

Mr J Campion,
West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner,
Hindlip Hall,
WORCESTER,
WR3 8SP

18 September 2017

Dear Mr Campion,

**West Mercia Fire and Rescue Governance – Consultation Response from
Worcestershire County Council**

I am writing on behalf of Worcestershire County Council as statutory consultee to respond to the consultation on proposals for fire and rescue governance.

At its meeting yesterday, 14 September, the Council unanimously resolved as follows:

- (a) The Police and Crime Commissioner be advised that Worcestershire County Council does not support his proposals and is particularly concerned that only an initial business case has been provided to the Council as a statutory consultee;
- (b) The proposals do not provide evidence that would be in the interests of improving public safety or the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the service; and
- (c) The Council encourages the Police and Crime Commissioner to work with the Fire Authorities, and engage with the upper tier authorities, to achieve greater collaborative arrangements.

Thank you for agreeing to let the Council submit its views today, which I recognise is after the formal closing date for responses.

If it helps, I also attach a short Appendix which provides a summary of some of the member comments which were noted from the Council debate.

Yours sincerely



Simon Geraghty
Leader of the Council

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County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP

Office: 01905 766678
Mobile: 07789 547589

Home
35 Fern Road
Worcester
WR2 6HJ

Home: 01905 420740

Email: sgeraghty@
worcestershire.gov.uk

Electoral Division
Riverside

Appendix

Points raised at Council on 14 September 2017 concerning PCC proposals for governance of Fire and Rescue functions:

- Lack of clarity in the financial and economic case, particularly in relation to the £4m savings, which are unsubstantiated
 - No detailed business case provided
 - Representation model not explored
 - It was unrealistic to expect the Police and Crime Panel to take on scrutiny of fire governance.
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