

Addressed to:

**The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Chief Executive of the County Council
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority
The London Commissioner
The Chief Fire Officer**

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Title: Government response to Fire Futures

Publication of the Government response to the Sector Fire Futures Reports.

Government response to Fire Futures Reports

1. Background

1.1 The Fire Futures review of fire and rescue provision in England was undertaken and led by volunteers from the Fire and Rescue Service sector and with contributions from Fire and Rescue Authorities, frontline staff, sector bodies, wider industry and local partners.

1.2 The short review focused around four key areas:

- Localism and Accountability
- Role of the Fire and Rescue Service (Delivery Models)
- Efficiency, Effectiveness and Productivity
- National Interests

1.3 The Fire Futures Reports, which were presented to the Fire Minister on Wednesday 15 December 2010, identified key future challenges and a wide range of options and proposals.

2. The Government response to the Fire Futures Reports

2.1 The Department has today published the Government response to the fire and rescue sector's Fire Futures Reports.

2.2 The response to the review reflects how the Government will take forward with the sector the public service reform agenda in the context of fire and rescue services at the local level and in terms of national resilience.

2.3 The majority of the proposals in the Fire Futures reports are for the sector themselves to progress dependent on local needs and priorities. They provide an "ideas bank" which the sector can draw on in delivering the reform agenda and in contributing to reducing public spending.

2.4 Government's focus going forward is on providing the right framework for national resilience and to enable local Fire and Rescue Authorities and the wider sector to deliver the reform agenda, increasing accountability to local communities for the delivery of their services.

2.5 The key guiding principles are:

- Restoring a focus on local communities instead of national targets
- Ensuring local decision making and accountability on local services
- Letting the Service and the wider sector - not Whitehall - manage its cross sector functions collaboratively
- Providing clarity on national and local roles in resilience and ensuring the right structure is there to support it

2.6 The response signposts action in the context of the local government resource review and the development of the next National Framework for the Fire and Rescue Service as next steps.

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continued

Government response to Fire Futures Reports

2.7 The Government response to Fire Futures can be found at:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/firefuturesresponse>

END

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