

AVON FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING:	Avon Fire Authority
MEETING DATE:	Wednesday, 21 June 2023
REPORT OF:	The Clerk
SUBJECT:	Member Appointments for the Municipal Year

1. **SUMMARY**

This report sets out the Membership of the Fire Authority as of June 2023.

Appointments made by the Fire Authority generally last for a Municipal Year which runs from one Annual Meeting until the next. There are a range of appointments that the Fire Authority needs to make today.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Fire Authority is asked to:

- a) Allocate Members to the Fire Authority Committees (with the Committees to appoint their Committee Vice Chairs at the first Committee meetings of the Municipal Year).
- b) Appoint its representative on the Local Government Association.
- c) Appoint its representative on South West Councils meetings and South West Councils' Employers' Panel.
- e) Appoint its Employer Representatives for the Local Pension Board.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 Every year the Fire Authority receives Member nominations from the Unitary Authorities (UAs). This year the nominations were received after local elections in three of the four UAs.

3.2 In addition to 20 Elected Members from the UAs, the Police & Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset (PCC) is also a Member of the Fire Authority. The PCC does not sit on the Fire Authority Committees.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 This report has no financial implications, as Members Allowances have already been approved for the 2023/24 financial year by the Fire Authority on 29 March 2023 and are included in the baseline budget.

5. **KEY CONSIDERATIONS**

Membership of the Fire Authority

5.1 The current membership of the Fire Authority of 20 Members at **Appendix 1**.

Allocation of Committee Places

5.2. In accordance with Standing Orders (paragraph 1.28) each Member is allocated a minimum of one committee place, and this is done on the nomination of the relevant Political Group Leaders. Group Leaders have agreed the following Committee nominations:

	Meetings	Membership	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Green/Ind
Audit, Governance & Oversight Committee	4	9 (+ 2 Independent Members to be recruited)	Matthew Riddle (S Glos) Martin Williams (N Somerset)	Paul Goggin (AGOC Vice Chair) (Bristol) Richard Tucker (N Somerset)	Ben Nutland (AGOC Chair) (S Glos) Jayne Stansfield (S Glos) Andrew Varney (Bristol)	Mohamud Yassin (Bristol) David Wilcox (Bristol)
Policy & Resources Committee	4	11	Steve Smith PRC Vice Chair (Bristol) Liz Brennan (S Glos) Richard Eddy (Bristol)	Brenda Massey PRC Chair (Bristol) Ron Hardie (S Glos) Phillipa Hulme (Bristol)	Paul May (B&NES) Robert Payne (N Somerset) Saini Onkar (B&NES)	Dan Thomas (N Somerset) Karen Walker (B&NES)
Local Pension Board	2	2	Steve Smith (Bristol)		Andrew Varney (Bristol) Robert Payne (N Somerset) Substitute for LPB	
Total numbers			6 committee/LPB appointments for 5 Elected Members	5 committee appointments for 5 Elected Members	7 committee/LPB appointments for 6 Elected Members	4 committee appointments for 4 Elected Members

Appointment of Committee Chairs/Vice Chairs

5.3. The Chairs of the Policy and Resources Committee and the Audit, Governance and Oversight Committee are the Fire Authority Chair and Vice Chair respectively. The table above includes 'proposed' Committee Vice Chairs, which ensure that Chair posts are shared amongst the political parties. The appointment of Vice Chairs shall be a matter for each Committee

to decide at the first Committee meetings of the new municipal year (as per the Committee Terms of Reference).

Local Government Association (LGA)

- 5.4. The Fire Authority is invited to appoint one representative to the LGA (including the Fire Commission). By convention the Chair of the Authority is appointed to this position.

South West Councils and South West Councils' Employers Panel

- 5.5. The Fire Authority is invited to appoint one representative to South West Councils full meetings and the South West Councils Employers' Panel, both meet twice a year. Representatives are only requested to attend meetings in person if items on the agendas may have an impact on the Fire Authority. Cllr David Wilcox has offered to be the Fire Authority's representative to South West Councils.

Employer Representatives on the Local Pension Board

- 5.6. The Fire Authority is required to have two representatives on the Local Pension Board. Existing Fire Authority Members, Cllr Steve Smith and Cllr Andrew Varney have agreed to continue fulfilling these roles as they have completed the required pensions training. The Board has a pension expert as an Independent Chair and advises the Fire Authority on matters connected with the Firefighter Pension Schemes.

Working Groups

- 5.7. Members are invited to consider appointment to the following:
- Trustees of Gambia and Avon Fire Service in Partnership (GAFSIP)
 - Constitution Working Group (when stood-up nominations will be requested from Political Group Leaders).

6. RISKS

None.

7. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. Members have been nominated to the Fire Authority by their Unitary Authorities (UAs) to reflect the political proportionality of their UAs. The Fire Authority Clerk and the Chair have worked together to ensure that committee composition and roles are shared appropriately between the political parties.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

9. APPENDICES

1. 2023-2024 Avon Fire Authority Elected Members.

10. REPORT CONTACT

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