

Committee Composition and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

Report of the Clerk

For further information about this report please contact Jonathan Eatough, Clerk and Monitoring Officer, on 01952 380103.

1 Purpose of Report

This report asks the Fire Authority to agree the composition of its Committees ; the allocation of seats on its committees to political groups; and the membership of its Committees, following a change in membership from Telford & Wrekin Council.

2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to decide upon Committee composition and allocation of seats to political groups, specifically:

- a) The allocation of seats, as proposed in Appendix A to this report; and
- b) The appointment of Members to serve on Committees, as set out in Appendix B to this report.

3 Background

In accordance with the Fire Authority's Standing Order 7(2) (for the Regulation of Proceedings and Business), the Fire Authority is required to review at its Annual Meeting the constitution and composition of any committees or sub- committees, which have been appointed.

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and Regulations made thereunder, require that seats on standing committees are politically balanced across the total number of committee places (i.e. in aggregate) and, subject to that overriding requirement, each committee has to be politically balanced, as far as reasonably practicable.

At its Extraordinary Meeting on 29 October 2018, Telford & Wrekin Council following a change in its political balance, agreed a change in members appointed to the Fire Authority.

This has altered political group numbers on the Fire Authority, with a Liberal Democrat / Independent Member leaving and a Labour Member joining, and has necessitated a review of the allocation of seats on the Fire Authority's Committees.

4 Committee Composition and Allocation of Seats

The proposed committee composition and allocation of seats is set out in Appendix A to this report, which Members are requested to consider and decide upon.

The Fire Authority is also asked to confirm the membership of its Committees as set out in Appendix B to the report. Changes in Committee numbers and vacancies on Committees are highlighted in yellow in the Appendix.

5 Financial Implications

There are no direct costs arising from the recommendations of this report, although many decisions of committees will impact on budgets and need financial approval.

6 Legal Comment

The Fire Authority must comply with the political balance requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and its Regulations, when allocating seats on its standing committees.

Under the provisions of Section 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the decision not to apply political balance requirements for the Pensions Panel can only be implemented, if no Member of the Authority votes against it.

7 Initial Impact Assessment

As this report merely proposes allocations of seats to political groups in order to meet legislative requirements, an Initial Impact Assessment has not been completed.

8 Equality Impact Assessment

As this report has no differential impacts on people, an Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

9 Appendix

Proposed Committee Composition and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

10 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Proposed Committee Composition and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

Key

*	Cons	Conservative
	Lab	Labour
	Lib Dem / Indep	Joint Liberal Democrat and Independent Group

** These rows indicate the actual number of Members each political group should have, based on the percentage of Members it has of the Fire Authority as a whole.

	Cons*	Lab*	Lib Dem / Indep*	Total Seats
Shropshire Council	7	1	3	11
Telford & Wrekin Council	2	4	0	6
Total	9	5	3	17

The following allocation of seats on the Fire Authority's committees is proposed.

	Cons*	Lab*	Lib Dem / Indep*	Total Seats
** Strategy and Resources Committee Members: 7	3.71	2.03	1.26	7
Allocation	4	2	1	7
** Audit and Performance Management Committee Members: 7	3.71	2.03	1.26	7
Allocation	4	2	1	7
** Standards and Human Resources Committee Members: 7	3.71	2.03	1.26	7
Allocation	3	2	2	7

	Cons*	Lab*	Lib Dem / Indep*	Total Seats
** Brigade Managers Employment Panel Members: 7	3.71	2.03	1.26	7
Allocation	4	2	1	7
** Pensions Panel Members: 3	1.58	0.88	0.53	3
Allocation	2	1	0	3
** Aggregate Seats	16.42	9.00	5.57	31
Total Seats Allocation	17	9	5	31

Pensions Panel

It is recommended that the seats on the Pensions Panel be allocated as follows:

- 1 seat to be taken by Chair or Vice-Chair of the Fire Authority;
- 1 seat to be taken by Chair or Vice-Chair of the Standards and Human Resources Committee; and
- Remaining seat to be taken by a balancing member

Strategy and Planning Working Group

Although Members agreed that this Group should be politically balanced, it does not form part of the political balance calculations, as being a Working Group, it is not a fully constituted committee of the Fire Authority. The following allocations are proposed.

	Cons*	Lab*	Lib Dem / Indep*	Total Seats
** Members: 7	3.71	2.03	1.26	7
Allocation	4	2	1	7

Membership of Committees

Committee	Political Group		
	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Strategy and Resources 7 Members Current Chair Keith Roberts Vice-Chair Nigel Hartin	Seats – 4 Eric Carter Alex Phillips Keith Roberts Paul Wynn	Seats - 2 Leon Murray Kevin Pardy	Seats - 1 Nigel Hartin
Audit and Performance Management 7 Members Current Chair Kuldip Sahota Vice-Chair Chris Mellings	Seats - 4 Peter Adams Miles Hosken Paul Milner John Price	Seats – 4 2 Kuldip Sahota Vacancy	Seats – 2 1 Chris Mellings
Standards and Human Resources 7 Members Current Chair Peter Adams Vice-Chair Pauline Dee	Seats – 4 3 - 1 to come off Peter Adams Miles Hosken Paul Milner Paul Wynn	Seats – 2 Janice Jones Leon Murray	Seats – 4 2 Pauline Dee Vacancy
Pensions Panel 3 Members Done on an ad-hoc basis, when the Panel meets	Seats - 3 Chair or Vice-Chair of Fire Authority, Chair or Vice-Chair of Standards and Human Resources Committee; plus one balancing member		
Brigade Managers' Employment Panel 7 Members Current Chair Eric Carter Vice-Chair Keith Roberts	Seats – 4 Peter Adams (as Chair of Standards and Human Resources Committee) Eric Carter David Minnery Keith Roberts	Seats – 4 2 Kevin Pardy Vacancy	Seats – 2 1 Nigel Hartin
Strategy and Planning Working Group 7 Members Current Chair Eric Carter Vice-Chair Keith Roberts	Seats - 4 Eric Carter David Minnery Alex Phillips Keith Roberts	Seats – 4 2 Kuldip Sahota Vacancy	Seats – 2 1 – 1 to come off Pauline Dee Chris Mellings
Shropshire Fire Risk Management Services Ltd 4 Members + Deputy Chief Fire Officer Current Chair Nigel Hartin	Seats – 2 Miles Hosken Keith Roberts		Seats – 2 Nigel Hartin Chris Mellings