

Report of the Head of Legal Services

Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

Purpose of report

1. To consider the allocation of committee seats to political groups in accordance with the requirements for political balance, the appointment of members to those committees and appointments to outside bodies.
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Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that:

- i) ***following the recent elections to Worcestershire County Council, the following changes to the membership of the Authority be noted:***

Retirements

***Cllr. R. Adams
Cllr. P. Agar
Cllr. T. Baker-Price
Cllr. A. Fry
Cllr. C. Hotham
Cllr. F. Oborski
Cllr. K. Pollock
Cllr. J. Potter
Cllr. P. Tuthill
Cllr. J. Raine***

New Appointments

***Cllr. R. Brookes
Cllr. D. Chambers
Cllr. A. Ditta
Cllr. N. McVey
Cllr. E. Marshall
Cllr. J. Monk
Cllr. D. Moorhead
Cllr. J. Robinson
Cllr. L. Robinson
Cllr. T. Wells***

- ii) ***it be noted that the Monitoring Officer has received notification of the formation and membership of political groups, as set out in appendix 1***
- iii) ***in accordance with the requirements for political balance, Committee seats be allocated to political groups as set out at Appendix 1***
- iv) ***the Authority appoints:***
 - (a) the Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee; and***
 - (b) the Chairman of Audit & Standards Committee***
- v) ***it be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to make appointments to the remainder of those committee seats in accordance with the wishes of the respective Group Leaders***
- vi) ***a Member of Audit & Standards Committee be appointed as the Member Champion for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion;***

- vii) a Member be appointed as a representative on the Health & Safety Committee**
- viii) the current practice for representation and voting on the Local Government Association as set out in Appendix 1 be continued;**
- ix) the place and vote on the Local Government Association Fire Commission continues to be exercised by the Chairman of the Authority; and**
- x) Cllr. R. Philips continues as the Authority's nominee on the Board of Place Partnership Ltd and as the Member representative on the Shareholder Group.**

Political Groups and Committee Appointments

2. It is a requirement of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, s.15 that where the members of the Authority are divided into political groups, the Authority must review the allocation of seats to those political groups, either at its annual meeting or as soon as practical thereafter, so as to ensure *so far as practicable* that:
 - the political balance on each committee mirrors that of the Authority overall
 - a group which holds a majority of seats on the Authority must also have a majority of the seats on each committee; and
 - the total number of committee seats allocated to each group mirrors the proportion of seats they have on the Authority as a whole
3. It is the responsibility of the Authority to agree the number of seats on each committee that are allocated to each group in accordance with the above principles. It is then for the respective group leaders to nominate the individual members for fill those seats.
4. A group is formed by giving notice to the Monitoring Officer including the names of the members (minimum two), name of the group and identifying one person as the group leader.
5. Appendix 1 contains details of the groups that have been established and the recommended allocation of seats to those groups based on the rules for achieving political balance.

Member Champion for Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

6. The Authority has key objectives and statutory responsibilities with regard to equality, diversity and inclusion. Following the recommendations of the 2018 inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) it was agreed to appoint a Member Champion for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion to meet with representatives from the Service on a regular basis and to support the important work in this area.. ED&I matters fall within the remit of the Audit & Standards Committee and so it is preferable that the ED&I Champion should be drawn from the membership of that committee.

Health & Safety Committee

7. The Health & Safety Committee is a staff committee (i.e. not a committee of the Authority) and comprises both senior management, staff representatives and an elected member representative. It is chaired by the Assistant Chief Fire Officer: The purpose of the committee is to:
 - provide effective arrangements for the liaison and review of matters of a common interest in regards to Health and Safety (H&S)
 - provides the opportunity for the Service to discuss general H&S matters and to consult with the workforce via employee representatives.

Outside Bodies

Local Government Association

8. The Local Government Association (LGA) works with local authorities to ensure local government has a voice with national government. This Authority has corporate membership of the LGA and is entitled to appoint up to 4 representatives to serve on the General Assembly (although we only have one vote). It is at the discretion of the FRA how those seats are allocated but the practice in the past has been to allocate these to the four group leaders the group leaders, as described in appendix 1.
9. All Fire and Rescue Authorities are 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.

Place Partnership

10. As reported elsewhere on this agenda, Place Partnership Ltd was the former joint venture arrangement through which the Authority's property services functions were delivered. That arrangement ceased on 31st March 2021 and the company is currently in the process of being wound down. Cllr. R. Philips is the Authority's nominee on the board of directors and is heavily involved in overseeing that process. In the interests of continuity, it is recommended that Cllr Philips continue in that role.

Conclusion/Summary

11. This report sets out the decisions that are necessary for the appointment of committees and representatives on other bodies .

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	The Authority has approved a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2021/22 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 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 Groups and Committee Memberships
Local Government Association - representation and voting

Appendix 1

Political Groups						
	Conservative Group	Herefordshire Alliance	Green & Ind. Alliance	Unity Group	Total	
	Cllr. C. Taylor	Cllr. L. Stark	Cllr.T. Wells	Cllr. R. Udall		
	Cllr. R. Phillips	Cllr Toynbee	Cllr.N. McVey	Cllr.J. Robinson		
	Cllr K. Guthrie	Cllr. S. Bowen				
	Cllr. A. Amos	Cllr. K. Hey				
	Cllr. B.Clayton					
	Cllr. E. Eyre					
	Cllr. A. Hardman					
	Cllr. I. Hardiman					
	Cllr. M.Hart					
	Cllr. R. Morris					
	Cllr.L. Robinson					
	Cllr.D. Chambers					
	Cllr.A. Ditta					
	Cllr.R. Brookes					
	Cllr.D. Morehead					
	Cllr. J. Monk					
	Cllr.E. Marshall					
	17	4	2	2	25	
	68%	16%	8%	8%		
Allocation of Committee Seats						
Number In Group		Conservative Group	Herefordshire Alliance	Green & Independent Alliance	Unity Group	Total
		17	4	2	2	25
		68%	16%	8%	8%	
Committee	Seats					
Appointments	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%	

Local Government Association - Representation and Voting

- The Authority's four representatives on the Local Government Association are the Leaders of each of the current four political groups
- The 13 Service votes on the Local Government Association Assembly are allocated between the representatives on a politically proportionate basis in the same proportions as Policy & Resources Committee (above)
- The corporate vote on the Local Government Association Assembly is exercised by the Chairman or his nominee.