

Consultation – Enabling closer working between the Emergency Services

In response to the Governments consultation document “Enabling closer working between the Emergency Services” please see below some general comments from Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council

1. **The introduction of a new duty:** From a Stockton Borough Council perspective we are committed to joint working with all partners and agencies and this is reflected in the ongoing development and success of the Safer Stockton Partnership. We would fully support continued collaboration between the emergency services and we understand that work is ongoing across Cleveland to maximise the use of operational emergency services. Any duty that compliments this work and seeks to further improve efficiency and effectiveness would be welcomed.
2. **Expanding the duties and responsibilities of the PCC:** In terms of expanding the remit of the Police and Crime Commissioner to take on Fire and Rescue services, we do not have a view at this stage. We are aware that the Police and Crime Commissioner is committed to improved working between all emergency services and that he is currently working with partners to ensure that residents of Cleveland continue to receive a high level of service and support.
3. **The ability of the PCC to create a single employer:** In light to the increased financial challenges placed on all public services, any opportunities to create economies of scale should be explored. Again we are aware that the PCC is already working with partners looking into the feasibility of sharing of back office resources across Cleveland.
4. **Representation of the PCC on the local Fire and Rescue Authority:** We are aware that the Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner is keen to work within the existing structures and has expressed an interest in being represented on Cleveland Fire and Rescue authority.