

Appendix L

MP Responses



Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR GREAT YARMOUTH



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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Mr L Green
Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk
Building 8, Jubilee House
Falconers Chase
Wymondham
NR18 0WW

16 July 2018

Dear Mr Green

RE: Public Consultation on the Proposed Case for Change in Governance of the Fire and Rescue Service

Thank you for providing me with a copy of your business case for the change in Governance of the Fire and Rescue Services in Norfolk, and for inviting my comments.

I am pleased to see that you are progressing with this proposal, which would not only present opportunities for increased efficiencies and improved services, but would also help improve democratic accountability. Local people already perceive the Fire Service and the Constabulary as closely intertwined.

The business model you have sent through presents a clear case for progressing this reform and I am hopeful that you will continue with this proposal; helping to ensure that we are able to create the modern, efficient and effective emergency services which the residents of Great Yarmouth and Norfolk deserve.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B Lewis'.

Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP

From: Chloe Smith
Date: 18 July 2018 at 18:37:59 BST
To: Lorne Green
Subject: Re: Lorne: Fire Governance

Dear Lorne,

Please feel free to use this statement from me in your meeting tomorrow:

“I think this case has merits and deserves to be looked at closely. I supported the enabling legislation because I believe our public services are best for the taxpayer and for their hardworking staff when they are most efficient. I would recommend constituents look carefully and positively at it.”

Chloe



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Lorne Green
Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk
Building 8
Jubilee House
Falconers Chase
Wymondham
NR18 0WW

Tuesday 17th July 2018

Dear Lorne,

Public consultation on the proposed case for changing the governance of Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service

Thank you for your letter to me, along with the accompanying Business case, dated 11th July 2018 – with regards to the above.

I am writing to you to formally place on record my full support to your proposal to establish a change on governance of the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service. The Business case allows for greater cooperation between the emergency services, identifying significant efficiencies and improved productivity that can be reinvested into the front line.

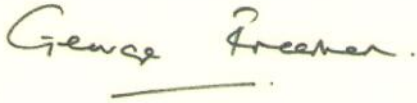
All of us in public service owe it to the people we serve – local taxpayers and public service users – to ensure that we put frontline services ahead of back office admin – and put the needs of service users ahead of the convenience of traditional ways of managing public services.

We will not drive the improved productivity, innovation and responsiveness that we need in our modern public services without such an approach being taken. That means all of us in positions of influence need to support public service leaders like the Chief Constable when they seek to avoid frontline cuts by exploring back office efficiency.

I therefore believe that your decision to put forward a proposal for change is the correct one. While retaining the identity of each service and respecting their cultures and values, the proposed model will deliver tangible benefits to our communities and enhance public safety.

To conclude, I believe this proposal provides a real opportunity for change, to improve and support our emergency services for the benefit of the people of Norfolk.

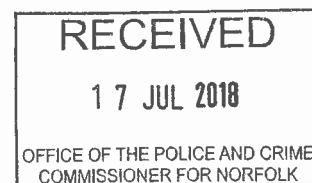
Yours,

Handwritten signature of George Freeman in cursive script, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

George Freeman MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Lorne Green Esq.
Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk
Building 8, Jubilee House
Falconers Chase
Wymondham
Norfolk NR18 0WW

13th July 2018
Our Reference. EH/HCB/07/18

Sean Lowe,

Re: Public Consultation on the Proposed Case for Change in Governance of the Fire and Rescue Service

Thank you for your letter and accompanying Business case dated 11th July, 2018 in respect of the above.

I am writing to you to formally place on record my full support to your proposal to establish a change on governance of the Fire and Rescue service in Norfolk.

The Business case sets out a compelling case for change, and provides a real opportunity to improve the efficiency and effectiveness in our emergency services, providing a platform for closer working and innovation.

All of us in public service owe it to the people we serve – local taxpayers and public service users – to ensure that we put front line services first, ahead of the convenience of traditional and bureaucratic ways of managing public services.

Your decision to put forward a proposal for change is the right one, it allows for greater cooperation between the emergency services, identifying significant efficiencies and improved productivity that can be reinvested into the front line. The model also retains the identity of each service, respecting their cultures and values, however delivering tangible benefits to our communities and enhancing public safety.

In summary, this proposal provides a real opportunity for change, to improve and support our emergency services for the benefit of the people of Norfolk.

Kind regards,

Sir Henry Bellingham M.P.
Member of Parliament for North West Norfolk



Mr Lorne Green
Police and Crime Commissioner

16 Jul. 18

Dear Lorne

Public Consultation on the Proposed Case for Change in Governance of the Fire and Rescue Service

Thank you for your letter and accompanying Business case dated 11th July, 2018 in respect of the above.

I am writing to you to formally place on record my full support to your proposal to establish a change on governance of the Fire and Rescue service in Norfolk. The Business case sets out a compelling case for change, and provides a real opportunity to improve the efficiency and effectiveness in our emergency services, providing a platform for closer working and innovation.

All of us in public service owe it to the people we serve – local taxpayers and public service users – to ensure that we put front line services first, ahead of the convenience of traditional and bureaucratic ways of managing public services. Your decision to put forward a proposal for change is the right one, it allows for greater cooperation between the emergency services, identifying significant efficiencies and improved productivity that can be reinvested into the front line.

The model also retains the identity of each service, respecting their cultures and values, however delivering tangible benefits to our communities and enhancing public safety.

In summary, this proposal provides a real opportunity for change, to improve and support our emergency services for the benefit of the people of Norfolk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Keith'.

Rt Hon Keith Simpson MP

Data protection and privacy policies can be found here <https://www.keithsimpson.com/privacy>



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Lorne Green

Police and Crime Commissioner

16 July 2018

Dear Lorne

I am writing to place on record my full support to your proposal to establish a change in governance for the Fire and Rescue service in Norfolk. The business case presents a strong argument for change, offering a real opportunity to improve efficiency and effectiveness in our emergency services whilst at the same time providing good value for the tax payer.

Greater cooperation between the emergency services, identifying efficiencies whilst improving productivity means that resources can be reinvested in the front line. The model also retains the identity of each service, respecting their cultures and values.

I believe the proposal offers a genuine opportunity for change - supporting our emergency services for the benefit of the people of Norfolk.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth Truss".

Elizabeth Truss MP



The Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP

Member of Parliament for North Norfolk

A: Unit 4, The Garden Centre, Nursery Drive, Norwich Road, North Walsham, NR28 0DR

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Lorne Green
Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk
Building 8, Jubilee House
Falconers Chase
Wymondham
Norfolk NR18 0WW

4th September 2018

Dear Lorne,

A Case for Change – A better way of working for a safer Norfolk

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above consultation.

I regret that I am not confident that the proposed change in governance arrangements for the Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service will deliver an improved public service, greater efficiency, and better value for residents in Norfolk.

I share the concerns outlined by Norfolk County Council in its response to the consultation (Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service – Keep in safe hands), some of which I have copied directly below:

- *Removing the fire and rescue service from the County Council presents a significant financial risk to the service, and therefore a risk to public safety.*
- *The claimed £10m efficiency figure is speculative and misleading.*
- *The proposal makes a number of assumptions and untested claims.*
- *The proposed changes to operational response are not clearly articulated and have not been risk assessed, and therefore there is a significant risk to their deliverability and ultimately public safety.*
- *The claimed benefits could be achieved without a change in governance, and without the associated cost and disruption.*

The benefits of the proposed restructuring are far from clear and, in my view, carry an unacceptable level of operational risk and risk to public safety. As a result, I do not feel able to support the proposal.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely,

Rt. Hon. Norman Lamb MP
Member of Parliament for North Norfolk

I am particularly concerned about the assessment by the County Council that if the proposals were implemented, we 'could be saving an almost 20% reduction in fire engine capacity in rural

areas and would impact on our ability to respond to emergencies and would mean that the service could not be resilient.'
PTD

I also noted the following statement:

'A key element of the existing efficient operational response in Norfolk is on-call (retained) firefighters. This model of delivery does not appear to have been understood.'

As an M1 for a rural area relying totally on retained firefighters, this assessment from the County Council inevitably causes me real concern.

Richard Bacon, M.P.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR SOUTH NORFOLK



House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Private Secretary
Tel 01379 643728 or 642769
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Mr Lorne Green
Police and Crime Commissioner
Building 8, Jubilee House
Falconers Chase
Wymondham
Norfolk
NR18 0WW

13th July 2018

Dear Lorne

Thank you very much for sending me the business case – *A Case for Change: A Better Way of Working for a safer Norfolk* – for changing the governance of the Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service.

I am of course aware that PCCs were given the statutory right to consult on the possibility of taking over Fire Services within a given area and I support this. Generally it would seem sensible to me if all emergency services were under one political authority such as an elected commissioner – and, indeed, you will be aware of the separate concerns many local MPs have had about the leadership and management of our local Ambulance Service, on which the CQC has recently issued a damning report.

In the meantime, I do believe that the business case for placing Fire and Rescue Services under your authority alongside the police service is a strong one. It is also aligned with the Conservative Government's policy in this area and I am happy to support it.

It seems to me that the future of the Fire and Rescue Service will be more secure under an elected commissioner with statutory powers to raise funding through a separate precept than if it were to remain under a local authority, subject to all the pressures and vagaries of local government funding.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

www.richardbacon.org.uk

Have your say



OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER FOR NORFOLK

It is proposed that the Police and Crime Commissioner should become the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner having overall responsibility for the governance of both Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service and Norfolk Constabulary.

Do you agree or disagree with this proposal? (please tick)

I agree

I disagree

Any comments?

Clare Lewis



Personal information (not comments) redacted

About you. Please tell us...

Do you work for any of the following
(including in a voluntary capacity)?

Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service

Norfolk Constabulary

Norfolk County Council (non fire service staff)

None of the above