

20 OCTOBER 2015

**ENABLING CLOSER WORKING BETWEEN THE
EMERGENCY SERVICES - CONSULTATION**

Recommendation

- 1. It is recommended that the Panel:**
 - a) considers the “Enabling Closer Working Between the Emergency Services” consultation (Appendix 1) and determines if it agrees in principle with increased joint working between the Emergency Services;**
 - b) if (a) is agreed, determine whether it is in favour of the proposal on page 11 of the consultation document, where the Police and Crime Commissioner takes responsibility for fire and rescue locally with a Chief Constable and a Chief Fire Officer in place;**
 - c) submit any detailed comments to include in the Panel's response to the consultation after the meeting; and**
 - d) authorises the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to finalise the Panel's response to the consultation.**

Purpose

- 2. To consider the Government's consultation on proposals to increase joint working between emergency services.**

Background

- 3. The Government has issued a consultation on proposals to increase joint working between emergency services, in order to improve effectiveness and deliver savings for the public. The consultation document is attached at Appendix 1. The measures being consulted upon are:**
 - introducing a new duty on all three emergency services to actively consider collaboration opportunities with one another to improve efficiency and effectiveness;**
 - enabling Police and Crime Commissioners to take on the duties and responsibilities of fire and rescue authorities, where a local case is made;**
 - where a Police and Crime Commissioner takes on the responsibilities of a fire and rescue authority, enabling him or her to create a single employer for police and fire staff, facilitating the sharing of back office functions and streamlining management;**
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- in areas where a Police and Crime Commissioner has not become responsible for fire and rescue services, enabling them to have representation on their local fire and rescue authority; and
- abolishing the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority and giving the Mayor of London direct responsibility for the fire and rescue service in London, as will be the case in Greater Manchester.

4. The consultation closes on 23 October 2015. Panel members are therefore asked to submit any comments they wish to include in the Panel's response as soon as possible after the meeting.

Contact Point

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