



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority

MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY, APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AND DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Report of the Clerk and Monitoring Officer

Date: 28 May 2021

Purpose of Report:

To consider the request from the Police and Crime Commissioner to become a voting member of the Authority; to confirm membership of the Authority following the Annual Meetings of the County and City Councils; and to confirm the committee structure and to request nominations to committees and boards and to confirm dates of meetings. It also seeks to appoint Chairs of certain committees from those appointed to serve on them.

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1. BACKGROUND

During the course of the last year, the Authority has had to deliver its wider community safety agenda through a reduced number of formal meetings, whilst utilising a virtual platform, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. With the expiry of the legislation allowing formal committee and full Authority meetings to be held remotely all such meetings of the full Authority and its committees will now move back to a face-to-face basis with appropriate safeguards put in place to protect attendees. Additionally, the Authority will also continue to live stream its meetings through YouTube to ensure that the public at large has the ability to view the decisions that are taken.

At the Annual General Meeting the Authority is required to resolve what committees are to be appointed and the number of voting members. In accordance with the previously established practice, it is also recommended that the chairs of major committees, other than Policy and Strategy, be appointed at the Annual General Meeting in order to ensure continuity of business. Additionally, the Authority is also asked to consider the request from the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner, Caroline Henry, to become a full voting member of the Authority in accordance with the enabling legislation. As members will be aware the previous post-holder was a regular attendee of full Authority meetings, albeit without voting rights.

2. REPORT

2.1 The City Council has appointed the following members:

- Councillor Steve Battlemuch (Labour)
- Councillor Chantal Lee (Labour)
- Councillor Patience Ifediora (Labour)
- Councillor Gul Nawaz Khan (Labour)
- Councillor Toby Neal (Labour)
- Councillor Nick Raine (Labour)

2.2 The County Council has appointed the following members:

- Councillor Callum Bailey (Conservative)
- Councillor Scott Carlton (Conservative)
- Councillor John Clarke (Labour)
- Councillor Robert Corden (Conservative)
- Councillor Eddie Cubley (Conservative)
- Councillor Bethan Eddy (Conservative)
- Councillor Sybil Fielding (Labour)
- Councillor Tom Hollis (Ashfield Independents)
- Councillor Roger Jackson (Conservative)
- Councillor John Lee (Conservative)
- Councillor Michael Payne (Labour)
- Councillor Jason Zadrozny (Ashfield Independents)

NB: All County Council appointments are subject to confirmation by that Authority at its AGM on Thursday 27 May 2021.

2.3 Committee Structure

Following the latest County Council elections in May 2021, the committee memberships have been reviewed to take account of the political balance requirements. As a result of this review, it is recommended that each committee now consist of 6 members.

2.4 Committee Membership

2.4.1 The Authority is asked to appoint members to the committees set out in the table below in accordance with the political balance rules and, from those appointments, to appoint the chair of the Human Resources, Community Safety and Finance and Resources Committees. The Chair of the Authority will act as Chair of the Policy and Strategy and Appointments Committees. The Chair of the Personnel Committee will be appointed at each meeting.

2.4.2 Following the previous changes to the Standards Regime, the Authority resolved to address any issues of a Standards nature through the Policy and Strategy Committee. Since that change was made, there have been no Standards issues to address.

2.4.3 In addition to the committee appointments, the Authority is asked to appoint members to the Strategic Inclusion Board on the basis of 3 Labour Group places, 2 Conservative Group places and 1 Ashfield Independent Group place.

2.5 Pensions Board – the Authority is asked to appoint 1 councillor member and 1 officer member, together with a councillor substitute. The current councillor member is Councillor Fielding and the officer member DCFO Craig Parkin. The current councillor substitute is Councillor Neal.

Committee (total places)	Labour Group places	Conservative Group places	Ashfield Independents
Policy and Strategy Committee (6) – to include the Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority, plus 5 other members	3	2	1
Human Resources Committee (6)	3	2	1
Community Safety Committee (6)	3	2	1
Finance and Resources Committee (6)	3	3	
Personnel Committee (6) - to include 1 member from the HR Committee.	3	3	

Appointments Committee (6) - to include the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority	3	2	1
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2.5 Dates of Future Meetings

The proposed schedule for full Fire and Rescue Authority and Committee meetings is as follows:

2.5.1 Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham

Fire and Rescue Authority (10:30am, unless otherwise stated)

23 July 2021

24 September 2021

17 December 2021

25 February 2022

27 May 2022 (AGM)

Facilities will be made available for all Groups to hold pre meetings at 9:45am, prior to full Authority meetings.

2.5.2 Policy and Strategy Committee (10:00am)

02 July 2021

12 November 2021

04 February 2022

06 May 2022

2.5.3 Human Resources Committee (10:00am)

25 June 2021

05 November 2021

28 January 2022

29 April 2022

2.5.4 Community Safety Committee (10:00am)

11 June 2021

08 October 2021

14 January 2022

01 April 2022

2.5.5 Finance and Resources Committee (10:00am)

18 June 2021

15 October 2021

21 January 2022

22 April 2022

2.5.6 The Personnel Committee will meet as required.

2.5.7 The Appointments Committee will meet as required.

2.5.8 The Strategic Inclusion Board will meet at the rising of each full Fire Authority meeting, excluding the AGM.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The City Council provides the Clerk and Monitoring Officer for all meetings of the Fire and Rescue Authority, Policy and Strategy Committee and Personnel Committee. It also provides for a Governance Services Officer to be present for all committee meetings identified in 2.5 above, for which agendas and minutes will be circulated by the Clerk. For 2021/22, the cost to Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority for these services will be £40,500 plus VAT. Any additional services and printing costs will be recharged separately.

3.2 An independent remuneration panel reconsidered the allowances to be paid to Fire and Rescue Authority Members in 2017 and the outcome of the panel's deliberations were reported to the Policy and Strategy Committee in July 2017, prior to being adopted by the full Fire Authority at its meeting in September 2017. The panel effectively recommended that the previously adopted scheme should continue and that, as before, these should be up rated annually in accordance with Local Government pay awards. The payment of Members' Allowances under the September 2017 Scheme was re-approved by the Authority at its meeting on 26 February 2021.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no human resources or learning and development implications arising from this report, other than those that relate to member development and training.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken because this report does not amend existing policy or service provision. There are no specific equality issues arising from this report.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There is a legal requirement for the Authority to hold an annual general meeting.

7.2 The Combined Fire and Rescue Authorities (Membership and Allowances) Amendment Regulations, which came into effect on 18 March 2020, varied the Nottinghamshire Fire Services (Combination Scheme) Order 1997 in the manner set out in Schedule 17 to those amendment regulations but, in particular, provided the ability for the Police and Crime Commissioner to request that they be appointed to the Authority with full voting rights.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Failure to agree committee membership and to set dates and times for meetings may lead to a failure of the governance arrangements.

9. COLLABORATION IMPLICATIONS

There are no collaboration implications arising out of the contents of this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 10.1 consideration be given to the request from the Police and Crime Commissioner to be appointed as a member of the Authority with full voting rights;
- 10.2 appointments to the Fire and Rescue Authority be noted;
- 10.3 the committee structure be approved;
- 10.4 appointments to committees and appointments of committee chairs be made, and dates of meetings be approved;
- 10.5 appointments be made to the Strategic Inclusion Board and Pensions Board.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

**Malcolm R Townroe, Solicitor
Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Authority**