

## MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: 28 JULY 2022 REPORT NO: CFO/036/22

PRESENTING OFFICER: MONITORING OFFICER

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: RIA GROVES REPORT AUTHOR: RIA GROVES

OFFICERS CONSULTED: STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM

TITLE OF REPORT: AMENDMENT TO THE STRUCTURE OF THE AUTHORITY

APPENDICES: APPENDIX A:

### Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the change to the existing structure of the Authority

### Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members;
  - a) Note the establishment of the Community Independent Green Alliance Group;
  - b) Note the change in proportionality of the Authority, and
  - c) Note the change in the number of seats on each committee to be allocated to each political group in accordance with the change to the political proportionality;

### Introduction and Background

3. After the AGM the Monitoring Officer was advised that Members from the Liverpool Community Independents Group and the Green Party (Cllr Rothery and Cllr Gorman respectively) have agreed to form a new group on the Authority; the Community Independent Green Alliance Group.
4. The representation of each political group on the Authority will be as follows:

Labour	13 Members
Liberal Democrat	2 Members
Community Independents	2 Members
Green Alliance	
Conservative	1 Member

5. The creation of the new group means that the political balance of the Authority is as below:

Labour	72.22%
Liberal Democrats	11.11%
Community Independent Green Alliance	11.11%
Conservative	5.56%

6. In order to comply with political balance requirements, where practicable, it is therefore appropriate that the proportion of seats on committees allocated to political groups is in accordance with the new proportionality.
7. Whilst the number of seats allocated to the other groups on the Authority are not affected the Community Independent Green Alliance have now been allocated seats within the existing committee structure as highlighted in Appendix A. This has, in effect, changed from 2 seats each for the Liverpool Community Independents Group and the Green Party to a seat on each committee for the Community Independent Green Alliance Group within the committee structure.
8. Members are advised that as a result of the establishment of the group the Opposition Party with the largest percentage is now jointly the Liberal Democrats and the Community Independents Green Alliance.

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

9. There are no equality or diversity implications directly related to this report.

### **Staff Implications**

10. There are no direct staff implications contained within this report.

### **Legal Implications**

11. The Authority is required by law to set a minimum structure and the membership of the Authority is made up from those Members nominated by their respective council.

### **Financial Implications & Value for Money**

12. This change in the structure of the Authority is cost neutral.

### **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 Vision: *To be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK.***

**Our Purpose: *Here to serve, Here to protect, Here to keep you safe.***

14. Elected Members are nominated to Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority to represent the best interests of the communities of Merseyside.
15. Confirming a robust Authority structure ensures that we are able to best serve communities and share knowledge of what we do.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**CFO/022/22** Structure of the Authority (AGM)

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

- MFRA** Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority is the physical and legal entity. When writing reports MFRA is the “object”.
- MFRS** Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service is the service provided by MFRA. When writing reports MFRS is the “action”
- E.G.** You are employed by the Authority (MFRA). The job you do forms part of the Service (MFRS) provided by the Authority (MFRA). If in doubt use MFRA.