

## Report of Head of Legal Services

### 9. Appointments to Outside Bodies

#### Purpose of report

1. To consider appointments to the Local Government Association.
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#### Recommendations

*It is recommended that the Authority:*

- i) continues with the previous practice for representation and voting on the Local Government Association, as follows:*
  - a. that the Authority's four representatives on the Local Government Association should be the Leaders of each of the current four political groups or their nominees;*
  - b. that the 13 Service votes on the Local Government Association Assembly be allocated between its representatives on a politically proportionate basis as follows*

Conservative Group	7
Labour Group	2
Independent Group	2
2013 Group	2
Total	13; and
  - c. the corporate vote on the Local Government Association Assembly be exercised by the Chairman or his nominee; and*
- ii) the place and vote available to the Authority on the Local Government Association Fire Commission be exercised by the Chairman of the Authority.*

#### Introduction and Background

2. The Local Government Association (LGA) works with local authorities to ensure local government has a voice with national government. It aims to influence and set the political agenda on the issues that matter to local authorities and the people they serve. In total, 415 authorities, including this Authority are members of the LGA for 2014/15. These members include 351 English councils, the 22 Welsh councils via the Welsh LGA, 31 fire authorities, 10 national parks and one town council.

## Local Government Association Appointments

3. All Fire and Rescue Authorities are entitled to a place and a vote on the Local Government Association (LGA) Fire Commission. The Authority needs to determine whether it wishes to appoint the Chairman or his nominee to the Commission and exercise the vote on behalf of this Authority.
4. This Authority is also in corporate membership of the LGA and is entitled to appoint up to 4 representatives to serve on the General Assembly. The rules relating to political balance do not apply to LGA appointments but the Association encourages those authorities entitled to 3 or 4 representatives to allocate one of these positions to minority group leaders on their authorities.
5. Arrangements determined by the Authority on 18 June 2013 allocated places on the General Assembly to the Leaders of the Political Groups on the Authority or their nominees. The Authority needs to determine if it wishes to confirm its decision on how many places it wishes to take up and how those places should be allocated.
6. The LGA constitution provides that the Authority is entitled to :
  - a) 1 vote on the election of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Deputy Chairmen and on questions of estimated expenditure and subscriptions; and
  - b) 13 votes (the same as a unitary authority within the same population band) on issues of direct relevance to the statutory duties and responsibilities of the Authority.
7. On 18 June 2013 the Authority allocated the corporate vote to the Chairman (or his nominee) and divided the 13 Service votes on the basis of proportionality:

Conservative Group	7
Labour Group	2
Independent Group	2
2013 Group	2
Total	13

The Authority needs to determine whether it wishes to adhere to this decision.

## Conclusion/Summary

8. The above arrangements have proven to be effective and it is recommended that the Authority continue this practice, as set out above.

## Corporate Considerations

<b>Resource Implications</b> (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	There may be some costs associated with travel by appointees to LGA meetings. Generally there are 4 Fire Commission meetings each year (attended by the Chairman) and an Annual Fire Conference that the Group Leaders or their nominees may attend. This will be met from existing budgets.
<b>Strategic Policy Links</b> (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	None directly.
<b>Risk Management / Health &amp; Safety</b> (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	None directly.
<b>Consultation</b> (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	None.
<b>Equalities</b> (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.

## Background Papers

Local Government Association Constitution <http://www.local.gov.uk/general-assembly>

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