

Record of Decision

ORIGINATOR: Chief of Staff

REFERENCE: OPCC.D.016.17

TITLE: Governance of Kent Fire & Rescue Service

OPEN **CONFIDENTIAL**

Reason if Confidential:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 received Royal Assent on 31 January 2017. In addition to a range of other provisions, the Act introduces a new statutory duty on the emergency services to collaborate and provisions that enable a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to take on responsibility for the governance of fire and rescue services in their area.

Recognising that local leaders are best placed to identify what will work best in their area, the government has not mandated what governance of fire and rescue should look like, but instead provided PCCs with four options:

- Do nothing - continue with governance currently in place and take on duty to collaborate within existing arrangements.
- Representation model - enables PCCs to request membership on their local Fire & Rescue Authority (FRA) including voting rights for issues in relation to the fire and rescue service.
- Governance model - enables PCCs to take responsibility for the governance of their local fire and rescue service and employment of its staff, but keep police and fire as separate corporate bodies.
- Single Employer model - enables PCCs to take on governance of fire and rescue and bring policing and fire together under one body, under the employment of one chief officer.

In terms of the Representation model, where the FRA is a county council, the Act has also amended local government legislation to enable PCCs to become voting members. However, in the case of a combined FRA (such as in Kent), the Government has yet to amend relevant legislation.

Under both the Governance and Single Employer models, there continues to be two separate precepts and two separate central funding streams for policing and fire. In addition, a PCC must prepare and submit a local business case to the Secretary of State setting out how it is in the interests of economy, efficiency and effectiveness, or public safety.

RECOMMENDATION

DECISION

To request appointment as an additional Member on the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority, including voting rights (recognising that relevant legislation is yet to be amended).

Chief Finance Officer:

Comments: N/A

Signature: **Date:**

Chief of Staff:

Comments: N/A

Signature: **Date:**

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR KENT

Comments:
 At a meeting on 13 March 2017 with the Chairman of the Authority and the KFRS Chief Executive and Director of Finance, informal discussions on the Representation model were conducted. This developed into a formal request being made to the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority.
 At their Annual Meeting on 15 June 2017, the Authority accepted my request to be appointed as an additional Member as soon as it is permitted by legislation.
 In the meantime, I have been invited to attend and participate in all meetings on an informal non-voting basis.

Signature:  **Date:**15/06/2017.....

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: The Policing and Crime Act 2017

<u>IMPACT ASSESSMENT:</u>	
Police and Crime Plan <i>(please indicate which objectives decision/recommendation supports)</i>	Supports delivery of the Safer in Kent plan by helping to address community issues through improved communication and increased opportunities for Blue Light services to work together for the benefit of the areas they serve.
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been completed?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>(If yes, please include within background documents)</i>
Will the decision have a differential/adverse impact on any particular diversity strand? <i>(e.g. age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion/belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity)</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The decision is administrative in nature. Therefore, it does not have a differential/adverse impact on any particular strand of diversity.