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| <b>TITLE</b>                | <b>Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service – Redesign Consultation</b> |
| <b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b> | Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 24 January 2017          |
| <b>WARD</b>                 | None Specific  |
| <b>DIRECTOR</b>             | Andrew Moulton, Head of Governance and Improvement Services            |

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

An effective fire and rescue service helps to ensure that residents are safe through the provision of prevention, protection and emergency services. The service, along with other public bodies, is tasked to find more efficient ways of working in the face of shrinking financial resources.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is requested to:

- 1) consider the attached consultation document “Shaping the Future of your Fire and Rescue Service”;
- 2) agree comments for submission as part of the consultation process.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The Council has been notified by the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) about a service design consultation which runs until 13 March 2017. The consultation is seeking views about service redesign proposals aimed at contributing to a savings target of £2.4m by 2020. The savings are necessary because of projected reductions in Central Government funding.

RBFRS states that the three key outcomes of the consultation are:

- Making changes that will maximise the service’s contribution to enabling people across Royal Berkshire to lead safe and fulfilling lives;
- Ensuring that the Fire Authority is able to set a balanced budget in an environment of shrinking financial resources;
- Aligning any service changes with the aspirations of RBFRS employees.

The consultation document is attached for consideration.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

|                                   | How much will it Cost/ (Save) | Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall | Revenue or Capital? |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Current Financial Year (Year 1)   | 0                             | NA  | NA                  |
| Next Financial Year (Year 2)      | 0                             |   |                     |
| Following Financial Year (Year 3) | 0                             |   |                     |

### Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

### List of Background Papers

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service - Service Redesign Consultation Document

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| <b>Date</b> 13 January 2017       | <b>Version No.</b> 1.0                             |