Strategy and Resources Committee
10 November 2026

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

Head of Service:	Andrew Bircher, Assistant Director of Corporate Services
Report Author	Andrew Bircher
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	no
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	n/a
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 - Consultation document, and Appendix 2 - Consultation response

Summary

This report shares with the committee the consultation request from Surrey Fire and Rescue Service on the proposed governance model and the Council's response to the consultation. The response has already been sent and published on Members' News, but it is shared here as required by the Constitution.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

(1) Note the report

1 Reason for Recommendation

1.1 The consultation response has already been sent and the consultation window is closed.

2 Background

2.1 The Council was consulted by MHCLG on a proposal to amend the governance arrangements for Surrey Fire and Rescue, arising from Local Government Reorganisation. It was proposed by the consultation that the current county wide fire and rescue service should not be split into East and West, but remain as a single entity. But as Surrey County Council would no longer exist going forward and Surrey Fire and Rescue was a service offered by the single unitary, a change would have to happen to put in place different governance arrangements if it was to remain as a single entity outside of Surrey County Council or East and West Surrey Councils.

2.2 A consultation document was shared with the council. A response was drafted and shared with the management team as well as the Chair and Vice Chair of Strategy and Resources committee. The proposed response was not shared with all members prior to submission.

2.3 The final response was sent to meet the deadline of 31st July and shared on Members' News.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 The consultation response did not require and EIA, although the new service may carry one out

3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 The consultation was about governance only

3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 The consultation was about governance only

3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 none

3.5 Other

3.5.1 none

4 Financial Implications

4.1 **Section 24 considerations:** There were no s24 trigger for the council in relation to responding to this consultation.

4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments**: There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any future financial commitments or funding arrangements resulting from the proposed Strategic Authority would be subject to further detailed consideration and approval by the relevant Council.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 There were no legal issues affecting the Council as a result of this consultation

5.2 **Legal Officer's comments**: Named officers have delegated authority (CG2 – Appendix 2.1) to respond on behalf of the Council to all Consultations from Central Government, Surrey County Council and any professional body, after consultation with the Chair of any relevant Committee. A report to note this is then required to be bought to the next listed committee meeting sharing the response.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities**: The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- Effective Council

6.2 **Service Plans**: The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations**: None

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications**: None

6.5 **Partnerships**: Surrey Fire and Rescue service is an important partner

6.6 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications**: The consultation arose as a result of LGR

7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- None

Other papers:

- None