



**HAMPSHIRE
FIRE AND
RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Purpose: Approval

Date: 3 April 2019

Title: **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY
MEMBERS WORKING GROUP**

Report of Chief Fire Officer

SUMMARY

1. The paper seeks approval for the Terms of Reference of the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) Working Group, formed following approval that the Isle of Wight Council and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (HFRA) should jointly approach the Secretary of State and seek their permission to create a CFA across the local authority areas of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

BACKGROUND

2. On 24 January 2019 the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority considered a report from the Chief Fire Officer, detailing the outcomes of the public consultation on the proposal to create a new Fire Authority for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.
3. It was noted at this meeting that the outcomes of the consultation exercise did not suggest significant public concern or a statistically significant view for or against proposed CFA; and
4. It was agreed to proceed with the submission of a proposal to the Secretary of State for the creation of the new CFA. The Authority delegated authority to prepare and submit the formal submission to the Chief Fire Officer in consultation with the Chairman of the Authority, the Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer.
5. The Chief Fire Officer was requested to arrange an initial CFA Members Working Group meeting. The inaugural meeting was held on Monday 18th March 2019, at which Councillor Christopher Carter was appointed as Chairman.
6. Draft CFA Members Working Group Terms of Reference were discussed and considered. The draft Terms of Reference were accepted for referral to the HFRA for approval. The Terms of Reference are provided in **Appendix A**.

SUPPORTING OUR SERVICE PLAN AND PRIORITIES

7. Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) prioritises the delivery of the best possible services to its communities and in making life safer for everyone. The business case upon which the HFRA took the decision to seek to create a single Authority which covers both HFRS and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service (IWFRS) supports the aims of improving efficiency, effectiveness and public safety for the community. This commitment builds upon the success of the Delivering Differently in Partnership (DDiP) arrangements.
8. The creation of a new CFA for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton supports the HFRA's strategic plan, detailed as its 'Safer and Stronger' priorities and its vision to create safer communities.

CONSULTATION

9. Members of the CFA Members Working Group have discussed the Terms of Reference and have requested that they be submitted for consideration by the HFRA for approval.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

10. All requirements to support the CFA Members Working Group can be met from within existing resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

11. There are no impacts to the environment or sustainability which may result due to this proposal.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no legal implications associated with this approval.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

13. The proposals in this report are considered compatible with the provisions of equality and human rights legislation.

OPTIONS

14. To approve the CFA Members Working Group Terms of Reference. This option is recommended as it will enable the Working Group to proceed and support the preparations for the introduction of a CFA, on the positive presumption it will be authorised by the Secretary of State.
15. To not approve the CFA Members Working Group Terms of Reference. This option is not recommended as the Working Group has debated the content of the document and consider it appropriate for its purposes. If not approved, this would lead to a delay in the CFA Members Working Group being able to support the work to create a CFA, on the positive presumption it will be authorised by the Secretary of State.

RISK ANALYSIS

16. There are no organisational risks associated with this approval.

EVALUATION

17. The CFA Members Working Group will facilitate the consideration of the future remit of a Shadow Authority Board and how it can best work for the public benefit, establish common practices and form trusting relationships across the constituent authorities.

CONCLUSION

18. The CFA Members Working Group has been established to consider the future governance arrangements that would be required if the Secretary of State gives permission to introduce a new CFA across the areas of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. The Terms of Reference in Appendix A are submitted for consideration and approval by the HFRA. If approved, they will enable the CFA Members Working Group to commence its role.

RECOMMENDATION

19. That the CFA Members Working Group Terms of Reference be approved by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

APPENDICES ATTACHED

20. Appendix A - Combined Fire Authority Members Working Group Terms of Reference

BACKGROUND PAPERS

21. Minutes of the Hampshire Fire Authority meeting held on 24th January 2019
<http://democracy.hants.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=15756>

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