

Report of Head of Legal Services

9. Appointments to Outside Bodies

Purpose of report

1. To consider appointments to the Local Government Association.
2. To consider appointments to the Project Arrow Joint Project Board and Member Reference 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*

Conservative Group	8
Labour Group	2
Independent Group	2
2013 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 available to the Authority on the Local Government Association Fire Commission be exercised by the Chairman of the Authority;*
- iii) *the Authority's representative on the Project Arrow Joint Project Board be the Chairman or his nominee; and*
- iv) *the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Political Group Leaders represent the Authority on the Project Arrow Member Reference Group.*

Introduction and Background

3. 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, 414 authorities, including this Authority are members of the LGA for 2015/16. These members include 350 English councils, the 22 Welsh councils via the Welsh LGA, 31 fire authorities, 10 national parks and one town council.

4. At its meeting on 11 December 2013, the Authority considered a proposal for future collaborative working with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) and agreed that a joint officer team be established with WFRS to examine the feasibility and potential benefits of collaboration.
5. A Joint Project Board is also in place to provide strategic guidance to the project leads and ensure that outcomes, risks, issues and decisions are shared at a senior management level. The Joint Project Board has developed and agreed a vision for exploring the options for closer working:

“To deliver a sustainable, resilient and more cost effective fire & rescue service (FRS) for the communities of Herefordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire”.

6. The Joint Project Board reports to both the Fire Authority and Warwickshire County Council and Cabinet.
7. A Member Reference Group has also been established to and comprises the Authority Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Group Leaders to provide a wider Member input to the Project.

Local Government Association Appointments

8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Arrangements determined by the Authority on 9 June 2014 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.
11. 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.

Project Arrow

12. The Fire Authority Chairman currently represents the Authority on the Joint Project Board, which he chairs jointly with relevant Portfolio Holder for WFRS. The Vice-Chairman and Political Group Leaders currently represent the Authority on the Member Reference Group.

Conclusion/Summary

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

Corporate Considerations

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.
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	Project Arrow is seeking to identify efficiency savings linked to the overall savings required by the Service.
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>
Fire Authority Agenda Papers and Minutes – 9 June 2014, 13 December 2013

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