

REPORT OF THE CLERK

CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

1 Purpose of Report

To highlight the need for, and request Members to agree, changes to:

- The name of the Performance Management Committee; and
- Representation on the West Midlands Regional Management Board and various Fire Authority committees.

Also to recommend the appointment of various Member Champions and of substitutes for the Fire Authority's representatives on the West Midlands Regional Management Board.

2 Recommendations

Members are asked to agree:

- a) To change the name of the Fire Authority's Performance Management Committee to the Audit and Performance Management Committee;
- b) To appoint 'Member Champions' as set out in section 3 of this report;
- c) That the Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group takes the place of the Leader of the Conservative Group on the West Midlands Regional Management Board until further notice;
- d) To appoint substitutes for the Fire Authority's representatives on the West Midlands Regional Management Board;
- e) That the Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group takes the place of the Leader of the Conservative Group on the Strategy and Resources Committee and Principal Officers' Employment Panel until further notice; and
- f) To ratify the appointment of a Conservative Member to take the place of the Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group on the Audit and Performance Management Committee until further notice.



3 Use of Resources Assessment

Officers have now received and reviewed the Key Lines of Enquiry for the Audit Commission's forthcoming Use of Resources Assessment of the Fire and Rescue Service and the Treasurer has discussed them with the District Auditor. As a result officers recommend that the following actions are taken, which would prove beneficial to the Fire Authority and assist in providing comprehensive responses to the Key Lines of Enquiry:

- **A change of name of the Performance Management Committee to the Audit and Performance Management Committee**

To highlight the audit role, which that Committee now has (following the changes to its terms of reference agreed at the Fire Authority's February meeting)

- **Appointment of 'Member Champions' in the following areas:**

- Business Risk Management
- Audit
- Procurement
- Asset Management

It may be that one Member could be the Champion for the first two areas and another for the last two. Members' views on this are sought.

Although not referred to in the Key Lines of Enquiry, it is recommended that a Member Champion for Learning and Development is also appointed, as this is an action recommended in the National Fire and Rescue Service Learning and Development Strategy for England.

4 West Midlands Regional Management Board

The Fire Authority has three places on the West Midlands Regional Management Board, one of which is held by the Leader of the Conservative Group. Unfortunately, the Leader is currently unable to fulfil his Fire Authority duties and has, therefore, asked that the Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group takes his place on the Board until further notice. Members are requested to agree this proposal.

The Fire Authority no longer operates a system of substitutes but it is recommended that it formally appoints substitutes for the West Midlands Regional Management Board to ensure that it always has full representation on the Board. Members are, therefore, asked to decide who those substitutes should be.

5 Changes in Membership of Committees

Whilst the Leader of the Conservative Group is unable to fulfil his duties, it is proposed that the Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group takes his place on the Strategy and Resources Committee and Principal Officers' Employment Panel. If this is ratified, the Deputy Leader is unable to sit on the Audit and Performance Management Committee, as each is exclusive of the other. The Fire Authority is, therefore, asked to ratify the appointment of a Conservative Member to take the place of the Deputy Leader on that Committee. The only Members, who would be eligible (because they do not already sit on either the Strategy and Resources



Committee or Performance Management Committee), are Councillors Davies and Dr Drummond.

6 Legal Comment

The West Midlands Regional Management Board is a joint committee and the Fire Authority has the power to appoint substitute members to it. Such substitutes are subject to the same rules of political balance as other committees of the Authority. The Authority has the power to act as proposed in this report.

7 Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.

8 Background Papers

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority 8 February 2006
Report 8 Constitutional Issues and Minutes

Implications of all of the following have been considered and, where they are significant (i.e. marked with an asterisk), the implications are detailed within the report itself.

Balance Score Card		Integrated Risk Management Planning	
Business Continuity Planning		Legal	*
Capacity		Member Involvement	*
Civil Contingencies Act		National Framework	
Comprehensive Performance Assessment	*	Operational Assurance	
Equality and Diversity		Retained	
Efficiency Savings		Risk and Insurance	
Environmental		Staff	
Financial		Strategic Planning	
Fire Control/Fire Link		West Midlands Regional Management Board	*

For further information about this report please contact Sharon Lloyd, Committee and Administration Manager, on 01743 260210 or Sue Kembrey, Clerk and Monitoring Officer, on 01952 202461.

