

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING		
DATE:	11TH JUNE 2020	REPORT NO:	CFO/030/20
PRESENTING OFFICER	ACTING MONITORING OFFICER		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	RIA GROVES	REPORT AUTHOR:	KELLY KELLAWAY – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER, EXT 4113
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM		
TITLE OF REPORT:	MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY 2020/21		

APPENDICES:	
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Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the changes to the membership of the Authority for 2020/21.

Recommendation

2. That Members note the content of this report.

Introduction and Background

3. The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ('Remote Meetings Regulations') were enacted under s.78 of Coronavirus Act 2020 and came into force on 4th April 2020.
4. The Remote Meetings Regulations are applicable to local authorities and as such the Authority with the intention to permit local authorities to continue to hold meetings remotely; and enable the democratic decision making process within local authorities, to continue safely in the current pandemic situation.
5. The Remote Meetings Regulations also permit appointments normally made at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) to continue until the next AGM or until a time as determined by an Authority. This provides Councils with an option to hold annual meetings remotely or in person when the restrictions are lifted or continue until the next AGM in 2021. If an AGM is delayed all positions remain as they are currently in place. As Authority Members are appointed by their own constituent council, the respective Councils decisions will impact upon the Authority

6. Four out of the five constituent Councils of Merseyside, have elected to cancel or postpone their AGM's for 2020. Therefore, their appointments to the Authority will remain as they are at present.
7. However, Knowsley Borough Council elected to hold their AGM, which resulted in a change of appointment to the Authority for 2020/21.
8. As such, the following change to the Membership of the Authority has occurred:-
 - The Appointment of Councillor Del Arnall, ended as a result of decisions taken within Knowsley Borough Council.
9. Therefore, the Appointments to the Authority for the Municipal Year 2020/21, are as follows:-

(a) Knowsley (2 Members):-

- Councillor Steff O'Keeffe (Labour)
- Councillor Edna Finneran (Labour)

(b) Liverpool (6 Members):-

- Councillor Emily Spurrell (Labour)
- Councillor Doreen Knight (Labour)
- Councillor Dan Barrington (Labour)
- Councillor James Roberts (Labour)
- Councillor Angela Coleman (Labour)
- Councillor Andrew Makinson (Liberal Democrat)

(c) St. Helens (2 Members):-

- Councillor Linda Maloney (Labour)
- Councillor Lisa Preston (Labour)

(d) Sefton (4 Members):-

- Councillor Leslie Byrom (Labour)
- Councillor Janet Grace (Labour)
- Councillor Paul Tweed (Labour)
- Councillor Lynne Thompson (Liberal Democrat)

(e) Wirral (4 Members):-

- Councillor Brian Kenny (Labour)
- Councillor Jean Stapleton (Labour)
- Councillor Lesley Rennie (Conservative)
- Councillor Bruce Berry (Conservative)

10. The political balance of the Authority is 14 Labour, 2 Liberal Democrat; and 2 Conservative. Political balance issues are considered in a separate report relating to the structure of the Authority, which is also presented for consideration at this meeting.
11. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside (PCC) asked to withdraw her membership of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority in 2018 and instead asked for the establishment of the Fire and Police Collaboration Committee through which the collaboration between both services can continue to be scrutinised. The PCC has not indicated any request to change from this arrangement and the structure of the Authority is detailed in a separate report on the agenda.

Equality and Diversity Implications

12. There are no equality and diversity implications directly associated with this report. Elected Members are nominated by their respective Councils to the Fire and Rescue Authority.

Staff Implications

13. Democratic Services administer the meetings of the Authority and deal with Members' queries and travel and accommodation issues.

Legal Implications

14. The political balance of the Authority is important as it must be reflected across all of the Authority's committees.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

15. There is a Members' Allowance Scheme which is the subject of another report on this Agenda. There are no additional costs relevant to the content of this report.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

16. There are no direct risk management, health and safety or environmental implications relevant to this report.

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

17. Elected Members are nominated to Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority to represent the best interests of the communities of Merseyside.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MFRA – MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY