



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Cabinet
10 January 2018

## **Consultation on the Proposed Amendments to Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) Combination Schemes established under sections 2 and 4 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 in England.**

**Responsible Officer** Clive Wright, Chief Executive  
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### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP, Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service, is consulting principal Local Authorities on new proposals to change legislation and allow Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) to be included and have voting rights on the governing bodies of Fire and Rescue Authorities.
- 1.2. Fire and Rescue Authorities would still have to agree to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) being included in the membership of the Fire and Rescue Authority even if the legislation is changed to allow it.
- 1.3. This is a separate proposal, not directly related to the more local proposal for the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner, to change the governance structure of Fire and Rescue Authorities across West Mercia by becoming the single point of governance and abolishing the existing Fire and Rescue Governing Bodies. The proposal from the Minister assumes that the existing arrangements with Elected Members representing communities on the governing bodies of Fire and Rescue Authorities remains in place (Representational Model).
- 1.4. The Police and Crime Commissioner is currently invited to sit as a non-voting external body on Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority and has attended meetings in this capacity for over twelve months.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Cabinet is asked to instruct the Chief Executive to respond to the consultation indicating that Shropshire Council is in agreement with the

relevant legislation being changed to include Police and Crime Commissioners as a voting Member of Fire and Rescue Authorities, subject to the agreement of the Fire and Rescue Authority.

## REPORT

### 3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 There are no significant risks or equal opportunities issues arising from the proposals in this consultation.
- 3.2 Including the Police and Crime Commissioner as a Member of the Fire and Rescue Authority could enhance working relationships between 'blue light' public services.

### 4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications to the Council of the proposals in the consultation.

### 5. Background

- 5.1 The Minister for Policing and Fire Services, Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP, wrote to the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council on 27 November consulting on the proposals to change the legislation to include Police and Commissioners as Members, with full voting rights, of Fire and Rescue Authorities, subject to the agreement of the Fire and Rescue Authority (appendix 1). The letter included appended details of the proposals being consulted upon incorporating a form for response/reply (appendix 2).

<b>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b>
Appendices 1 and 2.
<b>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)</b>
Councillor Peter Nutting
<b>Local Member/s</b>
All
<b>Appendices</b>
Appendix 1: Letter from Rt Hon Nick Hurd, MP.
Appendix 2: Consultation Paper.