

<b>Report title: Response to the Government's 'Reforming our Fire and Rescue Service' consultation</b>	
<b>Report to:</b> Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel	
<b>Report author:</b> Paul Turner, Director Legal and Assurance and Monitoring Officer	
<b>Date:</b> 21 July 2022	<b>For:</b> Approval
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<b>County Divisions affected:</b> All Essex	

## **1. Purpose of Report**

To provide the Panel with the draft response to the Government's 'Reforming our Fire and Rescue Service' consultation for comment and approval prior to the submission date of 26 July 2022.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Panel considers the draft consultation response in conjunction with the advice provided in this report;
- 2.2 That the Panel discuss and agree any changes to the draft consultation response;
- 2.3 That the Panel agree that the response is finalised and submitted prior to the deadline date of 26 July 2022.

## **3. Context / Summary**

- 3.1 The Government's consultation on a package of proposals for the reform of fire and rescue services in England was launched on 18 May 2022. The proposals cover three principal areas of reform; People, Professionalism and Governance. The full consultation document can be found at Appendix A.
- 3.2 The 'Governance' section of the consultation primarily concerns transferring fire functions to a single, elected individual. This is already the case in Essex, as the Commissioner commenced fire and rescue governance in 2017.
- 3.3 Some other areas of the 'Governance' section would however have an impact on the fire governance arrangements within Essex, notably proposals to make Chief Fire Officers operationally independent.
- 3.4 Advice in respect of these proposals, which are contained within questions 40-44 of the consultation, has been provided for the Panel's consideration and can be found at Appendix B. The advice has been reflected within the consultation response, which can be found at Appendix C.

#### **4. Appendices**

- Appendix A - consultation document
- Appendix B - advice in respect of questions 40-44
- Appendix C - draft consultation response