

## 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 appointments of Cllrs. D. Boulter, J. Carwardine, D. Davies and J. Kenyon as members of the Fire Authority by Herefordshire Council be noted;*
- ii) the allocation of Committee seats to political groups as set out at Appendix 1 be agreed;*
- iii) the chairmanship and membership of Committees, be:*
  - as set out in Appendix 2 (insofar as indicated)*
  - where nominations are still awaited from Group Leaders, those appointments be delegated to the Head of Legal Services to be made in accordance with the wishes of Group Leaders; and*
  - the Authority decide on the appointment of any non-aligned members to seats on committees*
- iv) the following existing member champions be reappointed:*
  - Cllrs E Marshall and N McVey - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion;*
  - Cllr B Clayton - Health & Safety Committee;*
  - Cllr R Brookes - Fire Cadets' Member Champion;*
- v) the current practice for representation and voting on the Local Government Association as set out in Appendix 2 be continued; and*
- vi) 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.

3. Following recent elections to Herefordshire Council, we have been notified that Cllrs D. Boulter, J. Carwardine, D. Davies and J. Kenyon have now been appointed as members of the Fire Authority.
4. Cllr Toynbee is the only remaining member of the previous 'Herefordshire Alliance' Group. Since a group must contain at least two councillors, that group will now cease. At the time of writing this report, four councillors, including Cllr Toynbee, remain non-aligned. Appendices 1 and 2 have been prepared on that basis. If there is any change to this information then amended appendices will be presented at the meeting.

### **Member Champions**

5. Cllrs N McVey and E Marshall have served as member champions for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion since January 2022 (previously alongside Cllr S 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 both members be reappointed.
6. Cllr B Clayton has served as the Member Champion on the Health & Safety Committee for the past two years and has indicated his willingness to continue in that role.
7. Cllr R Brookes was appointed to the role of member champion for the newly reconstituted Fire Cadets programme in June 2023 and has also indicated his willingness to continue in the role.
8. There are no special responsibility allowances attached to any of the Member Champion roles.

### **Outside Bodies**

9. 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).
10. 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

11. 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

<b>Resource Implications</b> (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	The Authority has approved a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2023/24 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
<b>Strategic Policy Links &amp; Core Code of Ethics</b> (identify how proposals link with current priorities & policy framework and align to the Core Code of Ethics)	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.
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b> (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

<u>Political Groups</u>		<b>Conservative Group</b>	<b>Green &amp; Ind. Alliance</b>	<b>Unity Group</b>	<b>Non-aligned</b>	<b>Total</b>
		<b>Cllr. C. Taylor</b>	<b>Cllr.T. Wells</b>	<b>Cllr. R. Udall</b>	Cllr. D. Boulter	
		Cllr. R. Phillips	Cllr.N. McVey	Cllr.J. Robinson	Cllr J. Carwardine	
		Cllr. A. Amos			Cllr J Kenyon	
		Cllr. B.Clayton			Cllr D. Toynbee	
		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				
		Cllr. D. Davies				
		<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>
		68%	8%	8%		

### Political balance & Allocation of Committee Seats

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

<b><u>Policy &amp; Resources Committee</u></b>			
<b>Conservative Group (9)</b>	<b>Ind. &amp; Green Alliance (1)</b>	<b>Unity Group (1)</b>	<b>Non-aligned Members (2)</b>
Cllr. R. Phillips (Chairman)	Cllr.T. Wells	Cllr. R. Udall	Vacancy
Cllr. C. Taylor (Vice)			Vacancy
Cllr. D. Chambers			
Cllr. A. Ditta			
Cllr. J. Monk			
Cllr. D. Morehead			
Cllr. L. Robinson			
Cllr. D. Davies			
<b><u>Audit &amp; Standards Committee</u></b> (cannot include Chair/Vice-Chair of Authority, Chair of Policy & Resources or Group Leaders)			
<b>Conservative Group (8)</b>	<b>Ind. &amp; Green Alliance (1)</b>	<b>Unity Group (1)</b>	<b>Non-aligned Members (2)</b>
Cllr. M. Hart (Chairman)	Cllr. N. McVey	Cllr. D. Boatright	Cllr. D. Toynebee
Cllr. A. Amos (Vice)			Vacancy
Cllr. R. Brookes			
Cllr. B. Clayton			
Cllr. A. Hardman			
Cllr. I. Hardiman			
Cllr. E. Marshall			
Cllr. R. Morris			
<b><u>Appointments Committee</u></b>			
<b>Conservative Group (5)</b>	<b>Ind. &amp; Green Alliance (1)</b>	<b>Unity Group (1)</b>	
Cllr. C. Taylor	Cllr. T. Wells	Cllr. R. Udall	
Cllr. R. Phillips			
Cllr. M. Hart			
Cllr. E. Eyre			
Vacancy			