

**Report of the Secretary to the  
Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel  
Monday 3 July 2018**

**Transfer of Governance of Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Services to the  
Police and Crime Commissioner**

**1. Recommendation:**

1.1 That the Panel note the information contained in this report and approves and adopts the revised Terms of Reference and Procedure Rules for the Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel to be operative from 1 August 2018.

**2. Background**

2.1 The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire (Fire and Rescue Authority) Order 2018 comes into effect on 1 August 2018 transferring Governance responsibility for the Fire and Rescue Services in Staffordshire to the Police and Crime Commissioner. Under the Order the Commissioner takes the legal identity of Fire and Rescue Authority and his title is amended to 'Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire' As a consequence the Panel's remit is extended and it becomes the Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel.

2.2 In April 2018 I issued a briefing note to Panel members on progress of the Commissioner's Business Case for Joint Governance of Fire and Police Services in Staffordshire and setting out the implications for the Panel and it's workload of the Commissioners (now approved) new responsibilities. Extracts of the latter elements of that Briefing note are shown as Appendix 2 to this report.

2.3 Discussions have been held with your Chairman on matters raised in the Briefing note, most specifically – the need for the Panel to include 'Fire expertise' amongst its membership and the anticipated workload for the Panel and /frequency and number of meetings.

2.4 By the time this Panel meets the majority of members (and their Substitutes) will have attended a Local Government Association training event on the role and responsibilities of Fire and Rescue Authorities. In addition members will shortly be invited to attend a 'refresher ' Scrutiny training event which will be designed to include reference to new Fire scrutiny responsibilities. Given these measures your Chairman has agreed that, at this point, no changes or additions be made to the Panel's membership to provide 'fire expertise' as existing members will be developing their own level of knowledge and understanding of the service area. This position can be reviewed at a later date if deemed necessary.

2.5 With regard to the workload of the Panel and number/frequency of meetings, whilst acknowledging that initially there may be additional calls on members' time (eg for confirmation hearings), your Chairman considers that any longer term changes to Panel arrangements should be deferred until the full impact of the workload can be assessed. This view is partly based on his personal conversations with representatives of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel (The only other Panel to have Fire scrutiny responsibility).

2.6 The main changes which the Panel needs to have in place in readiness for the 1 August 2018 'go live' date are to its Terms of Reference and Procedure Rules. Revised/updated draft versions of both documents are attached for approval and adoption by the Panel. Members will see that in the Terms of Reference the 2 areas of responsibility (Police and Fire) are kept as distinctive sections. Your Chairman has agreed to this approach also being adopted for the format of Panel Agendas for the foreseeable future to help members distinguish and focus on the individual services.

## **Appendix 1**

### **1.0. Equalities Implications**

1.1 None

### **2.0. Legal Implications**

2.1 The report addresses the implications for the Panel of The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire (Fire and Rescue Authority) Order 2018 and the Policing and Crime Act 2017.

### **3.0 Resource and Value for Money Implications**

3.1. There are no significant resource or value for money implications from this report.

### **4.0 Risk Implications**

4.1. Failure to address new legislative provisions/requirements on the Panel would result in the risk of challenge to the governance arrangements of, and decisions made by, the Panel.

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