

SECTION 3 – MEMBERS’ DECISION-MAKING BODIES

INTRODUCTION

This section sets out the responsibilities of the Members’ Decision-Making Bodies. It sets out the responsibilities of the Fire Authority and lists the matters that it has delegated.

The table on the next page summarises the structure of the Members’ Decision-Making Bodies providing key information and outlining requirements associated with each of the Bodies.

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TABLE OF KEY INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

BODY	NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS	APPOINTMENT	QUORUM	OTHER REQUIREMENTS				NO OF MEETINGS
FIRE AUTHORITY	23	By Constituent Authorities allocated seats in ratio of electors in each of the areas covered by Fire Authority. Constituent Authorities appoint in political proportion.	One third and All Constituent Authorities must be represented.	Police and Crime Commissioner attends as non-elected, non-voting member.				6
PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE	7	By Fire Authority. Appoints in political proportion. Appoints Chair and Deputy Chair of Committee	Any three elected Members.	One independent non-elected member attends in advisory capacity.		Independent non-elected members to agree which one sits on this Committee. If agreement can't be reached the Fire Authority will decide.	Act as Closure of Accounts Committee.	4
GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE	6	By Fire Authority. Appoints in political proportion. Appoints Chair and Deputy Chair of Committee.	Any three elected Members.	Two independent non-elected members attend in advisory capacity.			Complaints about Members' conduct will involve an independent person that is not a member of this committee.	4
BRIGADE MANAGERS' PAY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE	7	By Fire Authority. Appoints in political proportion. Appoints Chair and Deputy Chair of Committee.	Any three elected Members.					3
STAFFING COMMITTEE	7	No appointments required.	Any three elected Members.		Members from Brigade Managers' Pay and Performance Committee act as this committee.			2
ESTATES AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE	6	By Fire Authority. Appoints in political proportion. Appoints Chair and Deputy Chair of Committee.	Any three elected Members.	One independent non-elected member attends in advisory capacity.	To include, wherever possible, Lead Members and the Procurement and Environment Member Champions.	Independent non-elected members to agree which one sits on this Committee. If agreement can't be reached the Fire Authority will decide.		Ad Hoc
JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE	4	By Fire Authority. Appoints in political proportion. Appoints Chair and Deputy Chair of Committee.	Any three elected Members.	Union Officials attend. Up to 3 FBU, 1 from FOA, 1 from Unison, as necessary.				Ad Hoc
BUSINESS CONTINUITY COMMITTEE	Varies	By virtue of role.	Any three elected Members.		Chair, Deputy Chair, Group Spokespersons, Lead Members.			Ad Hoc

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY

- 3.1 Makes all Member decisions that are not delegated to other Member Decision-Making Bodies.
- 3.2 Makes key decisions, including but not limited to:
 - Approval of the budget (including capital and revenue proposals)
 - Setting the precept
 - Approval of the annual accounts
 - Approval of the Annual Statement of Assurance
- 3.3 Approves key/significant plans (and considers associated documentation, e.g. annual reports).
- 3.4 Approves key/significant strategies (and considers associated documentation, e.g. annual reports).
- 3.5 Approves key/significant policies (and considers associated documentation, e.g. annual reports).
- 3.6 Establishes and determines the responsibilities, and composition of, and appointments to all Members’ Decision-Making Bodies and determines Member Roles and makes appointments to all outside bodies.
- 3.7 Adopts the Members’ Codes of Conduct.
- 3.8 Approves the Members’ Allowances Scheme.
- 3.9 Considers and determines any matters referred to it by any of the Members’ decision-making bodies.
- 3.10 Receives key external reports and determines appropriate actions e.g. Operational Assessment and HMICFRS.
- 3.11 Appoints the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive.
- 3.12 Agrees overall Scheme of Delegation.
- 3.13 Agrees any transfer of functions and/or powers and/or major changes to service delivery (including the establishment of a trading company etc.).
- 3.14 Settles responses to key consultations.
- 3.15 Agrees to buy or sell land and/or buildings.
- 3.16 Agrees to enter into key and/or long-term contractual commitments.
- 3.17 Approves statutory statements e.g. Annual Pay Policy Statement.
- 3.18 Approves annual report.

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- 3.19 Considers External Audit Findings and Value for Money Conclusion report (including approval of Audit Arrangements and Fees).
- 3.20 Approves the Constitution and any amendments to it.
- 3.21 Acts as duty holder for matters relating to health and safety.
- 3.22 Takes the leading role in respect of risk management (with the support of the Risk Management Board).

IF IN DOUBT TREAT THE MATTER AS ‘KEY/SIGNIFICANT’ AND REPORT THE MATTER TO THE FIRE AUTHORITY.

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RESPONSIBILITIES PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

The Performance and Overview Committee:

- 3.23 Assists the Authority in the development, review and monitoring of plans (e.g. Integrated Risk Management Plan), strategies and policies (e.g. Health and Safety Management Policy, receiving the Annual Health and Safety report), making recommendations and offering advice, as appropriate.
- 3.24 Monitors performance (financial and non-financial) with a view to securing efficiency, effectiveness and value for money, making recommendations and offering advice, as appropriate.
- 3.25 Reviews the implementation of decisions by the Authority, making recommendations and offering advice, as appropriate.
- 3.26 Monitors delivery of the Authority’s programmes and projects, making recommendations and offering advice, as appropriate.
- 3.27 Monitors progress against the internal audit plan and recommendations from internal audits, making recommendations and offering advice, as appropriate.
- 3.28 Monitors arrangements with third parties, e.g. partners and contractors, making recommendations and offering advice, as appropriate.
- 3.29 Refers matters to the Authority for consideration/determination when it believes that matters should be brought to its/their attention.
- 3.30 Act as Closure of Accounts Committee.
- 3.31 In order to fulfil these responsibilities the Committee may establish task and finish groups if specific issues require in-depth examination.
- 3.32 The Committee may request officers and/or Members to attend a meeting to provide information and answer questions about a matter that is before the Committee.

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

The Governance and Constitution Committee:

- 3.33 Discharges the requirements of Chapter 7 of Localism Act 2011.
- 3.34 Assists the Fire Authority in the promotion and maintenance of high standards.
- 3.35 Recommends the Members’ Code of Conduct to the Fire Authority (and updates/amendments).
- 3.36 Secures applications for the role of Independent Person and make recommendations to the Fire Authority.
- 3.37 Manages the relationship with the Independent Persons.
- 3.38 Considers requests for dispensations and grant them (where appropriate).
- 3.39 Ensures delivery of training for Members on standards issues.
- 3.40 Issues advice to Members on standards issues.
- 3.41 Approves the format of the register of Members’ interests and monitor completion.
- 3.42 Agrees arrangements for investigation and decision-making in relation to allegations of breaches of the Members’ code of conduct.
- 3.43 Monitors Member attendance and recommend action to the Fire Authority.
- 3.44 Arranges for the review of Members’ allowances and recommend to the Fire Authority.
- 3.45 Secures appropriate corporate governance arrangements and monitor them.
- 3.46 Monitors compliments and complaints (including ombudsman matters).
- 3.47 Reviews Fire Authority’s constitution and make recommendations to Fire Authority.
- 3.48 Provides support to the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer (Local Government Act 1972).
- 3.49 Considers and act upon developments related to standards in its broadest sense.
- 3.50 Agrees any indemnity afforded to Members and/or officers.
- 3.51 Settles the terms of any Member/officer protocol.
- 3.52 Monitors the effectiveness of Member/officer relationships.

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- 3.53 Considers matters referred by Performance and Overview Committee.
- 3.54 Settles the strategy for audit arrangements and carry out high level monitoring of the effectiveness of those arrangements.
- 3.55 Determines the Authority’s approach to the transparency agenda and monitor compliance with information-related legislative requirements.

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF ESTATES AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

- 3.56 To ensure that the Fire Authority’s property management arrangements are appropriate, providing guidance to officers as necessary.
- 3.57 To provide guidance to officers and the Fire Authority in relation to property transactions.
- 3.58 To provide guidance to officers and the Fire Authority in relation to the sharing of its sites/premises with third parties.
- 3.59 To assist in the co-ordination of and agreeing the prioritisation of property-related projects/programmes.
- 3.60 To assist in the co-ordination of and agreeing the prioritisation of environmental projects/programmes and supporting officers and the Fire Authority in the delivery of matters that further the Authority’s Environmental Strategy.
- 3.61 To engage in key procurement issues as necessary.
- 3.62 To oversee the arrangements for Safety Central.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (JCC)

- 3.63 To apply due consideration to an issue when there has been a failure to agree, with a view to determining an outcome.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF BRIGADE MANAGERS’ PAY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

- 3.64 To determine and undertake the appointment process for the posts of Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Fire Officer.
- 3.65 To appraise the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive.
- 3.66 To determine the remuneration of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive.
- 3.67 To review the appraisal of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer.
- 3.68 To determine the remuneration of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer.
- 3.69 To determine (in accordance with the relevant policies and procedures) HR/IR matters concerning/affecting the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Fire Officer.

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF STAFFING COMMITTEE

- 3.70 To appoint Area Managers and roles of equivalent standing.
- 3.71 To determine HR/IR matters (not delegated to officers or handled by JCC).
- 3.72 To determine pension matters.
- 3.73 To oversee key staff engagement and staff-related transformation activities.
- 3.74 To oversee discipline, grievance, employment claims etc.
- 3.75 To oversee relationships with representative bodies.
- 3.76 To approve the re-engagement of staff who have been retired or made redundant (excluding on call).

RESPONSIBILITIES OF BUSINESS CONTINUITY COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

- 3.77 The committee comprises of the Chair, Deputy Chair, Group Spokesperson(s) and Lead Member(s).

RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.78 To introduce, monitor and review contingency planning arrangements in the event of disruptions to the delivery of the service.
- 3.79 To provide guidance on issues arising in relation to business continuity events.

MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEMBERSHIP

- 3.80 The group comprises of 4 Members and 1 independent (non-elected) member and appointments are made by the Fire Authority.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.81 To advise on the development, monitoring and evaluation of a Member Training and Development Programme to ensure that Members’ training needs are being met.
- 3.82 To develop, monitor and review the Member Development Strategy and ensure that the Member Development Programme is developed in line with the strategy and to meet individual Member development needs.

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RISK MANAGEMENT BOARD

MEMBERSHIP

- 3.83 The Risk Management Board is chaired by the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive with representatives from the Senior Management Team attending, representation from Internal/External Audit and two elected Members.
- 3.84 Fire Authority Members should be drawn from the membership of the Fire Authority and are appointed by the Fire Authority.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.85 To identify, assess and monitor corporate risks and ensure they are managed in line with the Risk Management Framework. This group has a critical ‘check and challenge’ role to ensure that identified risks are based on sound risk information and are adequately evaluated. The strategic risks recorded within the Service’s Risk Management database will be used to determine the Authority’s levels of balances and reserves.
- 3.86 To review any high priority Internal Audit recommendations in the context of risk to the organisation and assess specific risks that may be escalated from Heads of Department or the Service Management
- 3.87 To undertake annual reviews of the Service Crisis Management Plan.

PHOENIX BOXING CLUB BOARD

MEMBERSHIP

- 3.88 The Governance Board includes two elected Members (drawn from Warrington Members) to represent Cheshire Fire Authority and the appointments are made by the Fire Authority.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.89 The main role of the Governance Board is to make decisions regarding the facilities and to promote and support the club.
- 3.90 The Board will hold at least two general meetings a year.

HEALTHY HEART RUNCORN TRAINING GYM BOARD

MEMBERSHIP

- 3.91 The Governance Board includes one elected Member (drawn from Halton Members) to represent Cheshire Fire Authority and the appointment is made by the Fire Authority.

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RESPONSIBILITIES

3.92 The main role of the Governance Board is to make decisions regarding the facilities and to promote and support the club.

UNITARY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT GROUPS

MEMBERSHIP

3.93 The Unitary Performance Area Groups are the performance delivery groups in each of the Unitary Performance Areas and are chaired by the local Unitary Performance Manager, and attended by the local Members for that area.

3.94 The Unitary Performance Groups are able to engage with constituents about key issues affecting their area in circumstances where normal consultation processes and performance reporting are deemed insufficient.

FUNCTIONS

3.95 The group is multi functional and is responsible for the effective delivery of the Service IRMP objectives in that Unitary Performance Area.

3.96 The boundary of each group’s responsibilities coincides with the political and administrative boundaries of the Unitary Area in which it meets.

3.97 The meetings are an opportunity for local Members to scrutinise local officers on Service Performance and highlight issues of concern raised by the local community.

3.98 The Authority has provided a budget for each area to support Service and joint initiatives and is aimed at allowing the Unitary Performance Groups to address local safety concerns and issues. The decisions are made at local level within an agreed financial framework. These arrangements allow the Authority to provide opportunities for the democratic engagement where councillors can meet their constituents face to face and place councillors at the heart of well supported area and neighbourhood structures. It will also allow a greater degree of interaction for councillors and the public and closer scrutiny of Service activities.

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PENSION BOARD – FIREFIGHTERS’ PENSION SCHEMES **TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ASSOCIATED RULES**

RESPONSIBILITIES

3.99 The Pension Board will assist the Scheme Manager (the Fire Authority) to:

- (a) Secure compliance with:-
 - (i) The Firefighters’ Pension Scheme (England) Regulations 2014 – which create the Firefighters’ Pension Scheme 2015 (the 2015 Scheme)
 - (ii) Any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the 2015 Scheme and any connected scheme, and
 - (iii) Any requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator in relation to the 2015 Scheme and any connected scheme; and
- (b) Ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the 2015 Scheme and any connected scheme.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

3.100 Pension Member representatives

- (i) Two pension member representatives shall be appointed to the Board.
- (ii) Pension member representatives shall be members of the scheme administered by Cheshire Fire Authority.
- (iii) Pension member representatives should be able to demonstrate their capacity to attend and complete the necessary preparation for meetings and participate in training as required.

3.101 Employer representatives

- (iv) Two employer representatives shall be appointed to the Board.
- (v) One Member of the Fire Authority will be appointed to act as an employer representative together with an officer of the Authority.
- (vi) Employer representatives should be able to demonstrate their capacity to attend and complete the necessary preparation for meetings and participate in training as required.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

3.102 The Fire Authority Member appointed to the Board as an employer representative will act as Chair to the Board.

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3.103 If the Chair is unable to attend a meeting of the Board the other employer representative will act as chair at that meeting.

3.104 The Chair of the Board shall:

- (i) ensure the Board fulfils it’s responsibilities as set out in these Terms of Reference
- (ii) ensure that meetings are productive and effective and that opportunity is given for the views of all Board members to be expressed and considered and
- (iii) Seek to reach consensus and ensure that decisions are properly put to a vote when consensus cannot be reached.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

3.105 All members of the Board must declare to Cheshire Fire Authority on appointment and at any such time as their circumstances change any potential conflict of interest arising as a result of their position on the Board.

3.106 On appointments to the Board and following any subsequent declaration of potential conflict Cheshire Fire Authority shall ensure that any potential conflict is effectively managed in line with both the internal procedures of Cheshire Fire Authority and the requirements of the Pensions Regulators Codes of Practice on conflict of interest for Board members.

CAPACITY (INCLUDING TRAINING)

3.107 Board members must have the capacity to devote sufficient time and energy to this role. In particular Board members shall attend and participate in training.

BOARD ADMINISTRATION

3.108 Meetings will be arranged by the Democratic Services team, who will issue agendas and supporting papers at least seven working days in advance of meetings.

3.109 The Democratic Services team will also be responsible for taking minutes of the meetings.

TERM OF OFFICE

3.110 Members of the Board will be appointed for an indefinite term.

3.111 Board membership may be terminated prior to the end of the term of office due to:

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- (i) A member representative appointed on the basis of their membership of the scheme no longer being a member of the scheme or an employee of Cheshire Fire Authority.
- (ii) An employer representative no longer holding office or employment with, or being a Member of, Cheshire Fire Authority.
- (iii) The representative no longer being able to demonstrate their capacity to attend and prepare for meetings or to participate in required training.

MEETINGS

3.112 The Board is expected to meet approximately two times per year.

3.113 The Chair of the Board may call additional meetings.

QUORUM

3.114 A meeting is only quorate when at least one pension member representative and one employer representative is present.

VOTING

3.115 Each member of the Board will have one vote.

3.116 Where an equal number of votes are cast the Chair (or in his or her absence the chair of the meeting) will have a casting vote.

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List of Plans, Strategies and Policies associated with Members’ Decision Making Bodies

Fire Authority	
Key Plans	Integrated Risk Management Plan
	Medium Term Financial Plan
	External Audit Plan
	Crisis Management Plan
Key Strategies:	Five Year Strategy
	Member Development Strategy (and Programme)
	Treasury Management Strategy
Key Policies:	Heritage Policy
	Unwanted Fire Signals Policy
Significant Plans:	
Significant Strategies:	Asset Management Strategy
	Children and Young People Strategy
	CFP Business Liaison Strategy
	Consultation and Engagement Strategy
	Corporate Communications Strategy
	Corporate Equalities and Inclusion Strategy
	Internal Audit Strategy
	Risk Management Strategy
Significant Policies:	Adult Safeguarding Policy
	Health and Safety Management Policy
	ICT and Information Security Policy
	Partnership Policy
	Pay and Recognition Policy
	Pension Abatement and Re-employment Policy
	Re-organisation and Redeployment Policy
	Retirement Policy
	Sprinkler Policy