

Report of the Head of Legal Services

Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

Purpose of report

1. To consider the allocation of seats on Committees to political groups, the membership of those committees and appointments to outside bodies.
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Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- i) the allocation of Committee seats to political groups as set out at Appendix 1 be agreed;***
- ii) the current chairmanship and membership of Committees, as set out in Appendix 2, remain unchanged for 2022/2023;***
- iii) Cllrs S Bowen, E Marshall and N McVey be reappointed Member Champions of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion;***
- iv) Cllr B Clayton be reappointed as the Member Champion on the Health & Safety Committee;***
- v) a Member be appointed as Fire Cadets' Member Champion;***
- vi) the current practice for representation and voting on the Local Government Association as set out in Appendix 2 be continued; and***
- vii) the place and vote on the Local Government Association Fire Commission continues to be exercised by the Chairman of the Authority.***

Political Groups and Committee Appointments

2. The Authority is required to review the arrangements for political balance and the allocation of seats to political groups either at its annual meeting or as soon as practical thereafter. We are given to understand that a recent review of the political balance within Herefordshire Council may result in a change to their nominees on the Fire Authority (and which may then affect the allocation of our own committee seats) but at the time of publishing this report we have not been notified officially. Subject to this, it is proposed that the allocation of seats, along with the current Committee memberships, remain as shown attached at Appendix 1. Any update to that appendix will be presented at the meeting.

Member Champions

3. Cllr S Bowen was appointed as the Member Champion for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I) at the Authority's annual meeting last year. In view of the importance of this subject matter, Audit & Standards Committee when considering the annual Equality & Gender Pay Gap Report at its meeting in January 2022, appointed Cllrs N McVey and E Marshall to be additional Member Champions alongside Cllr Bowen. The Member Champions meet with officers on a regular basis to monitor delivery of the Authority's ED&I objectives. It is suggested that all three Members be reappointed.
4. Cllr B Clayton has served as the Member Champion on the Health & Safety Committee for the past year and has indicated his willingness to continue in that role.
5. Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting in May 2022 supported the creation of a local branch of UK Fire Cadets within the Service, in succession to the former Young Firefighters' Association. The Committee has recommended that the Authority appoint a Fire Cadets' Member Champion.
6. There are no special responsibility allowances attached to any of the Member Champion roles.

Outside Bodies

7. The Local Government Association (LGA), works with local authorities to ensure local government has a voice with national government. This Authority is a corporate member of the LGA and as such is entitled to:
 - (a) appoint up to 4 representatives to serve on the General Assembly. Our current representatives are the leaders of the four political groups; and
 - (b) exercise 13 Service votes on the Assembly. These votes are allocated between the representatives on a politically proportionate basis in the same proportions as the seats on Policy & Resources Committee (above).
8. All Fire and Rescue Authorities are also entitled to a place and a vote on LGA Fire Commission. The Authority has previously appointed the Chairman or his nominee to the Commission and to exercise the vote on behalf of this Authority.

Conclusion/Summary

9. The current arrangements with regard to membership of committees and appointments to outside bodies have proven to be effective and it is recommended that these continue as set out above.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	The Authority has approved a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2022/23 which sets out special responsibility allowances for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Authority, Committee Chairmen and Political Group Leaders. This will be met within existing budgets. There may be some costs associated with travel by appointees to meetings of outside bodies. This will also be met within existing budgets
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	None directly.
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	None directly.
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	None.
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been carried out as the report does not contain a recommendation to approve a policy.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Political balance and allocation of committee seats

Appendix 2 – Existing committee memberships

Political Balance & Allocation of Committee Seats

		Conservative Group	Herefordshire Alliance	Green & Independent Alliance	Unity Group	Total
Number in Group		17	4	2	2	25
%		68%	16%	8%	8%	
Committee	Seats					
Appointments Committee	7	4	1	1	1	7
Audit and Standards	12	8	2	1	1	12
Policy and Resources	13	9	2	1	1	13
TOTAL SEATS	32	21	5	3	3	32
%		66%	16%	9%	9%	

Policy & Resources Committee

Conservative Group (8)	Herefordshire Alliance (2)	Ind. & Green Alliance (1)	Unity Group (1)
Cllr. R. Phillips (Chairman)	Cllr. L. Stark	Cllr. T. Wells	Cllr. R. Udall
Cllr. C. Taylor (Vice)	Cllr. K. Hey		
Cllr. D. Chambers			
Cllr. A. Ditta			
Cllr. K. Guthrie			
Cllr. J. Monk			
Cllr. D. Morehead			
Cllr. L. Robinson			

Audit & Standards Committee (cannot include Chair/Vice-Chair of Authority, Chair of Policy & Resources or Group Leaders)

Conservative Group (8)	Herefordshire Alliance (2)	Ind. & Green Alliance (1)	Unity Group (1)
Cllr. M. Hart (Chairman)	Cllr. D. Toynbee	Cllr. N. McVey	Cllr. D. Boatright
Cllr. A. Amos (Vice)	Cllr. S. Bowen		
Cllr. R. Brookes			
Cllr. B. Clayton			
Cllr. A. Hardman			
Cllr. I. Hardiman			
Cllr. E. Marshall			
Cllr. R. Morris			

Appointments Committee

Conservative Group (4)	Herefordshire Alliance (1)	Ind. & Green Alliance (1)	Unity Group (1)
Cllr. C. Taylor	Cllr. L. Stark	Cllr. T. Wells	Cllr. R. Udall
Cllr. R. Phillips			
Cllr. M. Hart			
Cllr. E. Eyre			