

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY
DATE: 1ST JULY 2020
REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMISSIONING
AUTHOR: ANDREW LEADBETTER

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENTS FOR 2020-21

Purpose of Report

1. This report enables Members to agree:
 - (a) The political proportions, political proportionality rules and allocation of seats on committees etc.
 - (b) The following appointments for 2020-21:
 - Chair of the Fire Authority
 - Deputy Chair of the Fire Authority
 - Lead Members
 - Seats on Committees etc. (including Chair and Deputy Chair)
 - Positions on Outside Bodies
 - Member Champions

Details of the independent (non-electing) members are also included.
2. This report has been prepared on the following bases: that there will be no changes to the responsibilities of the Fire Authority and its committees, boards and groups from 2019-20; and that appointments will be carried forward from 2019-20, as far as possible.

Recommended:

Members are asked to:

- [1] Note the political proportions on the Fire Authority set out in paragraph 5 and agree the approach to the allocation of seats explained in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the report and Appendix 1;
- [2] Agree the continuing involvement of the independent (non-elected) members as set out in paragraphs 13 and 14 of the report;
- [3] Agree the appointments contained in Appendix 2 (suspending those parts of the Constitution that dictate how certain appointments are made); and
- [4] Agree the continuation of the Member/officer buddy arrangements.

BACKGROUND

- Members will be aware that many local authorities have relied upon legislation introduced as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic to carry forward their appointments from 2019-20 into 2020-21. The Group Leaders believe that it would be helpful to follow the lead of the constituent authorities and carry forward the appointments made by the Fire Authority for 2019-20, as far as possible.

INFORMATION

- The attached documents set out the political proportionality rules and calculations; and contain details of the appointments for 2020-21 that will be proposed by the Group Leaders. Members will see that there are a small number of changes, e.g. an additional Member Champion for Mental Health, (which are shown in red) and a few gaps that need to be filled (which are highlighted). Additions and/or further changes will be confirmed at, or before the meeting.

POLITICAL PROPORTIONS ON THE FIRE AUTHORITY

- Political proportions are important as they determine the allocation of seats on some committees.

Political Group	Seats	Percentage
Labour	13	56.522%
Conservative	7	30.435%
Independent	3	13.043%
Total	23	100.00%

POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY RULES (WHERE THEY APPLY AND WHERE THEY DON'T AND THEIR AFFECT UPON THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES ETC.)

- The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and Local Government and Housing Act 1989 make provision for the handling of political group representation on the Fire Authority's committees. For the sake of simplicity the term 'political proportionality rules' has been used.
- The political proportionality rules are not straight-forward. They involve the application of certain principles '...so far as reasonably practicable...' in allocating seats to political groups. These principles are set out below:
 - that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
 - that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
 - subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each

political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority; and

- d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of the seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO AVAILABLE SEATS ON COMMITTEES ETC.

8. Not all of the Authority's bodies are covered by the political proportionality rules. For example, the Member Training and Development Group is not.
9. Some other bodies exist where there is no requirement for appointments to be made at the annual meeting, e.g. Closure of Accounts Committee (role fulfilled by Performance and Overview Committee) and Staffing Committee (same membership as Brigade Managers' Pay and Performance Committee).

INVOLVEMENT OF INDEPENDENT (NON-ELECTED) MEMBERS

10. Last year both of the independent (non-elected) members attended the Governance and Constitution Committee and one independent (non-elected) member attended the Performance and Overview Committee and the Member Training and Development Group. The independent (non-elected) members shared responsibility for attendance at the Estates and Property Committee. They fulfil an advisory role.
11. The independent (non-elected) members are happy to continue in the roles indicated:

Governance and Constitution Committee: Derek Barnett and Lesley Thomson
Performance and Overview Committee: Derek Barnett
Estates and Property Committee: Derek Barnett, or Lesley Thomson
Member Training and Development Group: Lesley Thomson

OUTSIDE BODIES

12. The Fire Authority appoints to the outside bodies covered in Appendix 2. Members will see that the roles of the bodies and delegated powers (if any) are set out in the Appendix.

MEMBER CHAMPION ROLES

13. The Fire Authority appoints to the Member Champion roles covered in Appendix 2.

APPOINTMENTS for 2020-21

14. Members will find all appointments in Appendix 2. The vast majority are carried forward from 2019-20. Changes are shown in red and gaps are

highlighted. The gaps and any further changes will be confirmed at, or before the meeting.

MEMBER/OFFICER BUDDY ARRANGEMENTS

15. The Authority operates a Member/officer buddy arrangement. This is intended to provide Members with officer support to help develop their overall and wider knowledge of the organisation and the fire and rescue sector generally. Support is also offered to the independent (non-elected) members. Members are asked to agree the continuation of the buddy arrangements.

Financial Implications

16. The cost of operating the democratic process is contained within the Authority's budget.

Legal Implications

17. The Fire Authority has delegated certain functions to various decision-making bodies and has in place arrangements to facilitate good communications between Members and officers. The appointments made as a result of this report help to ensure that decisions made will be set within an appropriate legal framework.

Equality & Diversity Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

**CONTACT: NAOMI THOMAS, FIRE SERVICE HQ, WINSFORD
TEL [01606] 868804
BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE**