

Report of the Monitoring Officer

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) there be no change to the allocation of Committee seats to political groups as set out at Appendix 1;*
- ii) the current chairmanship and membership of Committees, as set out in Appendix 2, remain unchanged for 2024/2025;*
- iii) Cllrs E Marshall and N McVey be reappointed as Member Champions of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, together with an additional Member if so required.*
- 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. Where seats are allocated to a particular group, individual members are required to be appointed to those seats in accordance with the wishes of the respective group leaders. In the event that any members of the Authority are not members of any group, so called non-aligned members, then it is for the Authority as a whole to decide which committees, if any, they should serve on. There have been no changes to the political balance since last year.

Member Champions

3. Cllrs N McVey and E Marshall have served as Member Champions for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion since January 2022. Cllr D Boulter was appointed last

June. The Member Champions meet with officers on a regular basis to monitor delivery of the Authority's ED&I objectives. Cllrs McVey and Marshall have indicated their willingness to continue in this role. Cllr Boulter is no longer able to continue and the Authority may therefore wish to appoint an additional Member in his place.

4. Cllr B Clayton has served as the Member Champion on the Health & Safety Committee for the past three years and has indicated his willingness to continue in that role.
5. Cllr R Brookes has indicated he is no longer able to continue in the role of Member Champion for the Fire Cadets programme and Members are therefore asked to appoint a replacement.
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

<p>Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)</p>	<p>The Authority has approved a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2024/25 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</p>
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	associated with travel by appointees to meetings of outside bodies. This will also be met within existing budgets.
Strategic Policy Links & Core Code of Ethics (identify how proposals link with current priorities & policy framework and align to the Core Code of Ethics)	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.
Data Protection Impact Assessment (where personal data is processed a DPIA must be completed to ensure compliant handling)	None.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Political balance and allocation of committee seats

Appendix 2 – Existing committee memberships

Appendix 1

Political Groups	Conservative Group	Green & Independent Alliance	Unity Group	Non-aligned	Total
	Cllr C Taylor Cllr R Phillips Cllr A Amos Cllr R Brookes Cllr D Chambers Cllr B Clayton Cllr D Davies Cllr A Ditta Cllr E Eyre Cllr A Hardman Cllr I Hardiman Cllr M Hart Cllr E Marshall Cllr J Monk Cllr D Morehead Cllr R Morris Cllr L Robinson 17 68%	Cllr T Wells Cllr N McVey Cllr D Boulter Cllr D Toynbee 4 16%	Cllr R Udall Cllr D Boatright Cllr J Carwardine 3 12%	Cllr J Kenyon 1	25

Political Balance & Allocation of Committee Seats

Group		Conservative Group	Green & Independent Alliance	Unity Group	Non-aligned Members	Total
		17 68%	4 16%	3 12%	1	25
Committee	Seats					
Appointments	7	5	1	1	-	7
Audit and Standards	12	8	2	1	1	12
Policy and Resources	13	9	2	2	0	13
TOTAL SEATS	32 %	22 69%	5 16%	4 13%	1	32

Policy and Resources Committee (13)

Conservative Group (9)	Ind. & Green Alliance (2)	Unity Group (2)	Non-aligned Members (0)
Cllr R Phillips (Chairman) Cllr C Taylor (Vice Chairman) Cllr D Chambers Cllr A Ditta Cllr J Monk Cllr D Morehead Cllr L Robinson Cllr D Davies	Cllr T Wells Cllr D Boulter	Cllr R Udall Cllr J Carwardine	

Audit and Standards Committee (12)

Conservative Group (8)	Ind. & Green Alliance (2)	Unity Group (1)	Non-aligned Members (1)
Cllr M Hart (Chairman) Cllr A Amos (Vice Chairman) Cllr R Brookes Cllr B Clayton Cllr A Hardman Cllr I Hardiman Cllr E Marshall Cllr R Morris	Cllr D Toynbee Cllr N McVey	Cllr D Boatright	Cllr J Kenyon

Appointments Committee (7)

Conservative Group (8)	Ind. & Green Alliance (2)	Unity Group (1)
Cllr C Taylor Cllr R Phillips Cllr M Hart Cllr E Eyre Cllr E Marshall	Cllr T Wells	Cllr R Udall