

<b>MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>			
<b>MEETING OF THE:</b>	<b>POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>12 DECEMBER 2024</b>	<b>REPORT NO:</b>	<b>CFO/67/24</b>
<b>PRESENTING OFFICER</b>	<b>MONITORING OFFICER, RIA GROVES</b>		
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	<b>MONITORING OFFICER, RIA GROVES</b>	<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	<b>MONITORING OFFICER, RIA GROVES</b>
<b>OFFICERS CONSULTED:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM</b>		
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP AND STRUCTURE OF THE AUTHORITY</b>		
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	<b>APPENDIX A: COMMITTEE STRUCTURE</b>		

### **Purpose of Report**

1. To inform Members of the changes to the membership of the Authority during the municipal 2024/25 year.

### **Recommendation**

2. It is recommended that Members;
    - a) note the changes to the membership including the appointment of Councillor Christopher Page to the Authority;
    - b) approve the appointment of Councillor Page to the Community and Protection Committee and Audit Committee and the appointment of Councillor Finneran to the Scrutiny Committee (moving from the Audit Committee);
    - c) approve the appointment of Councillor Page to Chair of the Local Pension Board
    - d) request that a nomination for the Chair of Scrutiny is determined;
    - e) approve the change in the nominated Councillor to Councillor Bell for the questions on the discharge of functions for St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council and;
    - f) approve the appointment of the Independent Person Gary Wormald and the termination of the combined role of Mr Anthony Boyle as Co-opted Member and Independent Person and the Mr Anthony Boyle to remain as the Co-opted Member of the Audit and Scrutiny Committees only.
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## **Introduction and Background**

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### Membership of the Authority

3. At a council meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> November by Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council it was confirmed that Councillor Christopher Page had been appointed to join the Authority as a Sefton representative in accordance with their political proportionality following a vacant seat for Sefton on the Authority.
4. Prior to the appointment of Councillor Page to the Authority, there were two vacant seats on the Authority; a Labour Party Member from Sefton Council and a Labour Party Member from St Helens Council.
5. This led to two vacancies on the Scrutiny Committee, it is proposed that Councillor Finneran be appointed to the Scrutiny Committee, moving from the Audit Committee with Councillor Page then being appointed to the Audit Committee. It is also proposed Councillor Page be appointed to the Community Safety and Protection Committee replacing their predecessor.
6. Following consultation with the Chair of the Authority it is also recommended that Councillor Page be approved as the Chair of the Local Pension Board as a direct replacement for their predecessor who held this role. It is proposed that this role would not attract an additional responsibility allowance similar to that of the role of a Lead Member.
7. The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee will need to be confirmed by the Authority.
8. Members will be updated in the near future regarding the replacement of Councillor Linda Maloney once the appointment by St Helens Council has been confirmed.

### Questions on Discharge of Functions

9. There is a requirement under Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985 for the Authority to nominate Members of the Authority from each constituent District Council to answer questions within their Council on the discharge of the functions of the Authority.
10. Following the AGM on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024 Councillor Linda Maloney was appointed as the representative for St Helens Council to handle questions on the discharge of functions on behalf of the Authority. Further to Councillor Linda Maloney's sad passing, it is recommended that Councillor Jeanie Bell becomes the nominated representative.

## Independent Person

11. Mr Anthony Boyle has been undertaking the roles of Independent Person and Co-opted Member as per the Localism Act 2011 which requires that an Independent Person be appointed to consider any complaints made against Elected Members. Further to a review undertaken by the Monitoring Officer, it was proposed that a second Independent Person is appointed to the Authority to consider any complaints in respect of elected Members and Statutory Officers. Members subsequently approved this recommendation at the previous Annual General Meeting.
12. Following a process to appoint an Independent Person which included advertising the post and interview of potential candidates it is proposed that Mr Gary Wormald be appointed. The post is limited to four years and would include training on the Members Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures for Relevant Officers.
13. As Mr Boyle's tenure undertaking the combined role of Co-opted Member and independent Person has been for a substantial time period it is recommended to Members that the combined role is now terminated and Mr Boyle continues as a Co-opted Member only.

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## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

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14. There are no equality and diversity implications directly associated with this report. Elected Members are nominated by their respective councils to the Authority.
15. Members will be consulted with individually should they declare a disability to ensure that suitable reasonable adjustments are put in place should they be required.

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## **Staff Implications**

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16. Legal and Democratic Services administer the meetings of the Authority and deal with Members queries, travel and accommodation issues. Any changes to membership throughout the year will be administered by Legal and Democratic Services.

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## **Legal Implications**

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17. The membership and structure of the Authority is made up in accordance with its legislative powers.

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**Financial Implications & Value for Money**

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18. There are no additional costs relevant to the Membership of the Authority.
19. The appointment of a new independent person can be met within existing budgets.

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**Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications**

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20. There are no direct risk management or health and safety implications arising from this report.

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**Environmental Implications**

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21. There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

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**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.*

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22. Elected Members are appointed on to Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority to represent the best interests of the communities of Merseyside.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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**CFO/34/24**     STRUCTURE OF THE AUTHORITY  
**CFO/33/24**     MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY  
**CFO/029/23**    SCHEME OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCE

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**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

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