

## **Committee Composition and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups**

### **Report of the Clerk**

For further information about this report please contact Anthea Lowe, Clerk and Monitoring Officer, on 01952 383219.

### **1 Purpose of Report**

This report asks the Fire Authority to agree both the composition of its Committees and the allocations of seats on its committees to political groups.

### **2 Recommendations**

The Fire Authority is asked to decide upon Committee composition and allocation of seats to political groups, as proposed in the Appendix 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.

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

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

## **Changes to Fire Authority Membership**

Following the Fire Authority Governance Review, which was undertaken in 2025, the number of Fire Authority members increased from 15 to 17, with one additional member from Shropshire Council and one from Telford & Wrekin Council.

The political groupings of the Fire Authority are now as follows:

<b>Political Group</b>	<b>Shropshire Council</b>	<b>Telford &amp; Wrekin Council</b>	<b>Total Seats</b>
<b>Conservative</b>	1	1	<b>2</b>
<b>Green / Progressive Independent</b>	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Labour</b>	1	4	<b>5</b>
<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	6	1	<b>7</b>
<b>Reform</b>	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Seats</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>

The Committee composition and allocation of seats proposed in the Appendix to this report is based on the Green/Progressive Independent member will affiliating to the Liberal Democrat group on the Fire Authority.

## **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 associated Regulations, when allocating seats on its standing committees. These require that seats are allocated to political groups so as to reflect, so far as reasonably practicable, the overall composition of the Authority. The proposals contained within this report comply with the obligations contained within the legislation.

## **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

	Liberal Democrat	Labour	Conservative	Reform	Total Seats
<b>Shropshire Council</b>	<b>7*</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Telford &amp; Wrekin Council</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total Number of Seats</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Percentage of Seats</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>	

\* This figure includes a Green / Progressive Independent member who affiliates to the Liberal Democrat Group on the Fire Authority

#### The proposed allocation of seats on the Fire Authority's committees is as follows

\*\* 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.

	Liberal Democrat	Labour	Conservative	Reform	Total Seats
** <b>Strategy and Resources Committee Members: 7</b>	<b>3.29</b>	<b>2.03</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>7.00</b>
<b>Allocation</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
** <b>Audit and Standards Committee Members: 7</b>	<b>3.29</b>	<b>2.03</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>7.00</b>
<b>Allocation</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
** <b>Performance and Scrutiny Committee Members: 5</b>	<b>2.35</b>	<b>1.45</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>5</b>

	Liberal Democrat	Labour	Conservative	Reform	Total Seats
<b>Allocation</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
** <b>Brigade Managers Employment Panel</b> <b>Members: 7</b>	<b>3.29</b>	<b>2.03</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>7.00</b>
<b>Allocation</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
** <b>Pensions Panel</b> <b>Members: 3</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>0.87</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>3.00</b>
<b>Allocation</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
** <b>Personnel Panel</b> <b>Members: 3</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>0.87</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>3.00</b>
<b>Allocation</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
** <b>Appeals Panel</b> <b>Members: 3</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>0.87</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>3.00</b>
<b>Allocation</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
** <b>Aggregate Seats</b>	<b>16.45</b>	<b>10.15</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Total Seats Allocation</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>35</b>

### **Brigade Managers Employment Panel**

Seats on the Brigade Managers Employment Panel should be allocated as follows

- 1 seat to be taken by Chair of Fire Authority
- 1 seat to be taken by Vice Chair of Fire Authority
- Each Political Group Leader to sit on Panel
- Remaining seats to be taken by balancing members

### **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
- Remaining seats to be taken by balancing members

### **Strategic Advisory Group**

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

	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Reform</b>	<b>Total Seats</b>
<b>* Members: 8</b>	<b>3.76</b>	<b>2.32</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>8.00</b>
<b>Allocation</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>

Seats on the Strategic Advisory Group should be allocated as follows:

- 1 seat to be taken by the Chair of the Fire Authority
- 1 seat to be taken by the Vice-Chair of the Fire Authority
- 1 seat to be taken by Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee
- 1 seat to be taken by Chair of Standards, Audit and Performance Committee
- Each Political Group Leader to sit on the Group
- Remaining seats to be taken by balancing members