

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LEICESTERSHIRE *DECISION RECORD*

To be completed in cases where a decision is required

DECISION OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Date: 4.7.17

Officers present: Head of Governance, Chief Finance Officer

Received in OPCC Date:

OPCC Ref: *EX000617*

Title: PCC's intentions with regard to the Governance of the Fire and Rescue Service

Summary of Issue:

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 makes provision for the PCC to take up a role in the governance of Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service.

There are 3 levels of involvement that the PCC could take:

- a **full merger** of all 3 entities into a single Corporation Sole under the PCC;
- a **new Governance model** whereby the Office of the Chief Constable ("the Force") remains but Fire and Rescue Service becomes a "*Corporation Sole as the fire and rescue authority for the area specified in the order, and for the person who is for the time being the police and crime commissioner for the relevant police area to be for the time being that fire and rescue authority.*"
- **no change to corporate structures** but the PCC applies for membership of the Fire Authority, with full voting rights; alongside the Council membership, where Fire and Rescue Authority agree;

Should any of these options be selected there is a legal process that must then be followed that requires the formal sign off of the proposal by the Home Secretary.

However, the Act does not prescribe that the PCC must select any of these options to have an involvement in the governance of Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, therefore the other "option" is for :

- the PCC to have no involvement in the governance of the Fire Service

Recommendation(s) presented:

That the PCC determines which of the four options available to him that he wishes to progress at the current time.

Notwithstanding the option chosen, future relevant legislation will be kept under review in case legal circumstances change.

Key discussion points

Whilst there would be financial and other consequences to the PCC selecting one of the options involving governance, the option to have no involvement has no financial impact.

The governance of Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service is currently carried out by the Combined Fire Authority which consists of elected Councillors and the membership of which reflects the geo-political makeup of the area served. It should be noted that the Deputy PCC is a member of the Fire Authority in his capacity as a City Councillor and hence any matters of direct concern to the PCC can already be fed back.

A recent survey by CoPaCC published in November 2016 identified that there are currently 15 PCCs progressing towards some direct involvement.

It was RESOLVED that:

The PCC determined that at this point in time, he is not minded to start the process to have involvement in the governance of the Fire Service.

The reason for this decision are:-

- this is not a priority for the Commissioner;
- the Commissioner wishes to prioritise the delivery of his Police and Crime Plan;
- the concerns over the lack of resources for Leicestershire Police and what may happen in terms of further financial cuts; and
- the importance of partnerships and the continuing work to build upon this area of business;

The Commissioner is fully supportive of collaboration, particularly with the other emergency services as well as with partners and other agencies and is happy to enter into such collaborations where appropriate.

OFFICE OF PCC APPROVAL

Chief Executive or Chief Finance Officer:

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that appropriate advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner

Signature: *Helena King*

Name: *HELENA KING*

Date:

Publication Scheme

Decision of Monitoring Officer:

As Monitoring Officer for the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire I have determined that:

It is appropriate to publish this record of decision made by the Police and Crime Commissioner : **Yes**

It is appropriate to publish the contents of the report proposing this course of action prepared by either of the senior post holders in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire (i.e. either the Chief Executive or Chief Finance Officer) : **Yes**

It is appropriate to publish details of the decision by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire : **Yes**

Reasons for any non Publication (referencing appropriate legislation): None

Signature:



Name:

ANGELA PERRY

Date:

10.7.17

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire

Having received the advice set out above and reviewed relevant documentation my decision in regard of this matter is:

Approved

Signature



Date:

10.7.17