

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY
DATE: 14th FEBRUARY 2017
REPORT OF: HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
AUTHOR: ANDREW LEADBETTER

SUBJECT: REMOVAL OF POLICY COMMITTEE

Purpose of Report

1. To allow Members to consider the removal of Policy Committee from the Authority's meeting structure and changes to the Authority's Constitution.

Recommended that Members

- [1] Agree to the removal of Policy Committee from the Authority's meeting structure.
- [2] Agree to the changes to the Constitution required to give effect to recommendation [1] to take effect at the start of the next municipal year.

Background

2. When the Authority's Constitution was reviewed in 2013 and 2014 Members made it clear to officers that all major decisions were to be made by the Fire Authority. This was reflected in the delegations in the Constitution.
3. In recent years a number of meetings of Policy Committee have been cancelled and agendas have been relatively light when meetings have taken place. Members appeared content to remove Policy Committee from the Authority's meeting structure when this was raised at the recent Members' Planning Day. This report sets out the changes to the Constitution that are required to remove Policy Committee and reallocate its responsibilities.
4. Governance and Constitution Committee met on 8th February 2017 and considered this matter. Members were content with the proposal to remove Policy Committee from the Authority's meeting structure and the proposed changes to the Constitution which appear in Appendix 1 to this report.

Information

5. Appendix 1 to this report is an extract from the Constitution. Members will see that the extract has been changed (using the 'track changes' feature)

to reflect the removal of Policy Committee from the Authority's meeting structure.

6. Members will see the list of policies etc. that are currently the responsibility of Policy Committee. It is believed that the additional business that will fall to the Fire Authority is manageable given that a number of the items are not reported regularly.
7. Governance and Constitution Committee was content with the proposal to pass the responsibility to act as Closure of Accounts Committee to Performance and Overview Committee (inviting the Finance Member Champions to the meeting).

Financial Implications

8. There are no financial implications.

Legal Implications

9. Appendix 1 to this report sets out the changes that need to be made to the Constitution.

Equality and Diversity and Environmental Implications

10. None

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE**