

Report of Head of Legal Services

Appointments to Outside Bodies

Purpose of report

1. To consider appointments to the Local Government Association and to the Place Partnership Ltd. Shareholder Group.

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*

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|--------------------|---------|
| Conservative Group | 9 |
| Labour Group | 2 |
| Independent Group | 1 |
| 2017 Group | 1 |
| Total | 13; and |
 - c. the corporate vote on the Local Government Association Assembly be exercised by the Chairman or his nominee;*
- ii) the place and vote on the Local Government Association Fire Commission be exercised by the Chairman of the Authority; and*
- iii) the Chairman be appointed as the Member representative on the Place Partnership Ltd. Shareholder Group.*

Introduction and Background

Local Government Association Appointments

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 2016/17. These members include 349 English councils, the 22 Welsh councils via the Welsh LGA, 29 fire authorities,

7 national parks, 5 Parish/Town councils via corporate NALC membership, one town council and Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee.

3. This Authority has 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.
4. Arrangements determined previously by the Authority 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.
5. 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 (as determined by the Chair of the meeting).

Fire Commission

6. 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.
7. In addition to the appointment made by this Authority, LGA Group Leaders may appoint additional members of fire authorities to ensure political balance on the Fire Commission.

Place Partnership Ltd. Shareholder Group

8. As Members are aware, Place Partnership Ltd. brings together the respective estates functions of partner organisations. The Place Partnership Shareholders are Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority, Redditch Borough Council, Warwickshire Police, West Mercia Police, Worcester City Council and Worcestershire County Council.
9. Although the day to day management of Place Partnership business is carried out by the company directors, the shareholder group also has responsibilities such as the appointment of the Place Partnership Managing Director, approval of annual budgets and savings targets and performance review. The Authority is currently represented on the Shareholder Group by the Chairman and the Assistant Chief Fire Officer. The Authority is requested to appoint a member representative. The Chief Fire Officer will continue to exercise his delegated authority with regards the appointment of an officer to the Shareholder Group.

Conclusion/Summary

10. The above arrangements with regards to representation on the LGA, the Fire Commission and the Place Partnership Shareholder Group have proven to be effective and it is recommended that the Authority continue as set out above.

Corporate Considerations

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| Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues) | There may be some costs associated with travel by appointees to meetings. Generally there are 4 LGA 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. The Authority derive a rental income from the lease of the accommodation to PPL |
| Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications). | |
| 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. |

Background Papers

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

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