

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE
DATE: 5th JULY 2023
REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE
AUTHOR: ANDREW LEADBETTER

SUBJECT: FIRE AUTHORITY CONSTITUTION – REVIEW
(PART ONE)

Purpose of Report

1. To enable Members to consider changes to the Fire Authority's Constitution for recommendation to the Fire Authority.

Recommended That: Members

- [1] Consider the Sections of the Constitution covered by this report; and
- [2] agree any changes (which will ultimately be confirmed by the fire authority).

Background

2. Since the current version of the Constitution was adopted in 18th June 2014, there have been a number of relatively minor changes to it. The most significant change was the adoption of the current Members' Code of Conduct. It feels appropriate to carry out a full review of the Constitution during this Municipal Year.

Information

3. The Constitution is relatively short when set against similar documents adopted by other public bodies. However, it is still over 100 pages and it would be unhelpful to carry out a review of it in one sitting. Officers intend to work with Members to on a phased review (probably over three meetings of the Committee).
4. This report is Part One of the Review and covers Sections 1, 2, 5 and 6 of the Constitution.

Section 1 of the Constitution

5. Section 1 of the Constitution is attached to this report as Appendix 1. Some minor changes have been made to simplify the introductory text. It seems appropriate to continue to include the Combination Scheme.

Section 2 of the Constitution

6. Section 2 of the Constitution includes a short explanation of certain key documents, namely: Integrated Risk Management Plan; Five Year Strategy; Medium Term Financial Plan; Annual Statement of Assurance; Business Continuity Plan; Annual Report; and Annual Financial Statement.
7. Given the fact that the documents referred to in Section 2 are all available electronically on the Website this Section seems superfluous and should be removed.

Section 5 of the Constitution

8. Section 5 of the Constitution is attached to this report as Appendix 2. Members will see that it refers to various outside bodies. Some minor changes have been made to update the text, e.g. references to the current owners of NW Fire Control Limited. Members will note that those Members that attend the various outside bodies do not have any delegated decision-making. Some of the outside bodies have become less active and this perhaps needs to be reflected in the final version that is considered by the Fire Authority.

Section 6 of the Constitution

9. Section 6 of the Constitution is attached to this report as Appendix 3. Members will see that it provides a general description of the various roles that Members fulfil. It also refers to the Police and Crime Commissioner's rights. This section appears to adequately describe the various roles, but Members' feedback is welcomed.

Financial Implications

10. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

11. The Fire Authority should have a Constitution that assists it to carry out its work. It should be reviewed from time-to-time to ensure that it remains current and fit for purpose.

Equality & Diversity Implications

12. There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

Environmental Implications

13. There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

**CONTACT: DONNA LINTON, FIRE SERVICE HQ, WINSFORD
TEL [01606] 868804**

BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE