



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

MEETING	Fire Authority
DATE OF MEETING	14 October 2014
OFFICER	Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive, Jason Thelwell
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Adrian Busby
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Draft Authority Response to HM Government Consultation on 'Enabling Closer Working between the Emergency Services'
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>The Government is consulting on a series of measures designed to transform the delivery of local fire and police services and drive greater collaboration between the police, fire and rescue and NHS ambulance services.</p> <p>Amongst the measures being consulted on of particular relevance to the Authority are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the proposal for a new duty on all three emergency services to actively consider collaboration opportunities with one another to improve efficiency and effectiveness; • proposals to enable Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to take on the duties and responsibilities of fire and rescue authorities, where a local case is made; • where a PCC takes on the responsibilities of a fire and rescue authority, enabling them to create a single employer for police and fire staff, facilitating the sharing of back office functions and streamlining management; • in areas where a PCC has not become responsible for fire and rescue services, enabling them to have representation on their local fire and rescue authority. <p>Responses to the consultation are required by 23 October 2015.</p> <p>A draft response to the consultation, prepared by officers, is shown at Appendix A for Members' consideration.</p>
ACTION	Decision.
RECOMMENDATIONS	That Members delegate authority to the Chief Fire Officer to finalise the response in consultation with the Chairman for submission to HM Government on behalf

	of the Authority.
RISK MANAGEMENT	No direct implications arise from the submission of the response to the consultation. However, were the Authority to be affected by the implementation of any of the proposals, then this could potentially affect our approach to the management of risk in the communities we serve.
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	None directly arising from the submission of the response to the consultation. However, there would be potential financial implications were the Authority affected by the implementation of the Government's proposals.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	None directly arising from the submission of the response to the consultation. However, under current legislation it is not possible for a PCC to take on the responsibilities of a fire and rescue authority. Legislative change would therefore be required to effect the Government's proposals.
CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION	The Authority has already committed to a default position of collaboration with Thames Valley FRAs unless a clear business case favours an alternative option; and separately with the Thames Valley PCC and the Thames Valley FRAs in respect of property sharing. Introduction of the Government's proposals would extend this to include the other blue light services within the scope of this commitment.
HEALTH AND SAFETY	No issues immediately arising from submission of the response to the consultation.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	No issues immediately arising from submission of the response to the consultation.
USE OF RESOURCES	None immediately arising from the submission of the response to the consultation. However, were the Authority to be affected by the implementation of the proposals then potential implications would arise for the use of resources including: communication with stakeholders; the system of internal control; the medium term financial strategy/plan; the balance between spending and resources; the management of the asset base; the arrangements to promote and ensure probity and propriety; and, environmental impact.
PROVENANCE SECTION	The consultation was released by HM Government on

& BACKGROUND PAPERS	11 September on behalf of The Home Office, Department of Communities and Local Government and the Department of Health and applies to Blue Light Services in England. A copy of the consultation document is shown at Appendix B.
APPENDICES	A: Draft Authority Response to the Consultation B: HM Government Consultation Document
TIME REQUIRED	20 minutes.
REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	Stuart Gowanlock sgowanlock@bucksfire.gov.uk 01296 744435