We want your views about changing the governance of the Fire and Rescue Service in Northamptonshire.

What’s being proposed?

Following new government initiatives for greater joint working between emergency services, a change to the governance of the Fire and Rescue Service in Northamptonshire is being proposed.

What will change?

The Fire and Rescue Service in Northamptonshire is currently governed by the Fire Authority and sits within Northamptonshire County Council – it is proposed that the governance of the Fire and Rescue Service transfers to the Police and Crime Commissioner, who would become the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

Tell us what you think…

How would this affect the Police and the Fire and Rescue service?

The government wants our emergency services to work much more collaboratively and has recently changed the law to allow this to happen. We already do this really well in Northamptonshire, however this change means there is now a greater opportunity for our Fire and Rescue Service and our Police Force to work much more closely together to keep our communities safe.

How would the Fire and Rescue service be governed?

The new Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner would govern both the Police Force and the Fire and Rescue Service. They would hold the Chief Fire Officer to account in exactly the same way the current Police and Crime Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account. The Chief Fire Officer and Chief Constable would continue to be operationally independent and responsible for the day to day running of their services.

The current Police and Crime Commissioner’s ambition is to increase funding into the frontline. This will be achieved through saving money by sharing premises and combining administration functions, and also by potentially increasing the amount we ask the public to pay towards fire services by only 3 pence a week.

What do you think?

We want to know if you agree with the proposal for the governance of Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue service to pass to the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner, and what benefits and concerns you see for Northamptonshire Police and Fire and Rescue services working closer together.

To tell us your views please complete the online survey at www.northantsfireproposals.co.uk

Alternatively if you require a postal survey or you require it in easy read please contact us on 01604 888113.

The consultation closes on Tuesday 1st August.