



AGENDA ITEM: 8

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY ANNUAL MEETING

18th June 2012

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND EXTERNAL BODIES

Report by Colin Everett, Clerk to the Authority

Purpose of Report

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

Background

- 2 The Authority has a series of Committees to which appointments are made at the first or annual meeting. These are set out below.
- 3 The Authority in the past has determined 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.

4 The Authority is also represented on the following:

Local Government Association (LGA)	usually the Chair
Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) Council	Collective representative for the three FRAs in Wales
WLGA Fire Services Panel	Chair and Vice Chair
Chairs and Chiefs Ministerial Fire and Rescue Liaison Group	usually the Chair
LGA Fire Services Forum	one representative on behalf of the three FRAs
WLGA Co-ordinating Committee	one representative from the three FRAs
Firebrake Trustees Board	Chair

Information

5 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) (see separate report on the agenda)

6 The terms of reference of the above Committees are included in the Members' Handbook.

7 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 3 above. Should the Authority apply this principle, appointments to committees should be made which ensure that the constituent authorities all have sufficient representation.

- 8 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 mid 2008-09.
- 9 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.

Recommendations

- 10 The Authority is recommended to:
- (i) consider whether to apply the principle of political balance to Committees;
 - (ii) make appointments to the Executive Panel, Audit Committee and Standards Committee as set out in the report; and
 - (iii) appoint representatives to the following:

Local Government Association (LGA)	usually the Chair
Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) Council	Collective representative for the three FRAs in Wales
Chairs and Chiefs Ministerial Fire and Rescue Liaison Group	usually the Chair
WLGA Fire Services Panel	Chair and Deputy Chair
LGA Fire Services Forum	one representative on behalf of the three FRAs
WLGA Co-ordinating Committee	one representative from the three FRAs
Firebrake Trustees	Chair