

## **Report of the Fire Authority Chairman**

### **Analysis of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner Initial Business Case**

#### **Purpose of report**

1. To consider the analysis of the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) initial business case and agree the next steps.
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#### **Recommendations**

##### ***The Chairman recommends that:***

- i) the report be submitted to the Leaders of Herefordshire Council and Worcestershire County Council in order to support their decision making process in responding to the consultation on the initial business case;***
- ii) the report forms the basis of the Fire Authority's response to the consultation on the initial business case; and***
- iii) the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Authority enter into further discussions with Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority and the Police & Crime Commissioner to explore, and subject thereto Officers to bring back a further report on, implementation of the principles identified in the analysis report including:***
  - reviewing the size of the Fire Authority;***
  - implementation of the 'representation model' (PCC as a voting member of the Fire Authority); and***
  - creation of a joint board with Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority to oversee future collaboration.***

#### **Background**

2. The Policing and Crime Act 2017 enables PCCs to take on responsibility for the governance of fire and rescue services where a case can be made by the PCC to the Secretary of State. The Act requires that prior to such a case being made the PCC must consult with the constituent authorities of the fire authorities concerned, the public in the affected areas and the representative bodies of any affected organisations. Should a constituent authority not support the case made by a PCC then the Secretary of State will obtain an independent assessment prior to making any decision.

## **West Mercia PCC's Initial Business Case**

3. The West Mercia PCC recently commissioned research to develop an initial business case for taking on the role of governance of Shropshire & Wrekin and Hereford & Worcester fire and rescue services. Following a period of engagement with key stakeholders, the PCC released his initial business case for consultation on 12 July 2017. The consultation period runs for 12 weeks from 12 July 2017 to 11 September 2017.
4. The PCC presented his initial business case to this Authority on 27 June 2017 where Members noted the concerns of the leaders of Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Councils (the constituent authorities) regarding the lack of detail in the business case. It was agreed by this Authority that given the existing savings identified by West Mercia Police and both fire authorities and the additional cuts proposed in the business case, that the Authority work with Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority on an independent assessment of the impact of the PCC's proposals on the delivery of fire, rescue and prevention services in the two service areas.
5. In July 2017, the leaders of the constituent authorities requested both fire authorities to commission an independent analysis of the PCC's initial business case in order to support their ability to respond to the PCC's consultation. Following a competitive selection process the fire authorities contracted a collaboration of Alendi and Ameo consulting groups to undertake an independent analysis of the PCC's initial business case, which attached at Appendix 1 for consideration.

## **Conclusion/Summary**

6. The West Mercia PCC recently published an initial business case regarding his proposals to take on the role of governance for Shropshire & Wrekin and Hereford & Worcester fire and rescue services. The fire authorities recently commissioned an independent analysis of the business case, which is attached at Appendix 1 for consideration.

## Corporate Considerations

<b>Resource Implications</b> (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	The PCC's initial case purports that £4m of savings can be achieved, however as there is not enough detail to establish whether this level of savings is feasible an independent analysis has been sought.
<b>Strategic Policy Links</b> (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	N/A
<b>Risk Management / Health &amp; Safety</b> (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	A comprehensive assessment of the risks associated with the PCC's initial business case is required.
<b>Consultation</b> (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	The PCC has published a consultation document. The consultation period runs for 12 weeks from 12 July 2017 to 11 September 2017.
<b>Equalities</b> (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	An EIA has not been completed as this report does not contain a policy proposal.

## Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Analysis of West Mercia PCC Initial Business Case

Background papers – Policing and Crime Act 2017