

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Report to | North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority Annual Meeting |
| Date | 17/06/2019 |
| Lead Officer | Clerk |
| Contact Officer | Colin Everett (01745 535286) |
| Subject | Appointments to Committees and External Bodies |



PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 The purpose of this report is to invite the Authority to appoint members to internal and various external committees including the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 Each year, at its annual meeting, the Authority appoints 14 of its Members (two from each constituent authority plus the Chair and the Deputy Chair of the Authority) to its Executive Panel, and the remaining 14 Members to its Audit Committee. The Authority may decide to apply political balance to the membership of these committees, but in the past has decided not to do so.
- 3 The Authority is required to establish a Standards Committee. The membership of this committee includes two Members of the Authority who cannot be office holders on the Authority. This committee is not required to be politically balanced.
- 4 The Authority is required to establish a Local Pension Board. The membership of this board includes three Members of the Authority to fulfil the role of employer representatives. The term of appointment for the membership of this board was amended in September 2018 to fall in line with local government elections.
- 5 Members are also appointed to represent the Authority on external committees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6 The Authority is recommended to:
 - (i) consider whether to apply the principle of political balance to the membership of the Executive Panel and Audit Committee;
 - (ii) make/confirm appointments to the Executive Panel and Audit Committee, Standards Committee and Local Pensions Board, as set out in the report; and

- (iii) appoint/confirm representatives to outside bodies as listed in paragraph 11.

BACKGROUND

- 7 The Authority has a series of committees to which appointments are made or confirmed at its first or annual meeting. These are set out below.
- 8 The Authority in the past has decided not to apply political balance to the membership of its Committees under regulation 20 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. This issue was revisited during the constitutional review in mid 2008-09. There has been a prevailing consensus that political balance would not be beneficial as the current arrangements are both inclusive and avoid creating any 'political division' in the governance of an Authority.
- 9 The Authority's Standards Committee was established in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2000. Its duties include the consideration of complaints against Authority members, and advising the Authority on issues to do with standards.
- 10 The Authority's Local Pension Board was established in accordance with the Public Service Pensions Act 2013. This board is responsible for ensuring that good standards of governance are achieved and maintained in the implementation and application of the Firefighters' Pension Schemes.
- 11 The Authority is also represented on the following:

| | |
|---|--|
| Chairs and Chiefs Ministerial Fire and Rescue Liaison Group | Usually the Chair |
| Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) Council | Usually the Chair |
| WLGA Co-ordinating Committee | One representative on behalf of the three FRAs |
| WLGA Fire Services Panel | The Chair and Deputy Chair |
| Local Government Association (LGA) | Usually the Chair |
| LGA Fire Services Forum | One representative on behalf of the three FRAs |
| National Issues Committee | The Chair and Deputy Chair |

INFORMATION

- 12 Appointments are to be made to the following committees:-
- Executive Panel (14 members)
 - Audit Committee (14 members)
 - Standards Committee (2 members) (not required to be politically balanced under the Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2001)
 - Local Pension Board (3 members).
- 13 Terms of reference of the Authority's committees are included in its Constitution.
- 14 Given that the constituent authorities are required to apply the principle of political balance to their committees (other than in the case of cabinets), authorities are encouraged to nominate members to this Authority on the basis of political balance. The Authority itself should consider annually whether it wishes to apply political balance, noting the comments in paragraph 5 above. Should the Authority apply this principle, appointments to committees should be made which ensure that the constituent authorities all have sufficient representation.
- 15 The membership of the Executive Panel consists of 14 Members and comprises the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority and two Members per constituent authority. This membership represents 50% of the Authority's membership. The role and membership of the Panel was expanded in the constitutional review in 2008-09.
- 16 The Authority agreed to introduce an Audit Committee to review, scrutinise and assure - independently of the Executive - the operational and financial performance of the organisation. The membership of the Committee is the remaining 50% of the membership who are not appointed to the Executive Panel.

IMPLICATIONS

| | |
|--|--|
| Wellbeing Objectives | Considered not relevant |
| Budget | Attendance costs will be met from existing allocated budget |
| Legal | Meetings are held in accordance with the agreed terms of reference. Members are expected to abide by their code of conduct at all times |
| Staffing | Considered not relevant |
| Equalities/Human Rights/Welsh Language | Considered not relevant |
| Risks | Considered not relevant |

| MEMBER | CONSTITUENT AUTHORITY |
|---|--------------------------------|
| EXECUTIVE PANEL - up until 17/06/2019 | |
| Meirick Lloyd Davies (Chair) | Denbighshire County Council |
| Peter Lewis (Deputy Chair) | Conwy County Borough Council |
| Richard Griffiths | Anglesey County Council |
| Eric Wyn Jones | Anglesey County Council |
| Michael Dixon | Wrexham County Borough Council |
| Rondo Roberts | Wrexham County Borough Council |
| Marion Bateman | Flintshire County Council |
| Veronica Gay | Flintshire County Council |
| Roger Parry | Conwy County Borough Council |
| Adrian Tansley | Conwy County Borough Council |
| Ann Davies | Denbighshire County Council |
| Brian Blakeley | Denbighshire County Council |
| John Brynmor Hughes | Gwynedd Council |
| Gethin Williams | Gwynedd Council |
| AUDIT COMMITTEE - up until 17/06/2019 | |
| J Rodney Skelland (Chair) | Wrexham County Borough Council |
| Bryan Apsley (Deputy Chair) | Wrexham County Borough Council |
| Geoff Lowe | Wrexham County Borough Council |
| Ian Dunbar | Flintshire County Council |
| Paul Shotton | Flintshire County Council |
| Owen Thomas | Flintshire County Council |
| David Wisinger | Flintshire County Council |
| Sue Lloyd-Williams | Conwy County Borough Council |
| Nigel Smith | Conwy County Borough Council |
| Dylan Rees | Anglesey County Council |
| Peter Evans | Denbighshire County Council |
| Dilwyn Lloyd | Gwynedd Council |
| Gareth A Roberts | Gwynedd Council |
| Simon Glyn | Gwynedd Council |
| STANDARDS COMMITTEE - up until the next elections in 2022 | |
| Dylan Rees | Anglesey County Council |
| Owen Thomas | Flintshire County Council |
| LOCAL PENSIONS BOARD – up until the next elections in 2022 | |
| Bryan Apsley | Wrexham County Borough Council |
| John Brynmor Hughes | Gwynedd Council |
| Rodney Skelland | Wrexham County Borough Council |

The Planning Working Group has the same membership as the Executive Panel plus the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee, as agreed by the Authority at its meeting of 17 December 2018.