



**WEST MIDLANDS**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

## **Summary of Consultation Responses**

Future Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority  
Governance of the West Midlands Fire Service

**March 2018**

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## 1. Executive Summary

The seven Metropolitan Constituent Councils, led by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) carried out the public consultation on the 'Scheme' document between 11 January 2018 – 8 March 2018.

The Scheme outlines the functions required for the WMCA to deliver the legislative functions of West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority (the Service). This had followed a review of the governance arrangements of the Service by the multi stakeholder 'Future Governance Working Group' which recommended a Mayoral WMCA Governance arrangement [WMFRA Report - [Future Governance Working Group \(20 February 2017\)](#)]. The group sought to understand which governance model would deliver increased value to local communities through wider collaborative working. These proposed arrangements were further supported through a public consultation undertaken by West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority (WMFRA) in 2017 and aligns to the wider Strategy of the Authority.

The consultation survey was hosted on the constituent councils' websites and links also provided from the WMCA website. The Survey was also available in easy read, audio and alternative languages on request from the WMCA Equalities and Diversity Manager. The survey consisted of five key questions, eight profile-based questions and a free text option for Q1 to provide any further feedback. 1005 responses were received through this medium (excluding one duplicate).

Paper copies of the consultation were available in public buildings, such as libraries, in the seven constituent council areas. 158 responses were received through this medium (excluding one spoilt paper copy).

Additionally officers from the West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) shared the consultation with members of the public and key strategic partners through engaging as part of normal prevention duties. A number of command areas also undertook more focused engagement through 'consultation workshops', inviting members of the public and local community groups to understand the purpose of the proposals, as well as an opportunity to complete the survey itself.

Consultation Questions	Strongly Agree/ Agree		Neither agree or disagree		Strongly Disagree / Disagree		Don't Know	
	Responses	%	Responses	%	Responses	%	Responses	%
1. Proposed Governance Arrangements	543	47	108	9	473	40	35	3
2. Role of Fire Advisory Committee	680	59	79	7	374	32	23	2
3. Chief Fire Officer to be accountable to the Mayor	624	55	98	9	400	35	26	2
4. Lead to a more joined up and focused service	487	42	145	13	483	42	42	4
5. Meets the Secretary of State's Key Tests	452	39	175	15	476	41	55	5

### High Level Summary

## 2. Continued development of the West Midlands Combined Authority

In 2015 the seven metropolitan councils in the West Midlands: Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton committed to establishing the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). During the process of formalising this commitment, a partnership working across the West Midlands of the Black Country LEP, Coventry & Warwickshire LEP and the Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP was agreed. This included non-constituent areas within the three LEPs and key economically linked authorities across the West Midlands.

The ongoing commitment to developing the government's devolution agenda created the opportunity for the WMFS to become part of the WMCA, therefore transferring governance from WMFRA. The Policing and Crime Act 2017, (PACA 2017), provides for a new duty to collaborate on each of the blue light emergency services, as well as new powers for Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to become the Fire and Rescue Authority. Governance through a Mayor as part of a Combined Authority or the PCC are the main options being proposed by Government through the PACA 2017.

Governance through a Mayor as part of a Combined Authority is also enabled through the Cities and Devolution Act 2016. This is the legislative route that the proposed transfer of WMFRA to the WMCA and Mayor is following. This proposed change also aligns effectively to the principles of the PACA 2017 through enabling effective collaboration in the delivery of services and outcomes of efficiency, effectiveness, public safety and single accountability.

A Future Governance Working Group was commissioned at the start of 2017 to provide an options appraisal to enable an evidence based decision to be made on the most appropriate future governance for the WMFS and the best approach to achieving this. The options appraisal undertaken by the Group were supported by:

- the outcomes of a WMFRA public consultation focusing in the delivery of services to communities
- the current and future strategic directions of the Service and the WMCA
- the overall direction set by the Government (both policy and legislation) of reform and wider collaboration to enable efficiency, effectiveness and public safety. This reinforces the overall direction sought for the future governance of the Service through the Mayor as part of the WMCA. [WMFRA Report - [Future Governance Working Group \(20 February 2017\)](#)]

The proposal that the WMFS becomes part of the WMCA with the Chief Fire Officer reporting directly to the Mayor was put to the WMCA and the seven constituent councils at their meeting on the 3 March [Route Map to Mayoral WMCA Governance](#). Following this on the 8 September, '[Mayoral WMCA Governance of West Midlands Fire Service](#)', the WMCA agreed that a Governance Review be undertaken and a Scheme prepared.

The Governance Review and Scheme Documents were prepared and agreed with the Constituent Councils prior to their formal agreement and agreement to Consult at the WMCA meeting on the 8 December, '[Mayoral WMCA Governance of West Midlands Fire Service - Governance Review and Scheme](#)'.

In line with the legislative requirements of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill 2016, a consultation has been carried out in relation to the Fire Service proposals in the Mayoral WMCA 'Scheme', and associated documents such as the Governance Review.

The Scheme outlines the functions and legislative changes required for the Mayoral WMCA to govern the delivery of Fire Service functions to the West Midlands.

## **West Midlands Consultation**

The seven constituent councils, led by the WMCA, carried out the public consultation from 11 January to the 8 March 2018.

The consultation was aligned to the proposals in the '[Scheme](#)', to inform the Secretary of State for the Home Office, the Home Secretary's decision regarding the transfer of fire functions to WMCA. This report provides the Home Secretary with a summary of consultation responses.

## 3. Consultation across the West Midlands

### Consultation Survey

The consultation survey was hosted on constituent councils' websites and the WMCA website.

The survey consisted of five key questions, eight profile-based questions and a free text option to provide any further feedback on the Scheme. 1005 responses were received through this medium (excluding one duplicate).

Paper copies of the consultation were available in public buildings, such as libraries, in the seven constituent council areas. The consultation poster, attached with the supporting documentation at appendix A, was displayed prominently in these public buildings. 158 responses were received through this medium (excluding one spoilt paper copy).

There was also supporting PR across the seven constituent councils, WMFS and the WMCA signposting people to the website to take part in the consultation. Usual council channels were utilised to engage with the public.

### Awareness and engagement building up to and during the consultation

In order to reach all sections of the society the consultation has been promoted through a comprehensive range of digital and non-digital forums:

- WMCA website,
- Constituent council websites,
- WMFS website and social media pages,
- Press releases,
- Letters to key stakeholders (see Appendix C for stakeholder list),
- Letters to West Midlands MPs whose constituencies fall within the WMCA area,
- Letters to MEPs,
- WMFS stations are promoting the consultation through contact time with the communities as part of normal prevention based activities and focused command based workshop events,
- 1000 printed copies of the survey have been disseminated by staff to date such as youth engagement activities and places of worship,
- 200 copies to each constituent council for distribution at key location such as council offices and libraries,
- Graphics have also been provided to each constituent council for displaying on plasma screens.
- The survey was available in easy read and large print as well as cd audio formats upon request, a helpline was also set up to enable disabled members of the public to complete the survey with the support of a member of staff. A total of four easy read versions, seven large print versions and four audio versions were requested.

Various channels of communication were utilised, including a social media campaign which spanned the consultation period. The campaign was shared and widely supported by regional communications contacts including the seven constituent councils of the WMCA. A toolkit was provided to these contacts alongside a content planner for the final 10 days of the consultation. The social media campaign was further supported by constituent councils hosting a link to the consultation on their websites.

Advertisements were also utilised mostly across the transport network managed by Network West Midlands, in buses, trams and transport shops. During the final ten days of the consultation Facebook advertisements were also in operation set to target 'hard to reach' constituents such as under 25's, Black and Minority Ethnic Groups (BAME) and those from faith backgrounds. Disabled groups were contacted directly by email and were provided with consultations in easy read and audio formats alongside the provision of a support helpline for filling in the survey. Hardcopies of the consultation were also available across the seven constituent council areas in civic suites, libraries and on request from the councils themselves.

Press releases were issued at the beginning and nearing the end of the consultation which resulted in media coverage and increased reach of the consultation.

### Online Support:



**CoventryCityCouncil** @coventrycc · Jan 17

The @WestMids\_CA consultation on the governance of @WestMidsFire has begun, find out more and #haveyoursay here [socsi.in/JmwtQ](https://www.socsi.in/JmwtQ)

5 replies, 3 likes

**Bham City Council** @BhamCityCouncil · Jan 24

Don't miss out on having your say: @WestMids\_CA consultation on the proposed governance of @WestMidsFire here [socsi.in/eXRER](https://www.socsi.in/eXRER)

4 replies, 1 like

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Future governance of West Midlands Fire Service

11 January 2018 - 8 March 2018

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The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (2018) Consultation

Informal Consultation on the Proposed Merger of Whitgreave Infant School with Whitgreave Junior School

Formal Consultation on the Proposed Merger of Springdale Infant School with Whitgreave Junior School

## Future governance of West Midlands Fire Service

**We are asking for your views on how the West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) should be run in the future.**

There are a number of reasons for proposed changes to this vital emergency service, including central government's public service reform and devolution agendas. Public services across the region have already begun to change and this will continue as West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) progresses.

Last year the WMFS commissioned an independent review of its current governance, considering several models, and identified the WMCA as the best possible future option. We are now consulting on the 'Scheme' document which describes the proposed governance structure.

**This consultation will run from 11 January to 8 March.**

There is a short survey and further information on the West Midlands Combined Authority website and we would welcome your feedback and any additional comments that you would like to make.

**#haveyoursay**

Please do take the time to **#haveyoursay** by visiting the WMCA website at: [www.wmca.org.uk/wmfs](http://www.wmca.org.uk/wmfs)

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## 4. Consulta

### tion statistics summary

#### Overview of consultation format

The consultation was completed by 1163 respondents, this includes 158 paper copies and excludes one duplicated response and one spoilt hard copy.

The survey and supporting documents are appended to this report, in appendix A. A glossary of key terms found within the questions was also provided. This is also located in the appendix to this report.

Questions 1 – 5 of the consultation gave background to the proposed governance changes and posed a question in relation to each function area, with the following options:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

A separate open text feedback was available after question 1 of the consultation:

*“Are there any other points you would like to make?”*

For the purpose of this summary this free text feedback has been grouped into common themes in pages 16-19 of this report.



## Top line consultation results\*

Consultation Questions	Strongly Agree/ Agree		Neither Agree or Disagree		Strongly Disagree / Disagree		Don't know	
	Responses	%	Responses	%	Responses	%	Responses	%
<p>1. Do you agree or disagree that the Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority should take on responsibility for the functions of West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Community Safety (Mayor will approve Community Safety Plan on behalf of the Combined Authority)</li> <li>➤ Budgeting and setting of the Council Tax precept for the Fire Service across the seven constituent Councils</li> <li>➤ Appointment of the Chief Fire Officer by the Mayor of the Combined Authority</li> </ul>	543	47	108	9	473	40	35	3
<p>2. Do you agree or disagree that there should be a Fire Advisory Committee, consisting of members from the WMCA constituent councils, the Police and Crime Commissioners Office, Health and Ambulance Trust, that will advise, support and review decisions made by the Mayor?</p>	680	59	79	7	374	32	23	2
<p>3. Do you agree or disagree that the Chief Fire Officer should be accountable to the Mayor for the operational functions of the Fire Service which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Workforce planning, management, appointment and development of staff</li> <li>➤ The delivery of West Midlands Fire Service strategy</li> <li>➤ Management of the West Midlands Fire Service</li> </ul>	624	55	98	9	400	35	26	2
<p>4. Do you agree or disagree that the Mayoral WMCA taking on responsibility for the function of West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Improve the services which West Midlands Fire Service deliver</li> <li>➤ Create a stronger strategic focus</li> <li>➤ Improve collaboration to deliver joined-up services</li> <li>➤ Widen and strengthen prevention and protection work with businesses and communities to reduce vulnerability to fire risks</li> </ul>	487	42	145	13	483	42	42	4
<p>5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The Order to transfer the Fire Service into the Combined Authority is likely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ to improve the statutory functions in the Combined Authority area</li> <li>➤ to reflect the local communities</li> <li>➤ to secure effective and convenient local government</li> </ul>	452	39	175	15	476	41	55	5

\*Respondents may not have answered all questions and % are rounded and so may not add up to 100%.

## 5. Response breakdown by question

### Question 1

Following an independent review of how your fire service is currently governed, we are proposing that the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) will take on responsibility for West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS). The review examined how a new governance model could impact communities; deliver improved public services across the West Midlands; improve scrutiny, transparency and accountability, while providing value for money. Benefits of changing the WMFS governance include a more joined up way of working with WMCA members - such as local authorities, health providers and the police – contributing to a shared vision for the region, resulting in public services being delivered at a reduced cost in a coordinated, integrated and collaborative way.

**Do you agree or disagree that the Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority should take on responsibility for the functions of West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority which includes:**

- **Community Safety (Mayor will approve Community Safety Plan on behalf of the Combined Authority)**
- **Budgeting and setting of the Council Tax precept for the Fire Service across the seven constituent Councils**
- **Appointment of the Chief Fire Officer by the Mayor of the Combined Authority**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

[please tell us why below]

### Question 1 Response summary

47% of respondents 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that the WMCA should take on the responsibility for the functions of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority. Conversely, 40% of respondents strongly disagreed or disagreed with the proposed governance change.

An option to provide an open text feedback response to Question 1 was provided on the questionnaire. The most frequent comments/responses to this question included:

- *The proposals would represent a decline in the accountability of those in charge of the fire service, as well as local councillors.*
- *Lack of expertise/capacity within the WMCA to run the fire service.*

- *Satisfied with the current arrangements, which do not need changing.*
- *Concern/fear that various aspects of the fire service and other services are becoming increasingly politicised.*
- *Support for fire service to be within a larger regional organisation such as the WMCA to form a more coordinated approach/make more accountable.*

**A comprehensive analysis of the literal responses provided as part of question 1 of the questionnaire can be found in Section 6 of this consultation report.**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Strongly Agree	263	23
Agree	280	24
Neither agree or disagree	108	9
Disagree	133	11
Strongly Disagree	340	29
Don't know	35	3

## **Question 2**

If the WMCA ran the fire service, there would be a single point of accountability; the Mayor of the West Midlands. If the changes went ahead, a Fire Advisory Committee made up of 15 councillors, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Health and Ambulance Trust, would be put in place to review decisions taken by the Mayor.

**Do you agree or disagree that there should be a Fire Advisory Committee, consisting of members from the WMCA constituent councils, the Police and Crime Commissioners Office, Health and Ambulance Trust, that will advise, support and review decisions made by the Mayor?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

## **Question 2 Response summary**

59% of respondents 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that there should be a Fire Advisory Committee, consisting of members from the WMCA constituent councils, the Police and Crime Commissioners Office, Health and Ambulance Trust, that will advise, support and review decisions made by the Mayor. Conversely, 32% of respondents either 'strongly disagreed' or 'disagreed' with this element of the proposed governance changes.

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Strongly Agree	349	30

Agree	331	29
Neither agree or disagree	79	7
Disagree	118	10
Strongly Disagree	256	22
Don't know	23	2

### Question 3

**Do you agree or disagree that the Chief Fire Officer should be accountable to the Mayor for the operational functions of the Fire Service which will include:**

- **Workforce planning, management, appointment and development of staff**
- **The delivery of West Midlands Fire Service strategy**
- **Management of the West Midlands Fire Service**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

### Question 3 Response summary

55% of respondents 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that the Chief Fire Officer should be accountable to the Mayor for the operational functions of the Fire Service, whereas 35% either 'disagreed' or 'strongly disagreed'.

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Strongly Agree	308	27
Agree	316	28
Neither agree or disagree	98	9
Disagree	141	12
Strongly Disagree	259	23
Don't know	26	2

### Question 4

The Mayor would be responsible for approving the community safety plan, budgeting, setting the fire Council Tax precept and appointing the Chief Fire Officer (CFO). The CFO currently reports to the Fire Authority, but under new arrangements would report directly to the Mayor. The CFO would still lead the day-to-day running of the fire service, including staff development, management of resources and importantly, delivering the fire service's strategic aims.

**Do you agree or disagree that the Mayoral WMCA taking on responsibility for the function of West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority would:**

- **Improve the services which West Midlands Fire Service deliver**
- **Create a stronger strategic focus**
- **Improve collaboration to deliver joined-up services**
- **Widen and strengthen prevention and protection work with businesses and communities to reduce vulnerability to fire risks**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

#### **Question 4 Response summary**

42% of respondents 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that the Mayoral WMCA taking on responsibility for the function of West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority would achieve those aims outlined within the questions posed. Conversely, 42% of respondents 'strongly disagreed' or 'disagreed' with one or more of the aims listed.

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Strongly Agree	234	20
Agree	253	22
Neither agree or disagree	145	13
Disagree	163	14
Strongly Disagree	320	28
Don't know	42	4

#### **Question 5**

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The Order to transfer the Fire Service into the Combined Authority is likely:**

- **to improve the statutory functions in the Combined Authority area**
- **to reflect the local communities**
- **to secure effective and convenient local government**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

#### **Question 5 Response summary**

39% of respondents 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that the Order to transfer the Fire Service into the Combined Authority is likely to: improve the statutory functions in the Combined Authority area; reflect the local communities; and secure effective and convenient local government. 41% of respondents either 'strongly disagreed' or 'disagreed' with the question.

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Strongly Agree	198	17
Agree	254	22
Neither agree or disagree	175	15
Disagree	151	13
Strongly Disagree	325	28
Don't know	55	5

### **Questions 1 – 5: 'Don't know' responses received**

The highest area of 'Don't know' responses received were in relation to Question 5 of questionnaire with 55 respondents choosing this option equating to 5%.

Questions 1 (Proposed Governance Arrangements), 2 (Role of Fire Advisory Committee), 3 (Chief Fire Officer to be accountable to the Mayor) and 4 (Lead to a more joined up and focused service) received the least 'don't know' responses, with 3%, 2%, 2% and 4% respectively. They were also the questions which received the most 'strongly agree' responses across the consultation.

### **Responding to feedback**

Both positive and negative feedback received will be addressed in various ways, including sharing information/feedback with the appropriate subject area lead/s, adapting frequently asked questions and incorporating feedback into communications plans to ensure continuous development, improvement and engagement.

### **Tell us about yourself**

In addition to the questions relevant to the proposed Fire Service governance changes, additional questions were also asked to analyse the demographics of the consultation respondents.

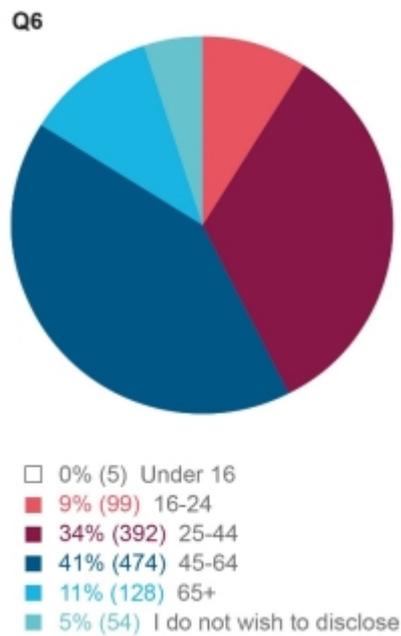
## Question 6

Respondents were asked:

**Could you please tell us your age?**

- Under 16
- 16-24
- 25-44
- 45-64
- 65+
- I do not wish to disclose

Responses are illustrated below:



## Question 7

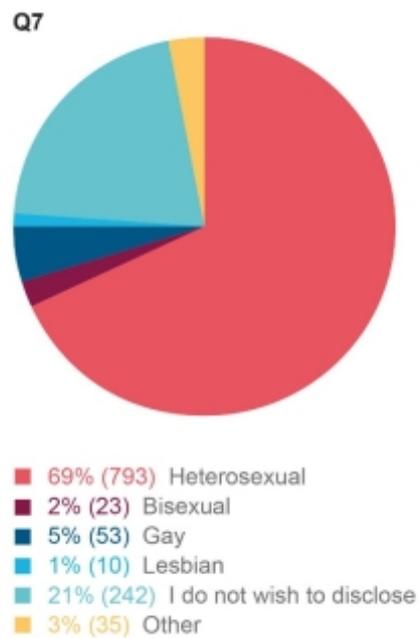
Respondents were asked:

**Could you please disclose your sexual orientation?**

- Heterosexual
- Bisexual
- Gay
- Lesbian
- I do not wish to disclose

Other (please specify)

Responses are illustrated below:



## Question 8

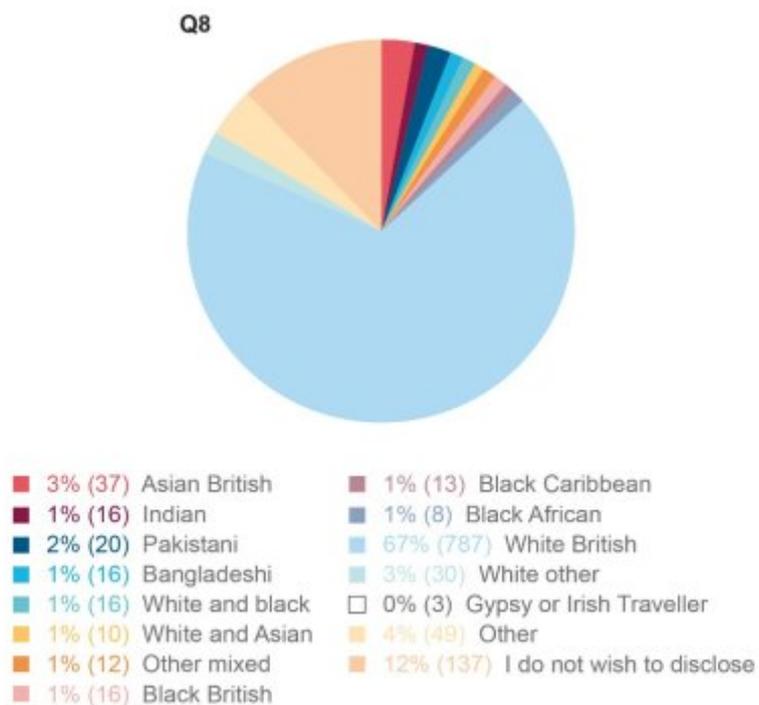
Respondents were asked:

### Ethnicity

- Asian British
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- White and black
- White and Asian
- Other mixed
- Black British
- Black Caribbean
- Black African
- White British
- White other
- Gypsy or Irish traveller
- I do not wish to disclose

Other (please specify)

Responses are illustrated below:



## Question 9

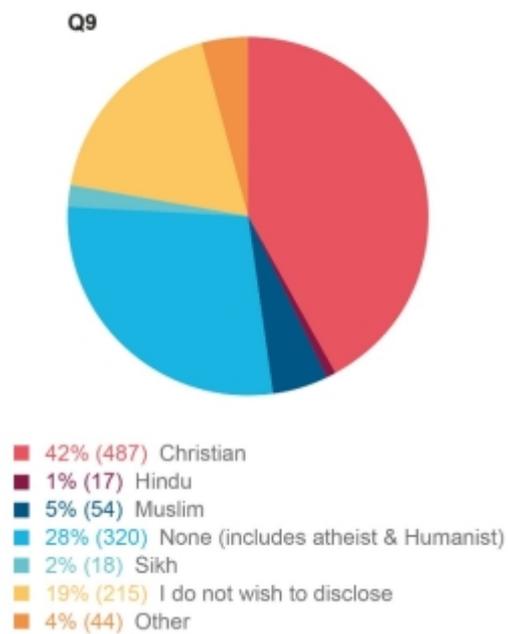
Respondents were asked:

### Religion

- Christian (all denominations)
- Hindu
- Muslim
- None (includes atheist & Humanist)
- Sikh
- I do not wish to disclose

Other (please specify)

Responses are illustrated below:



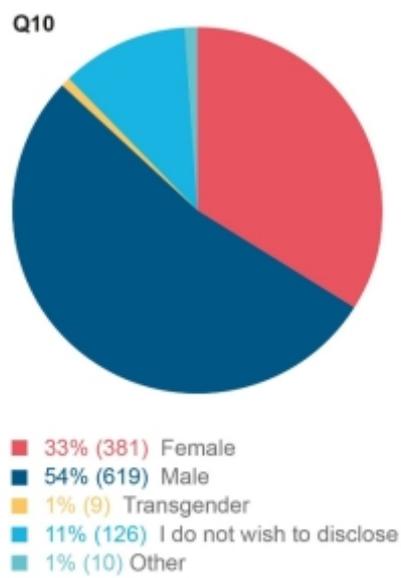
## Question 10

Respondents were asked:

### Could you please disclose your gender

- Female
- Male
- Transgender
- I do not wish to disclose

Responses are illustrated below:



## Question 11

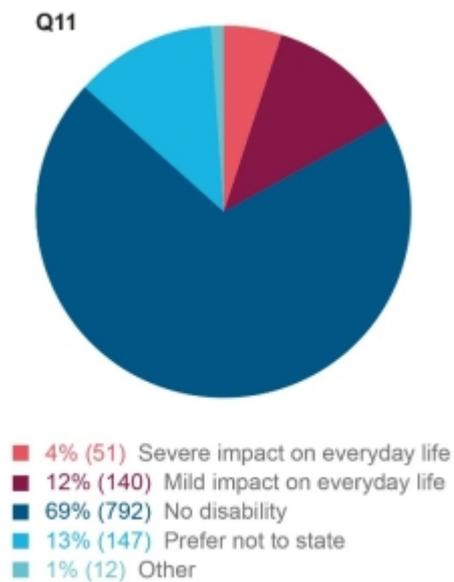
Respondents were asked:

**Do you consider yourself to have a disability which has:**

- Severe impact on everyday life
- Mild impact on everyday life
- No disability
- Prefer not to state

Other (please specify)

Responses are illustrated below:



## Question 12

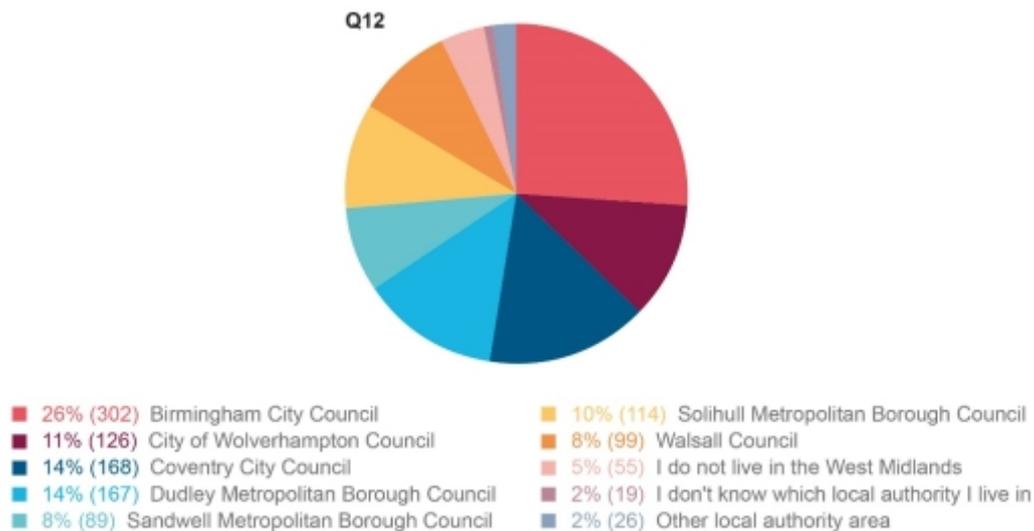
Respondents were asked:

### Which constituent council area do you live in?

- Birmingham City Council
- City of Wolverhampton Council
- Coventry City Council
- Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
- Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
- Walsall Council
- I don't live in the West Midlands
- I don't know which local authority area I live in

Other local authority area (please specify)

Responses are illustrated below:



As required, the consultation was carried out by the constituent councils across the seven metropolitan council areas of the WMCA.

Additionally, several respondents from areas outside of the WMCA area have provided feedback in relation to proposals in the Scheme, which are included in the table below:

Local Authority	Number of respondents
Warwickshire	8
Staffordshire	5
Worcestershire	5
Gloucestershire	1
Shropshire	1
Telford and Wrekin	1
Unspecified	3

### Question 13

Respondents were asked:

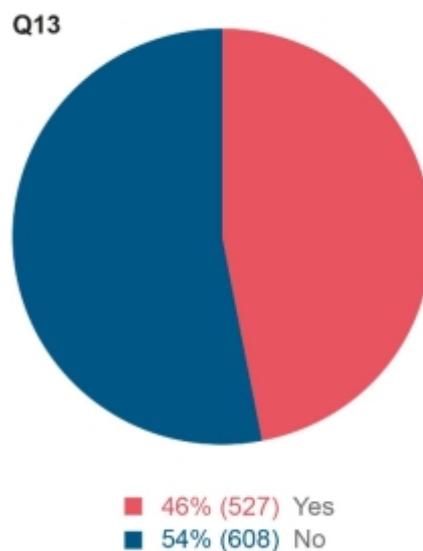
**Do you work for the public sector?**

Yes

No

If so, could you please tell us which organisation you work for.

Responses are illustrated below:

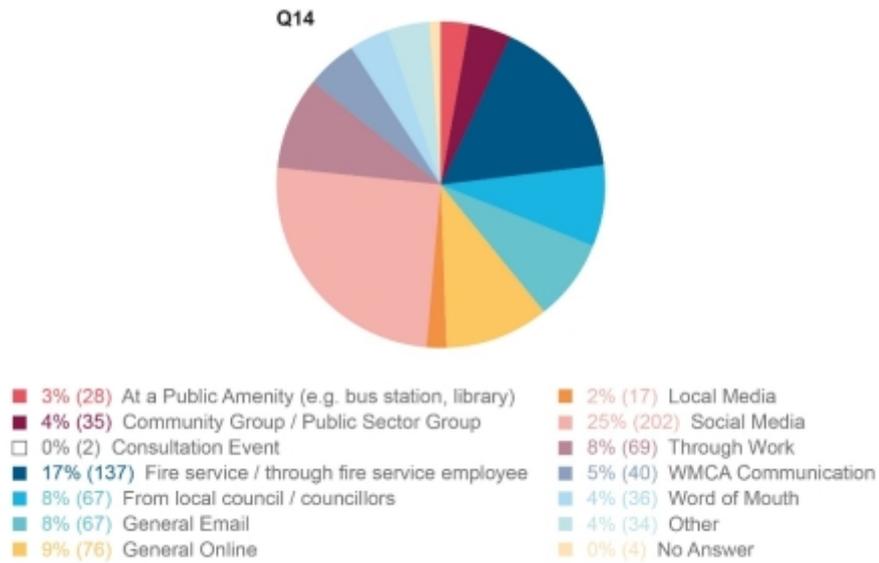


## Question 14

Respondents were asked:

### Where did you hear about this consultation?

Responses are illustrated below:



## 6. Open text feedback by theme

The consultation contained an open text feedback option as part of Question 1, as below:

***Do you agree or disagree that the Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority should take on responsibility for the functions of West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority which includes:***

- ***Community Safety (Mayor will approve Community Safety Plan on behalf of the Combined Authority)***
- ***Budgeting and setting of the Council Tax precept for the Fire Service across the seven constituent Councils***
- ***Appointment of the Chief Fire Officer by the Mayor of the Combined Authority***

***Are there any other points you would like to make?***

171 comments were submitted under this free text option. The comments varied in tone, theme and relevance. Some of the responses may not be directly related to the proposals in the Scheme itself but are still relevant to consider as part of the overall consultation.

The free text responses which had a frequency of two or more are summarised by theme below (those with a frequency of one are detailed in a table after the summary):

- 18 of the comments received (11%) stated that the proposals would represent a decline in the accountability of those in charge of the fire service, as well as local councillors.
- 18 of the comments received (11%) raised fears over a lack of expertise/capacity within the WMCA to run the Fire Service.
- 17 of the comments received (10%) expressed satisfaction with the current arrangements while suggesting the current governance scheme does not need changing.
- 16 of the comments received (9%) raised concerns that various aspects of the fire service and other services are becoming increasingly politicised.
- 12 of the comments received (8%) expressed support for fire service to be within a larger regional organisation such as the WMCA to form a more coordinated approach/make more accountable.
- Nine of the comments received (5%) referred to a lack of faith that enough money will be spent to support the Fire Service across the region.
- Nine of the comments received (5%) raised concern over perceived additional expenditure and/or bureaucracy changes would bring.

- Seven of the comments received (4%) said that the running of the fire service should stay with the Chief Fire Officer.
- Five of the comments received (3%) stated their general opposition to the WMCA/Mayor, but did not comment on the proposals specifically.
- Four of the comments received (3%) said that the WMCA is taking on too many responsibilities too quickly since its inception.
- Four of the comments received (3%) said local councils/councillors should decide whether the proposals go ahead.
- Three of the comments received (2%) suggested the Council Tax income should be apportioned to reflect the needs of each individual local authority.
- Three of the comments received (2%) said there should be safeguards to protect the WMFS budget and specialist decision making.
- Three of the comments received (2%) felt the new proposals suggested as part of the consultation are already a foregone conclusion.
- Three of the comments received (2%) said that the WMCA running the Fire Service would be preferable to the Fire Service being run under the Police and Crime Commissioner instead.
- Three of the comments received (2%) raised concern that the quality of the Fire Service would decrease.
- Three of the comments received (2%) said the proposed changes were too difficult for the average person to understand.
- Three of the comments received (2%) said they would like to see a decent level of savings made as part of the proposals.
- Two of the comments received (1%) raised general opposition to the proposals.
- Two of the comments received (1%) argued the current fire authority isn't working as WMFS has too much middle/senior management.
- Two of the comments received (1%) were concerned that the new governance structure could hamper current partnerships with the NHS and third sector.
- Two of the comments received (1%) said the Fire Service is unable to budget properly under the current arrangement.
- Two of the comments received (1%) from respondents were not worried how the Fire Service is managed as long as it is done well and the relevant staff are happy.

- Two of the comments received (1%) stated that the Fire Unions should have been involved at an earlier stage.
- Two of the comments (1%) said the Fire Authority is currently democratic with a mix of views.

Further comments which were received during the consultation are listed in the table below:

Response by theme	Frequency
Police should be governed by WMCA and Mayor to be PCC as in London & Manchester.	1
Birmingham City Council cannot be trusted to utilise taxpayers' money.	1
Communications need to be improved.	1
Current staff should be protected and be given opportunities for transfer to new authority or voluntary redundancy.	1
The Fire Service should be run and funded by central government.	1
The Fire Service should be privatised to allow choice for tax payers.	1
'Yet another American system'.	1
Only the benefits of WMCA taking control of WMFS have been presented, you do not show the other side.	1
I would expect the Community Safety Plan to be subject to public consultation.	1
More fire engines and rescue boats are needed.	1
Open Walsall Fire Station.	1
Hand Coventry area to Warwickshire Fire & Rescue - better value for money for all parties.	1
Would like to see the Mayor engage regularly with firefighters.	1
There is also scope for closer collaboration with WMAS perhaps with some shared stations.	1
What are the thoughts of the PCC?	1
The appointment of the Chief Fire Officer should not be by the Mayor.	1
Would describe the proposals as 'micromanaging'.	1
Expressed wish not to alter firefighters contracts.	1
The WMFS are not being updated when residents have already had their free Safe and Well Check.	1
Insufficient room provided to submit response.	1
Making the WMCA larger doesn't necessarily mean the service will be better.	1
Fire station in West Bromwich is a vital part of the town.	1
The number of councillors should be reduced	1
Lack of trust for local councils	1

Segregation of budget decisions and safety decisions are limited.	1
The mayor was not voted in to take on this role	1
Perception the proposals would mean the closure of local facilities for emergency services.	1
Would like to see other options available	1
The firefighters should have their say first	1
Please bring back the West Midlands county boundary	1
The Mayor is governed by the Councils	1
There is not enough information to make an informed decision	1
Preference for more than one person to be in charge	1
Preference for Aldridge Fire Station to remain open	1
No one but Phil Loach will have any idea how a fire service runs	1

## 7. Stakeholder Representations

As well as formal consultation responses via online or paper methods, stakeholder representations were made regarding the proposals in connection with the Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority Scheme Appendix B.

Stakeholder representations were received from:

Fire Brigades Union FBU  
Anthea McIntyre MEP

Full details are provided in Appendix C

**Appendix A – Consultation Documentation**

Consultation Poster



Consultation Survey

## Appendix B - Stakeholder List

<u>Title</u>	<u>Saluation</u>	<u>Constituency</u>
<b>MPs</b>		
Wendy Morton MP	Ms Morton	Aldridge-Brownhills
Preet Gill MP	Ms Gill	Birmingham Edgbaston
Jack Dromey MP	Mr Dromey	Birmingham Erdington
Roger Godsiff MP	Mr Godsiff	Birmingham Hall Green
Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP	Mr Byrne	Birmingham Hodge Hill
Shabana Mahmood MP	Ms Mahmood	Birmingham Ladywood
Richard Burden MP	Mr Burden	Birmingham Northfield
Khalid Mahmood MP	Mr Mahmood	Birmingham Perry Barr
Steve McCabe MP	Mr McCabe	Birmingham Selly Oak
Jess Phillips MP	Ms Phillips	Birmingham Yardley
Colleen Fletcher MP	Ms Fletcher	Coventry North East
Geoffrey Robinson MP	Mr Robinson	Coventry North West
Jim Cunningham MP	Mr Cunningham	Coventry South
Ian Austin MP	Mr Austin	Dudley North
Mike Wood MP	Mr Wood	Dudley South
James Morris MP	Mr Morris	Halesowen and Rowley Regis
Rt Hon Dame Caroline Spelman	Dame Caroline	Meriden
Julian Knight MP	Mr Knight	Solihull
Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP	Mr Mitchell	Sutton Coldfield
Rt Hon Eddie Hughes MP	Mr Hughes	Walsall North
Valerie Vaz MP	Ms Vaz	Walsall South
Rt Hon John Spellar MP	Mr Spellar	Warley
Tom Watson MP	Mr Watson	West Bromwich East
Adrian Bailey MP	Mr Bailey	West Bromwich West
Emma Reynolds MP	Ms Reynolds	Wolverhampton North East
Rt Hon Pat McFadden MP	Mr McFadden	Wolverhampton South East
Eleanor Smith MP	Ms Smith	Wolverhampton South West
Margot James MP	Ms James	Stourbridge
Rt Honourable Sajid Javid MP		
Rt Honourable Nick Hurd MP		
Ms Chloe Dunnett		Home Office
Mr Stephen Polly		Home Office

## MEPs

Jill Seymour MEP	Ms Seymour	UKIP
Neena Gill MEP CBE	Ms Gill	Labour
Dan Dalton MEP	Mr Dalton	Conservative
James Carver MEP	Mr Carver	UKIP
Siôn Simon MEP	Mr Simon	Labour
Anthea McIntyre MEP	Ms McIntyre	Conservative
Bill Etheridge MEP	Mr Etheridge	UKIP
<b>Black and Ethnic Minorities</b>		
The Manager	Sir/Madam	Birmingham Muslim Foundation Islamic Society of Britain (Birmingham branch) Jami Masjid and Islamic Centre Birmingham
Ms Mehmooda Qureshi	Ms Qureshi	
The Manager	Sir/Madam	Arrahma Islamic Centre
To whom it may concern	Sir/Madam	Birmingham Central Mosque
To whom it may concern	Sir/Madam	
Bhai Sahib Bhai (Dr) Mohinder Singh OBE KSG	Dr Singh	Nishkam Centre Guru Nanah Gurdwara Sahib Walsall
To whom it may concern	Sir/Madam	Sikh Community and Youth Service UK
The Manager	Sir/Madam	West Midlands Police Sikh Association
To whom it may concern	Sir/Madam	Shree Hindu Community Centre
Mr Tarang Shelat	Mr Shelat	Bengali Association Midlands
Mr Santimoy De	Mr De	Shree Geeta Bhawan Temple & Hindu Priest Services
To whom it may concern	Sir/Madam	Hindu Cultural Resource Centre
The Manager	Sir/Madam	Durga Bhawan
The Manager	Sir/Madam	The Polish Centre
To whom it may concern	Sir/Madam	Emerging Communities Network
To whom it may concern	Sir/Madam	Emerging Communities Network Afro Caribbean Millennium Centre
The Manager	Sir/Madam	African Community Council For the Regions
To whom it may concern	Sir/Madam	

## **Future Governance Working Group**

Brian Nash

Jonathon Jardine

Paul Faulkner

Keith Ireland

Nick Page

Tony Yeaman

Barbara Watt

Simon Brake

Richard Bacon

Home Office

WM PCC Office

Birmingham Chamber of  
Commerce

MD City of Wolverhampton  
Council

CEx Solihull Council

Weightmans

Walsall Council

Coventry Council

PwC

**Appendix C – Stakeholder Representation**

