

| MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY | | | |
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| MEETING OF THE: | AUTHORITY | | |
| DATE: | 19 OCTOBER 2017 | REPORT NO: | CFO/069/17 |
| PRESENTING OFFICER | CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY | | |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: | JANET HENSHAW | REPORT AUTHOR: | KELLY KELLAWAY – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER, EXTN 4113 |
| OFFICERS CONSULTED: | STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT GROUP | | |
| TITLE OF REPORT: | CHANGE OF APPOINTMENT TO THE AUTHORITY | | |

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| APPENDICES: | NONE |
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Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the change of appointment by Sefton Council to Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority, (MFRA) with effect from 22nd September 2017.

Recommendation

2. That Members;
 - a. Note the resignation of Councillor Marianne Welsh from the Liberal Democrat Party and subsequent requirement for Sefton Council to nominate a replacement Member to appoint to MFRA.
 - b. Note the appointment of Councillor Lynne Thompson (Liberal Democrat), as one of Sefton Council's nominated representatives to MFRA, with effect from 22nd September 2017.
 - c. Note the appointment of Councillor Lynne Thompson to the following Committees and Groups, vacated by Councillor Marianne Welsh:
 - Community Safety & Protection Committee
 - Appointments Committee
 - Appeals Committee
 - Member Development & Engagement Group
 - d. Nominate a Member to be appointed to the role of Lead Member for Operational Response, vacated by Councillor Marianne Welsh.

Introduction and Background

3. At the Authority's AGM on 13th June 2017, the political balance of MFRA for the Municipal Year 2017/18, was confirmed as being:
 - 16 Labour
 - 1 Conservative
 - 1 Liberal Democrat
4. MFRA's only Liberal Democrat Member was Councillor Marianne Welsh, appointed by Sefton Council.
5. On 24th July 2017, the Democratic Services Team received notification from Councillor Marianne Welsh that she had resigned from the Liberal Democrat Party.
6. As a result of her resignation from the Liberal Democrat Party, there was a requirement for Sefton Council to nominate a replacement Member to be appointed to MFRA.
7. As per Sefton Council's Constitution, appointments to outside bodies can only be approved by the full Council. Therefore, this change of appointment could only be ratified at Sefton's full Council meeting on 21st September 2017.
8. At their meeting on 21st September 2017, Sefton Council confirmed that Cllr Lynne Thompson (Liberal Democrat), would replace Cllr Marianne Welsh as one of their nominated representatives appointed to MFRA.
9. Under the provisions of the Local Government Act and Housing 1989, the Authority is required to allocate seats on its Committees according to its political balance.
10. For the Municipal Year 2017/18, this translates to the appointment of one Opposition Member (either Liberal Democrat or Conservative) on to each Committee or Sub-Committee.
11. Councillor Marianne Welsh was appointed as the Opposition Member to the Community Safety & Protection Committee for 2017/18. Therefore, there is now a vacancy on this Committee for an Opposition Member.
12. In addition, the Appeals Committee, the Appointments Committee and the Member Development & Engagement Group, each have cross – party representation.
13. It is therefore requested that Members note the appointment of Councillor Lynne Thompson on to the following Committees and Groups:
 - Community Safety & Protection Committee
 - Appeals Committee

- Appointments Committee
- Member Development & Engagement Group

14. As Councillor Marianne Welsh was also appointed as the Lead Member for Operational Response, Members are also requested to consider and approve the appointment of a Member to this role for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Equality and Diversity Implications

15. There are no equality and diversity implications arising directly out of this report.

Staff Implications

16. With the exception of some additional time and resources providing induction training for the newly appointed Member, there are no significant staff implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

17. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989, s.15 and 16 & Schedule 1 and The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 provide for political proportionality rules and those nominated by District Councils to bodies such as Fire and Rescue Authorities.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

18. There are no additional financial or value for money implications arising from this report.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

19. There are no risk management, health and safety, or environmental implications arising from this report.

Contribution to Our Mission: *Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters*

20. The Authority is constituted by Members appointed by Merseyside's five District Councils. Members appointed to the Authority by the District Councils, reflect and represent the constituency of each District; and have responsibility for making decisions in the best interests of the communities the Authority serves.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

