

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY
DATE: 25TH APRIL 2018
REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMISSIONING
AUTHOR: ANDREW LEADBETTER

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE FIRE AUTHORITY'S
CONSTITUTION

The Governance and Constitution Committee has been reviewing elements of the Fire Authority's Constitution.

A. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

The attached version (marked 2A) has been updated to reflect the discussions at two meetings of the Committee. Members asked that the Code was simplified and that aspects were made clearer. The main changes can be found at:

- Paragraph 2.2 Information and Confidentiality has been added
- Section 4. Declaring of Interests and Participation in Meetings has been broken down to make it clearer.
- Appendix 4 of the Code (which contained extracts from the Localism Act 2011) has been removed as Members did not believe it added value.

Separately, Members asked that the Notice of Disclosable Interests form be updated. It now includes the following declaration to be made by each Member:

"I have received a copy of the Members' Code of Conduct and agree to abide by it."

Decision

Members are asked to approve the adoption of the Members' Code of Conduct attached to this report as 2A. This is recommended by Governance and Constitution Committee.

B. PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING COMPLAINTS

Members assisted officers in the production of a new version of the Procedure. The attached version seeks to reflect the best elements of the various procedures elsewhere.

The Procedure is attached for information only as the Committee is responsible for agreeing the arrangement for investigation and decision-making in relation to

allegations of breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct. The Procedure is attached (marked 2B).

Separately Members asked for clarification about the membership of the Members' Code of Conduct Sub-Committee. They believe that the Sub-Committee shall, wherever possible, have two Members from each of the two main political groups. Those Members are drawn from Governance and Constitution Committee. A note to this effect will be included in the report dealing with committee appointments etc. in June.

C. REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR BRIGADE MANAGERS' PAY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE AND STAFFING COMMITTEE

The attached document (marked 2C) has been updated to reflect decisions at a recent meeting of Governance and Constitution Committee.

The report (with appendix) considered by the Committee is also attached for reference.

Decision

Members are asked to approve the responsibilities of the Brigade Managers' Pay and Performance Committee and Staffing Committee, attached to this report as 2C. These are recommended by Governance and Constitution Committee.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE**