

MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	FULL AUTHORITY		
DATE:	15TH OCTOBER 2020	REPORT NO:	CFO/050/20
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:	CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY 2020/21		

APPENDICES:	
--------------------	--

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of a change to the membership of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority (MFRA) for the remainder of the 2020/21 Municipal Year, following the Annual General Meeting of Wirral Borough Council.

Recommendation

2. That Members note the content of this report.

Introduction and Background

3. Further to the legislative changes introduced in response to the pandemic the Remote Meetings Regulations allowed local authorities to delay or postpone their Annual General Meeting (AGM). The impact of such would permit appointments made at an AGM to continue until the next AGM or until a time as determined by an Authority. 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.
4. Out of the five constituent councils of Merseyside, only Knowsley Borough Council elected to hold their AGM as usual in May 2020. This resulted in a change of Membership of MFRA, with Cllr Del Arnall being replaced on the Authority by Cllr Edna Finneran (as previously reported at the Authority's AGM in June 2020).
5. The remaining four constituent councils, elected to cancel or postpone their AGM's for 2020; and therefore, their appointments to MFRA remained as they had been for 2019/20.

6. However, both Wirral Borough Council and St. Helens Borough Council, have subsequently elected to hold AGM's during September 2020, which have resulted in the following change in Membership of MFRA, for the remainder of 2020/21:

- Wirral Borough Council at its AGM on 28th September 2020 appointed Councillor Allan Brame. The appointment of Councillor Bruce Berry to MFRA also ceased.
- At its AGM on 30th September 2020, St. Helens Borough Council approved the continued appointment of Councillors Linda Maloney and Lisa Preston, to MFRA.

7. Therefore, the appointments to the Authority for the remainder of 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 Allan Brame (Liberal Democrat)

8. The political balance of the Authority is 14 Labour, 3 Liberal Democrat; and 1 Conservative. Political balance issues are considered in a separate report, which is also presented for consideration at this meeting.

Equality and Diversity Implications

9. 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

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

Legal Implications

11. The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ('the Remote Meetings Regulations') apply to local authorities, including fire authorities. Such Regulations which permit local authority's to delay or postpone AGM's may impact the Authority should Membership change throughout the year however any changes will be brought before Members at the earliest opportunity once notified of such a change and any other impact this may have.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

12. There are no additional costs in relation to the content of this report.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

13. 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*

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[CFO/030/20](#)

[Membership of the Authority 2020/21](#)

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MFRA – MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY