

**Written statement of a non-key decision**  
**Cabinet member corporate strategy and budget**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Proposed response from Herefordshire Council to the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposals for fire governance in the West Mercia area.</b>
Decision maker	Cabinet member corporate strategy and budget Information about cabinet, including the names and contact details of the cabinet members, can be found here: <a href="http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251</a>
Date of decision	11 September 2017
Report exemption class	Open
Purpose	The West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has put forward proposals and an initial business case to alter fire governance arrangements in the West Mercia area. At the request of the executive, Herefordshire Council's General Scrutiny Committee (GSC) was asked to review the PCCs proposals and initial business case. On 21 August, the GSC met at a specially convened meeting with the PCC and the Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRA) present. After taking evidence from the PCC and FRAs the GSC highlights a number of concerns with the PCC's fire governance proposals. These are submitted to the executive for consideration
<b>Decision</b>	<b>That:</b> <b>(a) the PCC be advised that Herefordshire Council does not support the PCCs proposals and is particularly concerned that the detailed business case has not been provided the council as a statutory consultee; and</b> <b>(b) the draft response (at appendix 1) to the questions within the consultation be approved; and</b> <b>(c) discussions be held between the relevant upper tier council leaders with a view to identifying alternative options for local collaboration for further consideration.</b>
Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at <a href="http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=I50023281">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=I50023281</a> [Please delete the 'I' between =I# above and delete this message]
Options considered	1. <b>Do nothing:</b> This is not recommended. The PCCs proposals have wide reaching implications; proposals include abolition of

	<p>the Hereford and Worcester and Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authorities. The Fire and Rescue Services would remain as separate entities each under their own Chief Officer, subject to the overall governance of the PCC. The PCC has not yet made a detailed business case available for review or consultation. Without seeing the detailed business case, Herefordshire Council cannot confidently commit to the proposals set out by the PCC, given the limited evidence presented.</p> <p>2. <b>Do something different:</b> The GSC draws the executive's attention to the current working arrangements of Sussex's PCC. Sussex PCC has decided to maintain current governance structures without seeking to make changes to fire authority governance arrangements. This approach was proposed by an independent review making provision for review periods of current working arrangements. The proposed consultation response in Appendix 1 makes this recommendation to the PCC.</p>
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	15 September 2017

<p>Councillor: .....</p> <p>Cabinet member corporate strategy and budget (Councillor AW Johnson) / Leader of the Council (Councillor AW Johnson)</p> <p>[Please amend / delete as appropriate, including this message]</p>	<p>Date 11 September 2017</p>
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- a record of any conflict of interest declared by any executive member who is consulted by the member which relates to the decision;

and

- in respect of any declared conflict of interest, a note of dispensation granted by the relevant local authority's head of paid service.