

YOUR ISLE of WIGHT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



YOUR SAY!

Dear Resident

The Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service has appointed Opinion Research Services, as an independent organisation, to survey your opinions about options for the future of the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service.

We promise that your views are confidential and that none of your details will be passed on to third parties. No one will be identified in our general report of findings.

We should like to ask first about your awareness of some important background issues and then about your views on the main options. Please return your completed questionnaire to: **Opinion Research Services Ltd, FREEPOST (SS1018) PO BOX 530, Swansea, SA1 1ZL.** You can also complete the questionnaire online by going to WWW.ORS.CO.UK/IOW

If you would like a large-print version of this questionnaire or any assistance in completing it, then please telephone 01792 535300.

If you have any questions about the survey in general, then please telephone **01983 823194.**

Dale Hall



For each question, put a cross in the appropriate box like this . Mark only one box for each question unless otherwise instructed. If you mark the wrong box, fill in the box and the correct one. Please write clearly and in black ink.

AWARENESS

MAIN OPTIONS

HAVING READ THE BACKGROUND LITERATURE, ARE YOU FULLY AWARE THAT...?

Q1 The Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service has been assessed unfavourably as 'poor' in terms of Management, Organisation and Finance (March 2005) and as only 'adequate' in terms of Operational Service Delivery (July 2006).

Yes ₁ No ₂

Q2 The Isle of Wight Council is considering three options for the future of the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service - namely, to (i) Combine/Merge with Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service or (ii) formally Collaborate with Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service or (iii) maintain the Status Quo by continuing to modernise as an independent Fire and Rescue Service under the Isle of Wight Council.

Yes ₁ No ₂

COMBINATION/MERGER OPTION

HAVING READ THE BACKGROUND LITERATURE, ARE YOU FULLY AWARE THAT...?

Q3 A combination/merger of the Isle of Wight and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Services would create a new Combined Fire Authority and single Fire and Rescue Service covering both the Isle of Wight and Hampshire.

Yes ₁ No ₂

HAVING READ THE BACKGROUND LITERATURE, ARE YOU FULLY AWARE THAT...?

Q4 The Isle of Wight Council would have proportionate representation through elected councillors on the new Combined Fire Authority.

Yes ₁ No ₂

Q5 The official Options Appraisal report says that a combination/merger with Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service could save Isle of Wight households the equivalent of up to £24.77 in Council Tax per year (for Band D council tax payers).

Yes ₁ No ₂

Q6 The official Options Appraisal report says that a combination/merger with the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service could cost Hampshire households the equivalent of up to £2.16 in additional Council Tax per year (for Band D council tax payers).

Q7 A combination of the Isle of Wight and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Services would mean the combined service being managed from Headquarters in Hampshire.

Yes ₁ No ₂

Q8 A combination of the two services would not mean fire engines being sent from Hampshire to fight fires on the Isle of Wight - fire engines and local fire officers would remain on the Island.

Yes ₁ No ₂

COLLABORATION OPTION

HAVING READ THE BACKGROUND LITERATURE, ARE YOU FULLY AWARE THAT...?

Q9 Collaboration would involve both the Isle of Wight and Hampshire retaining their own separate Fire and Rescue Services, but there would be formal agreements between the Island and Hampshire - for example, in sharing resources and good practice, joint purchasing and risk management planning.

Yes ₁ No ₂

Q10 The official Options Appraisal report says that it is difficult to estimate the savings that could be made through collaboration between the two Fire and Rescue Services, but collaboration with Hampshire could save Isle of Wight households the equivalent of between £4.69 and £9.39 in Council Tax per year (for Band D council tax payers).

Yes ₁ No ₂

STATUS QUO OPTION

HAVING READ THE BACKGROUND LITERATURE, ARE YOU FULLY AWARE THAT...?

Q11 The Status Quo option would involve both the Isle of Wight and Hampshire retaining their own separate Fire and Rescue Services, and there would be no formal agreements between the authorities. The Options Appraisal report says that there would be no cost savings for Isle of Wight Council Tax payers.

Yes ₁ No ₂

Your Views...

Option A COMBINATION/MERGER of Isle of Wight and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Services, and creation of a new Combined Fire Authority

Option B Formal COLLABORATION between the Isle of Wight and Hampshire Fire and Rescue services, while retaining separate Fire and Rescue Services and Fire Authorities

Option C Retention of current STATUS QUO, with separate Fire and Rescue Services and Fire Authorities for the Isle of Wight and Hampshire

Q12 Taking everything into account, please indicate which options you think are the best and worst overall? (Insert A, B or C in the following boxes. Please do not insert the same letter in each box)

Best Worst

Q13 Do you believe a COMBINATION/MERGER would have any advantages?

Yes ₁ No ₂ Don't know _{DK}

Q13b If yes, what advantages would it have? Please cross all those that apply.

Larger Fire and Rescue Service with more resources ₁ Economies of scale ₄
 Wider range of services/expertise available ₂ Greater efficiency ₅
 Benefits of two authorities combining expertise ₃ Cost and Council Tax savings for Isle of Wight ₆

Q14 Do you believe COLLABORATION would have any advantages?

Yes ₁ No ₂ Don't know _{DK}

Q14b If yes, what advantages would it have? Please cross all those that apply.

Wider range of services/expertise available ₁ Greater efficiency ₄
 Benefits of two authorities combining expertise ₂ Cost and Council Tax savings for Isle of Wight ₅
 Economies of scale ₃ Retains the Island's own Fire and Rescue Service

Q15 Do you believe the current STATUS QUO has any advantages?

Yes ₁ No ₂ Don't know _{DK}

Q15b If yes, what advantages would it have? Please cross all those that apply.

Is a tried and tested system ₁ More locally based service ₄
 Service can continue to improve and make efficiency savings ₂ More democratic accountability/control through Isle of Wight Council ₅
 Retains the Island's own Fire and Rescue Service ₃ Avoids possible disruption ₆

Profile Section

Please cross one box for each question

Q16 Are you...?

Male ₁ Female ₂

Q17 What was your age on your last birthday?

16 to 24 ₁ 35 to 44 ₃ 55 to 64 ₅
 25 to 34 ₂ 45 to 54 ₄ 65 or over ₆

Q18 Are you...?

Working full-time ₁ Working part-time ₂ Not working at all (including retired) ₃

Q19 Is your home...?

Owned by you ₁ Rented privately ₄
 Rented from the Council ₂ Another type of housing ₅
 Rented from a Housing Association ₃

Q20 So that we can compare responses by area, please write in your postcode below:

Postcode:

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Q21 Is there anything else you would like to say about the future of the Isle of Wight's Fire and Rescue Service? *(Please write in below)*

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TX

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Please return it to:

Opinion Research Services Ltd

FREEPOST (SS1018)

PO BOX 530

Swansea

Sa1 1ZL