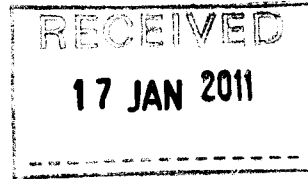




PROF ITEM 57
D G Prichard QFSM, DMS, MBA, MCIPD, MIFireE
Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive
East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
Headquarters
20 Upperton Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex BN21 1EU

Telephone (0845) 130 8855
Fax (01323) 725574
Email: enquiries@esfrs.org

Mr R A S Farhall
Town Clerk
Rye Town Council
Town Hall
Market Street
Rye
East Sussex TN31 7LA



please ask for
D Williams
Diana.Williams@esfrs.org
01323 462053

our ref
Conslett1 2011-12

13 January 2011
your ref

Dear Consultee,

East Sussex Fire Authority has an approved consultation and engagement strategy which is available on request from me using the contact details identified above, or can be accessed from our website at www.esfrs.org under About us/East Sussex Fire Authority/Members Handbook/Section H14. This strategy has a detailed action plan on what subjects we are seeking to consult upon as well as with whom we plan to consult over the medium term. You are included on our current contact register as one of our intended consultees for major issues affecting our Service.

You may recall that previously we asked you if you wished to be kept informed or more involved with our major review of fire cover and community safety services in the more rural parts of our area last year. We published the outcomes in the Autumn – but if you need more information on that issue, please do not hesitate to let me know.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that there are now two further strategic consultation and engagement processes that have just commenced for implementation in 2011/12 and beyond:

1. Increased collaboration with West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service leading towards a possible merger

This project that has just been approved by both Services in order to prepare a business case to explore collaborative options, including a merger between the two Services.

The jointly prepared business case has to be separately presented to the East Sussex Fire Authority and West Sussex County Council Cabinet for consideration in March 2011. If both organisations agree that there is merit in pursuing increased collaboration or merger, a formal consultation period with our staff, our partners and stakeholders such as yourselves and others must then take place lasting for at least 12 weeks before any final decision is taken on the way forward.

So this letter is to seek your early advice on your initial thoughts on this proposal, and also for you to advise us of the extent to which you wish to be informed; consulted; or more engaged in any formal consultation processes that will take place early in the next financial year.

We are seeking the advice of similar organisations to help us determine how we can best be structured in the future in terms of continuing to serve our local communities' democratic needs, as well as how best to continue to deliver high quality services at a price local council taxpayers can afford to pay.

2. Service Planning and Resource Management issues

We usually consult with our council taxpayers each Autumn on annual budget and precept issues by means of an external survey run by ORS who undertake most, if not all of our external consultation work. But as the Government has provided funding to allow local authorities to freeze council tax next year to 2010/11 levels, this was considered unnecessary. However, it is now time to prepare our next Medium Term Plan which will cover the period 2011/12 to 2013/14 with a look forward for a further two years to 2015/16 using 2010/11 as our base year. This more strategic document will cover all of our service plans and proposals for the next few years. So once the Service budget and precept for 2011/12 has been approved by the Fire Authority in February 2011, we will publish a Medium Term plan for wider consultation.

Invitation to help us with our Consultation and Engagement activities in 2011/12

Attached to this letter is an Appendix which invites you to:

Section A: update your contact details so we can ensure our contact database is up to date for future reference.

Section B: INCREASED COLLABORATION AND POTENTIAL MERGER WITH WEST SUSSEX FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE. This seeks to identify **the extent** to which you give initial support to such a proposal as well as advice on whether you would wish to be involved in our consultation and engagement processes for 2011/12 and beyond from just being kept informed of what is happening to full engagement.

Section C: MEDIUM TERM PLAN: This seeks to identify **the extent** to which you would wish to be involved in our consultation and engagement processes for 2011/12 and beyond from just being kept informed of what is happening to full engagement in our key planning and review processes, subject to the level of responses received.

You should send your response in the freepost envelope enclosed, by no later than 28 February 2011. Should you wish to email your response and require an electronic version of the form, please send me an email requesting this to my email address at the top of this letter. If you wish for your information to be removed from our current consultee register then please advise me. We will contact you again in 1 year to review your interest and contact information.

Consultation and debate with Stakeholders, key community leaders and members of the public has proved to be invaluable in the past in helping us to develop our plans. Your input has also provided us with the necessary knowledge to enable our Service to reflect the needs of our diverse local communities. Consequently, this has assisted us in achieving our targets and meeting our vision of making our local communities safer and more sustainable. We thank you for your interest.

Yours sincerely



Diana Williams
ASSISTANT CHIEF OFFICER (CORPORATE SERVICES)
Enc

SECTION A: KEY CONSULTATION CONTACT UPDATE DETAILS

Name of consultee organisation/representative/community group:	
Address if different from address identified in this correspondence so we can update our register:	
Consultee contact name:	
Consultee contact telephone number:	
Consultee contact email address:	

SECTION B: KEY CONSULTATION INVOLVEMENT DETAILS ON INCREASED COLLABORATION WITH WEST SUSSEX FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE /POSSIBLE FUTURE MERGER

Consultee willingness to be involved in future consultation activities:		
PLEASE TICK YES OR NO FOR EACH QUESTION	Yes	No
A) You do NOT wish to be kept informed of relevant consultation activities taking place on increased collaboration/possible merger with WSFRS		
B) At face value, you support, in principle , the fact that both West Sussex and East Sussex Fire & Rescue Services are considering increased collaboration with each other to deliver community service improvements and cost efficiency savings for further consideration in due course		
C) At face value, you support, in principle , the fact that both West Sussex and East Sussex Fire & Rescue Services are also considering a possible future merger into a combined Fire Authority covering the whole of Sussex to improve more extensive community service improvements and cost efficiency savings for further consideration in due course		
D) You wish to be kept informed of relevant consultation activities taking place on increased collaboration/possible merger with WSFRS but do NOT wish to be directly involved in the consultation processes about to take place		
E) You wish to become more involved in these consultation and engagement activities and your preference would be to:		
i. respond to a more detailed written questionnaire to be issued in due course;		
ii. arrange for a meeting to take place on the issues involved with a range of consultees invited to consider the issues involved		
iii. any other proposed methods of consultation and engagement you would wish us to consider		
PLEASE IDENTIFY:		

PLEASE ADD FURTHER COMMENTS IF YOU WISH ON ADDITIONAL SHEETS.

SECTION C: KEY CONSULTATION INVOLVEMENT DETAILS ON OUR NEXT MEDIUM TERM PLAN

Consultee willingness to be involved in future consultation activities:		
PLEASE TICK YES OR NO FOR EACH QUESTION	Yes	No
A) You do NOT wish to be kept informed of relevant consultation activities taking place on our Medium Term Plan		
B) You wish to be kept informed of relevant consultation activities taking place on our Medium Term Plan but do NOT wish to be directly involved in the consultation processes about to take place		
C) You wish to become more involved in these consultation and engagement activities and your preference would be to:		
i. respond to a more detailed written questionnaire to be issued in due course;		
ii. arrange for a meeting to take place on the issues involved with a range of range of consultees invited to consider the issues involved		
iii. any other proposed methods of consultation and engagement you would wish us to consider		
PLEASE IDENTIFY:		

PLEASE ADD FURTHER COMMENTS IF YOU WISH ON ADDITIONAL SHEETS.



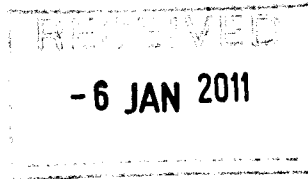
PRO4 ITEM 58

Tel: 01722 714937

Fax: 01722 714720

Email: info@thegreatpoppypartyweekend.org.uk

Web: www.thegreatpoppypartyweekend.org.uk



4 January 2011

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have pleasure in enclosing our "Great Poppy Party Weekend" brochure. Inside it you will find lots of background information on the Poppy Parties that we are encouraging individuals and groups to hold across the nation over the weekend of 10th - 12th June 2011 in celebration of The Royal British Legion's 90th birthday.

I hope that your Council will agree to organise a Poppy Party over that weekend, supporting the Legion in all our work over the next 90 years to help those men and women serving our country at home and abroad, many of whom do so through difficult circumstances.

It's not just the men and women of our armed services that we help; we are there for their families and dependants too. There are not many people in this country who do not in some way have links with our servicemen and women, so I do hope that your Authority will take part in this unique event.

If your Council is unable to participate, perhaps you could encourage your Council members to organise their own 'Poppy Party' to ensure your area is represented.

I would be very grateful if you would be kind enough to confirm your event by completing the Registration Form which can be found at www.thegreatpoppypartyweekend.org.uk. A copy of our "Great Poppy Party Weekend" brochure is also available online at the same website address.

Yours faithfully,

John Farmer
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

*To assist in preserving the environment, and to save paper,
please reply to the above email address.*

