

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, appointments to those Committees and to outside bodies (insofar as is necessary).
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Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- i) the allocation of Committee seats to political groups as set out at Appendix 1 be noted;***
- ii) the current Committee membership as set out in Appendix 1 be retained for 2020/2021, as agreed by Group Leaders;***
- iii) A Member be appointed as a Member Champion of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion;***
- iv) the current practice for representation and voting on the Local Government Association as set out in Appendix 2 be continued;***
- v) the place and vote on the Local Government Association Fire Commission continues to be exercised by the Chairman of the Authority; and***
- vi) the Chairman of the Authority continues as the Member representative on the Place Partnership Ltd. Shareholder Group.***

Political Groups and Committee Appointments

2. Where the Members of the Authority are divided into political groups the Authority must review the allocation of seats to political groups either at its annual meeting or as soon as practical thereafter. There has been no change to Political balance and so it is proposed that the allocation of seats together with the current Committee membership continue as shown attached at Appendix 1.
3. Following the recommendations of the 2018 inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS); the Authority would like to appoint a Member Champion for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion who will meet with representatives from the Service on a regular basis, full details of the role are attached at Appendix 3. There will be no Special Responsibility Allowance attached to this role.

Outside Bodies

4. The Local Government Association (LGA) works with local authorities to ensure local government has a voice with national government. This Authority has corporate membership of the LGA and is entitled to appoint up to 4 representatives to serve on the General Assembly. The arrangements determined previously by the Authority are attached at Appendix 2.
5. All Fire and Rescue Authorities are 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.
6. As Members are aware, Place Partnership Ltd. brings together the respective estates functions of partner organisations. The Authority is currently represented on the Shareholder Group by the Chairman and the Deputy Chief Fire Officer.

Conclusion/Summary

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

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	The Authority has approved a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2019/20 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 be met within 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).	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.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Political Groups and Committee Memberships

Appendix 2 –Local Government Association - representation and voting

Appendix 3 – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Member Champion role