

Consultation
on the proposed
creation of a new
Combined Fire Authority
for Hampshire, Isle of Wight,
Portsmouth and Southampton



Information Pack
6 August to 26 October 2018

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Consultation on the proposed creation of a new Combined Fire Authority for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton

Introduction

Fire and Rescue Services are a key part of maintaining public safety. Our core business is in fighting fires. We are also there when there are other emergencies such as floods, road traffic incidents or terrorist attacks. We help to prevent fire and loss of life through safety information and awareness campaigns.

There is increasing pressure on all Fire and Rescue Authorities to ensure that Fire and Rescue Services are efficient, effective, provide value for money, and are continually working to make communities as safe as possible. Reducing budgets have driven us to consider new ways to make savings, while maintaining public safety and improving services.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (HFRA), which is responsible for Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS), and Isle of Wight Council (IWC), which is responsible for the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service (IWFRS), have been successfully working together in partnership for three years. We now believe that we are at a point where we need to look at further, more structural changes to the way Fire and Rescue Services are governed in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton so that we can continue to act effectively to keep the public safe.

We have both agreed to consult on whether or not to submit a proposal to Government for the creation of a new Combined Fire Authority, which would cover Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. This proposal offers an opportunity to improve efficiency, achieve better value for money, and maintain high quality public safety services.

This consultation, or decisions following it, would not affect the responsibilities of these services to respond quickly to 999 emergencies and to serve communities.

Have your say

We value your views. These are your Fire and Rescue Services and we want to know what you think before any decisions are made.

Your feedback to this consultation is important as it will inform our decisions about whether to put a proposal to create a new Combined Fire Authority to the Government (Home Office).

This Information Document is designed to help inform your response to this consultation. We recommend that you read this Information Document before completing the accompanying Response Form.

How to have your say

The consultation is open from **midday on 6 August until 11.59pm on 26 October 2018**. Please note that responses received after this time will not be included in the findings report.

Online

To provide your feedback, please complete the Response Form available online at www.hantsfire.gov.uk/consultation. This webpage also contains downloadable versions of the documents mentioned in the Information Document, including the Response Form.

Email

You can also email your response directly to us using the email address hfrsconsultation@hantsfire.gov.uk.

Paper copies and alternative formats

To request a paper copy of this Information Document and/or Response Form, please email hfrsconsultation@hantsfire.gov.uk or call **02380 626 815**.* The Information Document and Response Form can also be requested in other formats, including an alternative language, Braille, audio or large print, using this email and/or phone number.

An envelope will be provided to return your response to the Insight and Engagement Unit at Hampshire County Council. You do not need to add a stamp. If you do not have a pre-paid envelope, please send your response back to us by writing '**Freepost HAMPSHIRE**' on the front of an envelope, and '**I&EU**' written on the back.

If you have any other queries about this consultation please contact us by emailing hfrsconsultation@hantsfire.gov.uk or by calling **02380 626 815**.*

**Calls from a landline will be charged at the local rate, although mobile phone charges may vary. Please check with your provider.*

Section one: Background information about Fire and Rescue Services and Fire Authorities in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

How Fire and Rescue Services are managed

All Fire and Rescue Services must ensure they provide services to their communities in relation to fire-fighting, road traffic incidents and other emergencies.

The Chief Fire Officer is responsible for the day-to-day work of Fire and Rescue Services, carried out by staff who respond to incidents, protect life and property, carry out prevention work and deal with fire safety. Their work is guided by an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). This plan sets out the risks and demands on the Service and how resources will be organised in order to keep communities safe.

Fire and Rescue Authorities hold Fire and Rescue Services to account. These authorities act as the overall governing bodies in a similar way that councils oversee, scrutinise and assure the provision of services to the public to ensure that they are delivered in the best interests of their communities. There are a variety of governance arrangements that apply to UK Fire and Rescue Services. Those applicable to Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton are explained below.

What legislation allows us to do

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 (bit.ly/FireAct2004) added more functions to fire and rescue services, to ensure their role in supporting emergencies beyond firefighting was recognised in law. Part 1 of this Act allows for the combination of two or more fire and rescue authorities by order of Parliament. The Act also established the Fire and Rescue National Framework* for England, which provides the overall strategic direction to fire and rescue authorities in England.

In 2017, new legislation called the Policing and Crime Act (bit.ly/PolicingAct2017) was passed by Parliament. This Act sets out the ways in which blue light services such as the police, fire and ambulance services should collaborate. This Act also amends the Fire and Rescue Services Act to enable Police and Crime Commissioners to take on the responsibility for their local fire and rescue service through the creation of a new role, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, if it is considered to be in the interests of economy, efficiency, effectiveness and public safety.

These pieces of legislation give fire and rescue services the opportunity to consider options available to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness.

* Fire and Rescue National Framework for England: bit.ly/FireFramework



HAMPSHIRE
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RESCUE**
AUTHORITY

Hampshire

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (HFRA) is the governing body responsible for ensuring that HFRS performs efficiently, effectively and in the best interest of the public and community it serves.

HFRA is a Combined Fire Authority. This means that it is governed by councillors from Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council who act as one Fire and Rescue Authority. In total, the HFRA has ten members, eight from Hampshire County Council, one from Portsmouth City Council and one from Southampton City Council. This is based upon the proportion of people living in those communities.

The HFRS Integrated Risk Management Plan is available at:

bit.ly/HFRSIRMP



Isle of Wight

The Isle of Wight Council (IWC) is an Upper Tier Fire Authority. This means that the IWC is the governing body responsible for ensuring that IWFRS performs efficiently, effectively and in the best interest of the public and community it serves.

There are 40 elected councillors on IWC. There is a Cabinet which makes key decisions about matters that are delegated to it within the constitution of the council. The Cabinet member with responsibility for IWFRS makes decisions as part of the Community Safety and Public Protection portfolio. The portfolio holder speaks on matters relating to the provision of the council's fire and rescue services to the public. Decisions on significant matters such as budgets and the adoption of the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) are considered by the full council.

The IWFRS Integrated Risk Management Plan is available at:

<http://bit.ly/IWFRSIRMP>

Information about fire and rescue services provided

Both HFRS and IWFRS provide community safety, community response and community resilience services to the communities they serve. Both work in partnership with each other and support other public services in the delivery of community safety, wellbeing and social care, services for children and young people, as well as working with businesses and protecting the environment. They also work with partner agencies such as the police and healthcare professionals to deliver a range of local initiatives and schemes.

	HFRS	IWFRS
(covering Hampshire, Southampton and Portsmouth)		
Calls received in 2017/18	30,433	1,969
Incidents attended within the area in 2017/18	20,299	1,349
Emergency calls responded to in 2017/18	3,891	395
Accidental dwelling fires in 2017/18	796	68
Fire service officer inspections carried out in 2017/18	457	109
Annual budget in 2017/18	£64m	£6m
Response standards ¹	80% within 8 mins	80% within 10 mins

Information about resources and staff within scope of proposal

	HFRS	IWFRS
(covering Hampshire, Southampton and Portsmouth)		
Fire stations	51	10
On-call fire ² stations	38	10 ³
Fire engines	74	13
Wholetime ⁴ firefighters - full-time equivalent (FTE)	679	75.5
On-call ⁵ firefighters (FTE)	457	115
Corporate staff, non-uniformed service delivery staff ⁶ (FTE)	256	15.8
Fire Control staff (FTE)	31.5	0 ⁷

1 HFRS aims to respond to 80% of calls inside 8 mins. IWFRS aims to respond to 80% of calls inside 10 mins. These standards would be reviewed as part of a new joint IRMP under a Combined Fire Authority.

2 These are sometimes called retained fire stations.

3 Currently, all ten fire stations on the Island have on-call response. Two of these stations provide a wholetime response: Newport Fire Station has a 24/7 response capability meaning it is immediately available; Ryde Fire Station has a day crew response between 0900-1700, Monday to Friday.

4 Wholetime is the term used to describe staff whose primary employment is the fire service. They are based at a fire station and are ready to be deployed at all times.

5 An on-call firefighter (often known as a retained firefighter) usually has other primary employment and works for the fire service on an on-call basis. They are required to live or work within a certain boundary close to the fire station and have a pager which alerts them when they are required to respond to an emergency.

6 Corporate staff, also known as support or professional services staff, carry out all the functions required to support the fire service, such as HR, payroll, fleet maintenance and administration support.

7 Control Services provided under contract by HFRS (see section two).

Service risk reviews

Within the last three years, both HFRS and IWFRS have completed reviews of the services they deliver to the public to ensure they are efficient and effective.

Hampshire

A review of the risks in Hampshire was held in 2015 to identify opportunities for improvements in how HFRS delivers services within its budget (bit.ly/HFRS-ServiceReview). The purpose of the review was to develop a new approach to service delivery which enables innovation and delivers a cost-effective model which contributes towards making Hampshire safer, lessens risks and addresses financial challenges.

As a result of the review, it was agreed that the 51 fire stations in the county would remain in place. The ways that these stations would be staffed and respond to incidents in the future would change, by utilising the most up-to-date techniques and technologies when responding to an incident.

Isle of Wight

A comprehensive service review has recently been undertaken which looked across all areas of IWFRS's delivery of public safety work, as well as exploring other opportunities for innovation, collaboration, continuous improvement, the development of the workforce and engagement with our partners and stakeholders. A link to the paper that was considered by the Council in April 2018 can be found here: bit.ly/IW-Service-Review.

The new review is being considered separately by the IWC in October 2018 and is not within this consultation which is focused on our future governance arrangements.

Section two: Proposed creation of a new Combined Fire Authority

The proposal

HFRA and IWC are considering whether to put a case to Government for the creation of a new Combined Fire Authority which covers the local authority areas of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

How a decision would be made

The results of this consultation will be presented to the HFRA and the IWC for consideration. The business cases that were initially considered by both authorities when deciding to go forward and consult upon the proposal can be found at:

- HFRS Business Case: bit.ly/HFRS-CFA-Report
- IOW Business Case: bit.ly/IW-CFA-Report

Both Authorities would make a formal decision at a meeting held in public about whether or not to apply to the Government to create a new Combined Fire Authority. If it is agreed that a new Combined Fire Authority is in the public interest, then a formal written proposal would be made to the Government. The Government would then assess whether the creation of a new Combined Fire Authority is in the interests of efficiency, effectiveness and economy or public safety.

What would a new Combined Fire Authority look like?

If a proposal to create a new Combined Fire Authority is made and accepted by the Government, the current Combined Fire Authority for Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton would be dissolved. A new Combined Fire Authority would be created covering Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

The focus of the new Combined Fire Authority would be the services which are run for the collective benefit of all communities in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. Decisions on fire and rescue service-related matters, which are currently made locally on the Isle of Wight by directly elected councillors, would be made by the new Combined Fire Authority. The new Combined Fire Authority would be representative of the whole area it covers, so there would be direct representation from the IWC on the new Combined Fire Authority, as there would be for the councils of Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton. A new single IRMP will also be produced under the new Combined Fire Authority.

Currently, both HFRA and IWC have arrangements in place whereby they invite the Police and Crime Commissioner to meetings as an invited guest for fire and rescue service-related matters. There are also strong links between the respective authorities, the police and the ambulance services which serve their areas. While this would be a matter for the new Combined Fire Authority, it is anticipated that these arrangements would continue. Maintaining strong collaborative links between emergency services remains a benefit to communities as well as a requirement under the Policing and Crime Act 2017.

Who is being consulted?

We are seeking to engage with the public, the staff who work in both Services, our partners

and those who have a direct or indirect involvement in what we do. This includes organisations across all areas of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Southampton and on our borders, such as councils, MPs, blue light services, the Police and Crime Commissioner, health, business and community groups.

What would the fire and rescue services look like?

A new Combined Fire Authority would serve Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

Residents would continue to see their service's own fire engines and firefighters respond to incidents and carrying out community safety activities across their communities.

Fire officers and support staff would maintain their existing local relationships and continue to have an understanding of the local context of the area in which they work.

The new Combined Fire Authority would prepare a new combined IRMP which would cover the whole area for which it would become responsible.

Current approved service improvement plans and work would continue. Existing plans for continual improvement and changes that enable the services to operate effectively and within the budgets available would not be altered by the proposal to create a new Combined Fire Authority.

The contracts of employment for people who work for HFRS and IWFRS, along with the property and equipment owned by both, would be transferred to the new Combined Fire Authority.

Why this proposal is being put forward

Simpler governance arrangements

- A new Combined Fire Authority would provide a single point of governance, rather than two. There would be a clear route for decision making, with all authorities who make up the new Combined Fire Authority able to influence how the fire and rescue service is delivered to the public.
- Councillors would be appointed from and by each of the constituent authorities (Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton) to form the new Combined Fire Authority.
- A larger Combined Fire Authority would mean resources could be pooled, enabling better and faster improvement than can be achieved through the existing Delivering Differently in Partnership agreement (see section three).
- A new Combined Fire Authority would mean that the Isle of Wight is served by an organisation whose sole purpose is fire and rescue services.
- The financial separation would help with more effective forward planning for fire and rescue related services across the whole area.
- The creation of a Combined Fire Authority would give greater clarity for both staff and residents; it would be clearer who is responsible for what and to which standards.
- The current Delivering Differently in Partnership arrangements can only take partnership working so far. Under the current partnership arrangements, HFRS and IWFRS remain two separate organisations who are working together. Therefore, there are two sets of policies,

strategies, response standards and performance indicators to follow or report upon. Currently, HR, legal and employment practices cannot be shared as there are two different employers of Fire and Rescue Service teams. Having two different sets of processes and procedures means that things like legal challenges, trade union negotiations, grievance, discipline and pay procedures are more complex than would be the case for a single organisation. It would be beneficial to have a consistent approach, giving fire officers the peace of mind to know they are supported in their roles of protecting the public.

Financial efficiency

- As one of the range of public services provided by the IWC, IWFRS continues to seek ways to work more efficiently and effectively without impacting service quality and safety. This may limit the IWFRS's ability to take on some of the wider functions that larger Fire and Rescue Services deliver. Such as taking on roles that support national resilience including urban search and rescue (USAR), decontamination, identification and monitoring (DIM) and enhanced logistics support. Being part of the council enables IWFRS to work closely with a number of other IWC services as part of the aim to create 'One Public Service'. This approach to collaboration would not change if a new Combined Fire Authority was created.
- Within the next five years, the investment required to replace fire and rescue vehicles on the Island is £2.4million, against which the Isle of Wight Council has £600,000 put aside to help fund this. Local authorities have been managing challenging financial positions for a number of years and have had to make difficult decisions to best preserve public services. The new Combined Fire Authority would need to consider how best to manage its collective funding requirements.
- On the Isle of Wight, some fire stations are old and in a poor state of repair. Capital funding is likely to be required for major works and for other day-to-day inspections, maintenance and other works, to properly keep fire stations to an appropriate standard across the Island. The creation of a Combined Fire Authority would help to support the Island to better maintain its property.

Greater operational efficiency, effectiveness and public safety

- A new Combined Fire Authority would mean that there is the same system, process or procedure to follow for the many different areas of work undertaken to support communities. There would be an increased ability to respond flexibly to the needs of communities, to improve the organisation and there would be wider opportunities for staff.
- There would be one team providing emergency response and delivering consistent safety messages across the whole area.
- A new Combined Fire Authority would allow planning for teams to operate across the mainland and Island for specific events, as well as to provide cover and help during emergency conditions or where mutual support aids public safety.
- A Combined Fire Authority would enable the service to gather a single view of data and intelligence across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, helping with the planning of resources. The future shape of the services and resourcing requirements would be determined by a new Combined Fire Authority if it is agreed for the proposal to proceed.

Greater pooling of skills and knowledge

- Public safety would be improved as the two Services join up to deliver community safety and business fire safety work, particularly in the sharing of expertise and resources to build capacity and resilience.
- Both Fire Authorities and Fire and Rescue Services have their own strengths. The skills,

knowledge and experiences which would be combined if the proposal goes ahead would be mutually beneficial and help drive continued service improvement. Examples include:

- o The sharing of specialist teams, for example, covering interagency liaison, maritime response, animal rescue, and water rescue.
- o The expansion of specific schemes. For example, in 2017, there were 100 HFRS volunteers supporting a wide variety of areas of the work we do such as community education.
- o The sharing of the IWFRS's experience in running an effective road safety programme and partnerships working with local road safety charities and organisations.

Greater contribution towards national scale incidents

- A new and larger Combined Fire Authority with more resources is of greater benefit during national scale incidents where whole communities become concerned, involved or affected. For example, following the Grenfell Tower fire incident, HFRS were able to draw from resources across the county and divert them to areas of greater risk in Portsmouth and Southampton. This supported the city councils in inspecting 272 high rise buildings and provided reassurance to the people who live in them. At present, the IWFRS has limited ability to be involved with national work due to its scale. A new Combined Fire Authority would provide fire officers from both Services with the opportunity to be more involved in national incidents and initiatives. The experiences and skills gained through this work would be used for the benefit of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton communities.

Potential impacts

Impact on Council Tax

The current Council Tax is made up of charges from the local authorities in the area, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire and Rescue Service.

For residents of the Isle of Wight, the share of local authority council tax would reduce, as it would no longer include fire and rescue services. A new separate charge would be included from the new Combined Fire Authority. A calculation has been done which indicates that IWC residents currently pay around £62.00 per Band D property for the Fire and Rescue Service. The Council Tax for HFRA in 2018/19 is £65.74 per Band D property, which is £3.74 higher than that charged for IWFRS by IWC.

This means that:

- Everyone within a single Combined Fire Authority area needs to pay the same for the services that are provided. Therefore, residents on the Isle of Wight living in a Band D property would initially need to pay £3.74 more per year for their fire and rescue service if a new Combined Fire Authority was created, in order to equal the amount paid by all residents who would be served by the new Combined Fire Authority.
- Residents in Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton would therefore see no change to the Council Tax they pay for the Fire and Rescue Service due to the creation of a new Combined Fire Authority.

If a new Combined Fire Authority was agreed locally and the Government gives permission for

it to be created, it is the Government that would ultimately determine how much Council Tax should be charged, taking into consideration the financial position of both authorities. Therefore the changes explained above would be a decision made by Central Government. This process is known as Council Tax harmonisation.

Impact on staff

The employment contracts of all existing employees of the two fire and rescue services would transfer to the new Combined Fire Authority. If it is agreed for the Combined Fire Authority to go ahead, the new Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) would influence the future shape of the service and resourcing requirements. At the current time, we do not expect there to be impacts on staff as a direct result of the proposed creation of a new Combined Fire Authority. Should future discussions identify impacts on staff, these would be explored and discussed with individuals.

There will be the opportunity for staff to discuss the proposal. Initial discussions have begun with the various trade unions and representative bodies across the two organisations.

A new Combined Fire Authority would determine how services such as human resources (HR) and finance would be provided in order to support its business. IWC would no longer manage IWFRS's HR, finance, pensions or IT. The Combined Fire Authority would be required to ensure sufficient support services were available in all areas it is responsible for. Should a decision be made to go ahead with a submission to create a new Combined Fire Authority, formal discussions would be started to explore how and by whom those services could be provided to the new authority.

Potential financial impact on Isle of Wight Council

The IWC has calculated that, due to reduced national Government funding, they need to save a total of £16.5million by 2021/22. Whilst the proposal primarily supports the continued provision of public safety services there are potential financial benefits. It is estimated that this proposal could save the IWC up to £200,000 over the medium to long term if central support costs (e.g. pensions, HR), were no longer provided by IWC for the Fire and Rescue Service. That would contribute to the overall financial plans to support public services on the island. Due to its relatively small scale and in its current form, the Fire and Rescue Service may otherwise find it challenging to make any meaningful contributions to the £16.5million target.

If a Combined Fire Authority were created, the various arrangements required to support the transition of budgets, contracts, debts and liabilities would need to be carefully managed. The transition arrangements would seek to be fair to all parties.

Section three: What happens if a new Combined Fire Authority is not created

If a new Combined Fire Authority is not created then HFRA will remain as it is and IWFRS will remain part of IWC. Both fire services will therefore continue to exist separately and be governed by two separate bodies. This would mean there would be a review of the current Delivering Differently in Partnership arrangements to see if they remain appropriate. This review would be initiated if it was concluded that the option to create a new Combined Fire Authority was not to be progressed. A review of the partnership would be likely to alter the current arrangements. Details of the partnership review would be finalised if it is decided not to create a new Combined Fire Authority. This would be a matter for HFRA and IWC to agree as part of their normal management of services.

About the partnership

In April 2015, HFRA and the IWC established a successful strategic partnership called Delivering Differently in Partnership. This arrangement has been operating for three years and has delivered financial and operational benefits to Fire and Rescue Authorities, Fire and Rescue Services and the communities across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

HFRS and IWFRS remain two separate organisations managed under separate governance arrangements by two different Authorities.

Support the partnership provides

The partnership has enabled the two Fire and Rescue Services to form an effective working relationship. The Partnership Agreement is available to read at: bit.ly/HFRSIWPartnership

The partnership allows the sharing of:

- Senior officers providing strategic leadership, including a shared Chief Fire Officer.
- Incident command.
- Health and safety management.
- Policy support and operational assurance.
- Support to manage and maintain fire vehicles and other equipment.
- Training and development support.

The HFRS control room also recently took over the call handling of 999 calls on the Isle of Wight, despatching emergency response teams on the Island according to agreed response plans under a separate contract. A 999 call on the Isle of Wight receives the same type and speed of response as it would in Hampshire.

Outcomes from the partnership

The partnership has enabled IWC to secure savings while making improvements to IWFRS. The partnership has led to improvements in the ability of both Fire and Rescue Services to react to demand and the better management of resources across the county, cities and the Island.

The partnership has delivered £470,000 savings per annum for IWFRS, mainly as a result of introducing shared management arrangements and sharing a control room. HFRA receives a payment to cover its costs of approximately £230,000 per year, which represents a saving to

them through the generation of income to the Service.

Potential impacts of reviewing the partnership

If the proposed new Combined Fire Authority did not go ahead, then there could be a number of potential impacts:

- The financial pressures on the IWC's budget and on IWFRS would remain; money to continue to provide adequate fire services on the island would still need to be found. The IWC would have various options to consider, and these may include: raising Council Tax, the use of reserves, changes to services, or raising income and/or charges. Should any of these proposals be explored, the IWC will lead a separate public consultation outlining any such changes and associated impacts.
- There would be a formal review of the partnership by the IWC and HFRA. HFRA and IWC could choose to alter, or choose not to renew the partnership agreement. This would mean that the HFRA would no longer receive income from the arrangement. This would mean that IWC would no longer benefit from shared leadership and other shared services; it would then need to consider how to best provide these services.

Section four: Other considerations

A Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton

The current Police and Crime Commissioner serves the Hampshire and Isle of Wight areas and is known as the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

The option exists for Police and Crime Commissioners to make use of new powers within the Policing and Crime Act 2017, to apply to the Government to take over governing responsibility for Fire Services in their area.

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 granted powers to Police and Crime Commissioners to take on the responsibilities of Fire and Rescue Services, instead of having a Fire and Rescue Authority or Combined Fire Authorities. If a Police and Crime Commissioner chose to go down this route, and the Government agreed, they can become Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners.¹ At the moment, only Essex has a Police and Fire Crime Commissioner, although West Mercia, Staffordshire and Cambridgeshire are due to move to this arrangement in the future.

This is not an option that either the HFRA or IWC can take. This is an option that only a Police and Crime Commissioner can take in consultation with the public.

In a recent letter to both the HFRA and IWC, the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner said that over the coming months he would continue to look for the following things before considering this option:

- The successful coming together of the fire authorities.
- The inspection regime within HMICFRS and the confirmation of ongoing excellent performance of our fire services.
- The bringing together of further significant savings through the existing collaboration arrangements, which have delivered so well in the past.

¹ Fire and Rescue Authorities can be organised in a variety of other ways, including:

- An upper tier local authority - Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth, and Isle of Wight Councils are upper tier local authorities.
- An Elected Mayor – like Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.
- A Metropolitan Council – like Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service.
- A Combined Fire Authority – like Southampton, Portsmouth and Hampshire who come together to form a single body for the benefit of all three councils in the form the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

Conclusion

Although the Delivering Differently in Partnership arrangement has been successful, and is an efficient way to manage the IWFRS, a single Combined Fire Authority would enable further integration to take place, offering a greater focus on public safety and improved value for money.

Both authorities considered business cases around the creation of a proposed new Combined Fire Authority in March 2018:

- HFRA: bit.ly/HFRA-CFA-Report
- IWC: bit.ly/IW-CFA-Report

All partners are committed to ensuring the most efficient and effective way of running the Fire and Rescue Services is in place, which benefits residents and stakeholders across the county, cities and Island, while also ensuring that staff remain well supported in their roles. Any changes would not affect the responsibilities of these services to respond to 999 emergencies and serve communities.

Thank you

Thank you for reading through this Information Document.

You are invited to give your views on the proposed creation of a new Combined Fire Authority for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

Online

To provide your feedback, please complete the Response Form available online at www.hantsfire.gov.uk/consultation. This webpage also contains downloadable versions of the documents mentioned in the Information Document, including the Response Form.

Email

You can also email your response directly to us using the email address and a copy of the consultation questions can be found on page 19 of this information pack:
hfrsconsultation@hantsfire.gov.uk.

Paper copies and alternative formats

To request a paper copy of this Information Document and/or Response Form, please email hfrsconsultation@hantsfire.gov.uk or call **02380 626 815**.* The Information Document and Response Form can also be requested in other formats, including an alternative language, Braille, audio or large print, using this email and/or phone number.

If you have any other queries or comments about this consultation please contact us by emailing hfrsconsultation@hantsfire.gov.uk or by calling **02380 626 815**.*

**Calls from a landline will be charged at the local rate, although mobile phone charges may vary.*

Next Steps

Your feedback will be analysed and collated into a findings report by Hampshire County Council's Insight and Engagement Unit. This report and full business cases will be presented for a decision about whether to propose a Combined Fire Authority to the Government on the following dates:

- HFRA on **24 January 2019**.
- IWC on **24 January 2019**.

These are public meetings and the reports will be published in advance on these websites:

- HFRA: bit.ly/HFRAMeetings
- IWC: bit.ly/IWCMeetings

The consultation questions:

Please go to www.hantsfire.gov.uk/consultation to complete the online response form or use the accompanying form.



Do you think that a proposal to create a new Combined Fire Authority for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton should be submitted to the Government?

The answers you can choose from are:

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Please tell us why you think this is.



If you have any alternative suggestions to the proposed creation of a new Combined Fire Authority, please provide these in the box below.

A text box is provided for you to write in your alternative suggestions, if you would like to do so.



Do you feel the creation of a new Combined Fire Authority would impact:

- you or your family
 - people you know or work with
 - a local organisation, group or business
 - other
 - none of the above
-



Please tell us more about that potential impact using the box below.

A text box is provided for you to write about any potential impacts the proposal may have, if you would like to do so.

The production of this consultation
has been supported by the

**Insight and Engagement Unit,
Hampshire County Council**



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