

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 27TH FEBRUARY, 2019

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 4TH FEBRUARY, 2019

“C572 WHITE PAPER REFORM OF FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITIES IN WALES - COUNCIL RESPONSE (L) –

The report, presented by the Leader, sought Cabinet endorsement of a proposed response to a Welsh Government White Paper on “Reform of Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales”, which made proposals for changes to the service's statutory governance and funding framework.

The proposals entailed retaining the current structure of three Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs), which had a membership representing the Local Authorities of each area. The Leader advised that changes were proposed which would reduce the number of Local Authority representatives and restrict them to Cabinet Members. Changes were also proposed to how FRAs were funded and how their performance was managed.

The Council's response to the proposals states that rather than retaining and tweaking the current framework of regional FRAs, the opportunity should be taken to consider a new single national fire and rescue service. If that option was not taken up then Councils should be free to continue to nominate Members as they see fit. Greater transparency as to how the Fire and Rescue Service was supported.

In conclusion, the Leader highlighted an error at question 9 (Appendix B) of the Council's response which currently stated that Council Representatives remain at two per Council however, Cabinet's view was that the response should state “not if the number of Council Representatives remains as per current arrangements.”

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED -

(1) T H A T

(2) T H A T the use of Article 14.14.2 (ii) of the Council's Constitution (urgent decision procedure) be authorised in respect of the response so that submission is made before the Welsh Government's deadline of 5th February, 2019.

Reasons for decisions

(1)

(2) So that the Council's Constitution is observed.”