



**HAMPSHIRE
FIRE AND
RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Consultation on the proposed creation of a new Combined Fire Authority for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton

Response Form

Introduction

Fire and Rescue Services are a key part of maintaining public safety. Our core business is in fighting fires. We are also there when there are other emergencies such as floods, road traffic incidents, or terrorist attacks. We help to prevent fire and loss of life through safety information and awareness campaigns.

There is increasing pressure on all Fire and Rescue Authorities to ensure that Fire and Rescue Services are efficient, effective, provide value for money, and are continually working to make communities as safe as possible. Reducing budgets have driven us to consider new ways to make savings, while maintaining public safety and improving services.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (HFRA) which is responsible for running Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) and Isle of Wight Council (IWC), which is responsible for the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service (IWFRS), have been successfully working together in partnership for three years. We now believe that we are at a point where we need to look at further, more structural changes to the way Fire and Rescue Services are governed in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton so that we can continue to act effectively to keep the public safe.

We have both agreed to consult on whether or not to submit a proposal to Government for the creation of a new Combined Fire Authority, which would cover Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. This proposal offers an opportunity to improve efficiency, achieve better value for money, and maintain high quality public safety services.

This consultation, or decisions following it, would not affect the responsibilities of these services to respond quickly to 999 emergencies and to serve communities.

About this Response Form

Before completing this Response Form, we recommend that you read the accompanying Information Pack.

This Response Form will take around 10 minutes to complete, depending on how much you write.

The Information Pack and Response Form can also be requested in other formats, including alternative language, Braille, audio or large print by email to hfrsconsultation@hantsfire.gov.uk or by calling 023 8062 6815.

This consultation opens at midday on **6 August** and closes at midnight on **26 October 2018**

How to return your response to the consultation

Please return your completed response form in the pre-paid envelope provided. You do not need to add a stamp. If you do not have a pre-paid envelope, please send your response back to us by writing 'Freepost HAMPSHIRE' on the front of an envelope, and 'I&EU' on the back.

Privacy notice

The Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) are running this consultation on behalf of the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service, Isle of Wight Council, and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority. Your data is being collected for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest and for reasons of substantial public interest. The data provided will only be used to understand views on the proposed changes set out in this consultation. All individuals' responses will be kept confidential. Responses will be anonymised and summarised in a public consultation findings report to be published on HFRS' website. Responses from organisations may be published in full.

The information you provide in this response form is being collected and processed by Hampshire County Council under the instruction of the HFRS. Data will only be shared between Hampshire County Council, HFRS and Isle of Wight Council. Your personal data will not be shared with any other third parties. All data will remain within the UK. Responses will be stored securely and retained for one year following the end of the consultation before being securely and permanently deleted or destroyed.

You can find out more about how the HFRS use your data and your information rights from Jessica Hodge, HFRS' Data Protection Officer, by email at: dp@hantsfire.gov.uk or phone 023 8062 6850 and on the HFRS' website: www.hantsfire.gov.uk/about-us/contact-us. Please see Hampshire County Council's Data Protection webpage: www.hants.gov.uk/privacy for further details about how the County Council uses and handles data. You can contact the County Council's Data Protection Officer at data.protection@hants.gov.uk

If you have a concern about the way we are collecting or using your personal data, you should raise your concern with us in the first instance or directly to the Information Commissioners Office at www.ico.org.uk/concerns. Hampshire County Council's privacy notice can be found at: www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/privacy

Section 1: The proposal

HFRA and IWC are considering whether to put a case to Government for the creation a new Combined Fire Authority which covers the local authority areas of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

If a proposal to create a new Combined Fire Authority is made and accepted by the Government, the current Combined Fire Authority for Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton would be dissolved. A new Combined Fire Authority would be created covering Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

Why is this being proposed?

A new Combined Fire Authority would provide:

- Simpler governance arrangements
- Financial efficiency
- Greater operational efficiency, effectiveness and public safety
- Greater pooling of skills and knowledge
- Greater contribution towards national scale incidents

Impact on Council Tax

- Everyone within a single Combined Fire Authority area needs to pay the same for the services that are provided. Therefore, residents on the Isle of Wight living in a Band D property would initially need to pay £3.74 more per year for their Fire and Rescue Service if a new Combined Fire Authority was created, in order to equal the amount paid by all residents who would be served by the new Combined Fire Authority.
- Residents in Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton would therefore see no change to the Council Tax they pay for the Fire and Rescue Service due to the creation of a new Combined Fire Authority.

If a new Combined Fire Authority was agreed locally, and the Government gives permission for it to be created, it is the Government that would ultimately determine how much Council Tax should be charged, taking into consideration the financial position of both authorities.

Impact on staff

The employment contracts of all existing employees of the two Fire and Rescue Services would transfer to the new Combined Fire Authority. If it is agreed for the Combined Fire Authority to go ahead, the new Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) would influence the future shape of the service and resourcing requirements. At the current time, we do not expect there to be impacts on staff as a direct result of the proposed creation of a new Combined Fire Authority. Should future discussions identify impacts on staff, these would be explored and discussed with individuals.

Potential financial impact on Isle of Wight Council

The Isle of Wight Council has calculated that, due to reduced national Government funding, they need to save a total of £16.5million by 2021/22. Whilst the proposal primarily supports the continued provision of public safety services there are potential financial benefits. It is estimated that this proposal could save the Isle of Wight Council up to £200,000 over the medium to long term if central support costs (e.g. pensions, HR), were no longer provided by Isle of Wight Council for the Fire and Rescue Service. That would contribute to the overall financial plans to support public services on the Island. Due to its relatively small scale and in its current form, the Fire and Rescue Service may otherwise find it challenging to make any meaningful contributions to the £16.5million target.

Please refer to pages 9 to13 of the Information Pack for further details.

Q.1 Do you think that a proposal to create a new Combined Fire Authority for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton should be submitted to the Government?

(Please select one box only)

Yes

No

Not Sure

Q.2 Please tell us why you think this is. (Please write in the box below. Please do not include any personal details in your response)

Section 2: Your alternative suggestions

If a new Combined Fire Authority is not created then HFRA will remain as it is and IWFRS will remain part of IWC. Both fire services will therefore continue to exist separately and be governed by two separate bodies. This would mean that there would be a review of the current Delivering Differently in Partnership arrangements to see if they remain appropriate. This review would be initiated if it was concluded that the option to create a new Combined Fire Authority was not to be progressed. A review of the partnership would be likely to alter the current arrangements. Details of the partnership review would be finalised if it is decided not to create a new Combined Fire Authority. This would be a matter for HFRA and IWC to agree as part of their normal management of services.

Potential impacts of reviewing the Partnership

If the proposed new Combined Fire Authority did not go ahead, then there could be a number of potential impacts:

- The financial pressures on the Isle of Wight Council's budget and on IWFRS would remain; money to continue to provide adequate fire services on the Island would still need to be found. The Isle of Wight Council would have various options to consider, and these may include: raising Council Tax, the use of reserves, changes to services, or raising income and/or charges. Should any of these proposals be explored, the Isle of Wight Council will lead a separate public consultation outlining any such changes and associated impacts.
- There would be a formal review of the partnership by the IWC and HFRA. HFRA and IWC could choose to alter, or choose not to renew the partnership agreement. This would mean that the HFRA would no longer receive income from the arrangement. This would mean that Isle of Wight Council would no longer benefit from shared leadership and other shared services; it would then need to consider how to best provide these services.

Please refer to pages 14 to 15 of the Information Pack for further details.

Q.3 If you have any alternative suggestions to the proposed creation of a new Combined Fire Authority, please provide these in the box below. (Please do not include any personal details in your response)

Section 3: Potential impacts

We are keen to understand what impacts the proposed Combined Fire Authority might have if it went ahead. For more information about the potential impacts, please see our People (Equality) Impact Assessment available on our website: www.hantsfire.gov.uk/consultation

Q.4 Do you feel the creation of a new Combined Fire Authority would impact: (Please select all that apply)

- You or your family
- People you know or work with
- A local organisation, group or business
- Other
- None of the above

Q.5 Please tell us more about any potential impact using the box below: (Please do not include any personal details in your response)


If you would like to comment further on the consultation proposals, please continue on a separate sheet of paper, or email us at hfrsconsultation@hantsfire.gov.uk

Section 4: About you

Q.6 Are you responding on your own behalf or on behalf of an organisation, group or business? (Please tick one box only)

- I am providing a response on my own behalf.....**Go to Q.11**
- I am providing the official response of an organisation, group or business.....**Go to Q.7**
-

Q.7 Please provide details about your organisation, group, or business:

 The name and details of your organisation, group or business may appear in the final report, and the information you provide may be subject to publication or release to other parties or to disclosure regimes such as the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your name:

Job position / role:

Name of organisation, group or business:

Address of organisation, group or business:

Q.8 Please tell us who the organisation, group, or business represents, if applicable, and how views of members were assembled. (Please write in the box below)

Q.9 Which area does your organisation, group or business operate in? (Please select all that apply)

- Basingstoke and Deane
- East Hampshire
- Eastleigh
- Fareham
- Gosport
- Hart
- Havant
- New Forest
- Rushmoor
- Test Valley
- Winchester
- Southampton
- Portsmouth
- Isle of Wight
- Other

If 'Other', please specify:

Q.10 Which of these best describes the primary function of your organisation, group or business? (Please select one box only)

- Trade union
- Local public sector organisation, e.g district or borough council, local health services, National Park, or prison
- Local public sector partnership, e.g. a Community Safety Partnership
- National public sector organisation, e.g Coastguard, or National Fire Chief's Council
- Police and Crime Commissioner
- Charity, voluntary or local community group
- Local business or group or business representatives
- School, college or place of education
- Other

If 'Other', please specify:

Section four: About you

If you are completing this response form on behalf of an organisation or group, please skip the questions in this section and proceed to the next section, 'End of Consultation' and complete question 17.

HFRS are committed to improving its services, eliminating unlawful discrimination, and promoting equality of opportunity for all people.

We would be grateful if you could answer the following questions so that we can analyse the results overall and by different groups or people.

This will help us to understand the impacts of the consultation proposals and how views differ across these groups. All of the questions in this section are optional.


Q.11 Who are you...

- A member of the public
- A member of staff at HFRS
- A member of staff at IWFRS
- A member of staff at Isle of Wight Council
- A member of staff at Southampton City Council
- A member of staff at Hampshire County Council
- A member of staff at Portsmouth City Council
- An elected Member of IOW Council
- An elected Member of Southampton City Council
- An elected Member of Hampshire County Council
- An elected Member of Portsmouth City Council
- A Member of Parliament

Q.12 If you are a member of staff working for HFRS, IWFRS, or one of the Councils listed above, are you: (Please tick one box only)

- Operational staff (e.g. Fire Officer)
- Non-operational staff (e.g providing support functions such as HR, Finance or IT)

Q.13 Please provide your postcode. (Please write in the box below)

 Providing your full postcode is optional. If you do provide your full postcode, it is possible that in rural areas this might identify your property. By providing your full postcode you are consenting to Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Isle of Wight Council using this information to understand views on the proposals from different areas.

Section four: About you

Q.14 Are you? (Please select one box only)

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say
- Other

If 'Other', please specify:

Q.15 What was your age on your last birthday? (Please select one box only)

- Under 16
- 16 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 to 84
- 85 or over
- Prefer not to say

Q.16 Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? (Please select one box only)

- Yes a lot
- Yes a little
- No
- Prefer not to say

Q.17 What is your ethnic group?

- White
- Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups
- Asian / Asian British
- Black / African / Caribbean / Black British
- Other ethnic group
- Prefer not to say

For 'White', please specify:

- English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
- Irish
- Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller
- Any other White background

For 'any other White background' please describe:

For 'Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups', please specify:

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background

For 'any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background' please describe:

For 'Asian / Asian British', please specify:

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background

For 'any other ethnic group' please describe:

For 'Black / African / Caribbean / Black British', please specify:

- African
- Caribbean
- Any other Black / African / Caribbean background

For 'any other Black / African / Caribbean background' please describe:

For 'Other ethnic group', please specify:

- Arab
- Any other ethnic group

For 'any other ethnic group' please describe:

End of consultation

Q.17 Finally, to help us improve access to future consultations, please tell us where you first heard about this consultation: (Please select all that apply)

- Website
- Word of mouth
- Consultation flyer or poster
- Email
- Newspaper
- Staff briefing
- On social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Reported in the press (e.g. radio, newspaper)
- Other

For 'Other', please specify:

Please specify which website/s or newspaper/s:

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this consultation.

This consultation will close at 11.59pm on 26 October 2018.

Feedback will help inform a decision about whether to propose a new Combined Fire Authority for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton to the Government.

The findings from this consultation will be published and presented to the HFRS on 24 January 2019 and Isle of Wight Council on 24 January 2019.

How to return your response to the consultation

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