

The governance and management of Fire and Rescue Services in England

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1. BACKGROUND

Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) in England have experienced considerable reform over the last 30 years, including recent radical changes driven by austerity and significant reductions in public expenditure (NAO 2015, PAC 2016, Murphy and Greenhalgh, 2018).



Nevertheless, government discontent with the performance and the speed of change within the sector has culminated in the implementation of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 and the new National Framework for FRS (Murphy *et al.* 2019).

2. THE POLICING AND CRIME ACT 2017 AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

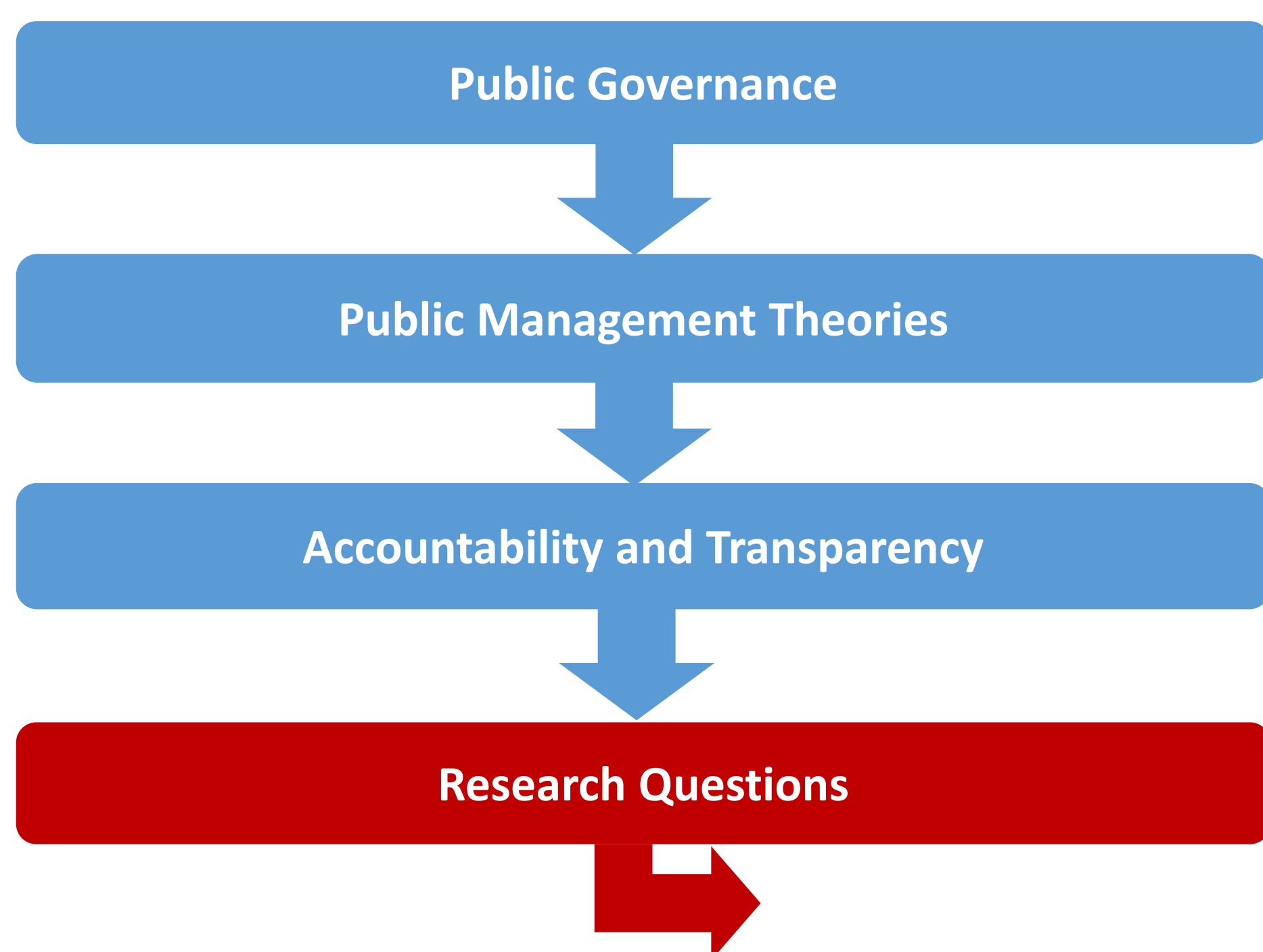
Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs)

The government has encouraged and enabled PCCs to take on responsibilities for local fire services to generate savings and more effective joint working.

New external scrutiny arrangements

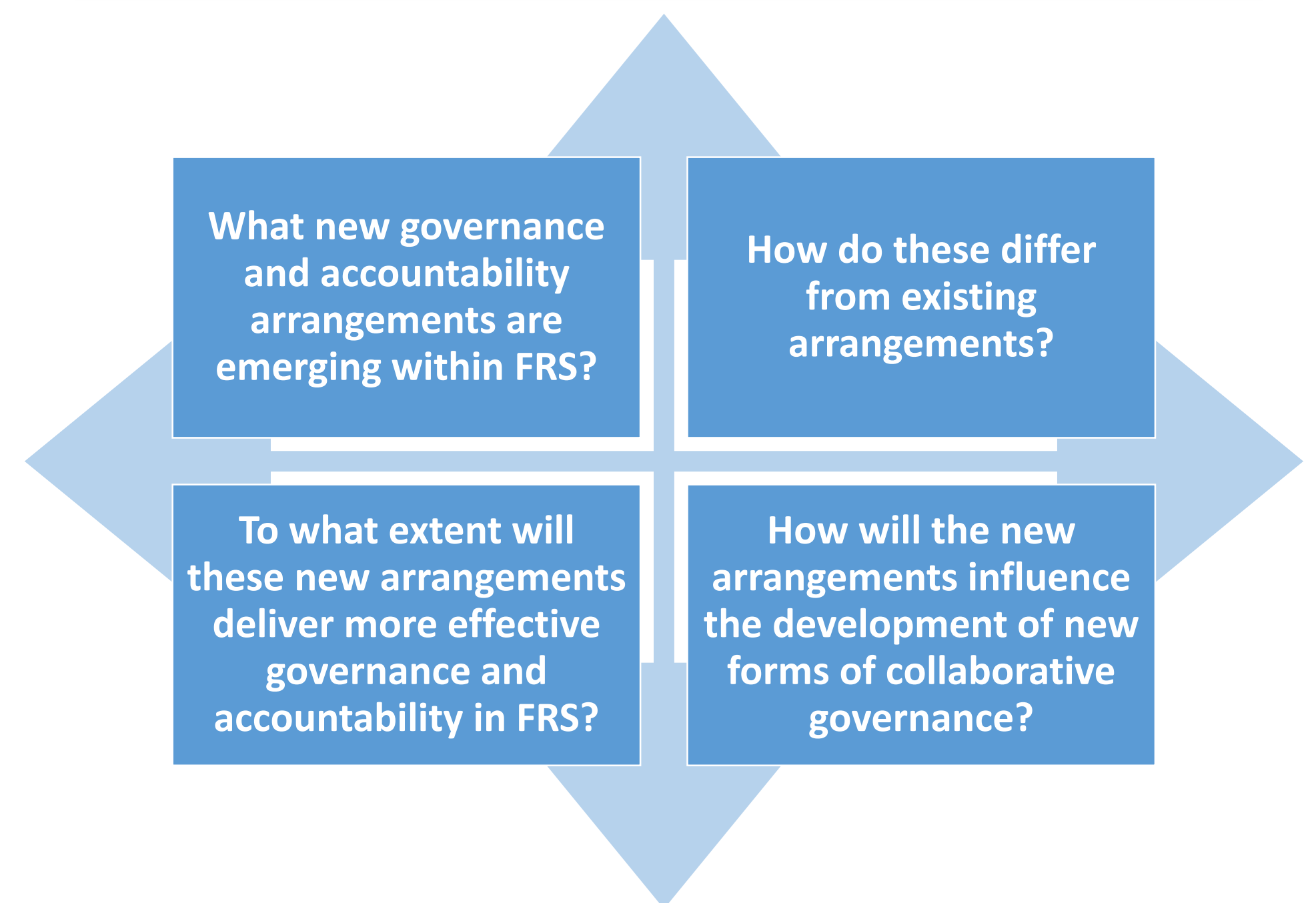
A new inspectorate, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), will assess and report on the management, effectiveness, and leadership of police forces and FRSs in England to improve accountability and transparency for local communities (Murphy *et al.* 2019).

3. THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES



4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

To what extent will the emerging collaborative governance arrangements affect accountability within the FRS?



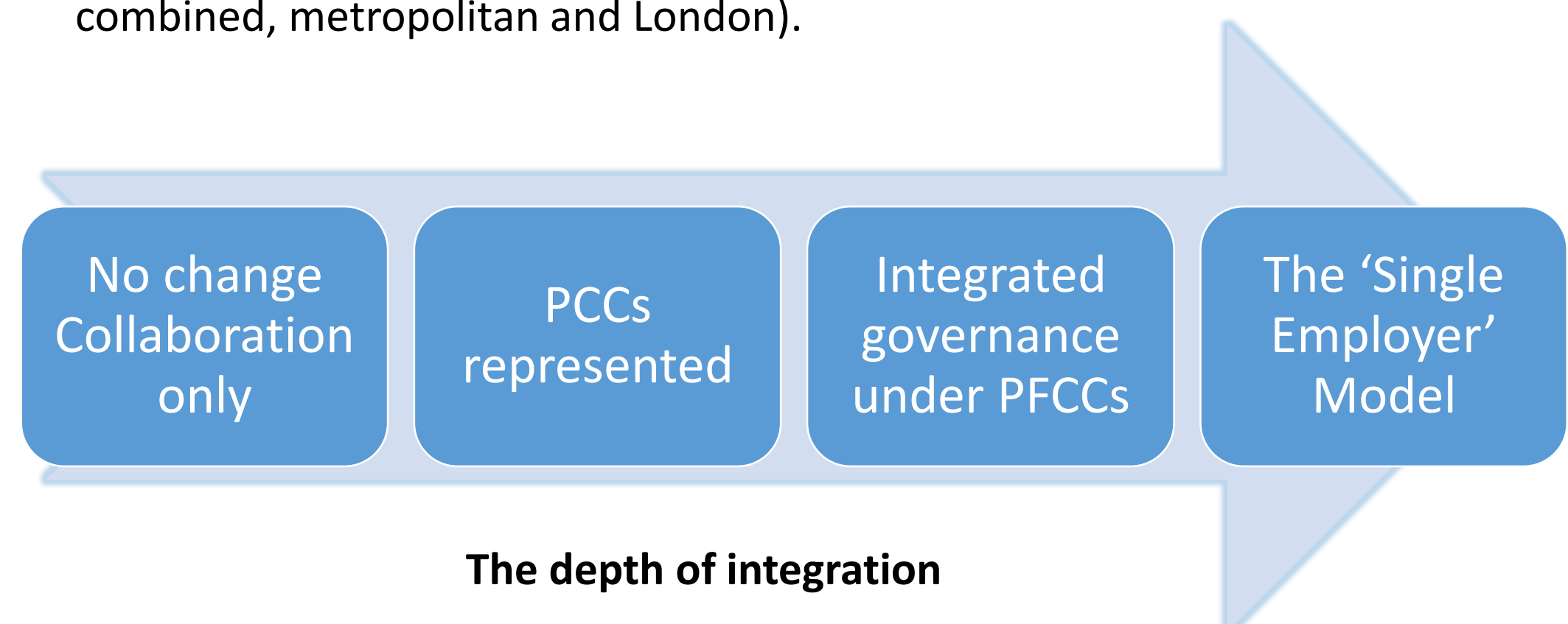
5. METHODOLOGY AND METHODS

A sequential mixed methods approach will address the research question. This research will use a deductive approach within a methodology based on multiple case studies.

- 1 • A document analysis of key FRS documents
- 2 • A review of public and non-public data
- 3 • A series of interviews and focus groups drawn from key stakeholders involved in collaborative arrangements

6. MULTIPLE CASE STUDIES

It is proposed to use a selection of the **45 FRSs**. The criteria for multiple case studies selection include a spread across **four different stages of integration** and across the **four different types of FRSs** (county, combined, metropolitan and London).



7. REFERENCES

1. Murphy, P., and Greenhalgh, K., eds., 2018. *Fire and rescue services: Leadership and Management Perspectives*. London: Springer.
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4. Public Accounts Select Committee, 2016. *Financial Sustainability of fire and rescue services*. London: House of Commons.