



# 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 383200.

### 1 Purpose of Report

This report asks the Fire Authority to agree both the composition of its Committees, the allocations 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, as proposed in the Appendix A to this report; and
- b) the appointment of Members to serve on committees, as set out in Appendix B to the report.

### 3 Background

In accordance with the Fire Authority's Standing Order 7(2) (for the Regulation of Proceedings and Business), the Fire Authority reviews, 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 meeting on 20 September 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 Labour Member leaving and a Liberal Democrat / Independent joining, and has necessitated a review of the allocation of seats on its Committees

#### **4 Pensions Panel**

At its Annual Meeting in July 2010, and at successive Annual Meetings since then, the Fire Authority agreed that its Pensions Panel would comprise of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority and the Chair of the Human Resources (now Standards and Human Resources) Committee and that it would not be subject to the political balance requirements.

Legal advice has been sought regarding this issue and it has become clear that as the Pensions Panel has delegated decision making powers, it should be included in the overall political balance of the Authority. Accordingly, it has been included as such in the Appendix to the report.

#### **5 Committee Composition and Allocation of Seats**

The proposed committee composition and allocation of seats is set out in the 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.

#### **6 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.

#### **7 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.

#### **8 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.

## **9 Equality Impact Assessment**

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

## **10 Appendices**

### **Appendix A**

Proposed Committee Composition and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

### **Appendix B**

Membership of Committees February 2017

## **11 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

*	<b>Cons</b>	Conservative
	<b>Lab</b>	Labour
	<b>Lib Dem / Indep</b>	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
<b>Shropshire Council</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Telford &amp; Wrekin Council</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>

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

	Cons*	Lab*	Lib Dem / Indep*	Total Seats
** <b>Strategy and Resources Committee Members: 7</b>	<b>3.70</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Allocation</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
** <b>Audit and Performance Management Committee Members: 7</b>	<b>3.70</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Allocation</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>
** <b>Standards and Human Resources Committee Members: 7</b>	<b>3.70</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Allocation</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

	Cons*	Lab*	Lib Dem / Indep*	Total Seats
** <b>Brigade Managers Employment Panel Members: 7</b>	<b>3.70</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Allocation</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>
** <b>Pensions Panel Members: 3</b>	<b>1.58</b>	<b>0.70</b>	<b>0.70</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Allocation</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
** <b>Aggregate Seats</b>	<b>16.38</b>	<b>6.56</b>	<b>6.56</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Total Seats Allocation</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>31</b>

### 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	<b>3.70</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Allocation</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	

## Membership of Committees

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