

<b>REPORT REFERENCE NO.</b>	<b>AGC/22/9</b>
<b>MEETING</b>	<b>AUDIT &amp; GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>22 JULY 2022</b>
<b>SUBJECT OF REPORT</b>	<b>GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER “REFORMING OUR FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE” – PROPOSED RESPONSE</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>Chief Fire Officer</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<i>That, subject to any amendments as may be made at the meeting, the final response from this Authority to the White Paper (a draft of which is attached at Appendix A to this report) be submitted to the Government by the deadline of 26 July 2022.</i>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	This report sets out a proposed response to the White Paper, for which submissions are invited by 26 July 2022.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	Nil.
<b>EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS</b>	N/A
<b>APPENDICES</b>	Nil.
<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	<a href="#">Home Office White Paper “Reforming Our Fire and Rescue Service” published May 2022</a> <a href="#">Report DSFRA/22/14 (Government White Paper “Reforming our Fire and Rescue Service) to the Authority Ordinary meeting held on 10 June 2022</a>

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. Following the initial announcement in the House of Commons in March 2021, the Home Office published the White Paper “Reforming Our Fire and Rescue Service” on 18 May 2022.
- 1.2. Responses are invited to some 48 questions posed in the White Paper by the closing date of 11.59hours on 26 July 2022.
- 1.3. The White Paper proposes reforms to drive change and improvement in three areas:
  1. People;
  2. Professionalism; and
  3. Governance.
- 1.4. The main themes of these areas were set out in a report to the Authority at its meeting on 10 June 2022 (Report DSFRA/22/14 and Minute DSFRA/22/9 refers). In view of the deadline for responses to the White Paper by 26 July 2022, the Authority delegated authority to this Committee to approve and submit a final response to the consultation.
- 1.5. The White Paper has been discussed at a Members’ Forum on 22 June 2022 will be discussed further at the Forum meeting on 19 July. Comments from the initial Forum are included in the appended draft response and any comments from the Forum meeting on 19 July will also be incorporated into t draft response as appropriate.
- 1.6. The proposed response is set out at Appendix A of this report for consideration and approval, subject to any amendments the Committee may wish to make at the meeting.

**LEE HOWELL**  
**Chief Fire Officer**