



# Cheshire

## Fire & Rescue Service

Fire Reform Consultation  
Fire Strategy & Reform Unit  
Home Office

Sent by email to [firereformconsultation@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:firereformconsultation@homeoffice.gov.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Reforming Our Fire and Rescue Service: White Paper Response**

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the proposals within the White Paper. Please find enclosed the response of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service to the consultation.

#### **Governance**

##### **Question 29**

**To what extent do you agree/disagree that Government should transfer responsibility for fire and rescue services in England to a single elected individual?**

Neither agree nor disagree.

##### **Question 30**

**What factors should be considered when transferring fire governance to a directly elected individual? Please provide the reasons for your response.**

CFRS notes the proposed governance reforms within the White Paper and it is for the elected Members of the Authority to determine the most appropriate governance structure to provide democratic accountability and effective scrutiny.

However, it would be useful for HMICFRS to deliver some narrative commentary on whether the introduction of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners has led to stronger and improved governance; as this will help to inform the evidence base as to the success of the PFCC model.

##### **Question 31**

**Where Mayoral Combined Authorities already exist, to what extent do you agree/disagree that fire and rescue functions should be transferred directly to these MCAs for exercise by the Mayor?**

Neither agree nor disagree.

**Question 32**

**To what extent do you agree/disagree that Government should transfer responsibility for fire and rescue services in England to police and crime commissioners?**

Neither agree nor disagree.

**Question 33**

**Apart from combined authority mayors and police and crime commissioners, is there anyone else who we could transfer fire governance that aligns with the principles set out above?**

Neither agree nor disagree.

**Question 34**

**If yes, please explain other options and your reasons for proposing them.**

Nil return. Again, this is a matter that is appropriate for the Authority to consider.