crime Commissioner could have a greater role in the governance of the fire and rescue service, these being the:

- **Representation Model:** A Police and Crime Commissioner has a seat and voting rights on the Fire Authority
- **Governance Model** (referred to as a 'PCC-style FRA' Model): A Police and Crime Commissioner takes on the functions of the Fire Authority and becomes a Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
- **Single Employer Model:** There is a single Chief Officer for police and fire personnel under the governance of a Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

The Panel is invited to discuss the initial proposals as outlined and provide initial comments and scrutiny to the proposals regarding the preparation of a business case and future consultation.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

N/A

Legal Implications

As indicated above, the Policing and Crime Act 2017 introduced measures that place a statutory obligation on all emergency services to explore opportunities for further collaboration between organisations. This legislation also made amendments to the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to enable Police and Crime Commissioners to take on responsibility (or the governance) for fire and rescue services in their area.

Financial Implications

N/A

Risk management

N/A

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

None.

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Reasons for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A