

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES**RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the decisions made by the Cabinet Member for Communities concerning issues raised in a petition presented to the County Council at its 24 November 2022 meeting.

Information

2. At Full Council on the 24 November 2022 Councillor Gowland presented a petition. Through this petition concern was expressed about the reduction in fire and rescue services in West Bridgford and surrounding areas. There was a request for Nottinghamshire County Council to write to the Secretary of State and Ministers regarding funding levels
3. The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 is the main piece of legislation under which the fire and rescue services operate. The Act provides the legal basis for establishing Fire and Rescue Authorities, the political bodies responsible for overseeing the work of fire and rescue services and employing staff to undertake this work.
4. In areas where fire and rescue services share a boundary with a single upper-tier or unitary council, the council itself is the fire authority. The fire services in this instance are integrated into the council and all members of the council are responsible fire authority members, although one member may hold the fire services portfolio.
5. However, in non-metropolitan areas where the fire and rescue service's boundary incorporate more than one upper-tier council, a stand-alone fire authority is established. Therefore, locally there is the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority. Elected members appointed by the leaders of the constituent councils make up this authority. This includes six councillors from Nottingham City Council and twelve councillors from Nottinghamshire County Council.
6. The Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority is responsible for ensuring Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service has the people, equipment and training needed to carry out its duties for fire prevention, fire safety, firefighting and rescue, road traffic collision extrication and rescue, and other emergency rescue activities such as responding to flooding or terrorism.
7. The Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority makes decisions on key matters such as strategy, policy and the budget. These are the issues covered in the petition.

8. It was agreed that the petition be referred to the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority which has the remit for strategy, policy and the budget and was therefore best placed to consider writing to Government on this occasion.

Other Options Considered

9. There are no other options to consider as this report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. To enable the petition submitted to Full Council on the 24 November 2022 regarding funding for fire and rescue services in West Bridgford and surrounding areas to be considered by the body with statutory responsibility for decision making about fire and rescue service matters such as strategy, policy and the budget. Locally this is the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

12. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the contents of the report be noted.

Councillor John Cottee
Cabinet Member for Communities

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Background Papers and Published Documents

- Petition Regarding Reductions in Fire and Rescue Services at London Road and West Bridgford Fire Authority – Delegated Decision (Reference 325) by Cabinet Member for Communities ([published](#))

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All