

# ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY



<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>FIRE AUTHORITY</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>25 JUNE 2020</b>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>RESPONSE TO LETTER FROM LORD GREENHALGH, MINISTER OF STATE FOR BUILDING SAFETY, FIRE AND COMMUNITIES</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>TREVOR FERGUSON, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER</b>
<b>LEAD MEMBER</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR COLIN DUDLEY</b>
<b>EXEMPT INFORMATION</b>	<b>NONE</b>
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>TO NOTE</b>

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. On the 14th May the new Fire Minister Lord Greenhalgh wrote to all Fire Authority Chairmen and Chief Fire Officers, seeking their views on the recommendations from Sir Tom Windsor's state of fire report. His letter is attached in Appendix 1
- 1.2. Given the collaborative leadership approach adopted in Royal Berkshire the Chairman and the CFO decided a joint response was most appropriate. The joint response can be found in Appendix 2

## 2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Fire Authority:

- 2.1. **NOTE** the letter of reply jointly prepared by the Chairman of the Fire Authority Colin Dudley and Chief Fire Officer Trevor Ferguson.

## 3. REPORT

- 3.1. At the end of 2019 Sir Tom Windsor published his first annual state of fire report. The report made a number of key recommendations. In his May letter the new Fire Minister sought views on the following recommendations.

- 3.2. By June 2020, the Home Office, in consultation with the fire and rescue sector, should review and with precision determine the roles of: (a) fire and rescue services; and (b) those who work in them.
- 3.3. By June 2020, the Home Office, the Local Government Association, the National Fire Chiefs Council and trade unions should consider whether the current pay negotiation machinery requires fundamental reform. If so, this should include the need for an independent pay review body and the future of the 'grey book'.
- 3.4. By September 2020, the Home Office should consider the case for legislating to give chief fire officers operational independence. In the meantime, it should issue clear guidance, possibly through an amendment to the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England, on the demarcation between those responsible for governance and operational decision making by the chief fire officer.
- 3.5. In line with the collaborative nature of leadership in Royal Berkshire a joint response has been prepared outlining the views of the Chairman and the Chief Fire Officer on these issues.

#### **4. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS**

- 4.1. Commitment 6 – We will work with Central Government and key stakeholders in the interests of the people of Royal Berkshire.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

#### **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None.

#### **7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no identified equality and diversity impacts.

#### **8. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 None

#### **9. CONSISTENCY WITH DUTY TO COLLABORATE**

- 9.1 The recommendations in this paper do not affect any collaboration arrangements.

**10. PRINCIPAL CONSULTATION**

10.1. The Chief Fire Officer was the joint author of this report.

**11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 None

**12. APPENDICES**

12.1 Appendix A Letter from Lord Greenhalgh 14 May 2020

12.2 Appendix B Joint letter from Chairman of Fire Authority and Chief Fire Officer.