

PHILIP DUNNE MP
(LUDLOW)



OFFICE OF THE POLICE
& CRIME COMMISSIONER
WEST MERCIA

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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Mr John Campion
Police & Crime Commissioner
West Mercia
PO Box 55, Hindlip Hall
Worcester WR3 8SP

18th September 2017

Our ref: JB / MJC / 18.09.2017

Dear John

I am grateful to you for alerting me and other Shropshire MPs to the consultation on your proposals to seek a merger of the governance and accountability of Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service with Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue and West Mercia Police. I would like to offer formally my own thoughts on these proposals.

I support broadly the principle of looking to increase efficiencies within public services, and to increase accountability to the public, which are the driving principles behind your proposals.

Where possible and practical, reducing back office costs through collaboration is an effective way of protecting frontline services, while maintaining good value for money for the taxpayer. I think it is important to retain the distinct identities and budgets of each fire service, as your proposal makes clear it would do.

With Hereford and Worcester Fire Service already looking to combine more closely with the police, including its control centre, it is timely to consider whether it would help service provision in Shropshire to do the same.

I would like to understand more about the practical implications of such a move and therefore look forward to hearing the feedback you receive from the public consultation.

Yours sincerely

Philip Dunne
MP for Ludlow

Dictated and signed on his behalf