

EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

Panel: Policy & Resources

Date: 21 July 2022

Title: Fire Authority Response - Home Office White Paper
“Reforming Our Fire & Rescue Service”

By: Councillor Roy Galley, Chairman & Group Leader
Conservative Group
Councillor Carolyn Lambert, Vice Chair & Group Leader
Liberal Democrat Group
Councillor Amanda Evans, Group Leader Labour Group
Councillor Wendy Maples, Group Leader Green Group

Lead Officer: Abigail Blanshard, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Background Papers: Reforming our Fire & Rescue Service – Home Office White Paper
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reforming-our-fire-and-rescue-service>

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Proposed White Paper Responses
Appendix 2 – Reforming our Fire & Rescue Service – Home Office White Paper

Implications:

CORPORATE RISK		LEGAL	
ENVIRONMENTAL		POLICY	
EQUALITY IMPACT	✓	POLITICAL	✓
FINANCIAL		OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	
HEALTH & SAFETY		CORE BRIEF	
HUMAN RESOURCES			

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To provide the Policy & Resources Panel the opportunity to consider and approve the proposed response of East Sussex Fire Authority which has been collectively drafted by the four Group Leaders.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: On the 18 May 2022, the Home Office launched its consultation for the long anticipated White Paper setting out the proposed reforms to the Fire and Rescue sector.

The White Paper covers a package of proposals for the reform of fire and rescue services in England. The proposals cover three principal areas: People,

Professionalism and Governance. Views are being sought on the specific proposals and the wider package of reforms presented.

The full White Paper (Appendix 2) was circulated on its publication to all Fire Authority Members to allow for detailed scrutiny. The Group Leaders were then asked to submit their comments and initial responses on behalf of their groups. Democratic Services compiled a combined document setting out the consultation questions and the collated responses to allow the Group Leaders to consider in depth at a Working Group meeting on 23 June 2022.

The Working Group created a draft collective response for the Fire Authority. Further consultation followed and those Group Leaders who were available met after the Members' Seminar to update the response to include new suggestions received. Group Leaders are satisfied that the responses, attached at Appendix 1, represent a collaborative and collective response

The Fire Authority must submit its consultation response before the deadline of 11:59pm on 26 July 2022 in order for it to be considered.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Policy & Resources Panel:

- i. consider whether any additions or amendments should be made to the draft response at Appendix 1;
 - ii. approve the draft response at Appendix 1, or as modified pursuant to recommendation i) above; and
 - iii. authorise the Senior Democratic Services Officer to submit the final response by 26 July 2022.
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