



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

# Reform of fire service decision making in London

Consultation on changing the composition of the  
membership of the London Fire and Emergency Planning  
Authority

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# 1. Summary of proposals

A consultation paper issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government on behalf of the Secretary of State

<p><b>Topic of this Consultation:</b></p>	<p><b>The Mayor of London has written to the Secretary of State requesting that he makes an order under Schedule 28 to the Greater London Authority Act 1999 to amend the composition of the membership of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority as follows:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the number of Assembly Members be reduced from eight to six,</li> <li>• the number of London Borough Councillors be reduced from seven to five</li> <li>• the number of Mayoral appointees be increased from two to six.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Scope of this consultation:</b></p>	<p>In accordance with the requirements of Schedule 28, the Secretary of State before making an order varying any of the membership numbers of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority is required to consult the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Mayor,</li> <li>• the Assembly;.</li> <li>• the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority; and.</li> <li>• every London borough council</li> </ul> <p>However, the Secretary of State considers that in this instance the consultation should not be limited to the bodies listed in the Act and would welcome the views of any other interested party.</p>
<p><b>Geographical Scope:</b></p>	<p>England.</p>
<p><b>Impact assessment:</b></p>	<p>This policy proposal does not require an impact assessment as part of the policy clearance process.</p>
<p><b>Body responsible for the consultation:</b></p>	<p>This consultation is being run by the National Fire Policy Division within the Department for Communities and Local Government.</p>

<b>Duration:</b>	This consultation will run for six weeks to the <b>29th of July 2014.</b>
<b>Enquiries:</b>	For enquiries, please contact:  brian.nash@communities.gsi.gov.uk
<b>How to respond:</b>	By email to:  LFEPAconsultation@communities.gsi.gov.uk  Or by post to:  Brian Nash National Fire Policy Team Department for Communities and Local Government Zone 3/A6, Eland House Bressenden Place London SW1E 5DU
<b>After the consultation:</b>	The Government will publish the outcome of the consultation within 3 months.
<b>Compliance with the <i>Code of Practice on Consultation</i>:</b>	This will be a six week consultation. The proposals have already been the subject of a five week consultation undertaken by the Mayor of London. The Secretary of State is of the view that a further six week consultation would be an appropriate timeframe in this instance.

## 2. Introduction

The London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority is a functional body of the Greater London Authority and was established under the Greater London Authority Act 1999. Its principal purpose is to run the London Fire Brigade but is also responsible for advising about fire safety, enforcing fire safety laws and carrying out various emergency planning activities, including helping the boroughs plan for emergencies.

The 17 members of the Authority are appointed by the Mayor of London. Currently eight are nominated from the London Assembly, seven from the London boroughs and two are Mayoral appointees. The party political balance of the London Assembly and borough council members must reflect the party political balance of the Assembly and across the London boroughs.

The Mayor of London has written to the Secretary of State requesting that he makes an order under Schedule 28 to the Greater London Authority Act 1999 to amend the composition of the membership of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority as follows:

- **the number of Assembly Members be reduced from eight to six,**
- **the number of London Borough Councillors be reduced from seven to five**
- **the number of Mayoral appointees be increased from two to six.**

In making his request, the Mayor of London presented the Secretary of State with a business case for reform and a summary of the responses to a consultation with key stakeholders run by the Mayor between 15 March and 11 April 2014; these can be found at [http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Submission to SoS on LFEP reform April 14.pdf](http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Submission%20to%20SoS%20on%20LFEP%20reform%20April%2014.pdf)

The Mayor believes the current governance arrangements are not sustainable and is seeking the change in the composition of the membership on the grounds of:

- Improved democratic accountability
- Greater clarity in executive-scrutiny responsibilities
- Better links to budgetary responsibility
- Greater policy convergence across the GLA Group
- Achieving efficiencies
- Access to a wider pool of appointees

On the basis of the Mayor's business case and having regard to the consultation undertaken by the Mayor, the Secretary of State is content to hold a consultation in accordance with Schedule 28 to the Greater London Authority Act 1999.

### 3. Who are we consulting?

In accordance with the requirements of Schedule 28, the Secretary of State before making an order varying any of the membership numbers of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority is required to consult the following:

- the Mayor;.
- the Assembly;.
- the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority; and.
- every London borough council

In addition this consultation will be available on the Department's website.

### 4. Consultation Questions

Your views are invited on the following questions:

**Questions:**

**1. Do you agree with the Mayor's overall aims of;**

- **Improved democratic accountability**
- **Greater clarity in executive-scrutiny responsibilities**
- **Better links to budgetary responsibility**
- **Greater policy convergence across the GLA Group**
- **Achieving efficiencies**
- **Access to a wider pool of appointees**

**2. What are your views on altering the composition of the membership of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority to achieve these aims as requested by the Mayor of London?**

**Please provide your reasons for either supporting or opposing the Mayor's proposal.**

## 5. Timetable

In light of the fact that the reform proposals have already been the subject of a five week consultation undertaken by the Mayor of London, including with all of the bodies listed in Schedule 28, the Secretary of State is of the view that a six week consultation would be an appropriate timeframe in this instance.

**Your response must be received by 29 July 2014**

## 6. How to respond

Your response can be sent by email to [LFEPAconsultation@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:LFEPAconsultation@communities.gsi.gov.uk) or in writing to:

Brian Nash  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
Zone 3/A6  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London, SW1E 5DU

Please title your response 'Response to consultation on proposal to amend the membership of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority'

## 7. What happens next?

All the evidence and information submitted will be considered and will help inform the Secretary of State in his consideration of the proposal and whether the Mayor's request is in the best interests of future decision making for fire and rescue in London.

We aim to publish the outcome of the consultation within 3 months of the close of the exercise.



## 8. Confidentiality and data protection

Any responses to this consultation may be made public. If you do not want all or part of your response or name made public, please state this clearly in the response. Any confidentiality disclaimer that may be generated by your organisation's IT system or included as a general statement in your fax cover sheet will be taken to apply only to information in your response for which confidentiality has been specifically requested.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004). If you want other information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence.

In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. The Department will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.